



# OHIO VOTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO WINTER 2016

## Come to LWV Ohio Statehouse Day!

Join us for LWV Ohio Statehouse Day on Tuesday, **April 26, 2016**. Our theme this year is "What the Candidates Should Be Talking About (But Aren't)." We will be exploring some of the big issues affecting Ohio - issues that people want solved but are left waiting for government to act.



When: Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm -- with registration beginning at 8:30 am.

Where: Sheraton on Capitol Square, 75 East State Street, Columbus, OH 43215

You are welcome to join us for the entire day, a half day, or just for lunch. Meetings with legislators will be scheduled throughout the day upon request.

Registration is the same price as last year - \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members, \$25 for students. Registration closes one week before the event, and a flat fee of \$50 will apply to any walk-ins who are not registered. Register using the tear off form below or online at [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org).

Sponsorship opportunities are available! Please contact the LWVO office at 614-469-1505 if you, your local League, another organization you belong to, or your business are interested in sponsoring this event. Due to our nonpartisan policy we cannot accept sponsorships from political parties, candidates, or campaigns. Watch your email or check the LWV Ohio website for future announcements about our exciting line-up of speakers.

### LWV Ohio Statehouse Day – Tuesday, April 26, 2016 – Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Local League \_\_\_\_\_

Fee:  \$40 Member  \$45 Non-member  \$25 student

Note: Registration closes one week before the event, and a flat fee of \$50 will apply to any walk-ins who are not registered.

Lunch  Yes  No Note: This will help ensure we have an accurate count for lunches.

Special dietary needs (e.g., Vegetarian) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to meet with your legislator?  Yes  No

**Please make checks payable to LWVO and send this form with payment to:  
LWV Ohio • 17 South High Street, Suite 650 • Columbus, Ohio 43215  
For information call: (614) 469-1505**

**Is Your League Looking for New Members and Leaders? Join the Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Program! Applications due April 15, 2016.**

Wish your League could spread the workload around more? Wish there were more trained League leaders available to step up? Wish your League could do all it wants to do to be a vibrant part of your community? Your League can make these wishes come true!

We invite your League to join the Ohio Leagues already participating in the MLD program -- a program proven to be successful in membership recruitment and retention, leadership development, and sparking renewed energy in many Leagues! Following an initial training about MLD best practices, Leagues' MLD teams receive ongoing coaching and support from their LWV Ohio coach. Please visit the Member Area: MLD Program at [lwvohio.org](http://lwvohio.org) for an overview of the MLD program and the local League application form.

Leagues new to the program in 2016 will send their MLD teams to a two-day training, May 20-21, in Columbus with lodging, meals and materials provided by LWVO at no cost to their League except for a registration fee of \$25 for each MLD Team member. The application deadline for Leagues joining the MLD program in 2016 is April 15.

For questions or further information, please contact Meg Flack, LWV Ohio's MLD Coordinator, at [megflack150@gmail.com](mailto:megflack150@gmail.com) or 614-235-5993.

"MLD gives us the tools and support to recruit, engage and retain members."  
Iris Meltzer, President, LWV Kent

"League leadership can come from any member, and the MLD program is instrumental in helping members to develop into the leaders we need today and tomorrow. Developing new leaders can only strengthen LWV's mission to serve the needs of voters and help create a better democracy."

Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick and Alison Ricker, LWVO Co-Presidents

"MLD coaches and local MLD teams benefit our Leagues with our caring, sharing and most importantly, with our humor. MLD coaching is a worthwhile effort that delivers measurable improvements and overall benefit for League. I always get more from it than I give."  
Pat Simons, MLD Coach



## The Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Coaching Team Wants You! Applications due April 15.

### Imagine if you joined an outstanding League team that. . .

- Helps Leagues grow in membership and funding.
- Helps Leagues with support, ideas and guidance.
- Helps League leaders with training and mentoring before they lead.
- Helps Leagues' voice become as strong and powerful as possible!

You can!! LWVO is now recruiting members to join the phenomenal Ohio coaching team for 2016 -18 so that we can increase the number of Ohio Leagues involved in MLD program. Each coach acts as a mentor, cheerleader and communicator to two local Leagues - with a total monthly time commitment of approximately eight hours per month working with their local MLD teams and the state coaches, primarily via conference calls.

