



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA

# THE VOTER

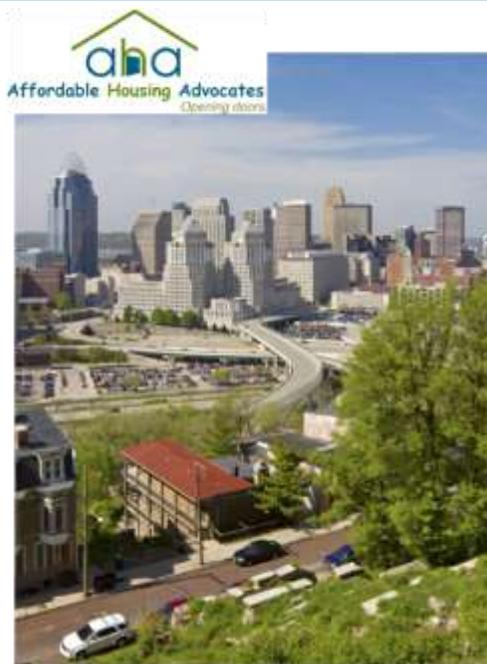
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April, 2014

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## APRIL UNITS TO DISCUSS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The discussion topic for our April units is affordable housing. Those attending unit meetings will view a 13-minute video, "Who Needs Affordable Housing in Greater Cincinnati?" by Affordable Housing Advocates, a coalition group of which the LWVCA is an active member. The video explores the myths and realities of affordable housing and puts a face on the participants of various housing programs.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to all women and men 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

LWVCA's Housing Committee developed discussion questions for the units, so members can share their experiences and perspectives on the topic. The study pages included with this edition of the *Voter* provides background and will add to the discussion. Please review it before the unit meeting and find out:

- What is the largest government housing subsidy program?
- Who decides where "Section 8 housing" is located?
- What percentage of people with Housing Vouchers are elderly or have disabilities?

Briefings for the unit discussion leaders will be at the LWVCA office on Wednesday March 26 at 7:00 p.m. and repeated Saturday March 29 at 10:00 a.m.

### 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.



LWVCA Education Fund is a member of Community Shares

### REMEMBER THESE IMPORTANT 2014 ELECTION DATES!

- April 7, 2014: Voter registration deadline for May primary
- May 6, 2014: Primary Election Day
- Oct. 6, 2014: Voter registration deadline for November general election
- Nov. 4, 2014: General Election Day

## CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER

The League of Women Voters just had its ninety-fourth birthday, a tribute to the dedication of all of the women who dared to promote women's suffrage and continue to improve the lives of women. We are fortunate now to have both women and men working to influence public policy through education and advocacy.



Next year will mark the 95<sup>th</sup> birthday for both LWVCA and LWVUS, and Cincinnati is fortunate to be hosting LWV Ohio's 2015 state convention. Please save the weekend of May 15-17, 2015, and plan on participating with the planning and hosting of this convention. Although the major planning of the convention itself will be done by LWVO, we will still need volunteers to help. Any ideas that you may have that would enhance the convention are welcome.

With the Board's authorization, we sent letters to the Hamilton County Board of Elections (BOE), Cincinnati City Council members, and *The Cincinnati Enquirer* voicing our concern over the threatened relocation of the BOE offices and early voting from the downtown area. The League's primary mission is to educate voters and to encourage active participation in government. We will continue to monitor the issue and keep in the forefront our concern that voting should be easily accessible to all voters and that a site for early voting and filing of candidates and issues be kept. We also urged that the BOE move to do this soon as possible.

Thank you to all of the members who have stepped up to fill needed positions. Most recently, Peter Steele agreed to head the budget committee. He, along with Eleonora Fusco, Marlene Muse, Dave Rhoad, Burton Roehr, and Margaret Standriff, will be preparing the 2014-15 budget to present at the Annual Meeting on May 20.

