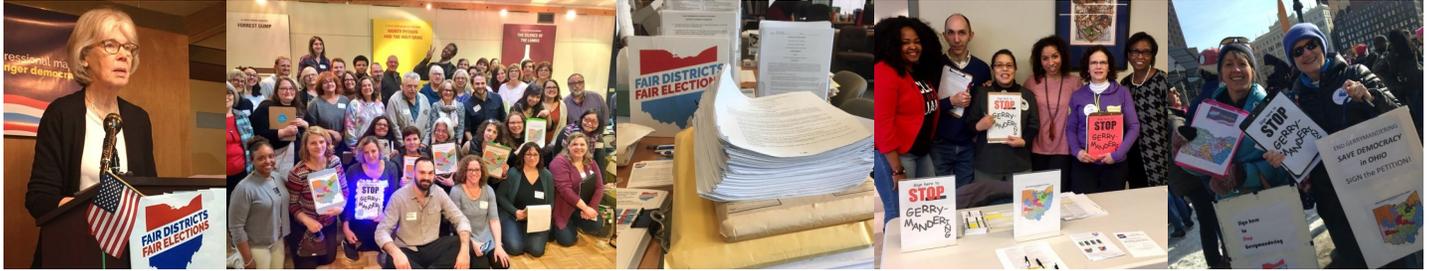




OHIO VOTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO WINTER 2018

Redistricting Reform Appearing on May Ballot, Backed by LWVO and Fair Districts



Redistricting reform has passed both chambers of the Ohio General Assembly by wide bipartisan margins, and now voters will have their say at the May 8 primary election. The two parties came together to address partisan gerrymandering, giving up some of their own power in the process, and made progress toward fairer districts. Redistricting reform is so important, however, that the **coalition is continuing its signature collection efforts** as a backup plan in case reform does not pass in May.

This issue progressed quickly. In early January, Senator Matt Huffman introduced a "reform" proposal, Senate Joint Resolution 5, that would have written "packing and cracking" tactics into the constitution, possibly making the redistricting process even less fair than current law. However, thanks to sustained pressure from redistricting reformers through calls to legislators' offices and appearances at committee hearings, Senator Huffman and majority leadership continued to negotiate with the Fair Districts coalition and minority party legislators.

Through those negotiation efforts, the coalition was able to come to a compromise with legislative leaders that will meaningfully improve the redistricting process, and the amended version of SJR 5 passed the House on February 6. By requiring significant bipartisan support, whether in the legislature or the Ohio redistricting commission, and triggering strict rules for drawing districts if the parties cannot come to an agreement, this process will rein in the excesses of partisan gerrymandering.

Under SJR 5, the mapmaking process follows three stages until a map is approved:

- **Stage One:** The **General Assembly** has an opportunity to draw a map, passage of which requires a **three-fifths majority** in each chamber, including support of at least **half the minority party**.
- **Stage Two:** If the General Assembly cannot come to agreement, the task of drawing a map goes to the bipartisan **Ohio Redistricting Commission** established by Issue 1 in 2015. Approval requires at least **four of seven votes**, including affirmative **votes from two members representing each of the two major parties**.
- **Stage Three:** If the commission also cannot reach the necessary consensus, the legislature can a) pass a map with **support from one-third of the minority party**, or b) pass a map that will only last four years without **minority party support, but subject to very strict rules** forbidding gerrymandering and limiting division of counties.

While coming to a compromise necessarily means giving up certain aspects of our own proposal, having the bipartisan support of the legislature on this issue increases the likelihood of Ohioans approving these reforms with a strong mandate for change.

Bringing legislators to the table and getting them to make concessions would have been impossible without the weight of 200,000 signatures and thousands of passionate reformers behind us. We will send out more information about next steps soon, but for now take pride in knowing you pushed legislators to do the all-too-rare: give up their own power and influence to do the right thing.

What's Going on in Government?

Aside from passing a resolution to place redistricting reform on the May ballot (see cover story), the Ohio General Assembly has been busy on a number of other issues. One factor to keep in mind for the next few months: as May's primary election approaches, some members of the majority party may be eager to bolster their ideological bona fides by casting votes for very conservative legislation that they can then trumpet to their party base in their primary campaigns.