"It's a lot of fun to help a local League work on their plan for new members and mentoring new leaders, and I get to celebrate with them as they grow. I'm lucky to be an MLD coach and recommend coaching to anyone who enjoys being part of a team."  
- Marlene Muse, MLD Coach from LWV Cincinnati Area

New MLD coaches will receive training May 20-21 in Columbus along with their assigned League teams. Materials, hotel and meal expenses will be covered by LWVO.

An overview of the program, the coaches' role and responsibilities, and the application to become an MLD coach are available on the LWV Ohio website ([lwvohio.org](http://lwvohio.org)) in the Member Area – MLD Program. Applications are due by April 15.

For questions or further information, please contact Meg Flack, LWV Ohio's MLD Coordinator, at [megflack150@gmail.com](mailto:megflack150@gmail.com) or 614-235-5993.

### **A Moment in League History**

– By Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, LWVO Co-President

When the Voting Rights Act was passed by Congress in 1965, it did so without the national League of Women Voters being able to advocate on its behalf. Why did this happen? Although the national League espoused as one of its basic principles the right of every citizen to vote, this had never become a position adopted through its usual process.

The 1970 LWVUS Convention addressed the problem by adding a bylaws amendment allowing the League to act on voter protection activities without formally adopting the issue as a program item, thus ratifying that such work is an integral part of LWV's mission.

The 1974 and 1976 LWVUS Conventions confirmed this decision through further amendments allowing all League Principles to serve as authorities for action. As voting rights continue to be challenged in the present day, we can now work quickly to protect such rights both at the state and national levels, unlike our counterparts of 1965.

**Primary Election Systems Study Committee Report:**  
***“Fact Sheet 2: What We Need To Know About Local Primary Elections”***  
 — By Lynda Mayer and Dot Christenson, Primary Election System Study Committee

Most Municipal Corporations in Ohio hold partisan primaries, as prescribed by State Law, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of May (except in Presidential years.) However, many Ohio municipal corporations have Home Rule Charters, which means they can adopt nonpartisan variations and even different dates their citizens may prefer. To sort out and understand this, the committee researched Ohio Law and surveyed administrators or officials in 15 county Boards of Elections and 20 townships around the state, checking how their primaries work and how they think things might work better. From our detailed final report, members might find the following short summary of our findings interesting.

1. **Voter turnout in Ohio primaries is lamentable.** Turnout in recent years ranged between 5% to 37% depending not on structure but on where there were high-profile races, which issues or candidates may have been on the primary ballot. The average turnout in this spot survey was 15.61%. In our small sample, we found 16.6% turned out in the partisan primaries while 13.6% did so in nonpartisan primaries, not a statistically significant difference.
2. **The partisan process is enshrined in State Law.** The stated “primary purpose” is that party members alone select their party’s nominees in May. Candidates collect signatures from their party’s membership lists, and candidates must also submit a pledge of party loyalty with their filing. Proponents of this election system say that party involvement promotes increased voter registration, publicity and turnout. Townships generally do not have primaries, although larger ones have a standardized option.
3. **Many Ohio Charter municipal corporations have deviated from the partisan model.** Proponents of nonpartisan variations say that local issues are rarely ideological and that it is wrong to exclude unaffiliated and minor-party voters from important decisions that affect their civic lives. Other arguments center around an expectation of wider turnout, less partisanship and more competitive general elections. Still, several academics argue that structural variations in primary systems may make little difference in voter turnout.
4. **Other variables may influence the small turnout differences observed.** Apart from the current primary system employed and the high- or low-profile contests mentioned above, other factors influence turnout including timing, weather, vote-by-mail opportunity, population density, and the amount of voter information available. Some local officials also blame either apathy or satisfaction for poor participation in their primaries.
5. **Many local voters rarely experience a local primary at all.** This is partly because some charter municipal corporations -- with or without December runoffs in the case of no clear majority winner-- choose to dispense with primaries altogether and run all races at-large on a nonpartisan ballot in November. Other municipal corporations or townships attract so few candidates for local office that there is no need to go through with the exercise at all.
6. **Ohio primary voters have freedom to “crossover” to a different party’s ballot.** Any unaffiliated voter may ask for a particular party ballot and, likewise, a voter listed in one party can request a primary ballot of another party.

...continued on page 5

...continued from page 4...

