



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

THE VOTER

103 Wm. H. Taft Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45219
513-281-8683 Fax: 513-281-8714
info@lwvcincinnati.org www.lwvcincinnati.org
Visit LWVCA on

March 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE ...

March 2012
Administrative Notes - p. 2
National News- p. 3
Ohio/Local News - p. 4
Local /League News - p. 5
League News pp. 6-7
Calendar - p. 8

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.



PRIVATIZATION: A TIMELY TOPIC

By *Sandra Maddux Mowell*

“Over the last decade, the County Facilities Department has contracted out a number of service functions in order to achieve a leaner, more efficient operation. The Facilities Department operates a \$20 million budget and over 25% of this budget is based in personnel costs of 97 employees. It is again time to benchmark the Department’s costs against other service alternatives and to pursue whichever course represents the best alternative for the taxpayer.”

— **Resolution Establishing the Working Policy Agenda of the Hamilton County Commissioners for the 2011 and 2012 Budget**

With the Hamilton County Commissioners’ stated intent to explore privatization, our National League Consensus is very timely! **You won’t want to miss the March unit discussions to help formulate a LWV position on the Privatization of Government Services.**

(Continued on page 5)

**IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE AND RALLY MARCH 3-4
“March Forth For Justice”**

Saturday, **March 3** is the date for an all-day conference, co-sponsored by the League, covering all aspects of immigration: the legal issues, the social and economic factors, and the personal stories of immigrants. The conference schedule is packed with experts speaking from different perspectives. Just a few examples are: **Sister Alice Gerdeman**, coordinator of Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center; **Jorge Herman Martinez**, immigration attorney; **Dr. Liliana Rojas-Guyler**, UC assistant professor and cofounder of the Latino Health Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati; **Jeff Nzozdigeza** of the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program; **Helaine Tash**, US Citizenship and Immigration Services; **Bernard Pastor**, a “Dreamer” (Dream Act eligible youth) who was brought to the USA as a child and currently contesting deportation; **Tim Riordan**, Dayton (OH) City Manager and proponent of the Dayton, OH “Immigrant Friendly Plan.” For a full list, check the website at ImmigrationJustice.org.

Keynote speaker is Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray of the Arizona Immigration Ministry (AZIM), who gained prominence in Arizona and nationally for her public actions of non-violent civil disobedience against immigration policies in Arizona. Conference venue is **Sharonville Convention Center**. A “South of the Border” buffet lunch (\$20) will be served at the Crowne Plaza across the street.

Register today! Or if the pre-registration deadline has passed, you can bring a lunch and register at the door. Conference is free (apart from lunch); but your donations will be *most gratefully* accepted. See the **flyer attached** to this Voter; or register online at ImmigrationJustice.org.

March 4th at 3:00pm is a Rally “March Forth for the Dream Act” at Friendship Park on the Cincinnati Riverfront; no registration required. See the flyer or website for more information.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear League Members,

As we roll into March, I would like to take the time to acknowledge Women's History Month. There is plenty to learn about the generations of women who have positively effected change through the years, often going unnoted in the annuals of history. I invite you to ask a friend or relative about her life and community contributions she had made. We have many great women in League who have made history both locally and beyond. Let's celebrate each other!



Visit womenshistorymonth.gov for more information about the month from the Library of Congress and the National Archives.

We will also be celebrating Sunshine Week March 11-17. Sunshine Week is a national initiative to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. You can visit Sunshineweek.org for ways you can be a part of this important awareness campaign. An open government is important for the health of a democracy.

Lastly, I'd like to thank you all who attended the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon in February! Special thanks to Vice President of Fundraising **Marjorie Davies**, event chair **Mary Kay Gardner** and their many volunteers for putting on such a wonderful program.

In League,

Melissa Currence

FEBRUARY BOARD BRIEFS

By *Gloria Bissler*

The Board met on February 6, 2012. It was an extensive meeting. Here are the highlights:

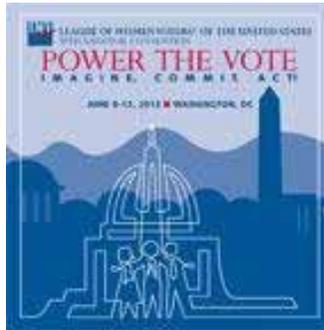
- Fred Heyse presented the semi-annual Investment Committee report and recommendations. The committee's goal is to streamline and update the League's finances, while keeping social responsibility in mind.
- Jean Masthay, Organizational Consultant, provided an update on her study of our League's functions. She has received a 40% response rate to her online survey of members (the survey is not yet closed). Many members gave positive feedback, with staying abreast of issues a high priority. Her final written report will be submitted to the Board by March's end.
- Kim Thompson, Treasurer, provided the quarterly Treasurer's Report. Expenses are on target. PMP payments have been made to the state and national Leagues. She has submitted the appropriate information to our accountant to submit the proper tax form to the IRS.
- Glenda Bernstein, Vice President of Voter Service, reported that TRU (*They Represent Us*) is being updated. She has already received a request for a speaker for next fall. A mailing to upcoming candidates has been sent.
- The Board approved a recommendation from the Housing Committee, presented by Nancy Dawley, Vice President of Program, to send a letter to the Board of County Commissioners urging careful consideration of a new appointee to the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority. Additionally, Nancy moved to approve the Program Development Committee (PDC) report to National LWV. The motion passed. The League co-sponsored, with Board approval, a forum on privatization on February 9th.
- Mary VanAusdall, Director of Membership, reported on membership renewal progress.
- Marjorie Davies, Vice President of Fund Development, has been making contacts with potential donors. She also reported on plans for the Susan B Anthony Luncheon, which is progressing nicely. There are many RSVP's already—far ahead of the deadline. We have received many donations for the silent auction.
- The Board approved sending up to six members to the National Convention in June. Three will be our official voting delegates.

CALL TO CONVENTION 2012

From LWVUS President Elisabeth G. MacNamara

Join Us for the LWVUS 50th National Convention in Washington DC!
June 8-12, 2012

Imagine, Commit, Act!
THE POWER OF THE VOTE!
Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919
Connecticut Avenue



YES!! We're finally BACK in Washington, DC for the National League Convention!!!
 Have "the DC Experience" with many other LWV leaders from around the nation!

- Great Speakers
- Interesting Workshops and Training
- Discussing Program and Issues
- Electing Leaders
- Incredible Networking
- Visit DC area sites – the Hill, Smithsonian, the Monuments, and many others!!!

