

2018

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Ohio **Fall 2018**

2018 ELECTION RECAP: SUCCESSES AND TAKEAWAYS

The election is now over, and LWVO is already planning for 2019, but review of preliminary election results is helpful in revealing accomplishments and areas for future advocacy efforts.



First, many thanks go out to all who worked tirelessly to increase voter registration and turnout, and protect every person's right to vote. Outstanding results include:

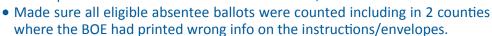
- The registration of more than 2500 new voters by local Leagues. Our most successful Leagues were Oberlin, Metro-Columbus, and Kent. Kudos!
- Registrations in Ohio are up 4% in comparison to 2014.
- A 15 percentage-point increase in Ohio's voter turnout rate the highest for a midterm election since 1994!
- A 42% increase in early and absentee voting more than 1.3 million ballots cast!



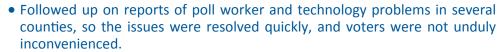
LWVO also gives thanks to our invaluable partners, including Ohio Votes, Common Cause, and All Voting is Local, who worked with us to educate voters and protect voting rights. Rides to Vote, a joint initiative with COHIO had more than 200 volunteers helping increase electoral access for voters without reliable transportation.



Overall, election operations went well, with a few exceptions. LWVO worked with Election Protection partners on rapid response and will advocate for future improvements. In the 2018 General Election, LWVO











More voters engaged in the democratic process is a win for all! Still, a 54 % turnout rate indicates a further need to inspire and empower voters.



A deeper look at election results uncover the importance of the League's antigerrymandering work. A count of votes across the state reveals that although Democrats only won a quarter of Ohio's 16 Congressional seats, almost half of Ohioans voted for a Democrat as their Representative to Congress. Although ballot initiative victories will lead to fairer districts being drawn in 2021, LWVO continues to fight for better results sooner through its lawsuit with ACLU and A. Philip Randolph Institute.

A QUICK LOOK IN THE OHIO LEGISLATURE

Party leaders gathered in a post-election conference to announce their priorities. Mike DeWine moved quickly to demonstrate his commitment to children's issues by creating a Director of Children's Initiatives position within the governor's office whose job will be to drive reforms in early childhood education, access to mental health services, and the foster care system. Republicans intend to make it harder to put constitutional amendments on the ballot. Although the Ohio Constitution should be a clearly stated body of fundamental principles, the League does not want to see a more difficult process for citizen input. As such, we will work to reform the initiated statute process to make it less burdensome to propose changes to the Ohio Revised Code and to reasonably shield ballot approved statues from being weakened by the General Assembly.

As we move forward, we are closely watching "lame duck" session. Although Republican leaders have affirmed that they will plan for a lighter agenda than previously expected, several disastrous bills are either planned for a vote soon or are moving quickly. We urge you to write letters, make daily phone calls, and share the urgency of these issues with friends and family.

- HB 228, also known as the "Stand Your Ground bill", and HB 258, also known as the "Heartbeat Bill" have passed in the House and will move to the Senate.
- SB 250 has finished its 3rd hearing in the Senate. It criminalizes the right to peaceful protest at oil and gas facilities in Ohio, and has the potential to invite the use of eminent domain for pipelines and powerlines on citizens' private property. Additionally, it threatens organizations with \$100,000 fines if they or their members object to or impede private infrastructure.
- HB 114, which would weaken the state's renewable energy and energy efficiency standards, passed the Ohio house last year and is currently before the Senate.
- SB 210 would restrict options and bar future legislation to reduce plastic waste.

Prior to the election, several voting rights bills were introduced. LWVO will follow these high priority issues with the Legislature and the incoming Secretary of State.

- SB 328 would require boards of elections to prepay postage for the return of completed absentee ballots.
- SB 318 would authorize the Secretary of State to establish a secure online process for applying to vote by absent voter's ballots.
- SB 319 would allow a person who would be eighteen years of age at the next general election to elect controlling committee members and convention delegates at the prior primary.
- SB 327 would create the Ohio Cyber Reserve which would deter, mitigate, and remedy cyberattacks against local governments, local agencies, elections systems, and community partners.
- HB 14 would allow for automatic voter registration.

New At-Large Unit Emerges in Knox County

As the Licking County At-Large Unit was transitioning into a full-fledged local League, the formation of a new at-Large Unit was underway. Many thanks to Meg Galipault for taking the initiative in bringing the presence of the League to Knox County. During the general election, the Unit was very busy in recruiting members and doing voter registration drives. When asked how it all started, Meg said, "It all started during this election season. Our Knox County group had its first meeting in September and it was baptism by fire, trying to get ourselves organized quickly before the voter registration deadline. We did a few events at our local library and got to highlight the lunch period at the high school career center. It was wonderful registering these students who were voting for the first time and getting people involved in the political process! The Knox County Unit is now recruiting new members. Interested individuals can contact Meg Galipault at meg.galipault@gmail.com to join the Unit.