It is of interest to note that Ohio Law gives poll workers the right to challenge such a request and to require such a voter to declare a genuine change of allegiance. However, several recent Secretaries of State have discouraged such challenges. If a voter crosses over to another party ballot, it is recorded and their names will appear on future voter registration lists for the newly declared party.

**7. From the data collected to date, there was no evidence of polarization attributable to the use of one primary election system over another.** Only one city reported a partisan insurgency that took advantage of a small voter turnout.

**8. Administrative difficulties arise in populous counties with multiple primary dates and types.** Board of elections officials find that various types and timing of municipal primaries, along with corresponding filing and voting deadlines and frequent “Special Elections” to decide school levies or fill vacancies, make for considerable added expense, inefficiency and extra work.

In the upcoming months, the Primary Election System Study group will interview a number of out-of-state cities that have experimented with voting systems as yet untried in Ohio, including “Ranked Choice Voting.” However, the committee has learned enough from their research to date to bring to League members several possible suggestions for how to improve Ohio's primary election system. Committee members are currently undertaking nearly 40 more interviews with experts, advocates, and other State Leagues. We will also observe a representative sample of down-ballot March 15 legislative and county primary contests. Watch for Fact Sheets #3 and #4 in future VOTERS, which will further update you on the progress of the Primary Election System Study Committee’s work.



WAYS

TO GET MORE FROM LWV OHIO IN 2016

1. CHECK OUT THE MEMBER AREA OF [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org)
2. JOIN US FOR AN ALL-MEMBER CONFERENCE CALL ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
3. BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ACTION ALERTS AND E-NEWS UPDATES!
4. SIGN UP FOR THE LEAGUE LEADER UPDATES
5. “LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK AND “FOLLOW US” ON TWITTER

Save the Date!

League of Women Voters U.S. 2016 Convention

Making Democracy Work® - For All

Plan to join your fellow national, state and local League Leaders at this year’s LWVUS Convention!

**When: June 16 - 19, 2016**

**Where: Washington Marriott Wardman Park 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC 20008**

Registration Fee: \$395.00. Additional information is available on LWVUS’ website at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/register-convention-and-lobby-day> or call LWVUS at 202-429-1965.

## From the Co-Presidents' Desk

As we round the corner into spring, we are very excited about the work accomplished by the board and office staff through the fall and winter of 2015. We'd like to mention two efforts in particular:

For the first time ever, through **VOTE411**, we are providing at least some level of voter service to the entire state, including those in which no local League exists. The LWVO/EF board members and office staff have gathered information on state or federal legislative races that are not covered by a local League. Working in partnership with **Judicial Votes Count**, LWVO/EF is also providing information on all the judicial races in the state, relieving local Leagues of this task. These efforts will showcase League in new parts of Ohio and will help us grow membership in these areas. LWVO/EF is also underwriting the cost of **VOTE411** for all state and federal races, thereby reducing the cost to individual local Leagues who will now pay only to cover their local races.



Thanks to a grant from the *Women's Fund of Central Ohio*, we have launched a new project: "**Women's Voices: Training the Next Generation of Women's Leaders.**" LWVO will offer pass-thru grants to local Leagues to host programs in area high schools, in which high school girls can meet and learn from elected women in their communities. This special project is geared toward League members who hold public office, asking them to share both the unique challenges that women officials face in politics and why women's voices are such a critical part of the process. The goal is to engage high school girls and help them to learn first-hand about the process of participating in election-year voter service activities. We are very eager to work with this next generation of women voters and leaders. We hope as many local Leagues as possible will apply and participate in this promising initiative!

Looking ahead, LWVO is already working on efforts to pass congressional redistricting reform in Ohio, efforts that will build on the success of passing Issue 1 last fall to reform state legislative redistricting.

The 2015-17 board has adopted as its motto, "Many hands make light work," and when we consider projects like those above, we know without a doubt that their success depends on all levels of League, all of US, working together as only LWV members can. We are truly grateful to be part of such a remarkable group!

- Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick and Alison Ricker

### Join us in giving to the 2016 LWV Ohio Annual Campaign!

From LWVO Co-Presidents  
Alison Ricker and Mary Kirtz  
Van Nortwick

The LWVO Annual Campaign, thanks to generous member donors, is the cornerstone of our ability to continue the work begun in 1920 and to attract funding from outside donors.