Friday, June 8	Pre-Convention Training	2-5 pm
Saturday, June 9	Briefings	10 am-Noon
Saturday, June 9	Call to Order	1 pm
Tuesday, June 12	Adjourn	Noon

Watch for additional information at LWV.org.

Be part of this exciting opportunity to connect with other League leaders around the country!

The FEC is supposed to be the agency that enforces campaign finance laws, but it is dysfunctional. Of the six commissioners at the agency, three staunchly refuse to enforce the law, and five of the six are serving despite expired terms. "It is time for the President to step up to the challenge, just as he promised he would in his campaign four years ago," said MacNamara. In September 2007, candidate Obama said, "As president, I will appoint nominees to the Commission who are committed to enforcing our nation's election laws."

"Right now, this ball is in the President's court. He needs to make nominations to the FEC," MacNamara said.

"We eagerly await the response from President Obama to our petition. We expect to hear his plans for the government agency charged with enforcing the law and stopping illegal coordination by candidate Super PACs," MacNamara concluded.

*To see how the online process works, go to www.whitehouse.gov/petitions.

FIX THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION!

League And Partners Await Response from President Obama

Washington, DC – February 09, 2010. Today, the League of Women Voters announced they had surpassed their goal of 25,000 petition signatures on the White House "We the People" website* that asks President Obama to appoint new commissioners to the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The League and partners Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy21 and Public Citizen launched the petition drive on January 11 in order to get a response from the Administration on this critical issue that, to date, it has ignored.

"The Obama campaign's decision this week to allow surrogates to assist Super PACs in raising funds illustrates how broken the system is and that the FEC is asleep at the switch," said Elisabeth MacNamara, national League President. "The only reason that the leading presidential campaigns of both political parties are able to work with the Super PACs is that the FEC is not enforcing the law. Indeed the FEC says this is acceptable. Our democracy needs a fully-functioning FEC," said MacNamara.

STATEHOUSE DAY – Save the Date!

Tuesday, April 10 will be the 2012 Statehouse Day when League members from throughout Ohio visit Columbus to learn and to advocate. Check the state League page, www.lwvohio.org for more information. Check our local league page, www.lwvca.org, for information on carpooling to Columbus.



PRIVATIZATION AS PUBLIC POLICY: Forum Speakers Now Online

By Sandra Maddux Mowell

On Thursday, February 9th LWVCA participated with Applied Information Resources (AIR, Inc.) on one of their lunchtime forums held at Christ Church Cathedral Undercroft.

County Administrator Christian Sigman talked about the kinds of services the county currently contracts out and the factors that go in to the decision to privatize a service. One of the critical factors involved is having the know-how to manage a private contract once it is in place. Mr. Sigman said that any privatization of services would have to offer considerable cost savings and take county employees into consideration.

Peter McLinden, Regional Director for American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Union (AFSCME) spoke on the need for governmental entities to explore all collaboration options first before privatizing services. There are several services where potential to share resources between agencies is being explored and utilized, and that trend needs to continue and expand.

Bill Woods represented AIR, Inc, which is a non-profit, public policy research and community information organization dedicated to citizen education on public issues. **Burton Roehr**, member of the LWVCA privatization of government services study committee introduced the forum speakers. There were approximately 40 people in attendance including several League members.

Videos of the speakers are now available online. Just go to www.AIRinc.org and look for the Privatization Forum under Past Forums. Click on each speaker's name to link to a YouTube video of the presentation.

LEAGUE LINGO

(a continuing series)

Otherwise known as “do you understand what I’m saying?”

One of the things that gives the League special credibility is its long and rich history of dealing with issues. All those years of working out procedures and terms can sometimes leave newer members at a loss, however. Here is a glossary to help everyone get up to speed!

- **STUDY:** The process (one-two years normally) of research and educating ourselves on an issue prior to consensus taking and arrival at a formal position.
- **ACTION:** Expression of League positions to governmental officials by the president or her/his authorized representative.
- **ACTION ALERT:** Request from state or national League to take action at a specific time in support of a League position.

BREAKING NEWS ON FRACKING

LWV Ohio is taking a strong position against fracking. You can find a link to the latest state report on our website front page, at LWVCA.org.

DEAD MAN WALKING REVISITED

Sister Helen Prejean to Speak

Sister Helen Prejean, noted author of *Dead Man Walking*, will be speaking at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Anderson Township on Monday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. Her topic will be "Dead Man Walking Revisited." Sister Helen has been instrumental in sparking national dialogue on the death penalty and helping to shape the Catholic Church's newly vigorous



opposition to state executions.

Sister Helen is a native of Louisiana and a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph, a community of 700 vowed women religious. She spent her first years with the Sisters teaching religion to junior high school students. Realizing that being on the side of poor people is an essential part of the Gospel she

moved into the St. Thomas Housing Project in New Orleans and began working at Hope House from 1984 through 1986. During this time, she was asked to correspond with a death row inmate Patrick Sonnier at Angola Prison. She became his spiritual adviser. After witnessing his execution, she wrote a book about the experience. The result was *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*. It became a movie, an opera and a play for high schools and colleges.

Since 1984, Sister Helen has divided her time between educating citizens about the death penalty and counseling individual death row prisoners. She has accompanied six men to their deaths. In doing so, she began to suspect that some of those executed were not guilty. This realization inspired her second book, *The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions*, which was released by Random House in December of 2004. Sister Helen is presently at work on another book, *River Of Fire: My Spiritual Journey*.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish is located at 7820 Beechmont Ave in Anderson Township. The talk will be in the main church building. For information, please call **Sherrie Heyse**. For more information about Sister Helen Prejean, visit her website at www.prejean.org.

PRIVATIZATION (continued from page 1)

This study will identify parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

Here are the basic steps involved in the process:

1. *Formal adoption of an issue for study (by national convention delegates).*

At the 2010 League of Women Voters National Convention the LWV of Seattle moved for consideration of the non-recommended item on **Privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector.**

This study was approved by the members even though it was not recommended by the Board, there was no money budgeted for it, and there had already been a vote approving an Education Study. Upon approval of the Privatization Study, the Seattle League "passed the hat" and received donations from delegates and members present to help fund the study. As a delegate to the Convention, I found this chain of events to exemplify the "grassroots" nature of our organization.

2. *Member study.*

During the study period members review and discuss a variety of materials, including background on the subject, papers developed by the national study committee on specific examples of privatization (privatization of prisons, libraries, education, publically owned waste water treatment plants, etc.) and best practice strategies for privatizing government services. To view these materials visit www.lwv.org/content/privatization-public-policy-debate.