Reproductive rights

- **SB 145**, also known as the "**method ban**," which would prohibit the abortion procedure most commonly used after twelve weeks' gestation, has had three hearings in House committee after passing the Senate last year. Similar provisions in other states have been ruled unconstitutional, including most recently in Texas in November 2017.
- **SB 28**, which would require **fetal remains** resulting from abortions be buried or cremated, passed the Senate and is now close to passing out of committee in the House. This requirement, which would not apply to human tissue discarded during any other procedures, would result in enormous costs for abortion providers, infringing access to abortion by making the procedure more expensive.
- The so-called "**heartbeat bill**," which would ban all abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detectable (around six weeks into a pregnancy), passed out of committee in the House in December. This puts **HB 258** in position to be brought up for a vote by the full chamber any time. A similar measure earned a veto from Governor Kasich in 2016.

Energy and the environment

- Attempts to curtail Ohio's **renewable energy standards** are back in the form of **HB 114**. Currently in committee in the Senate, it is not expected to advance in its current form but rather be significantly amended, possibly including changes to Ohio's wind turbine setback requirements. Senate President Obhof signaled this issue is a priority to resolve swiftly.
- **HB 393**, to allow the **sale of fracking waste as a commercial product** for use in ice and dust control, has received four hearings in House committee. This is troubling, as the makeup of this so-called "brine" is kept secret but has been shown to contain carcinogens and other dangerous chemicals.

Gun control

- **SB 180** and **HB 228**, so-called "**stand your ground**" proposals that broaden the circumstances in which a person is legally permitted to use deadly force, have each seen multiple hearings in their respective committees. See "Gun Law Updates" on page 4 for details.

Federal Government Updates

- Two government shutdowns since the beginning of 2018 - one for a weekend and the other for a few hours - resulted from Congress's inability to agree on a funding extension. Though this process has failed to yield a solution for participants in the **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** program, who may begin losing their protections on March 5, Congress has extended the **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** for ten years and arrived at an agreement to increase federal funding across a number of programs.
- The **Presidential Commission on Election Integrity** - also known as the Pence-Kobach or voter fraud commission - was dissolved at the beginning of January. Formed in May 2017 and tasked with investigating President Trump's claims that millions of fraudulent votes were cast in the 2016 elections, the commission was the subject of several lawsuits before its termination. The administration indicated it may transfer some of the commission's mandate to the Department of Homeland Security, a possibility LWVUS will monitor.
- Arguments in *Husted v. A. Phillip Randolph Institute*, the U.S. Supreme Court case challenging **Ohio's voter purge practices**, took place on January 10. There will be no further developments in the case until the Court issues its opinion, likely in June or July.

LWV Statehouse Day 2018: Putting the Voter First

Join us for LWV Ohio Statehouse Day on **Tuesday, April 11, 2018**. Our theme this year is "Putting the Voter First."

When: Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm. Registration opens at 8:30 am.

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



- Early Registration Fees:
- \$50 League members
 - \$55 non-members
 - \$25 students

Registration closes at 11:59 pm on April 4, 2018, and a flat rate of \$60 will apply to any walk-ins who are not registered after that date. Register using the tear off form below or online at www.lwvohio.org.

We rely on sponsors to keep the price of Statehouse Day low. Sponsorship opportunities are available. If you would like to be a sponsor, or if you have an idea for a business LWVO should approach for sponsorship, please contact the LWVO office at (614) 459 -1505.

What do you get?