Foundations and other outside donors are eager to support an organization whose members willingly contribute to its financial health.

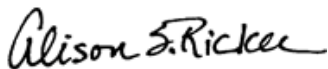
Our goal is \$25,000. Your contribution will enable groundbreaking work, some of which is already underway as described in this issue of the *Voter*.

Please join us as we write our checks to the LWVO Annual Campaign. Our efforts to make sure ALL citizens are well informed and can vote are just as important today as ever. Contributions received by April 1 will be listed in the Statehouse Day Program. Thank you for all that you do.

In League,



Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick,  
Co-President



Alison Ricker, Co-President

### Apply for a pass-thru grant to join the "Women's Voices: Training the Next Gen of Women Leaders" project!

Thanks to a generous grant from the Women's Fund of Central Ohio, we are launching "Women's Voices: Training the Next Gen of Women Leaders."

The *Women's Voices* Project aims to connect current women political leaders in our communities with high school girls to serve as role models and encourage youth civic engagement. The project includes an introductory assembly or event at the high school, ongoing mentoring, and tools for high school girls to become engaged voters.

LWVOEF has \$3,500 in pass-thru funds available to share with local Leagues electing to participate in the project. Leagues have the option to apply for one of two funding tiers, depending on your League's participation level. Five Tier 1 grants will be awarded in the amount of \$100. Ten Tier 2 grants will be awarded in the amount of \$300. Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted, so Leagues are encouraged to apply early. The application form is available at [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org) or call the LWV Ohio state office at 614-469-1505, if you have questions.

#### Donate today!

Yes, I want to support the work of the LWVO!

\$25    \$50    \$100    \$250    \$500   Other \_\_\_\_\_

Gifts can be made payable to:

LWVO (non-tax deductible)

LWVO Education Fund (tax deductible)

Split evenly between LWVO and LWVO Education Fund

Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
League of Women Voters of Ohio  
17 S. High Street, Suite 650  
Columbus, OH 43215



Carrie L. Davis

## Executive Director's Column: Congressional Redistricting Reform: How to Make it a Reality

Last fall, Ohio voters overwhelmingly approved a bipartisan plan to reform how we draw state legislative districts. No sooner was Election Day over last November than reform advocates were clamoring for the next round – extending the same reforms to how we draw Ohio's US House districts.

In the weeks since our November 2015 win, our *Fair Districts = Fair Elections* Coalition has been hard at work building a campaign plan to make Congressional redistricting reform a reality. Behind the scenes planning is never the sexy part of a campaign, but it is absolutely critical for success. Here is what your coalition campaign planning team has been up to since November.

**Campaign Plan:** The coalition formed a campaign planning committee to work out the strategy and logistics of running a successful campaign. This required taking a hard look at why Issue 1 succeeded in 2015, as well as why past efforts in 2012, 2005, and earlier failed. In doing so, we identified several key lessons to guide our work.

### **Lesson 1: Only by being open to other views and exploring the full range of possible reforms can we reach consensus.**

One mistake that's been made in past attempts has been to choose a reform model and then ask others to sign on to that plan with no room for input or change. Those efforts faced criticism for not being responsive to various stakeholders' viewpoints and ultimately did not garner enough support to succeed.

Issue 1, on the other hand, succeeded in part because Democrats and Republicans came together to create a redistricting reform measure that both sides could support.

The Fair Districts Coalition formed a language committee to come up with possible options for ballot language. Since a successful effort will require finding language that garners a broad base of support across the political spectrum, the committee was charged with identifying what reforms we view (a) as essential and non-negotiable or (b) as preferred but negotiable, so that we are able to effectively negotiate a bipartisan compromise plan .

The language committee has been in touch with redistricting experts to help identify the strengths and weaknesses in different proposals or options for reform. The committee has also been involved in reviewing proposed reforms that are currently pending in front of a bipartisan committee of the Constitutional Modernization Commission.

### **Lesson 2: Just like the metaphor about many paths to the top of the mountain, there too are many paths to getting this issue on the ballot.**

How we get such a consensus plan on the ballot also requires being open to exploring the full range of options. The committee recommended that the coalition adopt a two-track strategy: Keep pressure on the legislature to place Congressional reform on the ballot, including working with the Constitutional Modernization Commission to develop a bipartisan plan for the legislature to consider. To compliment that strategy, also take initial steps to placing reform on the ballot via citizen initiative, which means the Coalition needs to cultivate supporters, volunteers, and donors to build a solid foundation for a petition effort. Pursuing both options gives us the best chance of success.