3. *Consensus: Agreement on broad concepts.*

We reach agreement through consensus. Consensus is mutual agreement League members arrive at through discussion. During discussion, everyone has an opportunity to express his/her viewpoint, and the issue is examined from all sides. Consensus questions, created by the study committee and approved by the Board, provide structure for the meeting. Members discuss the pros and cons until it becomes apparent that consensus has/has not been reached on each question. The study committee analyzes the consensus responses and, using this information, creates a position statement. The consensus questions for the Privatization study are included in the March buff pages. Additionally you may view the questions at www.lwv.org/content/consensus-questions-introduction%2%A0. The last steps of the process will take place after all Local Leagues participating in the study have turned in their responses to the National Study Committee. Those steps are:

4. *Formulation of a position by the board of directors.*

5. *Action as directed by the board of directors.*

6. *Annual or biennial re-adoption of the position.*

Once the process is complete, this new position may permit the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area to weigh in on potential privatization actions by the County Government or any governmental entity. **Every member's participation is important to this end.**

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SHIRLEY JASON

Shirley is the **Vice President** of our local league. As VP, she is also President Elect and will transition to President in May, 2012. Here's a little more about her life behind the scenes.

Q. Tell me a little about your job and family.

A. My husband, Nolan C. Jason and I jointly oversee the day-to-day operation of a non-profit organization aimed at providing individual specialized services to youth. We provide a seven step program aimed at providing the necessary tools for youth to have a productive and quality life.



We have a daughter, Brandy Wallace, who is a graduate of Mississippi State and resides in Nashville, Tennessee. My husband and I are both graduates of The Ohio State University. Nolan is a newly elected Silverton, Ohio Council Member.

Q. When, why, and how did you become a league member?

A. Approximately 5 years ago, I saw a League brochure and it caught my interest and curiosity. I decided that as a WOMAN, I needed to become involved with a group of women who work on the issues that have a direct effect on our daily lives. Later, I become an official member via the League of Women Voters' website.

Q. What do you appreciate most about the League?

A. The League has always made great strides in advocating for redistricting, election administration and voter protections. These three areas hold great concern for me, for the political outcomes can cause an injury to the voters that they should not have to succumb to.

Q. What units/tasks you are currently involved in?

A. I am currently involved with County Government Committee and all the sub-groups which deal with the running of Hamilton County. My goal is to become more involved in the individual units throughout Hamilton County. I am currently serving on the board, as President Elect; in May, I transition to the Presidency. Previously, I served as liaison to the Board of Elections.

Q. What do you hope to accomplish as President?

A. Currently, membership is down, perhaps due to the economy or perhaps just a time of transition. The League is currently at a crossroad for membership, and it is now time to reach out to all voters of all nationalities and come together with common goals. In doing this, we will increase membership, bring in fresh ideas, and broaden the message of the League. The League of Women Voters has a reputation of integrity and standing by the decisions voted upon by the majority of its membership, and I look forward to carrying on these traditions.

Q. What community/neighborhood do you live in and why?

A. My husband and I reside in Silverton, where my in-laws purchased their retirement and dream home in 1974. We also chose to purchase and reside in this community comprised of long standing retired homeowners who value their property - a community that is centrally located, easily assessable, and has one of the best block watch committees in the United States. Silverton is a front porch community where you look after your neighbor, and as residents we take pride in this attribute.

Q. What are you reading?

A. Currently, I am reading league policies, bylaws and what other state leagues are currently involved in. In my spare time, I enjoy HGTV, from doing inside projects to working on outside projects.

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.
 Proofer: Rina Saperstein
 Layout and design: Kit Berger.

Please submit articles to:
newsletter@lwvcincinnati.org.
Next deadline: Friday 03/9/2012
 for the April issue

"Never do anything against conscience, even if the state demands it." ~ Albert Einstein

**CALENDAR:
MARCH 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 Thursday 03/08/11

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

2nd Monday 03/12/12

Hilltop: 1:00 pm at home of Pat Earley.
Northeast Evening: 7:00 pm Madeira Public Library, Euclid and Miami Ave

2nd Tuesday 03/13/12

Central North: 12:00 noon, Friendship United Methodist Church, Springfield Pike and Fleming Rd
Warren County: 7:30 pm Mason United Methodist Church, 773 Mason-Montgomery Rd.

2nd Wednesday 03/14/12

Anderson: 7:00 pm Anderson Government Center, 7850 Five Mile Road
Central Evening: 7:15 pm League Office, 103 Wm. H. Taft

3rd. Wednesday, 03/21/12

Metro Day: 12:00 noon League Office, 103 Wm. H. Taft

**Hold the Date
DINNER WITH THE LEAGUE
April 23, 2012**

Check the April Voter and the League website, lwvca.org, for unfolding details.

**FIXING THE
FUTURE:
Building a Just
and Sustainable
Economy**

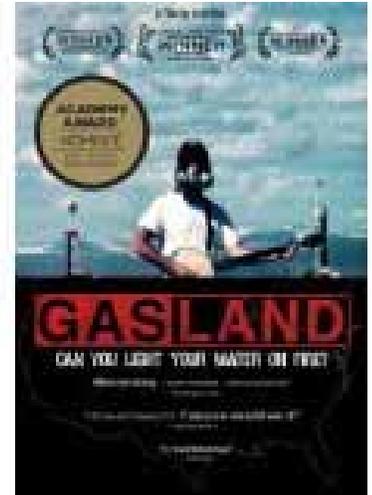
This series, co-sponsored by the League and held at First Unitarian Church (536 Linton Road) on the first Friday of every month, continues with these intriguing programs:

March 2, 2012 ~ 7-9 M:

Gasland, a documentary film on the economics of fracking

April 6, 2012 ~ 7-9 PM

Urban Farming & Local Food Security, featuring Farmer Charles Griffin of Enright Ridge Ecovillage and other activists in Cincinnati's Urban Agricultural movement



**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
 103 Wm. H. Taft Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45219
 513-281-8683 Fax: 513-281-8714
info@lwvcincinnati.org www.lwvcincinnati.org

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Cincinnati, OH Permit No. 1150
--