Mike Curtin

- Outstanding Keynote Address from Mike Curtin. He knows Ohio politics from the inside as a former legislator, from the outside as a journalist and editor of the *Columbus Dispatch*, and as a historian and author of the *Ohio Politics Almanac*.
- Latest on Redistricting.
- Updates from Lobbyists.
- Meetings with Legislators.
- Best practices for engaging young people in the political process, presented by several local Leagues.
- Practical steps for working with NAACP and other organizations on voter suppression, redistricting, and more, presented by Ohio NAACP Conference President Tom Roberts.
- Tools for Leagues to use to promote civil discourse and to serve as community connectors, bringing together people of diverse viewpoints, presented by Lauren Litton, Ohio Coordinator of the Initiative to Revive Civility.
- A great introduction to League for new and potential members.
- Morning coffee and lunch.
- Free copy of LWVOEF's book *Know Your Ohio Government*, 9th edition, while supplies last. (The 10th edition is coming out later in 2018.)
- Open House at LWVO's new office after Statehouse Day event.
- A recharge to your activism on behalf of voters, in the company of League friends, old and new.

LWV Ohio Statehouse Day – Tuesday, April 11, 2018 – Registration Form

Name _____ Address _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Local League _____
 Fee: \$50 Member \$55 Non-member \$25 student

Note: Registration closes one week before the event, and a flat fee of \$60 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 • 100 East Broad Street, Suite 1310 • Columbus, Ohio 43215
 For information call: (614) 469-1505**

Gun Law Updates

By Rosie Craig, LWVO Gun Control Specialist

Unlike other states, Ohio has lost significant ground on the legislative side of gun violence prevention.

- At this writing, **stand your ground legislation, SB 180**, is pending in both houses, lifting the duty to retreat should a gun carrier feel threatened, even if deadly force ensues. States that have enacted stand your ground laws have seen increases in gun homicide even as overall violent crime rates in their states have gone down. Essentially, these laws lower the cost of using lethal force. As a result, studies show that there is more of it.
- A **get out of jail free bill, HB 233**, passed the Ohio House in July, allowing a CCW (carrying a concealed weapon) licensed gun carrier not to be charged for carrying a gun into a prohibited area, so long as s/he leaves with the gun when asked.

If these two pieces of legislation pass, Ohio will continue the trend of allowing guns to be in more places – prohibited or otherwise – with fewer consequences for gun carriers, even in those situations where deadly force is used.

To take a look back, LWVO opposed the passage of the original concealed weapons licensing legislation in 2004. In 2006 we opposed the preempting of local gun ordinances, as a distortion of local control powers granted in the Ohio Constitution. Since then, gun rights activists have been allowed to carry assault weapons and other guns openly in municipal parks and crowded public venues. LWVO continues to speak out against the prohibition to publicly audit Ohio’s CCW licensing system. Without the ability to audit CCW data for suspensions and revocation, we undoubtedly have people in Ohio licensed to carry concealed weapons who legally should be prohibited.

Over the years, our legislature has failed to enact laws to rein in perpetrators of gun violence, such as universal background checks on gun purchases, regulation of military style weapons, and holding to account the adult owners of a gun should that gun be used by a minor to inflict injury or death.

On a good note, two common sense gun bills have had first hearings in committee in February. **HB 305** would give the courts greater latitude for removing guns where a restraining order has been issued. **HB 395** would prohibit the manufacture or transfer of a rate-of-fire acceleration product, which would include the “bump stock” accessory used in the Las Vegas and Sutherland Springs massacres. While optimism for either of these bills needs to be guarded, strong public support can slow the advance of the pro-gun agenda.

LWV Ohio Statement on Shooting in Parkland, FL

Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick and Alison Ricker, League of Women Voters of Ohio Co-Presidents, issued the following statement about the mass shooting on Wednesday, February 14, 2018:

"The senseless murder of seventeen children and adults at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida once again shows us the tragic results of lax gun regulation in our country. The League of Women Voters of Ohio believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. For that reason, LWVO supports strong federal measures to limit accessibility and regulate ownership of these weapons by private citizens. In particular, we believe that deadly weapons like the AR-15, used in all of the most recent mass killings throughout our country, should be kept out of civilian hands. We will make every effort to fight against laws that further loosen restrictions on the ownership and usage of guns in Ohio."

Primary Voter Guide Packet Available

The information packet for primary voter guides, including district assignments and candidate questions, has been sent to local League presidents and voter service chairs. If you did not receive it, contact the state League office at (614) 469-1505 or biverson@lwvohio.org to get a copy.

