



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA**

THE VOTER

103 Wm. H. Taft Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45219
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Visit LWVCA on

December 2011/January 2012

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership is open to all men and women over 18. For information call 513-281-8683, or write to the LWVCA office at 103 Wm H Taft Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45219, or email at info@lwvcincinnati.org.

LWV DIVERSITY POLICY

The League of Women Voters recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

The LWVCA affirms its commitment to actively seek diversity in its membership, leadership and programs.



WHAT SHOULD WE WORK ON IN 2012?

January is National Program Planning Month

By Nancy Dawley, VP Program

Every two years, state and local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. *This is how we remain a grassroots organization.*

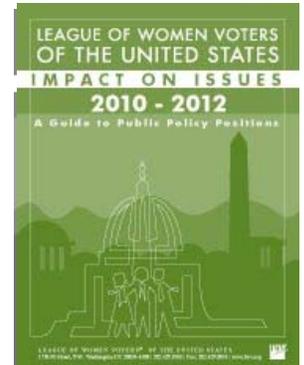
Program Planning is an important League tool to identify issues for study. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. All this is done in advance of the National Convention, to ensure broader participation and more time to reflect upon the issues at hand.

Do you think the League is missing a position on an issue of importance? This is the time to come forward with your suggestion. Please create a brief outline of 25 words or less to start the discussion with your unit. Your unit discussion leader will pass the idea on to the Program Development Committee and to our local Board for further discussion. Unit discussions will be recorded and consolidated into our recommendation, first to our Board and then on to the LWV Board, which will make position and action recommendations for 2012 Convention delegates to consider.

The Planning process is also our opportunity to update ourselves on changes made at the national level. At the 2010 Convention three Position modifications were approved. We need to become conversant with these position changes so that we can use them to address local actions as well.

Finally, the Planning Process gives our League time to review any legislative or educational activities that we have undertaken in the last two years based on LWVUS positions, and report these back to the national League.

Looking for background information? You can find it in the buff pages attached to this Voter. Alternatively, look for the link to *Impact on Issues* on our website – click on Upcoming Events and look for January Unit Meetings.



CALL FOR DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Nancy Dawley

The National Convention will be held this year in Washington DC June 8-12, 2011. LWVCA is looking for members interested in being our delegates to the convention. A stipend is available, amount to be determined in the future. Delegates attend many sessions, cast LWVCA votes, and enjoy all learning and social aspects of the convention. In addition, we are asking the delegates to become involved in consolidating our Units' LWV Program Planning discussion sheets the end of January/early February. This will involve 1 or perhaps 2 meetings. Why? We want the delegates to be very familiar with what LWVCA members are thinking about LWV positions and actions as they represent us at the convention. If you think you might be interested, please email **Melissa Currence** for more information.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear League members,

People often ask me how I became a member of the League of Women Voters. I joined in college as a political science major and have been active ever since.

I recently took the personal assessment test called "StrengthsFinders 2.0." My top strength came out as "Context," which carries the following descriptor: "People strong in the Context theme enjoy thinking about the past. They understand the present by researching its history."

This strength-and interest-of mine definitely contributed to my personal motivation in becoming a League member. Connecting to the League's place in history invigorates my motivation to be part of its future. I value the work of our members throughout our nine decades as an organization-the positions we've taken, the actions we've participated in and the decisions we've made. I'm enthused by our past successes and know our mission is just as relevant today in our age of political distrust.

Just as my sense of history motivates me to remain a League member, I know the reasons motivating others are numerous and inspiring. What are yours? Share your thoughts with members and non-members alike, and let's stay inspired by our work.

In League,

Melissa Currence



Have A Happy & Healthy Holiday

LETTER FROM LWVCA ORGANIZATIONAL CONSULTANT

By Jean Masthay



Dear League Friends,

The baseball great Gene Mauch once said, "You can't lead anyone else further than you have gone yourself." These past few weeks, while interviewing our Board members, I've been struck with the commitment of each to help our League lead the way to good government. I am also impressed with their desire to strengthen our leadership position. As we continue to evaluate our local League, to consider improvements with an open mind, and to work with great diligence, we ensure that we remain a leading and relevant force for a better Cincinnati.

In the next few weeks I will be asking all members of our League to complete a simple and brief questionnaire about your League experience. It will be sent to most of you by email through "Survey Monkey." If you do not have an email address or have requested not to receive LWVCA

communications through email, a paper copy will be mailed to your home. Please complete the survey - you and your thoughts are valuable to our League and the footprint we leave in our community. Thank you for wanting to make a difference!

The Voter is the official monthly newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA).

Editor: Marty Harrington.

Office Staff: Susan Gorman.

Proofers: Rina Saperstein.

Layout and design: Kit Berger.

Please submit articles to:

newsletter@lwvcincinnati.org.

Next deadline: Friday 01/6/2012

for the February issue

BOARD BRIEFS – LWVCA Board Meeting November 7, 2011

By *Lori Bissler*

- The Board passed a motion to support a Statement of Principles for Deficit Reduction.
- **Glenda Bernstein** moved to accept the Program Development Committee (PDC) consensus report on “The Role of the Federal Government in Education” presented by **Burt Roehr**. The motion passed. Sixty-one members discussed this issue at the eight unit meetings in September. **Melissa Currence** thanked Burt and the PDC for their work on this issue.
- **Kim Thompson**, Treasurer, presented the quarterly financial report. She noted the Investment Committee is in the process of consolidating accounts to streamline financial operations.
- The Board passed the motion recommended by the PDC to form a coalition with Advocates for Ohio’s Future.
- **Mary Van Ausdall** reported 172 member renewals so far this year.
- Re-application for membership in Community Shares was approved.
- **Marjorie Davies** reported progress on the Annual Campaign, the Susan B Anthony Luncheon speaker, and the Joseph-Beth Bookseller fundraiser on December 3rd.
- **Glenda Bernstein** highlighted the League’s many election season activities, including forums and events in settings ranging from the Union Terminal to the Greenwich Tavern. League members visited Cincinnati Primary Care Clinics across the city to provide voter information.
- **Melissa Currence** noted the addition of QR (Quick Response) Codes to the *Who and What of Elections*. There were 64 scans of the ‘get your customized ballot’ and 10 scans of the ‘Tax Levy Review Committee’ information as of November 4th.
- The LWVCA was invited to be a sponsor of a forum on immigration law on in March, 2012. The Board passed the motion to co-sponsor the event.