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



MARCH, 2012
LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

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

- Friday Mar 2 7:00pm Fixing the Future series: Fracking at 1st Unitarian Church,
536 Linton St.
- Saturday Mar 3 1:00pm March Discussion Leaders Briefing
- Monday Mar 5 6:30pm Board Meeting
- Tuesday Mar 6 Ohio Primary Election
- Thursday Mar 8 7:00pm Natural Resources Committee
- Friday Mar 9 VOTER COPY DUE for April Issue
- Tuesday Mar 13 8:00am Membership Committee
- Monday Mar 19 6:00pm Health Care Committee
- Monday Mar 19 7:00pm County Government Committee
- Thursday Mar 22 Voter Collating – Central Eve & Warren County in Charge
- Tuesday Mar 27 7:00pm Housing Committee
- Wednesday Mar 28 2:30pm Privatization Committee
- Wednesday Mar 28 5:00pm Program Development Committee
- Wednesday Mar 28 6:00pm Executive Committee
- Wednesday Mar 28 7:00pm April Discussion Leaders Briefing
- Friday Mar 30 7:30pm Woman’s City Club National Speaker Forum: Kerry Kennedy
- Saturday Mar 31 1:00pm April Discussion Leaders Briefing
- Monday April 2 6:30pm Board Meeting

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

MARCH FORTH FOR JUSTICE! March 3-4, 2012

Interfaith Immigration Justice Conference and Social Witness Weekend

Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati
Co-Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area

Saturday, March 3, 2012
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Sharonville Convention Center
1155 Chester Road just north of Princeton High School



Keynote speaker

Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray

Minister, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Phoenix, Arizona
Lead, Arizona Immigration Ministry, a project of Unitarian Universalist Association President Rev. Peter Morales

Rev. Frederick-Gray gained prominence in Arizona and nationally for her public actions of non-violent civil disobedience against Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and Arizona's anti-immigrant legislation.

Also featuring

- **Sister Alice Gerdeman**, coordinator, Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IJPC) since 1992
- **Mayra Alza**, native of Peru; leader, Immigration Programs at IJPC; VP of Latinos en Acción, University of Cincinnati (UC)
- **Rev. Nelson Jerome Pierce, Jr.**, pastor, Beloved Community Church, Cincinnati; organizer, the AMOS Project
- **Dr. Lilita Rojas-Guyler**, Asst Professor, Health Promotion & Education, UC; Academic Research Partner, Harmony Garden; member, National Latina Health Network
- **Natalie Fair Albright**, Executive Director, International Center of Greater Cincinnati; co-founder, Alliance for Immigrant Women
- **Dan Hurley**, Local 12 TV
- **Don Sherman**, community outreach for immigrant rights
- **Francisco Echevarria**, Su Casa
- **Alfonso Cornejo**, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati
- **Jeff Nzozigeza**, Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program
- **Rev. Paula Jackson**, Episcopal Church of Our Savior
- **Jorge Herman Martinez**, immigration attorney; current member/former board member, LULAC
- **Bernard Pastor**, born in Guatemala, raised in U.S.A., currently contesting deportation
- **Helaine Tasch**, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- **Mike Corradini**, Physicians for Human Rights
- **Tim Riordan**, City Manager, Dayton, OH (home of the "Immigrant Friendly Plan")



Bernard Pastor would qualify for Dream Act

Register Now! at www.ImmigrationJustice.org

or mail in form at bottom of this flyer

For more information, please visit www.ImmigrationJustice.org

Conference fee
Buffet lunch

Donations welcome
\$20

MARCH FOR THE DREAM ACT

Sunday, March 4, 2012
3:00 PM

Friendship Park on Cincinnati Riverfront
between Sawyer Point and Montgomery Inn Boathouse

The "Dream Act" is a proposed federal law that would make it possible for individuals brought to the United States in infancy or childhood to follow a shorter, well-defined path to citizenship.

Many "dreamers" have no memory of any home other than the USA.

Brief remarks by Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray, Arizona Immigration Ministry, and others
Dream Act petitions available



REGISTRATION for Saturday CONFERENCE

Full Name _____
Organization (if applicable) _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Registration fee Free
South of the Border
lunch buffet \$ 20
please reserve by Feb 26
Vegetarian Yes No
Donation *Thanks!* \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Make check payable to UUCGC
Mail to
Liz Woedl
UUCGC Treasurer
6505 Buckley Rd,
Oxford, OH 45056

2012 League of Women Voters of the United States PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES CONSENSUS

As members of the LWVCA, this month we have the opportunity (and the obligation) to participate in formulating a new National League position on "Privatization of Government Services." You will recall from our September unit meetings on "The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education" that all League positions begin at the grassroots level with discussion and consensus on key points. Our responses from our March Unit meetings, along with those of every other League in the country, will be formulated into a position that will be used to advocate for the best possible governance at local, state, and national levels. We need your informed participation at your March Unit meeting. We on the committee will help as best we can, but only you can bring your opinions for consensus to your Unit meeting.

What is Privatization?

Privatization is interpreted in a number of ways. The term is used to indicate that a service may be purchased from some provider other than directly delivered by Government employees; it may also mean that government (public) assets are to be sold to some private entity. Another definition explains privatization as the process of transferring property from public ownership to private ownership and/or transferring the management of a service or activity from the government to the private sector. Types of privatization include complete privatization, privatization of operations, privatization through contracts, franchising, and open competition.

Privatization of public assets has historically occurred more frequently outside the United States. This is most readily seen in nationally run industries in former socialist countries that are moving towards more free market economies. Countries with significant state corporations are encouraged to divest these businesses to the private sector. Prominent divestitures in the news have included Russia's natural gas, Bolivia's municipal water system in Cochabambas and the United Kingdom's British Rail. In the United States, state and local governments have increased their use of privatization over the last several decades. Congress and the various administrations have also increasingly focused on downsizing government by privatization of assets, services and functions.

Privatization of public services has occurred at all levels of government within the United States. Some examples of services that have been privatized include airport operation, data processing, vehicle maintenance, corrections, social welfare services, toll roads, bridges, and tunnels, lotteries, facilities management, water and wastewater utilities, and waste collection and disposal.

There are several key ways in which privatization may be achieved:

- **Privatization by attrition or service shedding.** Cessation of public programs and disengagement from specific kinds of responsibilities. An example of a service under consideration would be the US Postal Service.
- **Transfer of assets.** Direct sale or lease of public land, infrastructure, and enterprises. Examples might be federal and state parks, state-owned liquor stores and the proposed privatization of public libraries.
- **Contracting out (public/private partnerships) or vouchers.** Instead of directly producing some service, the government may finance private services, for example through contracting out or vouchers. Examples might be charter schools, prisons.
- **Deregulation.** Deregulation of entry into activities previously treated as public monopolies. Examples might be utilities, water, waste management, air traffic control, and ports.