At present, we have three ALUs — LWV of Darke County Unit, LWV of Findlay Unit and LWV of Knox County Unit. Members wishing to form either an At-Large Chapter or At-Large Group must petition the LWV Ohio office for recognition using the application to form an At-Large Unit. To request an application form, contact the state League office at 614-469-1505.

LWVO PROGRAM PLANNING - By Alice Schneider, LWVO Advocacy Chair

TIMELINE

Dec-mid Feb: Local Leagues review current positions and choose priorities at a Program Planning Meeting.

February 22, 2019: Deadline for local boards, using the outcome of program planning meetings, to approve and send their recommendations to LWVO.

March 9, 2019: State board considers the recommendations from local Leagues and selects the Proposed Program

March-May 2019: Local Leagues review the Proposed Program. They may wish to use the League network to rally support for recommended and nonrecommended items.

May 10-12, 2019: State Convention delegates debate and adopt a 2019-2021 program. Voting Rights, Money in Politics, Environment. Advocacy is an important component of the League of Women Voters. Among other issues, the League advocates improving the environment, voting rights, redistricting, and money in politics. The League bases its advocacy or lobbying on its positions. During a League convention year, we review the positions of the LWVO to select the issues upon which the League will spend time, talent, energy and money. The League refers to this as program planning, but it is, in reality, the reviewing of our positions. At the state convention (May 10-12) in Columbus, the League will adopt a state program that will position us as a leader in advocacy and education in Ohio. In selecting issues that are important, lively, and relevant, we can ensure that the League will have an impact on the significant policy issues facing our state. As an example, at the 2017 convention, we adopted "redistricting" as our main focus and as a result we achieved a significant victory for our effort (Issue 1-congressional redistricting reform passed in May, 2018).

Grassroots involvement from the local Leagues is important to this process. We ask local Leagues to review our current positions. We will send a packet with specific directions to complete this process. Once we have received local League responses, the LWVO board of directors will develop a proposed program based on these responses. It is important for your local League to send in the responses. At the state convention in May, the delegates will discuss the recommended and non-recommended positions. Delegates will then vote to adopt the 2019-2021 state program.

LWVO greatly appreciates the time and expertise your League devotes to giving LWVO thoughtful guidance on the state program for 2019-2021.

- •The state League will send each local League a packet on how to plan for the review of league positions.
- •It is important for all Leagues to complete and submit a response form whether or not they recommend a review/update, study, or dropping a position.

COMEBACK OF LICKING COUNTY LEAGUE AFTER 20 YEARS!

The LWVO Board is delighted to announce the official comeback of Licking County League after 20 years. We congratulate the new League's leadership on their hard work and dedication in recruiting new members, educating voters, and building grassroots support in Licking County in just less than a year.



"The first meeting to organize ourselves as an At-Large Unit was in August 2017. One year later at our Annual Meeting, the League of Women Voters of Licking County approved bylaws and elected officers ahead of applying to become a Local League. In a little over a year our membership had ballooned to about 80 people, and we felt we were ready for greater autonomy. Both the state and national levels agreed recently, approving this change of status.

How did our remarkable growth happen? As in so many communities across the country, people here were looking for greater political engagement after the 2016 election. We filled that need by providing positive ways to contribute in a trusted organization with name-recognition. For example, we did voter registration in public places such as farmers' markets and festivals. We also made a splashy showing in a Fourth of July parade. The local papers have published several guest columns on voter education and also short notices about our events. In these and other ways we have kept our name constantly "out there," making sure people know about our mission and our work. Membership growth has benefited, too, from communicating with friends and members through an email distribution list as well as an active Facebook page and a website (http://lwvlickingcounty.org). Now our challenges include managing some things on our own that LWVO had done for us and developing members into volunteers and leaders." - Rita Kipp, President, LWV of Licking County

THE DEFINITION OF DEVELOPMENT

While the word development has several meanings, at its core development is defined as: evolution/growth/progress. In the non-profit industry, the word development has appropriately become synonymous with fundraising. Fundraising drives evolution. Fundraising drives growth. Fundraising drives progress. Without fundraising, it is nearly impossible for an organization to evolve, grow or progress.

Knowing the significant role development plays in an organization's ability to grow, LWVO's Board of Directors identified fundraising as one of the most important strategic initiatives in the years ahead.