SPEAKER’S BUREAU: Finishes One Busy Season, Prepares for the Next

By *Alice Schneider*

A busy 2011 election season kept the League Speaker’s Bureau hopping. We provided speakers, moderators, and timekeepers to nearly 20 events. The League’s Voter Services and public education activities provide information about public issues, including those on which we have a position. The key is to provide citizens **with unbiased, factual information that they can use as a basis for reaching their own decisions.**

Thank you to the following volunteers for participating in the Speakers Bureau for the League this fall. You provide a great service to the community!

- **Burt Roehr** spoke at Evanston Senior Housing on November 1 and Indian Hill on October 26.
- **Melissa Currence** moderated at Wyoming Business Association on October 26.
- **Ann Gilton** was Moderator for Glendale on October 20.
- **Ann Gilton & Glenda Bernstein:** did City of Woodlawn on October 26.
- **Sherrie Heyse** did Walnut Hills Council on October 13 and Clifton on October 18.
- **Chris Moran** did Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services on October 25; Maple Knoll, on October 15th; Springfield Senior Center, on October 16; and Clifton, on October 18.
- **Elizabeth Brown** did Marjorie P. Lee on November 4.
- **Jane Anderson** was Moderator for Clifton Cultural Council on October 20.
- **Alice Schneider** spoke at St. John’s Unitarian Universalist Church on October 30.
- **Susan Banoun** spoke at the Starfire Council on October 25.
- **Rina Saperstein** did League of United Latin American Citizens on October 27.
- **Gail Wick and Pinkie Kochosis** were timekeepers for the SB 5 Issue Forum at the Cincinnati Museum Center on October 4.
- **Jane Anderson and Glenda Bernstein** were timekeepers for the Candidate Forum at the Greenwich on October 15.
- A special thank you to **Mary Kay Gardner**, who coordinated the recruiting of all these volunteers for all these events.

If you would like to join the Speaker’s Bureau and gain experience speaking, please consider signing up with the League. We provide training, and it is rewarding work. “It is very fulfilling to be able to talk about ballot issues with small groups of people and lead a question and answer period,” says Sherrie Heyse. **We have a busy election year coming up in 2012, and we need you!**

CLEAN AIR PROMISE CAMPAIGN

Submitted by *Pinky Kocoshis*, Natural Resources Committee

LWV Ohio, LWV Cincinnati and LWVUS are participating in a Clean Air Promise Campaign. Our goal is to change the focus of Washington away from attacks on the EPA and environmental regulation, and toward recognition of the health costs our nation incurs due air pollution.

In partnership with environmental and public health organizations and the Partnership Project, the League is asking members of Congress, other elected officials, key community leaders and the public to sign the "Clean Air Promise." Please sign it yourself, and mail it to the League Office!

Promise Clean Air

I promise to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution.

Because toxics and pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths,

I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____ League Member? Y N

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please clip and send your pledge back to the LWVCA office at 103 Wm Howard Taft Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45219. Also visit CleanAirPromise.org for updates on the campaign. Thank you!

SUPPORT THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Dear Cincinnati City Council Members,

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area provides its full support for the resolution you will be considering on October 19, 2011 in support of the Clean Air Act.

For four decades, and with ongoing support of the League during that period, the Clean Air Act has protected the air we breathe through a proven, comprehensive, successful system of pollution control that saves lives and creates economic benefits exceeding its costs by many times. We know that the Clean Air Act can just as successfully tackle the challenge of carbon pollution and global warming.

But, the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Protection Agency are under severe attack in Congress. At the same time, we see more and more evidence that climate change is happening now, we are causing it, and the longer we wait to act, the more we lose and the more difficult the problem will be to solve.

I hope the City of Cincinnati will once again stand for the Clean Air Act and up to big polluters by passing this resolution.

Sincerely,
Melissa Currence
President
League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area

Sadly, a majority of City Council were not persuaded by this letter from our President, Melissa Currence, urging them to pass a resolution supporting the Clean Air Act. We thought it was persuasive enough to reprint for our members, anyway. Nice work, Melissa!

JOIN OhioSPEAKS ... SPEAK OUT FOR OHIOANS IN NEED

By Nancy Dawley

In November, 2011 the LWVCA joined Advocates For Ohio's Future, a coalition of more than 300 Ohio health, human services, and early childhood care and education programs. You can get involved by collecting stories for the OhioSPEAKS program – stories that show the value of state and federal human needs programs and put a human face on budget cuts.

The purpose of such stories is to educate lawmakers, the media, and the public both on the value of these programs, and the impact of cuts that wipe them away. In other words, to give a voice to the people served by these programs.

What types of stories? Any written narrative or sound or video clip, explaining how public investments have made a difference in your life, community and/or business, and what cuts would mean to you; stories about the value of human services; stories that put the reality of budget cuts into human terms.

To learn more, read the flyer attached to this Voter. Also, visit the OhioSPEAKS website at AdvocatesForOhio.org. Click on the “Tell Your Story” link on the left, and share your own experiences with others.



MONTHLY LWV OHIO CONFERENCE CALL – EVERY FIRST TUESDAY

LWV Ohio League Leader Update - November 18, 2011

LWVO/Education Fund is now hosting a monthly conference call for all League members to help keep you

informed about what is happening at the Statehouse, supply you with tools and information to assist you in strengthening your local League, and provide an opportunity for information-sharing between local Leagues. The calls are scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month at noon.

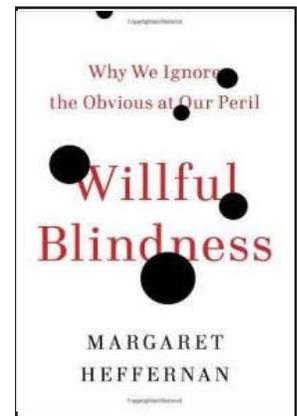
The December call will be on **redistricting** — **Tuesday, December 6, at 12:00 p.m. - 1 p.m.** Join Ann Henkener, LWV Ohio redistricting specialist, as she brings us up to date on all the developments on redistricting and the extraordinary work the League is doing. Please join us for what should be an exciting and informative call. To join the call, dial the toll-free number 1-866-740-1260 and enter access code: 4691505.