Reasons governmental entities give for privatization include cost reduction, risk transfer, a source of revenue, the desire for a higher level of service, a need for greater expertise, and flexibility. Entities leery of privatization are concerned with the effects to public employees, transparency after privatization, relinquishing ownership of public assets, competition within the system, and the importance of the contract or agreement.

There are polarized reactions to these possibilities:

- We should never do this since no one can be as committed to public service as government employees.
- Government is always so inefficient that we should always do this whenever feasible! It is important to note that for the scope of this

study we are not examining the “pros” and “cons” of privatization of government services.

While that may be an important debate it is not the focus of this study. **The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.**

Current LWVCA, LWVO positions that relate to privatization of government services

While the League has never developed specific positions on privatizing government services, both our local League and LWV Ohio have woven criteria into their positions on certain government services.

LWVCA has a position defining criteria to be used in judging proposals for new government services (accountability through an elected official, responsiveness, recourse in the event of poor service, and financial reviews). This was adopted back in 1988 and still seems useful today - see the LWVCA Local Program documents for further details. While this position serves as a great guide for all government services, it does not provide adequate guidance when a government chooses to pay for outside services - either existing or new.

Our state position on Primary and Secondary Education specifically states, “... public funds should be used only for public schools,” a direct repudiation of the use of vouchers for educational choice purposes. Additionally, some of our LWVO positions suggest that regulation of certain activities is a priority regardless of what entity is responsible for carrying out that activity. This is particularly true in some of our state Natural Resources positions.

Other Leagues with relevant positions relating to specific aspects of privatization of government services

The League of Women Voters of California calls for public libraries to be funded by government

but does not have a policy position opposing privatization of public library operations. However, the LWVC position on Public Libraries calls for:

- Provision of adequate professional and non-professional paid staff
- Consolidation of library functions or systems to achieve cost effectiveness that would not affect the quality of service.
<http://www.lwv.org/content/state-level-privatization-2011>

The League of Women Voters of Seattle adopted this position after their local study of privatization - **Support measures to ensure accountability and adequate citizen participation/oversight in public-private partnerships. Our vision recognizes that public-private partnerships may serve as a mechanism for cities to work in concert with the private sector to achieve public objectives if the following elements are present:**

- A. Citizen involvement at the earliest possible point in the process: Prior to any city commitment or negotiation about a possible project, citizen involvement should be solicited and required to assess the benefits, if any, and risks, both tangible and intangible, of any proposed public/private partnership.
- B. Periodic public hearings should be held in which there is an opportunity for citizens to comment at the initiation of a project and at key stages of project development.
- C. Any proposed public/private partnership involving a substantial commitment of public funds should be reviewed by an advisory body that will provide advice and direction to the city council, the mayor and the public.
- D. Criteria should be developed to enable the public and any designated advisory body to weigh the public benefit and cost of public-private partnerships.
- E. Any advisory body should be empowered to develop additional criteria to ensure:
 1. Accountability to the citizenry;
 2. An adequate cost/benefit analysis; and
 3. An adequate return on the public investment.
- F. To ensure a successful public-private partnership, the cities should develop a set of standards prior to entering into a contractual agreement with a private partner that includes the following:
 1. A competitive selection process;
 2. Identification of financial exposure, public objectives and contract safeguards;
 3. Investment in the necessary expertise for ne-

- gotiating the contract;
- 4. Establishment of contractual performance standards, including exit provisions and methods to enforce the standards; and
- 5. Development of methods to assure adequate oversight and accountability at every stage of the project.

<http://www.seattlelwv.org/sites/default/files/privatization2009.pdf> page 42)

Examples of states which have developed criteria or parameters for privatization of government services

The State of Virginia lists examples of inherently governmental activities:

- an effective system of education throughout the Commonwealth;
- free elections;
- transportation system;
- defense from enemy attack on the soil of Virginia;
- intercourse with other and foreign states;
- taxation and assessments at fair market value;
- ultimate control over the acquisition, use, or disposition of the property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, of the Commonwealth, including the collection, control or disbursement of appropriated and other state funds; and
- natural resources for the benefit, enjoyment and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth.

The Ohio Society of CPAs proposed a much simpler test, the "Yellow Pages test." In essence, if multiple vendors of the services or goods appeared in the Yellow Pages, it should be considered for privatization. Ohio's Governor Kasich, while campaigning for governor, stated: "If we don't need it, get rid of it. If it's in the yellow pages, outsource it."

PRESENTED BELOW ARE SOME AREAS OF PRIVATIZATION PROPOSED IN OHIO AND OTHER STATES AS WELL AS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN 2011. This is excerpted from a discussion by Ann Henkener (LWVOH), a member of the LWVEF Education Study Committee on Privatization of Government Services, Assets and Functions. Only a few examples are given from her paper. More can be read from the LWV website.

<http://www.lwv.org/content/state-level->

privatization-2011 See the full paper to view relevant sources cited for examples presented here.

Education: Charter Universities

In August 2011, pursuant to direction given in the Ohio budget bill, the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents proposed that top tier public universities in Ohio be offered the opportunity to become Enterprise Universities. Ohio's state-funded universities would be given more autonomy and regulatory relief in such areas as construction, procurement and employment. Prevailing enrollment limits would be lifted. In exchange, the colleges would agree to meet certain academic, financial and research benchmarks and would divert 10 to 20 percent of its per-student state funding to scholarships. Critics claim that public oversight would be reduced, tuition could increase and workers would have fewer rights.

Education: Charter Schools

In Ohio, charter schools began in the 1990s. Charter schools receive formal government incorporation, or "charters," along with state funding, and retain a greater degree of autonomy than conventional public schools. Ohio's 1997 charter school legislation allowed charter schools in the eight largest city districts. A 1999 statute permitted charter schools in the 21 largest urban districts, and, by 2000, any district designated by the state as being in an academic emergency could create a charter school.

A large percentage of the Ohio charter schools are affiliated with Whitehat Management, an education corporation owned by Akron industrialist David Brennan. As a part of the budget bill for the next biennium, the Ohio Senate added provisions lessening control and accountability for charter schools. The provisions would:

- Give for-profit companies the ability to use tax dollars to open unlimited numbers of schools without disclosing how public funds are spent and without oversight from sponsors as now required.
- Exempt the school, if an operator is running it without a sponsor, from current law that allows it to be suspended or put on probation for failing to meet student performance requirements, fiscal mismanagement, a violation of law or other good cause.
- Allow a governing board, if it contracts with an operator, to delegate all rights to the operator; specify that funds paid to the operator are not public and that property pur-

chased by the operator belongs to the operator; and require the school to offer the operator the chance to renew its contract before seeking another operator.