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WAYS

TO GET MORE FROM LWV OHIO IN 2018

1. CHECK OUT THE MEMBER AREA OF 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

Kristin Vessey Memorial

By Lee McLaird, LWVO Board Member

In January 2018, the League of Women Voters lost a dynamic long-time member with the death of Kristin Yahn Bergstrom Vessey. She had only recently ended her term on the LWVO Board.

Born in Illinois and raised in New Jersey, Kris first joined the League in Puerto Rico in about 1964, where she served as the editor of the bilingual *Voter*, and remained a life-long member. When she and her husband Stephen moved to Bowling Green in 1968, she served in many roles at both the local and state level, including three terms as President of the LWVBG (1975-1977; 2005-2009). In 1980, she was the League's Elections Returns Coordinator for ABC News. Her years on the board of the LWVO, including service as treasurer as well as a board member, involved numerous efforts on behalf of the people of the state. Kris's academic background in biology, in which she held a doctorate, served her well as a tireless worker locally on the LWVBG Land Use committee, and state-wide, when she co-chaired the LWVO land use study (1997-1999). In her most recent board term, Kris served as chair of the Advocacy and Education committee. Her chief concerns were water quality, fracking, and pipelines. Kris became the Land Use Specialist in the Lobby Corps in 2006, continuing in that role until her death.

Kris's work in League was recognized formally in 1999 when she received the Past President's Award from the LWVBG. Recently, she was among the honorees recognized for more than fifty years of activism.

Kris's other volunteer activities included the Wood County Health Department's Family Planning Clinic. She had an active and long-time association with the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Foundation, serving as its President from 2007-2011. She also served as the Wood County citizen representative to the North Coast Regional Council of Park Districts from 2006.

Kris Vessey was an inspiration to many, encouraging others to join the League and to take an active part in the public life of their communities.



Kristin Vessey



Join a Statewide Study on Population Health and Health Services

Delegates to LWVO's state convention last summer voted to undertake a new study of Population Health and Health Services in Ohio. The study will address the issues of public health and health disparities, as well as the distribution of resources for health care. Health Services include health care, public health, and the creation of environments in which people have the opportunity to be healthy. The study committee chair is Tina Bhargava, of LWV Kent. The plan is to have the members of the committee meet via conference call to establish a study outline and timeline and to divide tasks. The committee will develop both study materials to be used by local Leagues and consensus questions that may lead to new positions.

Those interested in joining the study committee should call or send an email to the LWVO office, with their name, contact information, and local League. (The study committee may also include non-members.) Call (614) 459-1505 or email director@lwvohio.org.

Membership Growth Continues in 2018

Spring brings hope and new growth, and we are off to a good start in 2018! Based on the membership count from each local League across Ohio and data from the newly formed At-Large Units (ALUs) sent to the League of Women Voters of United States (LWVUS) on January 31, we have seen 13.68 percent increase in overall state membership. We are very fortunate to have both stable growth in numbers and increasing engagement of our members.

While our local Leagues are experiencing a significant increase in members, at the state level we have also received considerable requests from people interested in becoming members and even starting their own League in areas where there is no League presence. At present, we have three ALUs – LWV of Licking County, LWV of Findlay, and LWV of Darke County. All three ALUs are doing great work in terms of recruiting members and energizing them to become more engaged in voter service and public education activities.

We would like to give a big shout-out to our ALU in Licking County. In just over six months they have grown their membership to 60 members. When asked what is driving their membership growth, the chapter said they use social events and topical programs that focus on local issues to expand membership. “I’ve been involved in community issues most of my adult life, and I’ve never seen such an interest in citizen action as now,” said Carol Apacki, who chairs the membership committee. “Making democracy work is a compelling call and many people in our community are responding.”



*Left to right
Seated: Regina Martin, Christine Ramsey
Standing: Carol Apacki, Rita Kipp, Pam Wilson*

The Licking County leadership is putting the pieces in place to become a Local League. “This includes developing by-laws based on those at the state level, as well as looking at other Ohio chapters,” Secretary Pam Wilson explained. “We will present draft by-laws at our Annual Meeting in late spring with the goal of voting on these by our 1-year anniversary in August 2018.”