BOOK REVIEW

Willful Blindness: Why We Ignore the Obvious at Our Peril, by Margaret Heffernan, 2011

Reviewed by Nancy Dawley

“The biggest threats and dangers we face aren’t hidden or secret. They are the ones we choose to overlook.” *Willful Blindness: Why We Ignore the Obvious at Our Peril* looks at how this phenomenon affects all parts of our lives. She explores the mechanisms that render individuals and groups blind to personal tragedies, corporate collapses, engineering failures – even crimes against humanity. “How could the Catholic Church not see its abusing priests? How could economists miss the housing bubble? Why do spouses think their adultery won’t hurt anyone? How could mortgagees take on so much debt?” Explore the reasons that human beings ignore what is right in front of them.



“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

ROXANNE QUALLS TO SPEAK AT THE SBA LUNCHEON

Save the date! **Roxanne Qualls**, Cincinnati City Council member and Vice Mayor, will headline our Susan B. Anthony Luncheon, **Saturday, February 25** at The Phoenix downtown. Her topic will be *Building Vibrant Communities: New Ideas in Transportation and Housing*. She'll give us the latest news on regional transportation, including the I-75 corridor, and enhancements to improve the livability of our neighborhoods. Price of the luncheon will be \$35, \$300 for a table of ten, or \$1,000 for a sponsorship table of ten.

The League's *Making Democracy Work* civic award will also be presented to a deserving recipient. Make plans now to attend this festive celebration of 92 years of women's voting, and bring your friends! See the reservation form enclosed, or register online at lwvca.org; click on Upcoming Events.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Forty percent of LWVCA fund raising comes from Annual Campaign gifts by individuals like you. Goals for 2011-12 are \$35,000 for our Education Fund and \$7,000 to support advocacy work. Progress through mid-November was \$8,751 to the Education Fund and \$1,045 for advocacy, so we have some work ahead of us! **Please consider a generous contribution to our Fall Fund Drive.** A pledge card and return envelope were included in your *Who & What of Elections* mailing. Make your check out to "LWVCA Education Fund" for a tax-deductible donation or to "LWVCA" for advocacy work. You can contribute by credit card online at lwvca.org – click on "Donate." Thank you for your generous support, which will continue the crucial nonpartisan services that our community depends on.



CALLING ALL KNITTERS (AND CROCHETERS)

Winter is almost here – time to get out your needles, find a beautiful yarn, and create magic. Would you be willing to donate one project, or several, for appreciative silent auction bidders, to benefit the League? Our **Susan B. Anthony**

Luncheon on February 25 will feature a craft table to display your artistic talents. You determine the minimum bid. With several weeks of winter then remaining, the warmest wool items will find an eager following, while lighter spring pastel fibers will appeal to the forward-looking. Be sure to save a yarn label for content/care instructions. Contact **Marjorie Davies** with any questions or to describe your masterpieces.

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

Your Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Committee is seeking additional tempting silent auction items in all price categories.

- We appreciate the gift baskets our units traditionally contribute; they are always popular with bidders.
- Do you or a family member own a vacation home to donate for a week or week-end?
- Can you recommend a local business you patronize where we (or you) could ask for a donation? (Restaurants, entertainment, food/wine shops, spas/salons, home goods, gift shops, etc.)
- Do you have re-giftable articles in pristine condition that would make attractive auction items? We can arrange pickup at your home.
- Artwork always sells well at our silent auction.
- Do you have skills and talents you could offer in a gift certificate? Imagine how fun it would be to teach someone to use Facebook or photo software, or to offer dance, music, bridge, tennis, golf, painting, knitting, or cooking lessons, or to cook a dinner party!
- What other items would members like to bid on? Even though seniors may not want more "stuff," we all need services, consumables, and gift items.

Contact **Marjorie Davies** with your ideas. We appreciate your help!

IS COMMUNITY SHARES AN OPTION WHERE YOU WORK?

By *Melissa Currence*

The Education Fund of the LWVCA is a member of Community Shares, a partnership of 27 local nonprofit organizations building social and economic equity and a healthy environment in Greater Cincinnati. **If Community Shares is not yet part of your workplace giving options**, please contact me or **Sherrie Heyse**, our Community Shares representative. Want to know more about Community Shares? Check out this video: vimeo.com/23995900.

CIVIC GARDEN CENTER'S GREEN LEARNING STATION: AN UPDATE

By Nancy Dawley

It was 2008 when League members first heard about the design of this Green Learning Station replacing an old Sohio gas station. We were at the Civic Garden Center to discuss vegetative roofs.

The Learning Station opened in August, 2011 and now all generations can get hands-on experience, classes, and support in using environmentally responsible methods to grow gardens anywhere and everywhere: yards, rooftops, walls, patios, driveways and parking lots.

The Green Learning Station is teaching about planting with the environment in mind, including:

- Rain barrels and pervious pavers
- Rain gardens, bioswales and green roofs
- Alternatives to traditional sprinklers
- Making and using compost effectively
- Gardening techniques that maximize water usage and space
- Natural insect, disease and weed control
- The health and economic benefits of locally grown food.

Visit the Civic Garden Center's website to find spring classes and tours: www.greenlearningstation.org.



LEAGUE LINGO (a continuing series)

Otherwise known as “do you understand what I’m saying?” One of the best things about the League is its long and rich history – see **Melissa Currence’s** President’s Letter this month. All those years of working out procedures and terms can sometimes leave newer members at a loss, however. Here is a glossary to help all the newcomers get up to speed!

- √ **CONVENTION:** State and national League meetings held biennially. Delegates adopt program, elect officers, adopt a budget for the coming year, and act on proposed by-laws changes.
- √ **PRINCIPLES:** Governmental standards and policies supported by the League by which all proposed or adopted local, state or national issues are measured.
- √ **PROGRAM:** Selected governmental issues chosen by the membership at local, state and national levels for study and action.

GOVERNMENT OUTSOURCING AND PRIVATIZATION

A Preview to the March Discussion Topic

What do YOU think about privatizing water or sewer systems in Cincinnati?

LWVCA Units in November discussed many of the water issues that face our region and nation. In March we will discuss a national consensus on privatization of government functions. When California was faced with water privatization early in the last decade, LWV California created and approved a water privatization checklist (see below). As you read through the checklist, ponder the questions that have to be answered to make a responsible decision. What critical things would you want to know if asked to privatize the Greater Cincinnati Water Works or the Metropolitan Sewer District?