The LWVO Board took the first step towards addressing these development needs by hiring Sherry Rose to serve as LWVO's Development Director in July 2017. The Board also hired a new Executive Director in May 2018. Our new ED, Jen Miller, has over 15 years experience in non-profit and development work.

Donate today!

Name:

Email:

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 You can also donate at www.lwvohio.org and click "Donate." Thank you!

Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Tel:		

Please return to: League of Women Voters of Ohio, 100 East Broad Street, Suite 1310, Columbus, OH 43215

SAVE THE DATES

2019 LWVO Statehouse Day

Mark your calendars! The 2019 LWVO
Statehouse Day will be held on Wednesday,
March 27, 2019 at the Sheraton Columbus
Hotel at Capitol Square in downtown
Columbus. More details will be coming soon.

2019 LWVO Convention

The 2019 LWVO State Convention will be held on May 10-12 at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in the Columbus area.

More details coming soon

In 2017-2018, LWVO expanded development efforts to include the social media campaigns Where in Ohio is Susan B. Anthony? and #GivingTuesday. LWVO will soon be listed as one of Amazon Smile's charities. In addition, LWVO will be announcing an exciting partnership with Peace, Love, Bling.

These programs are just the beginning! In order to address the growing needs of our members, LWVO will be taking fundraising efforts to the next level. In 2019, LWVO will not only publicly launch our long-term sustainability campaign Inspire!, but we will also continue to find new and inventive ways to help LWVO and our members evolve, grow and progress through our development effort.

Thank you for your continued support. Growth happens when we all work together! If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Rose: srose@lwvohio.org



PEACE LOVE BLING: Great for you! Great for the League!

We are thrilled to partner with Peace Love Bling, an ethically-handcrafted jewelry boutique. To make sure that a portion of your purchase benefits the Ohio League,

- Visit: https://www.peacelovebling.com/
- Select items to purchase
- When finished, go to your cart, on the bottom left hand side of the page, select the name of the League in the dropdown menu to answer are you supporting an organization.
- Click on checkout and proceed to make your payment.

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS' DESK

The 2019-20 Congress will be the most diverse that we have ever had! Here are just a few examples of the candidates who made this happen in spite of extreme gerrymandering and other tactics to suppress the vote: Sharice Davids, one of two Native American women and the first openly LGBTQ woman from Kansas, won a seat in Congress. Ilhan Omar, a Somali refugee and one of the first Muslim women to enter Congress, won her Minnesota contest. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez of New York just became the youngest woman to serve in Congress, while Ayanna Pressley became the first Black woman to represent Massachusetts. We are truly thrilled to witness this influx of 100+ women of varying races, ethnicities, religions, and gender identities into the halls of government.



Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, Alison Ricker

It is unlikely that all suffragists who fought so long and hard for women's right to vote could have imagined such a representation when the 19th Amendment passed in 1920. Indeed, our founder, Carrie Chatman Catt, has often been excoriated for certain disparaging remarks she made about people of color, Native Americans, and immigrants. Although her contribution to women's rights and to LWV were invaluable and cannot be denied, we deeply regret her shortsightedness in regard to the rich contributions made by all the different groups who comprise our collective identity. We need to own this history, acknowledge its deleterious effect even into our own day.

We can also acknowledge that the suffragists' foundational work allowed us to stand on their shoulders, giving us a broader perspective more encompassing than theirs. In supporting the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts over fifty years ago, LWV had already moved beyond the narrow vision of Catt and early suffragists. As we head into our second century, an even wider view must prevail if we are to remain both effective and relevant in the decades to come.

A significant step towards this goal was taken at the 2018 LWVUS Convention, when an entire day was devoted to sessions and workshops on embracing all elements of American society and meaningful outreach to those who reflect differences of every variety. At the state level, the LWVO board has established a Diversity Committee and added new emphasis on achieving diversity in our revised Strategic Plan. It is up to every one of us to make this happen. We look forward to the day when accomplishments like that of the 2019-20 Congressional delegation will no longer seem extraordinary, but simply the normal order of the day.

Alison Ricker and Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick

Get involved from the comfort of your home or office!

LWV Ohio Monthly All Member Call

The state League hosts a conference call open to all members on the first Tuesday of every month at 12 noon. The monthly call is a great way for League members across Ohio to connect, share ideas, get updates on hot topics, and plan action.

Here's how to join the discussion: Call (toll-free): 866-740-1260 Enter PIN Number: 4691505#.

Watch your email several days in advance for an announcement of that month's call topic. Calls typically end just before 1pm.

LWV Ohio Lobby Corps Call

LWVO's volunteer Lobby Corps meets via phone twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 12 noon. Any member may join the call. It's a great way to hear what is happening in the Statehouse and about lobbying. New lobbyists are always welcome.

Here's how to join the discussion:

Call: 605-468-8003

Enter PIN Number: 742886#.