...continued on page 9



...continued from page 8

### **Lesson 3: Don't ignore political realities; deal with them.**

We also have to recognize the current political landscape, both the pros and the cons, and build a plan with that in mind.

On the positive side, support continues to grow. In the last three months several prominent Ohio political leaders have come out publicly in support of reform. All of Ohio's living governors – Richard Celeste, George Voinovich, Ted Strickland, and John Kasich – have said they support reform. All of Ohio's current statewide officeholders – Governor Kasich, Secretary of State Husted, Attorney General DeWine, Auditor Yost, and Treasurer Mandel – have publicly stated they support Congressional redistricting reform. At a recent Constitutional Modernization Commission meeting, former House Speaker JoAnn Davidson also came out in support. Even President Obama mentioned it in his State of the Union address. In addition, several Ohio newspaper editorial boards have published strong opinions calling for reform.

Since we know that, unlike Issue 1 last fall, we will face opposition to Congressional reform, we need to keep working on building this strong, politically diverse base of support.

On the negative side, we have to face the reality that current leadership in the General Assembly opposes moving forward on Congressional redistricting reform. Ohio House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger has described state legislative and Congressional redistricting as “apples and oranges.” Senate President Keith Faber describes extending Issue 1's Bipartisan Redistricting Commission to redrawing Congressional lines as a “divestiture of legislative authority.” While there are legislators in both parties and both chambers who support Congressional redistricting reform, it's tough to even get a hearing on a proposal without the support of leadership.

These realities, taken together, mean we need to use the two tracks described under “Lesson 2” to create political pressure on legislative leadership. That can include a reform proposal being passed by the Constitutional Modernization Commission and recommended to the legislature, newspaper editorial boards calling on legislative leaders not to delay reform, Ohioans calling their local legislators to demand action, and ultimately the Fair Districts Coalition moving forward with a citizen initiative if Speaker Rosenberger and President Faber continue to ignore public demands.

### **Here's how you can help**

We need a strong coordinated effort to accomplish our goal of moving Congressional redistricting reform forward. The Fair Districts Coalition has a campaign timeline with concrete action steps. Here's how you can help right now:

- Collect endorsements – We need a strong, politically diverse base of support. Talk to organizations and prominent individuals in your community about adding their name to the list of supporters for Congressional redistricting reform at [www.fairdistrictsohio.org](http://www.fairdistrictsohio.org).
- Keep it in the news – Write letters to the editor or op-eds for your local newspaper, including weekly community and ethnic press. Write a column in your organization's newsletter. Call in to radio shows. Be sure to say “we passed ‘fair districts’ redistricting reform for the state legislature and it's time to do the same for Congress too.”
- Talk to your Reps – Tell your State Representative, State Senator, and US Congressperson that you support redistricting reform and ask them to support reform too.
- Are you on social media? Then please like, share, and retweet redistricting reform messages from the Fair Districts coalition and partner groups like the League of Women Voters and Common Cause.

Updates and additional actions will be posted to the [www.fairdistrictsohio.org](http://www.fairdistrictsohio.org) coalition website, so be sure to check back often.

## Thank You to All of Our Donors!

A sincere thank you from all of us at LWVO to each and every donor who gave to support both our Women's Equality Day and End of Year Campaign in 2015! Every single dollar contributed helps us continue our critical voter education and advocacy work.