Then broaden your thinking to what checkpoints and additional considerations are needed for prisons, roads and bridges, schools, policing, and many other functions that local, state, and federal governments are considering moving off their payroll and into private businesses. Get your ideas flowing for the upcoming consensus in March, on Government Outsourcing and Privatization.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA WATER PRIVATIZATION CHECKLIST:

- *Does the proposal benefit the environment?*
- *Does the proposal require coordination of water and land use planning without encouraging growth?*
- *Does the proposal protect the natural environment in areas of water origin and water use?*
- *Does the proposal avoid policies which build up demand and establish rigid patterns of use?*
- *Does the proposal provide for coordination of groundwater and surface water?*
- *Does the proposal provide for assessment of economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of the water project?*
- *Does the proposal have documents that present clear, concise information, readily available to the public?*
- *Does the proposal ensure high water quality standards for end users?*
- *Does the proposal have a water conservation component as part of its plan?*
- *Does the proposal take into account the carrying capacity of the appropriate basin?*
- *Does the proposal protect low or fixed income water users by lifeline rates?*
- *Does the proposal allow government to exercise a stewardship function?*
- *Does the proposal allow participation by all relevant levels of government?*

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Sandra Maddux Mowell



As a newcomer to Cincinnati, Sandra is new to our chapter, but not to the League. She comes to us with crucial League experience from her years in Indianapolis.

Q: Tell me a bit about you, your work and your family as an introduction: I am originally from Oak Ridge, Tennessee and graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a BA in Theatre production. I worked in various theater venues (community, dinner, professional, theme park) for about ten years. Currently I am a “lady of leisure” which is my way of saying I don’t “work.” [Ed note – Everyone who has met her would beg to disagree!] I have been married to Ernie Mowell (also a LWV member) for 28 years. We have lived in Hawaii, North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Tennessee and Indiana. Currently we have a 3 cat/ 2 dog menagerie at home. In Indianapolis, I volunteered for several organizations including Meals on Wheels, the Morris-Butler House and Encore Association.

Q: When, how and why did you become a league member? I actually just looked LWV up in the phone book and called the number for information. I had become tired of being ignorant of what was going on in my local government and was looking for a non-partisan way to become involved. I joined the League of Women Voters in Indianapolis in the fall of 2005. I have found the League to be a good fit for educating myself on local issues and much more.

Q: What units/committees/tasks are you currently involved with? Currently I am the coordinator for the Northeast Evening unit. I’ve also offered to share the training I received from LWVUS on the Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) now called the Membership/Leadership Development (MLD) program with the LWVCA Board.

Q: What do you enjoy about league membership? The opportunity to interact with so many thoughtful and knowledgeable women (and men!) on government issues. I really enjoy the educational aspects of this organization as well as being part of the community and getting a chance to work towards positive change.

Q: What community/neighborhood do you live in and what do you like about it? We are in Blue Ash. We really like all the sidewalks! We can walk to downtown Blue Ash, the post office, the library, the recreation center without too much worry of being run over - this was not our experience in Indianapolis (at all!) and is one of the reasons we picked this community to live in.

Q: What have you been reading lately? Ernie and I took on a reading project shortly after moving here last November. All year we have been reading selected books from the Modern Library’s 100 greatest novels of the 20th Century. I just finished D.H. Lawrence’s *Women in Love* and am in the middle of Thornton Wilder’s *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*. We’ve been blogging about our project on readingourlist.blogspot.com.

IN MEMORIAM

John Collins, husband of lifetime member **Peg Collins**, passed away October 4, 2011. John, a physicist, retired with five patents and a number of publications from General Electric in 1983. Peg has been a very active local League member. She served in a number of positions, including President, of the Hamilton Fairfield League before it merged with LWVCA a few years back. She has not been able to be active lately.

KUDOS TO THE OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

By *Melissa Currence*

Since I can’t say it enough, I want to thank you again for an excellent season of Voter Service. I read through the season’s notes in the volunteer logbook in the office, and our 281-VOTE hotline is a great resource to our community for unbiased information for the issues and candidates. So thanks especially to our dedicated office volunteers!

CALENDAR: JANUARY UNIT MEETINGS

Discussion Topic: **National Program Planning**
Unit meetings are our grassroots discussions, located at different places and times so that there's always one convenient for YOU! This is your chance to get involved. All meetings are open. Come, and bring a friend!

2nd Monday 01/09/11

Hilltop: 1:00 pm Panera Bread, 8420 Winton Rd, Finneytown

Northeast Evening: 7:00 pm Madeira Public Library, Euclid and Miami Ave

2nd Tuesday 01/10/11

Central North: 12:00 noon, Friendship United Methodist Church, Springfield Pike & Fleming

Warren County: 7:30 pm Mason United Methodist Church, 773 Mason-Montgomery Rd

2nd Wednesday 01/11/11

Anderson: 7:00 pm Anderson Government Center, 7850 Five Mile Road (note time change!)

Central Evening: 7:15 pm League Office, 103 Wm H Taft

2nd Thursday 01/12/11

Eastern Day: 12:00 noon. Brown bag or order lunch in MPL Dining Room. Free valet parking. Marjorie P. Lee Home, 3550 Shaw Ave.

3rd Wednesday, 01/18/11 Metro Day: 12:00 noon League Office, 103 Wm H Taft

Don't be left out in the cold! REJOIN by the end of December

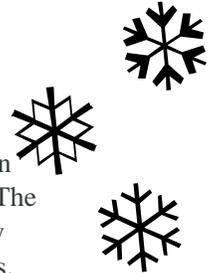
By *Mary VanAusdall, Director Membership*

Grassroots organizations play a large role in our nation and will continue to do so in the future. The League is well recognized as one of the most highly effective and long-standing grassroots organizations. League members make a visible difference by providing non-partisan information to the citizenry and by serving as community leaders pressing for creative, positive, and lasting change in our communities. Your membership in and of itself lends the League the political influence that it needs to build a voice for citizens and a force for change.

The membership renewal drive began in September. If you haven't yet renewed your League membership for 2012, your co-members miss you, and ask that you rejoin us! When renewing, you automatically become a member of the LWV of the Cincinnati Area, the LWV Ohio and the LWV of the United States. Members who haven't paid their dues by the end of December will be dropped — and left out of the action of the League.

Membership dues are: Individual: \$60, Household: \$80, Student: \$25. If dues pose a hardship, pay what you can. Promote democracy and

civic engagement. Renew your membership and invite others to join!



TRANSITION TOWNS & INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES

Friday, January 6, 2012 7:00-9:00pm

First Unitarian Church, corner of Reading and Linton in Avondale. Discussion with **Nancy Sullivan** of **Enright Ridge Ecovillage**. Join us in examining models that encourage us to view lower energy availability as an opportunity to transform our communities in the areas of sustenance, transportation, land use, housing, health care, and municipal services. This is one of a series of discussions in a series entitled **Fixing the Future: Building a Just and Sustainable Economy** cosponsored by the Woman's City Club and the Social Justice Committee of First Unitarian Church.