- Require a charter school board to give an operator 180-day notice before terminating a contract, up from the current 90 days. It also gives the operator final say over the renewal of a contract between a school and its sponsor.

Lobbyists for David Brennan proposed a number of these changes. Throughout the first part of 2011 these lobbyists worked with legislators and directly with the Ohio Legislative Services Commission to draft language for the bill. The proposed changes did not appear in the final budget.

Medicaid

Medicaid is a health care program funded by both individual states and the federal government. It pays for health care benefits for a variety of low income and disabled individuals. The federal government pays approximately 57 percent of the cost of the program, with states paying the balance. The federal government has determined the minimum types of benefits that must be offered but states can choose to offer additional benefits. For the most part, payments are made on a fee-for-service basis, with the state directly paying the provider of the services.

Lottery

In 2010 Illinois became the first state to privatize the operations of its lottery. In 2011, Ohio's Governor Kasich recommended privatizing the Ohio Lottery if it will cut the state's expenses. The legislature considered ordering the state budget director to study ways to convert the lottery to a private enterprise. Legislation was drafted by GTECH, a private entity which once ran the Ohio Lottery's back office operations. GTECH's draft was added to the Senate's version of the bill, and the bill was passed. It spells out the qualifications a company must meet to operate the lottery and includes authority to conduct additional games that are not "subject to the state lottery commission's rule-making authority." The proposal was not included in the final budget.

Sale/Lease of Infrastructure

In 2011, Ohio authorized the sale of five of its prisons with plans to contract with private operators to provide prison services to the state at those locations. It also allowed local governments

to privatize their parking facilities and meters through leases up to 30 years, and permits state higher-education institutions to privatize assets such as student housing. The common theme in these transactions: selling buildings the state is still using and receiving a large one time infusion of money in exchange for paying to lease the same buildings for many years into the future.

Turnpike

Ohio is discussing leasing the Ohio Turnpike. The budget bill permits the Ohio Department of Transportation to enter into a turnpike lease with a private operator with the approval of the Controlling Board. Ohio will continue to own the toll road. While other states have signed 75- to 99-year leases, Ohio is considering a 30- to 50-year lease. One requirement will be a substantial one-time up-front payment, probably several billion dollars. The state says that revenues would go to improvements such as highway construction and harbor dredging, mainly in northern Ohio where the turnpike is located.

Supporters point to the new projects the up-front lease payment could fund. Supporters say the turnpike could be run more efficiently. For example, it would be likely that a private operator would install automated fare collection machines, eliminating jobs of current unionized employees. Critics fear increases in tolls, which in turn would push more traffic onto routes running parallel to the turnpike. Critics also fear that maintenance will deteriorate. Another question raised by the agreement – What will the State do for funds after it spends the up-front payment? Is there any provision for spending the money on a pro-rated basis over the life of the contract or can it all be spent at once? The budget bill recently passed in Ohio lets the Governor explore leasing options, but the final contract must be approved by the General Assembly.

Ohio is not the first to consider leasing a toll road. The Chicago Skyway and Indiana Toll Road have been leased to private operators in exchange for sizable upfront payments. The Chicago Skyway was leased in 2005 on a 99-year lease. Chicago received a \$1.83 billion upfront payment. Toll increases were capped. The Indiana toll road was leased in 2006 on a 75-year lease. The upfront payment was \$3.8 billion. In both cases some of the up-front money was used to pay off debt, improving the Chicago's and Indiana's credit ratings. THE COMMON THEME IN ALL THREE EXAM-

PLES IS SHIFTING A STREAM OF REVENUE THAT WOULD CONTINUE OVER MANY YEARS TO A LARGE INFUSION OF FUNDS IN ONE YEAR.

Development Department

A number of states have turned to public private partnerships to perform economic development functions formerly performed by departments of development or departments of commerce.

Ohio, for example, created JobsOhio in February 2011. It is a non-profit corporation formed for the purpose of promoting economic development, business recruitment, job creation, job retention and job training.

Directors and employees of JobsOhio are not covered by Ohio's ethics laws for public employees, and financial disclosure requirements are less than those required of public employees. Ohio's open meetings law does not apply to JobsOhio, but it must open its in-person meetings to the public. Also, Ohio's public records law does not apply. The program is funded by an appropriation from the General Assembly, and Ohio's current stream of income from liquor sales may be diverted to fund profits of JobsOhio. If this happens, what programs that are currently funded by liquor sales will no longer be funded as the funds are diverted?

Making the decision to privatize

When the question arises as to privatize a government function in some way, it should be clear that the public interest will be protected and served by the transaction. We must be aware, however, that it is difficult to determine the success or failure of a given privatization initiative because varying segments of the public hold varying standards by which they pass judgment. Some may call the change a success if it reduces costs, while others may call it a failure if there's a loss of public accountability or public control. There are some characteristics that increase the potential for successful privatization:

- The services are in growing and competitive markets;
- Information associated with the delivery of the service is abundant and public accountability (transparency) is not a limiting issue;
- The service involves transactions that are not irrevocable;

- Externalities that can affect the profitability of a service are limited; and
- Service efficiency can be achieved in ways that are not contrary to the public interest.

In addition to these characteristics, the contracting government agency must meet other criteria. Examples are

- officials open to the idea of privatization
- clearly defined goals and criteria
- an open public review process

When privatization of an agency or function is being considered, officials must determine

- how the agency will be compensated
- how confidential information will be used and protected
- how assets will be returned should the contract be terminated.

It is also important to accurately compare the total cost of services provided by the government to the projected total costs to the public of the same services provided by a private contractor. In addition these costs must be included:

- costs to transition the service from a public to a private provider
- costs of displaced employees
- cost of contract negotiations
- cost of government oversight of the operation.

All of these factors should be examined thoroughly prior to making the decision to privatize to make sure the public is getting apples for apples.

Factors to consider with regards to transparency, accountability, monitoring and oversight when privatizing government services

- What right does the public have to see documents related to the deal, especially through online disclosure?
- Is there prompt public disclosure of all documents related to privatization bids?
- Are there adequate and meaningful forums for public input, such as public hearings or public comment periods?
- Do legislative or other oversight bodies have access to the information they need to evaluate the contract?
- Are sufficient resources and personnel available to monitor the performance of contractors?