Anne Ahern	Sally Ebling	Betty Lynham
Nellie Alsip	Barbara Ebright	Eleanora Marovitz
Roger Anderson	Elva Edger	D.G. Mathews
Lora Antoine	John & Anne Elder	Viola Matyas
David Ashenhurst	Virginia Erdy	Lynda Mayer
Vickie Askins	Joan Eshler	Elaine McLean
Mary Lou Aufmann	Jackie Evangelista	Joanne McQueen
Marilee Baird	Evelyn Evans	Johanna Meara
David & Margaret Baker	Jeanne Evans	Iris Meltzer
Dorothea Barker	Dorothy Fike	Joan Hoagland Milder
Barbara Barna	Meg & Mike Flack	Karen & Bill Miller
Maryann Barnes	Nancy Forbriger	Marion Mills
Barbara Bayless	Elizabeth Ford	Claire Moore
Carol Beale	Marilyn Sue Foster	Mary Mundzak
John Beaty	Diana Fowler	Marlene Muse
Pamela Beck	Connie Freundlich	Anne Newman
Nancy Beja	Jane and Jack Fryman	Riek Oldenquist
Katherine Berger	Barbara Fuchsman	Susan Otto
Maribel Beyler	Marianne Gabel	Patricia Passer
Bonnie Jean Bolsen	Linda Gaffey	Janice Patterson
Gale & John Bromelmeier	Katherine Gharrity	David Patton
Alfreda Brown	Marcia Goldberg	Gerald Pearson
Ellen Brown	Sylvia Goldberg	Jeanne Pease
Kitty Burcsu & John Miller	Anne Graves	Susan Pejeau
Cathy Burner	Louise Griffing	Frances G. Pepper
Nancy Calcott	Lois Gross	Frances & Edwin Phillips
Joan Callecod	Tamara Hardgrove-Shomo	John Pesuit, Jr.
Marge Carnahan	Gloria Hardington	Kathryn Potts
Katherine Carr	Eleanora Helper	Kathleen Pownall
Treon Christine	Maxine Houck	Phyllis Putnam
Dorothy Cibula	Marguerite Hrabak	Jean Questel
Mary Jo Clark	Barbara & Oscar Hunsicker	Karen Rainey
Andrea Cobb	Barbara Hykes	Alison Ricker
Esther Connors	Laurie Johnston	Mary Lou Riday
Mary Boone Costello	Gloria & Roger Jones	Norman Robbins
Martha & David Crafts	Dorothy Kane	Jean Robejsek
Jessie Woodruff Craig	Janyce Katz	Burton Roehr
Loann Crane	Ardith & Bill Keck	Gretchen Roose
Melissa Currence	James Keller	Al & Peg Rosenfield
Emiko Custer	Janet Kershaw	Elizabeth Rumics
Prudence & Steve Dana	Sallie Killian	Lowell & Ellen Satre
Joan Danes	Sally Kilmer	Janet Schenk
AlexSandra Davis	Martha Kleinfelter	Charlotte Scherer
Zita Davis	Emil & Jean Kmetec	John & Debbie Schmieding
Nancy Dawley	Ursula Korneitchouk	Jean Seasholtz
Jacquelyn Darrow	Marilyn Leach	Richard & Diana Shoonmaker
Kimberli Diemert & Margaret Steinberg	LWV of Marion	Rita Shtull
Susan Donnett	Elizabeth Lehtola	Nancy Seifert
Beverly Dorson	Katherine Linehan & Glenn Loafmann	Ruth Simons
Elizabeth Dreben	Linda & Jack Lissauer	
Christine Driver	Fred & Pearl Livingstone	

...continued on page 11

...continued from page 10

Linda Slocum  
 Anne Smead  
 Pamela Smith  
 Katherine Solender  
 Paul Spierling  
 Dee Stegman  
 Janet & James Stewart  
 Doris Strauss  
 Carolyn Sugiuchi  
 Cassandra Talerico-Kaplin  
 Martha Taylor  
 Mary Tedrow  
 Marjorie Thiel  
 Ruth Tootle  
 Nancy Treichler  
 Robert Ulrich  
 Blanche & Jack Valancy  
 Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick  
 Carl Vinson  
 Catherine Warmbrod  
 Sharon Weitzenhof  
 Mary Warren  
 Diane Weeks  
 Lisa & Marc Westwater  
 Linda Wilcox  
 R. Wilkinson  
 Sara Willson  
 Carolann Winslow  
 Kenneth Wolfe  
 Katheryn Woodbridge  
 Jane Zartman Woodrow  
 Carol & Dan Young  
 Juliet Zavan  
 Pamela Zych

The League of Women Voters of Ohio/Education Fund also offers thanks to the many donors who wish to remain anonymous for their generous support.

## Key Ohio Election Dates for 2016

League members may want to cut out this list and save it. Keep these dates in mind when planning voter service work such as your local Voters' Guide / Vote411, candidate and issue forums, and voter registration drives.