Join the League of Women Voters *Making Democracy Work*

All citizens, male and female, 18 years and older, are welcome. Take the opportunity now to support our work promoting democracy and civic engagement. Dues include Cincinnati, Ohio, and National membership, including newsletters from each.

- Individual - \$60.00
- Household - \$80.00
- Student - \$25.00

Dues pose a hardship. I can pay _____

Optional deductible contribution to LWVCA: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to LWVCA, 103 Wm. H. Taft,
Cincinnati, OH 45219



League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area
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info@lwvcincinnati www.lwvcincinnati.org

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



DECEMBER/JANUARY LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

*All meetings are open to the public and are held at the League Office, address above, unless otherwise noted.
 Bring a friend!*

- Thursday Dec 1 10:00am Voter Collating – Hilltop Unit
- Saturday Dec 3 all day **JOSEPH BETH BOOKFAIR FUNDRAISER**, Rookwood Pavillion, 2692 Madison Road
- Monday Dec 5 6:30pm Board Meeting
- Thursday Dec 8 7:00pm Natural Resources Committee
- Monday Dec 12 1:00pm Hilltop Unit Holiday Party, Home of Pat Early
- Dec 19-30 **OFFICE CLOSED**
- Wednesday Dec 28 6:00pm Executive Committee
- Monday Jan 2 6:30pm Board Meeting
- Wednesday Jan 4 5:15pm Program Development Committee
- Wednesday Jan 4 7:00pm Discussion Leaders Briefing
- Friday Jan 6 **VOTER COPY DUE for February Issue**
- Saturday Jan 7 1:00pm Discussion Leaders Briefing
- Tuesday Jan 10 8:00am Membership Committee
- Thursday Jan 12 7:00pm Natural Resources Committee
- Monday Jan 16 **Martin Luther King Day – OFFICE CLOSED**
- Monday Jan 16 6:00pm Health Care Committee
- Monday Jan 16 7:00pm County Government Committee
- Wednesday Jan 18 DEADLINE for reservations, Dinner With the League
- Thursday Jan 19 Voter Collating – Northeast Evening Unit
- Monday Jan 23 5:30pm Dinner With the League, Kingsgate Marriott, 151 Goodman Road, UC East Campus
- Tuesday Jan 24 7:00pm Housing Committee
- Wednesday Jan 25 5:15pm Program Development Committee
- Wednesday Jan 25 6:00pm Executive Committee
- Wednesday Jan 25 7:00pm Discussion Leaders Briefing
- Saturday Jan 28 1:00pm Discussion Leaders Briefing
- Tuesday Jan 31 6:30pm Investment Committee
- Monday Feb 6 6:30pm Board Meeting
- Thursday Feb 9 7:00pm Natural Resources Committee
- Friday Feb 10 **VOTER COPY DUE for March Issue**

As always, see our website (www.lwvca.org) for more information on upcoming events.



OhioSPEAKS

ADVOCATES FOR OHIO'S FUTURE

WHAT IS OHIOSPEAKS ?

OhioSPEAKS is a collaborative project to collect and highlight stories that illustrate the impact of programs that support Ohio's most vulnerable children, families, seniors and people with disabilities. Advocates for Ohio's Future and a number of coalition partners want to hear from service providers, community leaders, and people who are struggling to make ends meet to **put a human face on budget cuts**. Ohio Speaks will also reach out to Ohioans for **stories that highlight ways that public programs have built shared prosperity**. The stories will be used to educate lawmakers, the media and the public about the value of human needs programs.

WHO CAN GET INVOLVED WITH THE OHIOSPEAKS PROJECT?

We welcome short video clips or written statements from anyone who can speak to the **benefit and success of state and federal programs**, including program participants, social service providers, and community, faith, or business leaders. We ask that you speak or write about the value of any program that is made possible by public funding (state and national), policy changes to programs such as SNAP (Food Assistance/food stamps) and other nutrition assistance benefits, subsidized job programs, child care, Help Me Grow, Head Start, the child tax credit and earned income tax credit, job training, the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, homelessness prevention efforts, etc.

WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR STORY SUBMISSION?

With each submission, Advocates for Ohio's Future and coalition members ask that the following information be captured: *Note—please keep your story to 300 words or less or a video that is less than 2 minutes*

- **Who:** Who you are—i.e. parent, student, business owner, provider, job seeker, community leader, etc.
- **Where:** What city and county do you live in within Ohio?
- **What:** What are the programs that you value—i.e. SNAP, Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Care, etc.
- **How:** Specific examples of how the program has helped, such as:
 - In my county/state, the TANF Emergency Fund created 26,000 jobs. Because of the program, I was able to hire...
 - After receiving the earned income tax credit, I was able to...
 - If it were not for the child care assistance I received, I would not have been able to keep my job...
- **Why:** Why are these programs important to you and your community? How would cuts to these programs affect you and your community?

[Click here for more story submission tips!](#)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH SUBMITTED STORIES?

Selected stories will be featured online and put into an interactive, county-by-county map of Ohio. These stories will be paired with data illustrating the value of human needs programs.

Advocates for Ohio's Future and our partner organizations will also use these stories to **educate lawmakers, the media and the public about the value and impact of vital human needs programs**. The stories will give a voice to vulnerable Ohioans.

LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in volunteering, or getting your community or organization more involved with OhioSPEAKS, please contact Will Petrik at wpetrik@advocatesforohio.org or 614-602-2464. We'd love to hear your story!

SUBMIT YOUR STORY TODAY
<http://go.advocatesforohio.org/ohio-speaks>

Celebrating 92 Years of Women Voting
Susan B Anthony Luncheon

***Building Vibrant Communities:
 New Ideas in Transportation & Housing***



Roxanne Qualls
 Vice Mayor, City of Cincinnati

**Saturday February 25 2012
 The Phoenix 812 Race St Downtown**

**11 am - Noon: Social Hour & Silent Auction
 Noon - 2 pm: Luncheon & Keynote Speech**

**Luncheon \$35 Table of ten \$300
 Sponsorship table of ten \$1000**

Luncheon includes chicken or vegan entree, salad, rolls, dessert, and coffee/tea
 Event benefits the League's tax-deductible 501c3 Education Fund. Fair Market Value Received is \$25 per person

Reserve by February 13 with coupon below or online by February 17 at lwvcincinnati.org
All-day Saturday parking \$2 at adjacent Garfield Garage, 13 W Ninth St

Guest Name	Chicken or Vegan?	Guest Name	Chicken or Vegan?
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Your email or phone _____

_____ No of single tickets @ \$35	\$ _____
_____ Table for ten @ \$300	\$ _____
_____ Sponsorship table @ \$1000	\$ _____

I can't attend but enclose a tax-deductible contribution to support LWVCA nonpartisan services \$ _____

Mail with check payable to "LWVCA EF" by February 13 to: LWVCA, 103 Wm H Taft Rd, Cincinnati OH 45219
 For more information, call the League office at (513) 281-8683
 Thank you for supporting the League of Women Voters!