It has been inspiring to see how these ALUs have been engaged and are working to educate the public and build grassroots support. The state League congratulates all the local Leagues and At-Large chapters across the state and thank them for all the hard work.

While the membership surge continues statewide, the state board approved a new membership category of "Organizational Membership" at the December 2, 2017, state board meeting. To become an organizational member of the LWVO, the organization must be a nonprofit, nonpartisan group that shares our goals. Organizational members are non-voting members at LWVO Convention. Dues for organizational members are \$100. The state League will operate this level as a pilot program, and we'll keep you posted on the results.

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 ALU application form or for more information about organizational membership, contact the state League office at (614)469-1505 or mmostafa@lwvohio.org.

Save the Date - "Inclusive League Practices: from Brand-new to Board-room"

Have you ever wondered if you're prepared to be an "active League member"? If so, plan to attend one of these full day (9:00am-3:30pm) trainings sponsored by the LWVO's Membership and Leadership Development program.

Sessions will provide development opportunities that enhance knowledge, develop skills, and enrich the organization. They are free and open to all League members.

- Saturday, March 24th (CIN/DAY/COL regions)
- Saturday, April 28th (AKR/CLE/TOL/SAN regions)

***Locations to be announced at a later date**

***Registration link will go live February 26th via Eventbrite**

From the Co-Presidents' Desk

As you all know, our very capable Executive Director for the past six years, Carrie Davis, moved on in December to become the Director of the Joyce Foundation's Democracy Project. We are very grateful for all she did to bring LWVO to its present position of successful advocacy, coalition building, and membership growth over that period of time. In the interim, Munia Mostafa, Membership and Project Manager, and Brigid Iverson, Office and Program Associate, have done stellar work to keep all our activities continuing to run as smoothly as possible. Sherry Rose, our Development Director, is heavily focused on the Inspire! Leadership Fund campaign. Indeed, the entire LWVO Board of Directors has stepped up to work more closely with our office staff on our various projects and commitments.



Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick,
Alison Ricker

In addition, every local League has a liaison on the Board of Directors, and the liaisons make every effort shortly after each board meeting to contact their local Leagues. We also encourage local League leaders to contact their liaison whenever they have questions or need information. We could not be more thankful to be part of such a dedicated group of League leaders, both at the state and local levels.

It's also been our good fortune to have Beth Taggart, a longtime Metro Columbus League stalwart, step in on January 2nd as our Interim Executive Director while we search for a permanent replacement. She had to hit the ground running as negotiations between our Fair Districts coalition and the legislature heated up during the first weeks of January. Brigid, now a full-time staff member, provided immeasurable help during these negotiations, keeping both the membership and the board informed of every shift and change proposed to Sen. Huffman's original – and unacceptable – version of SJR 5. Former LWVO board member Ann Henkener had, as she has so often in the past decade, stepped in to be our chief negotiator in the Fair Districts coalition. Working closely with Beth and Brigid, Ann was part of a formidable team at the negotiating table. The final results, while not giving us everything we had wanted, are good enough to garner our support, as attested to in the article on Fair Districts on page 1.

After the final House vote on the redistricting reform measure that will now be on the May primary ballot, the two of us had an opportunity to speak to Lorain County Rising, one of the many new activist groups that have sprung up throughout our state. Comprising men and women of all ages, our audience was a perfect microcosm of the thousands of volunteers who have gathered more than 200,000 verified signatures to date, signatures that became the leverage needed to bring the legislature into serious negotiation with the Fair Districts coalition rather than outright dismissal of these efforts. We are so lucky to be part of such an important movement during these fraught times! As Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

— 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. It's a great way to learn about what is happening in the Statehouse, and the conversations often reveal new League lobbying opportunities.

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.



Beth Taggart

IED Column: Working for You

Thank you all for the warm welcome I've received as the Interim Executive Director of LWVO. I was the Legislative Coordinator of LWVO back in the 1990s, one of three paid staff people in the era before the

League had an executive director. I've been a Metro Columbus League member for ... let's just say I'm "seasoned" ... serving in many capacities, including as president. I am happy to be here, following in the wake of Carrie Davis's tremendous leadership, and "keeping the train on the rails" for LWVO's next outstanding Executive Director.