Watch for VOTE 411! We are replacing our SmartVoter site with Vote411.org, a site used by LWVUS and most other Leagues throughout the country. It will be very similar in use and content, but we will need to educate the public and help facilitate the change for voters in the Cincinnati area.

We just learned of the passing of a longtime member, Doris Adams. She was a dedicated League member, a willing volunteer, and a faithful attendee of events. She will be missed by those of us who had the good fortune to know her.

**In League,**

*Helen and Don Rhoad*

**2013-15 Co-Presidents**

### **OFFICE HELP IS NEEDED**

*By Mary Kay Gardner, Office Volunteer Coordinator*

We still have room in our Office Volunteer schedule! Are you available the second Tuesday or Thursday each month? We are looking for a couple of good women or men to answer phones, greet the public, and help with various office projects. This important volunteer job is fun and always interesting - you just never know what will come up! We will provide training for you. Please call Mary Kay Gardner or the LWVCA office at 281-VOTE (8683).

## GOOD LUCK, PHYLLIS! WE WILL MISS YOU!

*By Don and Helen Rhoad, Co-Presidents*

Phyllis Nesselroad, LWVCA's Administration Manager, will be starting a new job in early April and will be leaving her post at the League. We have thoroughly enjoyed having Phyllis on our team. She has been a wonderful employee during her tenure with her calming presence in our office and having that knack for remembering all the details! On behalf of the Board, we thank her for all her hard work and dedication in service to our organization.

While we are sad to see her go, we wish Phyllis all the best in her new adventure. It is never, "Goodbye!" Please check in with Phyllis and send her your well wishes.

The HR Committee is in full swing in starting a job search for the office position. We will be in contact with the membership by email as soon as we know more details. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us.



### *A note from Phyllis....*

I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank you!" to all the League members I've had the pleasure of working with and getting to know during my time with the LWVCA. While I am looking forward to my new position (with another local non-profit, outreach ministry organization), I can honestly say I am sad to leave the League. My time with you all has been both challenging and rewarding. I have a much stronger appreciation for the League's positions and work, and consider it a personal privilege to have been able to be part of your team.

As Don and Helen said, "It is never 'goodbye!'" We will see each other again.

In League,

Phyllis Nesselroad



## OUR TRANSITION TO VOTE411

*By April Piatt, Voter Service Committee*

Spring is a time of change and transitions, and, as the Cincinnati area readies for the upcoming primary, LWVCA is hard at work with changes of our own – our transition to VOTE411.org. While the nationally recognized VOTE411.org is new to LWVCA, the website has proven to be an asset in finding new ways to involve and educate voters across the country. The website is easy to navigate for both those behind the scenes and for the voter. Once up and running, the website will be a well-organized tool for all races and issues.

As with any new beginning, there will be a lot of ground work to prepare our League, the website, and the voting public. LWVCA volunteers have been busy training and are anxious to put our new knowledge to good use. Phyllis Nesselroad, our Administration Manager, has also put in a lot of work getting our VOTE411 site ready for the May Primary.

This new venture will take the efforts of many to get the word out to fellow Leaguers and ultimately the voters. So spread the word!



# RESULTS FROM COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE SURVEY

By Kelly Glover, LWVCA Communications Committee

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in January's survey about the Voter newsletter for the Communications Committee.

The results show that many of you are more comfortable with electronic media, but it isn't our intention to leave behind our members who prefer traditional print media.

In the interest of striking a balance that works for all members of the LWVCA, we will be adding new digital content starting this summer, and scaling back on our printed content, while focusing on maintaining the high quality information you've come to expect from us in the past. In that vein, we will still be delivering vital information to those of you who prefer traditional print media in your chosen format.

Please look for more information the next Voter.

## IN MEMORIAM...

**Doris Adams** passed March 5, 2014. In her work life, she came to Cincinnati in the 1960s after working for Better Homes & Gardens Magazine to lead the Home Economics Department of Procter & Gamble. Doris joined the League in 1974. She was a member of Hilltop North Unit and a valued League member.