LWVUS PROGRAM PLANNING 2011-2012

Discussion for the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, January 2012

Every two years state and local Leagues and inter-league organizations (ILOs) participate in the LWVUS Program planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. This is how we remain a grassroots organization.

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues a chance to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. During the process, members have the opportunity to organize support based on factual materials before the Program Planning deadline March 1, 2012.

Once local Leagues have identified areas of interest to them, they are encouraged to use email or discussion lists with other Leagues to generate understanding and support prior to the National Convention. Waiting until the Convention to gather support for issues often results in limited discussion and incomplete information. Furthermore, raising issues at the Convention instead of through the Program Planning process dilutes the voices of Leagues that do participate in the process.

This year the Program Development Committee of the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area has decided to pursue program planning in the following way:

I. We will emphasize review of positions that meet 2 criteria – see A1 and B1 below. Detailed descriptions of each position will be presented to provide opportunity for learning about it and whether or not the position remains relevant as it stands, needs restudy, or needs to be dropped.

- A. Positions used for LWV's current Issue Priorities.
 - 1. District of Columbia (DC) voting Rights
 - 2. Global Climate Change
 - 3. Health Care Defense
 - 4. Money in Elections
 - 5. Voter Registration & Election Administration
- B. Positions changed during the 2010 National Convention
 - 1. The Election Process
 - 2. Equality of Opportunity
 - 3. Arms Control

II. A summary of all positions will be at the end of this paper for review.

You can go to the LWV website to download *Impact on Issues 2010 – 2012* onto your own computer. (CLICK "PDF versions available here" below the picture of the book, then CLICK "Impact on Issues (Full) (PDF File))

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=137&ContentID=15341>

III. There will be an opportunity to present your thoughts for a completely new position for the League to study. For this to be effective, you should bring a description of your proposal in 25 words or less. This proposal can then be passed on to other units and the Program Development Committee for further discussion among Cincinnati Area members.

IV. Following position discussions, each unit will be asked to identify no more than one position in each of the following categories.

A. *New Study:* To propose a new study, you need a brief statement (25 words or less) concerning the scope of the study. A statement of scope lists the areas to be explored, the emphasis on a particular aspect of the issue and the boundaries of what will be studied.

B. *Review of an existing position:* Program Planning includes a systematic review of all LWVUS positions. Local leagues may select one LWVUS position for consideration for review each biennium. If adopted, a Review Committee will be appointed to examine the position and, if appropriate, suggest changes and updating.

C. *Concurrence:* Program Planning includes the option of concurring/agreeing with an existing position that a state or local league has in place. To recommend concurrence, you need to provide the title and scope of the position your League proposes for concurrence as well as the name of the League that did the original study.

POSITIONS USED FOR ISSUE PRIORITIES

Items I – VI (following) discuss the priority issues of the LWV for the past 2-3 years. A sample of League actions is given, followed by the League position. As you discuss, consider how each position meets current needs of our country. Does it need further study? Do you consider this a priority for League action? This LWV link <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Issues> will take you to the priorities.

I. DC Voting Rights.

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=DC_Voting_Rights&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=144&ContentID=16734

Citizens of the District of Columbia have no representation in the U.S. Senate and only a non-voting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives. A basic principle of democracy is at stake. U.S. citizens living in the capital of the free world deserve to have full voting representation in the bodies that make their laws, tax them and call them to war.

From *Impact on Issues 2010 – 2012*; Despite the League’s hard work and progress in the 109th and 110th Congress toward passing DC voting rights legislation to provide House voting rights to District voters, success eluded supporters in 2010.

News coverage of League Actions

DC voting rights: not this session <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/local-breaking-news/hoyer--dc-voting-rights-not.html> Apr 20, 2010

Stunning reversal: Democrats kill voting rights bill for D.C. McClatchy)

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2010/04/20/92510/house-kills-dc-voting-rights-bill.html>

(Apr 20, 2010)

The League's Position: pp. 15 - 16 *Impact on Issues 2010 - 2012*

Statement of Position on DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation, as Revised by National Board, March 1982 and June 2000:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that citizens of the District of Columbia should be afforded the same rights of self-government and full voting representation in Congress as are all other citizens of the United States. The LWVUS supports restoration of an annual, predictable federal payment to the District to compensate for revenues denied and expenses incurred because of the federal presence.

II. Global Climate Change

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global_Climate_Change&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=144&ContentID=16735

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts.

The League believes that now is the time to act on global climate change. We can reduce global warming pollution by using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient, make cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline, and shift to cleaner technologies. Cities, states and individuals are already adopting many of these solutions, which also reduce our dependence on oil, reduce air pollution, and protect pristine places from oil drilling and mining. State and local initiatives are proving that answers exist.

To reinforce and expand on those efforts, the League urges federal action that reduces global warming pollutants on a national and global scale.

From *Impact on Issues 2010 – 2012* p. 45: **In December 2009, the League was thrilled to participate on the international stage, sending an official non-governmental organization delegation to Copenhagen, Denmark, for the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. In March 2010, nineteen League leaders from as many states were brought to Washington to lobby congressional leaders on what is truly needed in strong climate change legislation. In addition, the Climate Change Task Force developed and promoted a “Toolkit for Climate Action” to assist Leagues and League members throughout the country in the fight to combat global climate change.**

P 47: **National Convention 2010 agreed that “fracking,” where high pressure water is pumped underground to fracture geologic formations in order to release natural gas,**

poses a threat to drinking water and other water resources. State Leagues took the lead in working to block these mining processes that release contaminated and polluted waters.