I am so impressed with the quality of work that is done at the Ohio League. Many thanks go to the **LWVO/EF Board** and the **volunteer lobbyists**, particularly, at this moment, to redistricting expert **Ann Henkener**. Thanks are due to the terrific part-time employees who help us raise and keep track of our funds: **Sherry Rose**, our Inspire! Campaign/Development Director; and **Jeff Keith**, our accountant.

I particularly want to give a shout-out to your exceptional full-time staff here at LWVO: **Munia Mostafa**, the Membership & Project Manager; and **Brigid Iverson**, the Office & Program Associate. They spend at least eight hours every day thinking about and working for you, keeping LWVO/EF effective and well-respected, and it shows.

As I've worked these last several weeks here, we have:

- Settled into our new office space (a rent hike in our old location provided the impetus to move to a space better suited to our needs)
- Set up www.Vote411.org for the Primary Election. In a partnership between LWVO and local Leagues, Vote411 will provide information on statewide and legislative district candidates for every race in the state!
- Begun the transition to a more useful and attractive web page
- Organized a terrific Statehouse day
- Identified potential sponsors to keep the price of Statehouse Day affordable
- Worked on updating "Predictable Results," "Agenda for Action," and the 10th edition of *Know Your Ohio Government*
- Developed a new, short publication "10 Steps to League Study" at the request of local League members
- Maintained a leadership role in several coalitions

- Followed issues in the areas of gun control, reproductive choice, fracking, and more
- Worked to fulfill grant commitments, and filed reports with funders
- Nearly completed establishing a new integrated donor database called Kindful
- Geared up for new study of Health Systems
- Hired a new firm to audit our books
- Provided updates on Facebook and Twitter
- Shared information through All-member calls, Lobby Corps calls, MLD call, Inspire! calls, and League Leader Updates
- Recruited committee members to advance the Inspire! campaign
- Held a 2-day Board meeting
- Paid our bills
- Spoke to reporters from the Columbus Dispatch, Dayton Daily News, Cleveland.com, and US News and World Report, to name a few
- Worked with LLs on their membership data and campaign finance reports
- Answered calls and emails every day from the public and from League members across the state

And then there were – and are – our redistricting efforts: Working in coalition to keep up visibility, raise funds, collect signatures, negotiate tough compromises with legislature, etc., all while sending out Action Alerts, answering press calls, attending late-night negotiations, strategizing, developing statements based on our positions, supporting volunteers in the field, providing materials and training, and keeping you as informed as possible.

This is your state League at work for you.



Leaders from across Ohio came to wish Carrie Davis well on her last day as Executive Director of LWVO. Pictured above (from left to right) are Cathy Johnston (Former Advocacy Director of Coalition On Homelessness and Housing in Ohio), Jan Underwood (LWV of Greater Dayton Area), Carrie Davis, and Catherine Turcer (Executive Director of Common Cause). Carrie was the ED of the Ohio League for six years. She has taken a new position as Director of the Democracy Program at the Joyce Foundation in Chicago.

LWVO Position on Primary Election Systems

(Adopted March 2017)

LWVO supports open primary election systems that narrow the field of candidates for the general election and permit all registered voters, regardless of political party membership, to participate. In general, League members believe that nonpartisan primaries are more appropriate at the more administrative county and local government levels, while partisan primaries are more appropriate for state and national policy-making offices. Any proposal to restructure primary elections in Ohio should have as its goals, in order of importance:

1. To increase voter participation;
2. To lead to more competitive general elections;
3. To enfranchise the largest number of registered voters; and
4. To lessen partisan polarization. League members overwhelmingly support replacing Ohio's current primary election system with a more open alternative, in which any registered voter may choose to vote any party's ballot without having to be a member of that party. To meet this goal, statutes permitting or requiring challenges and declarations of party allegiance should be eliminated. Local and county governments that employ nonpartisan, "top-two" primaries already meet this goal.