Factors to consider regarding economic impact for privatization of government services

Costs to government:

- Has a thorough independent analysis of the valuation of assets along with a cost comparison of privatization with other alternatives been conducted?
- An asset might provide revenue to the governmental entity, such as a building with a public parking garage. If the asset currently provides net revenue to the budget, how will that revenue be replaced?
- If the deal requires investors to make a large upfront payment to the governmental entity, are there budget restrictions that prevent the funds from being used too quickly?
- Are the cost/benefit analysis methods used consistent?

The Government Accountability Office has found that methods by which agencies and privatization consultants conduct projections and report contract costs can make savings appear greater than they actually are. Hidden costs and cost overruns can significantly distort budget plans. If the privatization effort is deemed a failure what are the costs involved in reversing the process?

Costs to the public:

- Will the lease result in any hidden costs for the public? Private companies leasing government buildings often claim that they will reduce operating costs. But these cost-saving measures can impose hidden costs on the public, such as incremental fees. Cuts to healthcare benefits can leave the state picking up more uninsured medical expenses. Likewise, measures such as reduced hiring of disabled employees, reduced purchases of recycled products, or reduced access to a facility for the general public can compromise other important public goals.
- Will the lease result in the loss of indirect benefits provided by the asset? For example, a public parking garage may provide support for a nearby retail and restaurant area, but access could diminish once the garage is no longer publicly controlled, hurting local businesses.
- Are there any specific requirements that the public asset serve the “public purpose?” For example, is the asset made available to local businesses or communities at agreed upon rates (e.g., an agreement with local businesses that parking rates will be low).

- What rights does the governmental entity have to restrict rate or fee increases? Does the private entity have unrestricted power to raise rates? What will be the impact on the public of significant or rapid rate increases? Do rate increases affect equal access to the asset by the public?

Factors to consider in developing the contract

Most public agencies have guidelines and procedures for choosing contractors that provide various services. They should have determined their contractor selection criteria ahead of time. Examples of criteria:

- Is selection based on lowest cost or on the proposed service quality or both?
- Is there screening of bidders to determine the contractor’s fiscal health, business reputation, and criminal background, if any?

Another area to monitor in developing the contract is the specification of what relationships between contractors and officials are acceptable. When is a gift, a dinner, or some other “insignificant” offer considered untenable? Policies must be in place to minimize the potential for abuse by officials and by contractors.

Several more issues must be clearly understood by both parties as negotiations proceed:

- Protections and remedies for contractor non-performance or illegal activity must be addressed;
- Non-performance criteria or conditions that could lead to termination of the contract must be established.
- Procedures for fee renegotiation should be spelled out as well as frequency of audits and allowable profits. Open meetings requirements and the accessibility of public records must not be compromised.
- Enforcement options and backup plans should be thought through before the contract is finalized.
- Contracts should contain safeguards against hidden costs, such as a scheme where the company receives lower lease payments if it takes measures that shift unforeseen costs onto the public.

Finally, in the process of moving toward privatization, the government agency should ascertain how cost reductions will be obtained. Is it through reliance on part-time employees? Low benefits? Some agencies will require that contractors pro-

vide employees with competitive wages and comply with all federal and state equal employment and anti-discrimination laws. Displaced workers must be helped to find other positions or retrain for new ones.

Monitoring the activities of the contractors once the contract is signed is the weakest link in the privatization process. If a service has clearly defined operational procedures, it can be monitored with relative ease. However, monitoring many human services activities is more complicated and challenging. It is essential, despite the difficulties, that agencies monitor the work of contractors with whom they partner to ensure that the services provided are as good as, if not superior to, those provided by the public agency.

Glossary of Privatization-Related Terms from General Accounting Office report

GAO/GGD-97-48 Privatization Lessons Learned
<http://www.gao.gov/archive/1997/gg97048.pdf>

Asset Sale: An asset sale is the transfer of ownership of government assets, commercial type enterprises, or functions to the private sector. In general, the government will have no role in the financial support, management, or oversight of a sold asset. However, if the asset is sold to a company in an industry with monopolistic characteristics, the government may regulate certain aspects of the business, such as the regulation of utility rates.

Competition: Competition occurs when two or more parties independently attempt to secure the business of a customer by offering the most favorable terms. Competition in relation to government activities is usually categorized in three ways: (1) public versus private, in which public-sector organizations compete with the private sector to conduct public-sector business; (2) public versus public, in which public-sector organizations compete among themselves to conduct public-sector business; and (3) private versus private, in which private-sector organizations compete among themselves to conduct public-sector business.

Contracting Out: Contracting out is the hiring of private-sector firms or nonprofit organizations to provide a good or service for the government. Under this approach, the government remains the financier and has management and policy control over the type and quality of services to be provided. Thus, the government can replace contrac-

tors who do not perform well.

Divestiture: Divestiture involves the sale of government-owned assets or commercial-type functions or enterprises. After the divestiture, the government generally has no role concerning financial support, management, regulation, or oversight.

Leasing Arrangements: Leasing arrangements are a form of public-private partnership. Under a long-term lease, the government may lease a facility or enterprise to a private-sector entity for a specified period. Maintenance, operation, and payment terms are spelled out in the lease agreement. Under a sale-leaseback arrangement, the government sells an asset to a private-sector entity and then leases it back. Under a sale-service contract or lease-service contract, an asset sale or long-term lease is coupled with an arrangement with the purchaser to furnish services for a specified period. Leases in which the government leases a facility (e.g., a building lease) are considered a form of contracting out, rather than a public-private partnership.

Outsourcing: Under outsourcing, a government entity remains fully responsible for the provision of affected services and maintains control over management decisions while another entity operates the function or performs the service. This approach includes contracting out, the granting of franchises to private firms, and the use of volunteers to deliver public services.

Privatization: The term privatization has generally been defined as any process aimed at shifting functions and responsibilities, in whole or in part, from the government to the private sector.

Public-Private Partnership: Under a public-private partnership, sometimes referred to as a joint venture, a contractual arrangement is formed between public- and private-sector partners, and can include a variety of activities involving the private sector in the development, financing, ownership, and operation of a public facility or service. It typically includes infrastructure projects and/or facilities. In such a partnership, public and private resources are pooled and their responsibilities divided so that each partner's efforts complement one another. Typically, each partner shares in income resulting from the partnership in direct proportion to the partner's investment. Such a venture, while a contractual arrangement, differs from typical service contracting

in that the private-sector partner usually makes a substantial cash, at-risk, equity investment in the project; and the public sector gains access to new revenue or service delivery capacity without having to pay the private-sector partner.