The Latest Actions

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&TEMPLATE=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=16735&TPPID=21699&TPLID=144>

[National Poll Shows Strong Disapproval for President Obama's Smog Rule Delay, Unfavorable Ratings for Congress' Assault on Clean Air Act](#) - Oct 13, 2011

[League Urges President to Deny Permit for Keystone XL Pipeline](#) - Oct 06, 2011

[House Passes Sweeping Anti-Clean Air TRAIN Act](#) - Sep 23, 2011

[League Disappointed by President Obama's Ozone Retreat](#) - Sep 02, 2011

[800,000 Strong for Kids Health, Against Mercury Pollution](#) - Aug 05, 2011

[League of Women Voters Launches Clean Air Promise Campaign](#) - Jul 26, 2011

The League's Position: pp. 44 - 48 *Impact on Issues 2010 - 2012*

The League supports the preservation of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment. The League's approach to environmental protection and pollution control is one of problem solving. The interrelationships of air, water and land resources should be recognized in designing environmental safeguards. The League's environmental protection and anti-pollution goals aim to prevent ecological degradation and to reduce and control pollutants before they go down the sewer, up the chimney or into the landfill.

The League believes that although environmental protection and pollution control are responsibilities shared by all levels of government, it is essential that the federal government provide leadership and technical and financial assistance.

The federal government should have the major role in setting standards for environmental protection and pollution control. Other levels of government should have the right to set more stringent standards. Enforcement should be carried out at the lower levels of government, but the federal government should enforce standards if other levels of government do not meet this responsibility. Standards must be enforced in a timely, consistent and equitable manner for all violators in all parts of society, including governmental units, industry, business and individuals.

Environmental protection and pollution control, including waste management, should be considered a cost of providing a product or service. Consumers, taxpayers and ratepayers must expect to pay some of the costs. The League supports policies that accelerate pollution control, including federal financial assistance for state and local programs.

The League supports:

- regulation of pollution sources by control and penalties;
- inspection and monitoring;
- full disclosure of pollution data;
- incentives to accelerate pollution control;

- **vigorous enforcement mechanisms, including sanctions for states and localities that do not comply with federal standards and substantial fines for noncompliance.**

III. Health Care

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Health_Care1&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=144&ContentID=16881

The League believes that quality, affordable health care should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. Furthermore, the League believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care.

Through decades of work in their communities, League members have learned that Americans believe that fairness and responsibility, as well as access, are important values for any health care system. We believe that healthcare reform can only succeed if it takes all these values into account.

In 2010, two decades of League work to ensure access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans and protect patients' rights celebrated success when the Affordable Care Act was signed into law. The League remains vigilant in light of current efforts to repeal or diminish the law in Congress and the Courts.

The Latest Actions and Resources:

[League Submits Comments On Proposed Rule to Establish Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans](#) - Sep 29, 2011

[Educating the Public on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#)

***The League's Position:** pp. 65 - 67 Impact on Issues 2010 - 2012*

Statement of Position on Health Care, as Announced by National Board, April 1993:

GOALS: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care.

BASIC LEVEL OF QUALITY CARE: Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care. Dental, vision and hearing care also are important but lower in priority. The League believes that under any system of health care reform, consumers/patients should be permitted to purchase services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level.

FINANCING AND ADMINISTRATION: The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums. As the United States moves toward a national health insurance plan, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable to the League. The League supports administration of the U.S. health care system either by a combination of the private and public sectors or by a combination of federal, state and/or regional government agencies.

The League is opposed to a strictly private market-based model of financing the health care system. The League also is opposed to the administration of the health care system solely by the private sector or the states.

TAXES: The League supports increased taxes to finance a basic level of health care for all U.S. residents, provided health care reforms contain effective cost control strategies.

COST CONTROL: The League believes that efficient and economical delivery of care can be enhanced by such cost control methods as:

- the reduction of administrative costs,
- regional planning for the allocation of personnel, facilities and equipment,
- the establishment of maximum levels of public reimbursement to providers,
- malpractice reform,
- the use of managed care,
- utilization review of treatment,
- mandatory second opinions before surgery or extensive treatment,
- consumer accountability through deductibles and copayments.

EQUITY ISSUES: The League believes in

- allocating medical resources to underserved areas,
- providing for training health care professionals in needed fields of care,
- standardizing basic levels of service for publicly funded health care programs,
- requiring insurance plans to use community rating instead of experience rating,
- establishing insurance pools for small businesses and organizations.

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO INDIVIDUALS: The League believes that the ability of a patient to pay for services should not be a consideration in the allocation of health care resources. Limited resources should be allocated based on the following criteria considered together: the urgency of the medical condition, the life expectancy of the patient, the expected outcome of the treatment, the cost of the procedure, the duration of care, the quality of life of the patient after treatment, and the wishes of the patient and the family.

IV. Money in Elections

Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy. In the wake of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010), which threw out vital protections against corporate and union spending in elections, as well as recent

efforts to destroy the presidential public financing system the League's Money and Elections work takes even greater precedence. While special interest money was always a concern in elections, corporations—including foreign corporations—may now intervene directly in elections, taking power away from voters. To mitigate the corruption that will inevitably increase following the Court's tragic mistake, the League strongly supports legislation that will enhance disclosure, fix the public financing system for presidential candidates and establish congressional public financing.

In 2010, the League reacted swiftly and strongly against the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. FEC. The League President testified before the relevant House committee on the key steps that can be taken to respond, focusing on the importance of including tighter disclosure requirements before the 2010 elections. The League continues to urge passage of the DISCLOSE Act to counter the Court's decision.

Today the League continues to push for legislation to protect and reinvigorate the public financing system for president.

The Latest:

[League urges Committee Leaders to Post Submissions to Deficit Committee](#) - Oct 14, 2011
[League Urges Lobbying Disclosure for Members of Deficit Reduction Committee](#) - Sep 22, 2011

The League's Position: pp. 16 -20 *Impact on Issues 2010 - 2012*

The League's Position Statement of Position on Campaign Finance, as Announced by National Board, January 1974 and revised March 1982.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

V. Voter Registration and Election Administration

For decades the League of Women Voters has been known for its election protection work at the local, state and federal level. The League of Women Voters has a long history of support for the Voting Rights Act. The League lobbied extensively for the 1970 amendments to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 1975, we were part of a successful coalition effort to extend the Act and expand its coverage to language minorities, and in 1982 the League was a leader in the fight to strengthen the Act and extend its major provisions for 25 years. In 2007, the League took action to make sure the Voting Rights Act was reauthorized and not weakened in any way by amendments.