\*Note regarding abbreviations: SOS = Secretary of State and BOE = Board of Elections

### Primary Election Dates

- February 16 – Voter registration deadline for the March 15 primary
- February 17 – Start of absentee and early voting for the March 15 primary
- March 15 – Primary Election Day, polls open 6:30am to 7:30pm

### Optional August Special Election Dates

- July 5 – Voter registration deadline for August 2 special election
- July 6 – Start of absentee and early voting for the August 2 special election
- August 2 – Special election may be held in some counties

### Political Party Conventions

- July 18-21, Republican National Convention (Cleveland, OH)
- July 25-28, Democratic National Convention (Philadelphia, PA)

### General Election Dates

- July 6 – Deadline to file citizen initiative petitions with the SOS for proposed constitutional amendments or statutes
- July 11 – County BOEs must file their Election Administration Plans with the SOS Office
- July 21 – Nominating petitions of minor political party candidates must be filed
- August 10 – Deadline for:
  - Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of the General Assembly must be filed with the SOS
  - The two major political parties must certify the names of their candidates for President and Vice President (VP).
  - Minor parties must certify candidates for President and VP
  - Nominating petitions for independent candidates for President and VP must be filed with the SOS by 4pm
  - Nominating petitions for candidates in nonpartisan races must be filed by 4pm
  - Local questions and issues, including local option petitions, must be certified to or filed with BOEs by 4pm
- August 22 – BOEs certify: candidates in nonpartisan races, independent candidates for President and VP, and local option petitions
- August 25 – Deadline for minor political parties to certify slate of candidates to SOS
- August 29 – Write-in candidates must file declaration of intent by 4pm
- August 30 – BOE of most populous county of a multi-county district must certify names of all candidates to other BOEs
- September 24 – UOCAVA (military & overseas) absentee ballots must be ready
- **September 27 – National Voter Registration Day!**
- **October 11 – Voter registration deadline for the Nov. 8 general election**
- **October 12 – Start of absentee and early voting for the Nov. 8 general**
- **November 8 – General Election Day, polls open 6:30am to 7:30pm**

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**For membership information,**  
call (614) 469-1505,  
email [lwvinfo@lwvohio.org](mailto:lwvinfo@lwvohio.org), or visit us online  
at [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org).

follow us on  
**twitter** [Twitter.com/lwvohio](https://twitter.com/lwvohio)

**f** Find us on  
**Facebook** [Facebook.com/lwvohio](https://facebook.com/lwvohio)

# MEMBERSHIP FORM



**YES, Sign me up as a Member of the League of Women Voters of Ohio!**

\$60 INDIVIDUAL     \$90 HOUSEHOLD

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

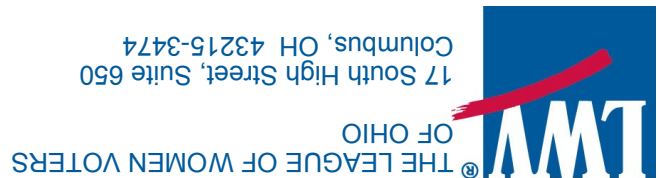
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form with your check to**  
**LWV Ohio**  
**17 South High Street, Suite 650**  
**Columbus, Ohio 43215**



**Staff**  
Carrie L. Davis  
Executive Director

Munia Mostafa  
Membership and Project Manager  
Gail Burns  
Office and Program Associate

**Co-Presidents**  
Allison Ricker, LWV Oberlin Area  
Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, LWV Oberlin Area  
**1st Vice President**  
Andrea Cobb, LWV Greater Dayton  
**2nd Vice President**  
Marlene Muse, LWV Cincinnati Area  
**Secretary**  
Tamarra Hardgrove-Shomo, LWV Tallmadge  
**Treasurer**  
Janet Kershaw, LWV Greater Cleveland

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alfreda Brown, LWV Kent  
Janet Chittock, LWV Greater Youngstown  
Dorothy Kane, LWV Greater Youngstown  
Alice Schneider, LWV Cincinnati Area  
Marti (Martha) Kleinfeiler, LWV Clermont County  
Kristin Vessey, LWV Bowling Green

### MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Meg Flack, MLD Coordinator, LWV Metro Columbus

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
PERMIT 544