Service Shedding: Divestiture through service shedding occurs when the government reduces the level of service provided or stops providing a service altogether. Private-sector businesses or nonprofit organizations may step in to provide the service if there is a market demand.

RESOURCES:

In compiling this material, the LWVCA Privatization Committee has relied heavily on papers written by members of the LWVEF Education Study Committee on Privatization of Government Services, Assets and Functions. These papers can be found at LWV.org:

Nora Leech, "Privatization: The Public Policy Debate"

Ted Volskay, "Subcontracting Public Education"

Ann Henkener, "State Level Privatization 2011"

Cathy Lazarus and Ted Volskay, "Strategies for Best Practice."

Other sources for these pages include:

"A Guide to Evaluating Public Asset Privatization a publication of In the Public Interest"
http://www.inthepublicinterest.org/sites/default/files/privatization_guide_ONLINE.pdf

Government Privatization -History, Examples, and Issues (Illinois report)
http://www.ilga.gov/commission/cgfa2006/Upload/2006Gov_Privatization_Rprt.pdf

More information can be found at the LWVUS website. <http://www.lwv.org/content/state-level-privatization-2011>

PRIVATIZATION CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

(Introduction) Federal, state and local governments own extensive assets and are major employers. Governments often consider selling assets, and outsourcing some functions and services to the private sector, including "core" government services such as providing for the safety, security and general welfare (public well-being) of citizens, the economy, and our country. Privatization of these government assets, services and functions has been occurring for decades at all levels of government. The consequences of "privatizing" a government service or function, in particular, may enhance the function or service. Alternatively, it may reduce or alter functions and services. Government revenues may be reduced or lost and jobs may be cut. In some instances, this may have a detrimental effect on the "common good" or public well-being.

There is one state which has declared as a matter of state law and policy that "using private contractors to provide public services formerly provided by state employees does not always promote the public interest. To ensure that citizens..... receive high quality public services at low cost, with due regard for tax payers..... and the needs of public and private workers, the (legislature) finds it necessary to regulate such privatization contracts throughout the state."

The purpose of this study is to identify policies and parameters that should be considered when any governmental entity is planning to undertake some type of privatization process.

QUESTIONS 1 and 2

Consensus questions one and two should be presented to the group at the outset of the meeting and then repeated after the other questions have been answered.

1. As a general matter, the extent to which government functions, services and assets have been privatized in the past decade is:

- Much too much Too much
 About right Too little
 Much too little No consensus

2. Core government services and functions important to well-being of the people should remain with government and not be transferred to the private sector.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree
 Strongly disagree No consensus

3. As a matter of good government policy, which of the following criteria should be applied when making decisions to transfer government services, assets and functions to the private sector?

a. Transparency and Accountability: All government contracts with private companies for services must ensure public access to relevant records and information regarding contracted services, functions and assets and provide for adequate government oversight and control.

- High priority Lower priority
 Not a priority No consensus

b. Public Well-being: Provisions are in place to assure that, in the event any public services are to be privatized, there will be no increased risks to public well-being, especially to vulnerable populations.

- High priority Lower priority
 Not a priority No consensus

c. Cost and Quality: Privatized services should not appreciably increase the costs or decrease the quality of services to the public.

- High priority Lower priority
 Not a priority No consensus

d. Environmental and Natural Resources: Defined parameters should be in place to assure that environmental and natural resources are not compromised.

- High priority Lower priority
 Not a priority No consensus

e. Contracts and Sales of Public Assets: All government contracts and privatized public assets should be subject to competitive bidding and comply with all laws regarding awarding contracts.

- High priority Lower priority
 Not a priority No consensus

f. Economic Impact: Privatization should not result in a negative economic impact on the communities in which the services are provided.

High priority Lower priority
 Not a priority No consensus

g. Government Recovery of Services and Assets: Provisions should be in place to recover key services, assets and functions should the private sector fail to safeguard them.

High priority Lower priority
 Not a priority No consensus

4. Privatization is not appropriate:

a. When the government lacks the will, ability or resources to adequately oversee contracts with the private entity and any successor thereto.

Agree Disagree No Consensus

b. When there is no private entity able or willing to provide the service for the short and long term.

Agree Disagree No Consensus

c. When it poses a potential threat to national security.

Agree Disagree No Consensus

d. When it poses a risk to personal or security data.

Agree Disagree No Consensus

e. When there has been evidence of potential corruption.

Agree Disagree No Consensus

f. When the private entity's goals and purposes are not compatible with public well-being.

Agree Disagree No Consensus

g. When the private entity has not complied with existing government requirements for public records, open meetings or publication of reports and audits.

Agree Disagree No Consensus

h. When a loss of revenue decreases government support for mandated or critical services.

Agree Disagree No Consensus

5. Some states have developed laws and regulations to control the process of privatization within their jurisdictions. As a general matter, should privatization be regulated?

a. Yes, all privatization efforts should be regulated.

b. Yes, some types of privatization efforts should be regulated.

c. No, privatization efforts should never be regulated

d. No consensus

6. Which of the following should be included in the regulatory process when privatizing public assets, services and functions?

a. Timely public announcements regarding intentions to privatize and the clear and measurable expected benefits to the public

Strongly agree Agree Disagree
 Strongly disagree No consensus

b. Public and stakeholder (investors, shareholders, experts) input into the decision and terms of the contract.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree
 Strongly disagree No consensus

c. Feasibility study regarding performance, costs and benefits.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree
 Strongly disagree No consensus

d. Adherence to all laws regarding public contracts..

Strongly agree Agree Disagree
 Strongly disagree No consensus

e. Transition plans for displaced employees.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree
 Strongly disagree No consensus

f. Accountability and transparency provisions in all contracts.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree
 Strongly disagree No consensus

g. Regular performance evaluations including meaningful opportunity for public comment.
 Strongly agree Agree Disagree
 Strongly disagree No consensus

h. Provisions for transferring services and assets back to the government or another contractor in the event of inadequate performance.
 Strongly agree Agree Disagree
 Strongly disagree No consensus

i. Adequate resources for enforcement.
 Strongly agree Agree Disagree
 Strongly disagree No consensus

Comments: 500 Words or Less - Use following space