When the 2000 election exposed the many problems facing the election system, the League leaped into action. Bringing our coalition allies together, the League worked to ensure that key reforms were part of the congressional debate. With the League's special expertise, we argued

for improved voting systems and machines, provisional balloting and other safeguards, and improvements in voter registration systems, poll worker training and administration.

In 2010, delegates added the principle of transparency, so that the League would support voting systems that are secure, accurate, re-countable, accessible and transparent.

In 2010, the League launched its High School Voter Registration Project to bring more young people, especially minorities, into the democratic process. Local Leagues in targeted communities received funding for voter registration efforts at high schools with high levels of minority students. Partnering with Project Vote, the League used data from the project to determine effective strategies and produced a guide for Leagues and other groups interested in registering high school students.

The Latest:

[League Urges Senate to Oppose Termination of EAC](#) - Nov 03, 2011

[League Calls on President to Make Nominations to the FEC](#) - Nov 03, 2011

The League's Position: pp. 8 – 13 *Impact on Issues 2010 - 2012*

Statement of Position on Citizen's Right to Vote, as Announced by National Board, March 1982:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.

POSITIONS CHANGED AT THE 2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The delegates of the 2010 LWV National Convention modified three positions. The information about them is below, so members can become familiar with the new positions.

VI. Selection of the President pp. 20 - 21 *Impact on Issues 2010 – 2012*

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Selection_President&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=16147

The 2008 convention voted to conduct a study of the National Popular Vote proposal, which would establish the popular election of the President through a compact among the states governing how they would cast their votes in the Electoral College. The 2010 Convention amended the national position to support the National Popular Vote compact as another method of selecting the President until such time as the Electoral College is abolished.

The League's Position:

Statement of Position on Selection of the President, as Announced by National Board, January 1970, Revised March 1982, Updated June 2004 and Revised by the 2010 Convention. (underlined)

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

VII. Equality of Opportunity pp. 56 - 62: *Impact on Issues 2010 – 2012*

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Equal_Rights&CONTENTID=16429&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm

In the 106th Congress, the LWVUS supported federal legislation targeting hate crimes. Convention 2010 added language to the Equality of Opportunity position to equalize the rights of same-gender couples to those of heterosexual couples.

The League's Position:

Statement of Position on Equality of Opportunity, as Revised by the National Board in January 1989, based on Positions Announced by the National Board in January 1969, Adopted by the 1972 Convention, Expanded by the 1980 Convention and the 2010 Convention.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. Employment opportunities in modern, technological societies are closely related to education; therefore, the League supports federal programs to increase the education and training of disadvantaged people. The League supports federal efforts to prevent and/or remove discrimination in education, employment and housing and to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems.

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all regardless of sex. The League supports action to bring laws into compliance with the ERA: a) to eliminate or amend those laws that have the effect of discriminating on the basis of sex; b) to promote laws that support the goals of the ERA; c) to strengthen the enforcement of such existing laws.

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights,

obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.

VIII. Arms Control pp. 37 - 39 *Impact on Issues 2010 – 2012*

After extensive review by a Board-appointed task force, the League's position was updated at Convention 2010 by concurrence of League delegates. In 2010, the LWVUS successfully lobbied for a new START Treaty between the United States and Russia. In 2011, the Treaty, which includes new verification requirements for deployed strategic warheads as well as delivery vehicles, was ratified and signed.

The League's Position:

Statement of Position on Arms Control, As Announced by National Board, December 1983 and updated by the 2010 Convention.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that arms control measures are essential to reduce the risk of war and increase global stability.

Toward that end, the U.S. government should give the highest level of importance to arms control efforts that:

- Limit or reduce the quantity of weapons;
- Limit proliferation and prohibit first use of nuclear weapons;
- Prohibit first use and possession of chemical, biological and radiological weapons;
- Prohibit explosive testing of nuclear weapons;
- Reduce tensions in order to prevent situations in which weapons might be used.

While these objectives should receive the highest level of attention, the U.S. government also should negotiate measures that inhibit the development and improvement of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons that increase incentives to attack first in a period of crisis.

As a goal of international negotiations, the League supports the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons.

The League of Women Voters recognizes that peace in an interdependent world is a product of cooperation among nations and therefore strongly favors multilateral negotiations. Leadership by the United States in advancing arms control measures through negotiations and periodic review is encouraged.

Given the potential for worldwide proliferation of nuclear technology, efforts involving all countries are essential to limit the spread of nuclear weapons and to protect commonly held nuclear weapons-free regions such as the seabed and outer space. Multilateral

efforts are appropriate as well to achieve bans on the possession of chemical, biological and radiological weapons; and to achieve limitations on the transfer or trade of all weapons.

The League of Women Voters also supports bilateral arms control efforts which may be especially appropriate in negotiations to limit, safeguard and reduce quantities of weapons. The League believes that unilateral initiatives are not the most appropriate means to achieve arms control.

The League does not support tying progress in arms control to other issues. The League believes that arms control is too important in and of itself and too crucial to all nations to be linked to other foreign and military policy goals.

The League of Women Voters believes that arms control measures should be evaluated in terms of the following factors:

EQUITY. The terms should be mutually beneficial, and each nation's security and interests should be adequately protected, as should the security of all nations. Equity does not necessarily require equality in numbers of weapons but may be achieved through a relative balance in capabilities.

VERIFIABILITY. Each party should be able to ensure that other parties comply with the terms of the agreement, whether using national technical means (such as satellites, seismic sensors and electronic monitors) or on-site inspection. The League recognizes the role that multilateral and international institutions can play in assisting verification efforts and believes it is extremely important to ensure compliance, acknowledging that absolute certainty is unattainable.

Equity and verifiability are critical in efforts to limit and reduce quantities of weapons and to prohibit the possession and spread of nuclear weapons.

CONFIDENCE-BUILDING. Each party should be assured of the political or military intentions of other parties. Fostering confidence is vital in efforts to stem the development and proliferation of weapons and prohibit their first use; and to reduce tensions.

WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT. All appropriate parties should participate in and approve the results of the negotiating process. However, the League recognizes that, in specific cases, progress can be achieved even though some key parties do not participate.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. The quality of the earth's environment should be protected from the effects of weapons testing or use. Environmental protection has special significance in negotiations regarding all weapons of mass destruction as well as conventional weapons that have residual effects.

CONTINUITY. Negotiations should build on past agreements and should be directed toward future negotiations whenever feasible. Innovative thinking and new approaches should, however, be encouraged when appropriate.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

League of Women Voters of the United States

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.

Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment and Housing. Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services. Provide essential support services.

Housing Supply. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty

The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