Key 2018 Election Dates

Starting January 1 – Applications for absentee ballots for all 2018 elections may be accepted

Feb 7 – Local issues, candidate petitions, and constitutional amendments for May 8 primary election must be filed

April 9 – Voter registration deadline for May 8 primary/special election

April 10 – Beginning of early voting, Boards of Elections can begin mailing absentee ballots

May 5 – Absentee ballot request forms must be received by Boards of Elections by noon for May 8 primary election

May 7 – Absentee ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by the day before the election

May 8 – Primary Election Day, polls open 6:30am-7:30pm; absentee ballots returned by methods other than U.S. mail must be received by Boards of Elections before polls close

July 4 – Constitutional amendments or statutes proposed by petition must be submitted to Secretary of State's office

July 9 – Voter registration deadline for August 7 special election

August 4 – Absentee ballot request forms must be received by Boards of Elections by noon for August 7 special election

August 6 – Absentee ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by the day before the election

August 7 – Special Election Day, polls open 6:30am-7:30pm where applicable; absentee ballots returned by methods other than U.S. mail must be received by Boards of Elections before polls close

August 8 – Local issues and candidate petitions for November 6 general election due to local Boards of Elections

October 9 – Voter registration deadline for November 6 general election

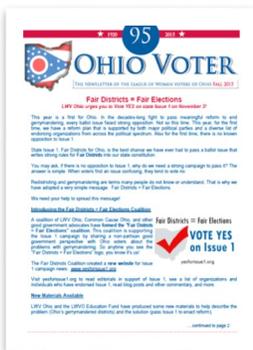
October 10 – Beginning of early voting, Boards of Elections can begin mailing absentee ballots

November 3 – Absentee ballot request forms must be received by Boards of Elections by noon for November 6 general election

November 5 – Absentee ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by the day before the election

November 6 – General Election Day, polls open 6:30am-7:30pm; absentee ballots returned by methods other than U.S. mail must be received by Boards of Elections before polls close

The Voter newsletter is going green!



Did you know you have the option to receive the Voter by email? Call the state office at (614) 469-1505 to opt in to email delivery and let us know your preferred email address!

LWVO/EF Annual Giving Calendar

We are pleased to report that 2017 was one of the best years of growth in membership and development that LWVO/EF has experienced in decades, and we are truly grateful to all of our supporters for their generous contributions.

While grants enable us to fulfil much of our work, such monies are primarily dedicated to specific projects, and our operating budget relies on having a steady flow of income throughout the year. It's for that reason that we hold a number of campaigns over the course of any given twelve-month period. In order to help you plan your giving, we are providing a list of development activities for 2018.

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

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

Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

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

Our major operating budget campaigns for this year will include:

- Annual Giving Fund - February/March
- Statewide Special Event - May
- Women's Equality Day - August
- Giving Tuesday - November
- End of the Year Appeal - December

Some of our members decide on an annual total they'd like to donate and then divide it among the various campaigns, while others prefer a one- or two-time gift. However you would like to donate, know that every dollar is greatly appreciated and directed towards our common goals in education and advocacy.

In addition, LWVO/EF will also be instituting a **monthly giving option** in 2018. This option will allow an amount you specify to be deducted from your account each month to support our mission.



Our long-range sustainability campaign, the **Inspire! Leadership Fund**, is focused on the long-term growth of LWVO/EF, not on our day-to-day operations supported by the above-mentioned campaigns. It has continued quietly, with meetings being held with League members in different parts of the state. Development Director Sherry Rose has also been setting up appointments with local League Leaders to discuss how the campaign can benefit ALL of us. We hope that soon

many of you will have a chance to meet her and hear her ideas for making LWVO/EF as successful in the next hundred years as it has been for the past century! We are very grateful to our supporters who have already made pledges to the campaign and look forward to giving the **Inspire!** campaign a wider launch this coming year under Sherry's direction.

Again, thank you all for everything you have done and continue to do to sustain the work of the League!

Thank You to our Donors!

A sincere thank you from all of us at LWVO to each and every donor who gave to support our 2017 End of the Year Campaign thus far. Every single dollar contributed helps us continue our critical voter education and advocacy work.

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