Calls end by 1pm. You are certain to learn something new about pending legislation and lobbying activities.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEN MILLER

Census 2020: Let's Get It Right!

An accurate, complete population count in the 2020 Census is critical to all Ohioans. Census 2020 data will be used to create new legislative districts for the Ohio General Assembly and for Ohio's



Jen Miller

Congressional districts. Community leaders also use Census data for disaster response preparedness, transportation planning, education funding, school lunches for food insecure children, and services for seniors, veterans, youth, and low-income Ohioans.

We only get one chance every ten years to get the Census right, and League has a critical role to play by participating in local Complete Count Committees, hosting educational forums, writing letters-to-the-editor, and promoting participation through social media and other formats. LWVO will assist local Leagues and members statewide with 2020 Census efforts. We can provide ideas for public forums, assist LLs in participating in Complete Count Committees, create distribution materials, and train a speaker's bureau of League volunteers. Please contact the LWVO office to get involved.

A Centennial of Impact! LWVO is almost 100!

I'm honored to serve LWVO when the 19th Amendment and LWVO turn 100! For 100 years, we've made a tangible difference in the lives of Ohioans by pushing for democracy reforms like ballot standardization in the 1940s and fair redistricting since the 1970s. For a century, we've empowered women to vote, run for office, and become advocates. Given that Ohio ratified the 19th Amendment in June 1919, we will begin our celebration at the State Convention on May 10 - 12 by paying tribute to the mothers of our movement and our organization. We will continue that celebration through 2020.

This is the best opportunity we may have in our lifetime to demonstrate the power of the League, celebrate the significant contributions that Ohio made to the suffrage movement, and remind Ohioans just how precious the right to vote is. We can use this opportunity to inspire new voters, grow our membership, recruit volunteers and partners, increase visibility, and establish our endowment -Inspire!, which will help ensure that LWVO remains strong for the next century.

My hope is that every Ohio child will learn about the 19th Amendment and League, and that celebrations will occur in all 88 counties. We will do this by supporting our LLs as well as partners. But I can't do this alone. I'm looking for team members to help archive materials, conduct research, create program materials, and to develop partnerships. We need book lists, discussion guides, trained speakers, exhibit materials, local stories of the suffrage movement and remarkable Ohio women, and so much more for LLs and partners to utilize. Join me in the fun! director@lwvohio.org

MOMENT IN HISTORY: LWV'S FIRST MAJOR LEGISLATIVE VICTORY

- By Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick

Since women had not had a right to vote in most states until the 19th Amendment was passed in 1920, they also had not been able to hold government offices or participate fully in enacting legislation. The second half of LWV's two-fold mission - to educate voters and to influence the passage of policies supported by LWV - had its first test when the Sheppard-Towner Act was introduced in Congress.

The Act addressed the high mortality rate among mothers and children in the US by setting new standards for hygiene and by funding, through federal matching grants to states, programs dedicated to maternal and child welfare. Most significantly, it was the first such federally funded social welfare program in the country -- before this time, such programs were in the hands of the states or private charities.

LWV saw this as an opportunity to educate its members on the importance of influencing legislation that affected the social welfare of Americans, particularly women and children. Already experienced coalition building at throughout the suffragist era, LWV partnered with the General Federation of Women's Clubs to work towards passing this Act. In spite of various states' opposition to such a federal-state partnership, the Sheppard-Towner Act eventually passed in 1921, and the League's efforts on its behalf were instrumental in that passage.

This success formed the basis for LWV's activism in support of many other programs promoting public health and welfare throughout its first hundred years. The successful passage of Medicare, Medicaid, The Clean Air and Clean Water Acts are just a few examples of programs that benefitted from LWV's lobbying efforts on their behalf.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

A heartfelt thank you to the following people for supporting the 2018 Women's Equality Day campaign. We are truly grateful for your generosity and dedication to our mission and organization:

Samir and Lucy Abu-Absi Suzanne Anzellotti Barbara Avery Beth Babich Martha Baldoni Patricia Baumgarner Katherine Berger Glenda Bernstein Maribel Beyler Bonnie Jean Bolsen Karen A. Bradley Maureen Brodar **Barbara Brothers** Catharine H. Brown Nancy G. Brown Cena Buchannon Kirsten Burkev Elizabeth Burrell Joan C. Bush **Dorothy Cibula** Fred Coale Andrea Cobb

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Stacy Yaniglos Jane B. Young

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To become a member or for information, (614) 469-1505

lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org
Or join online at www.lwvohio.org.



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\$60 INDIVIDUAL

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

\$90 HOUSEHOLD

■ \$5 STUDENT	■ \$100 ORGANIZATIONAL
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