## IN SYMPATHY...

The League expresses its condolences to long-time League member and Past President **Marjorie Davies** on the loss of her father, C. William "Bill" Carlson, who passed away peacefully at home on March 12, 2014.



## ANNUAL MEETING IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

By Pinky Kocoshis, Vice President, Organization/Member Services

It's spring once again and time for our LWVCA annual meeting. Please note it is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 20**, in the Geier Room at the Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 Wm H. Taft Road. We will start registration and social hour at 5:15 p.m. with dinner served at 6 p.m. This year's dinner will be buffet-style catered by PIP (Power Inspires Progress). They always do a nice job with the menu, especially with the African Stew we've had the last couple of years.

Part of our agenda will be voting on the budget (always important), and the election of the LWVCA Board of Directors. We would love for you to join us! Save the date and look for Workbook I mailed to you with all the menu details and cost.

We will need some more help with the annual meeting, especially with cleaning up after the event. Please give Pinky Kocoshis or the LWVCA office a call at (513) 281-VOTE (8683) if you can help.



## LWVCA INVESTMENT COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

By Fred Heyse, LWVCA Investment Committee Chair

The funds held in reserve for LWVCA are invested fairly conservatively to help with our budgets. These funds are monitored by the Investment Committee that advises the Board to make prudent changes in these investments. We thank Becky Algenio for her past service on the committee. Current members include Joan Honeck, Burt Roehr, Dee Shaffer, Margaret Standriff (Treasurer), Marcia Togneri, and chair Fred Heyse.

If you have an interest in stock/bond mutual fund investing and have time for one meeting a quarter, please let us know. We would welcome additional guiding thoughts for the good of the League.

## NO FOOLIN': METRO PASSES AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL ON APRIL 1

*By Metro*

Starting April 1, buy your bus passes at Cincinnati City Hall, 806 Plum Street, downtown! Zone 1 and 2 Metro 30-day rolling passes, Metro/TANK passes and \$20 stored-value cards will be available at the City's Treasury Department, Room 202. This convenient location provides a new option for downtown bus riders who aren't close to the Metro Sales Office at Government Square.

### On Tuesday, April

**1 only:** Enjoy a FREE cup of coffee provided by Coffee Emporium with the purchase of any pass or stored-value card at City Hall on April Fools' Day, while supplies last.



Metro passes will be sold at City Hall Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This location will also provide bus schedules and other information. Visit [www.go-metro.com/where-to-buy](http://www.go-metro.com/where-to-buy) for a full list of Metro fare media sales locations.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO LWVCA PROGRAM FOR 2014

*By Carolyn B. Miller,  
Vice President, Program*

We hope you are looking forward to the following League Program events:

**APRIL - Affordable Housing** (Unit Meetings)

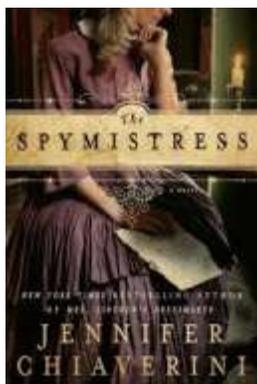
**MAY - Annual Meeting**, Tuesday, May 20

*Note: Programs and topics are subject to change. Every effort will be made to give as much notice as possible for any changes.*

## BOOK REVIEWS

*By Nancy Dawley, Action Chair*

### *The Spymistress* by Jennifer Chiaverini



This novel is historical fiction based on Civil War activities in Richmond, Virginia—the Confederate capital. Elizabeth Van Lew, the novel's protagonist, was born to slave-holding aristocracy and educated by northern Quakers, where she decided that slavery was wrong. When Virginia secedes from the Union in 1961, she pledges her loyalty to the Lincoln White House. This book, thoroughly researched by the author, weaves a story showing

how she set up a successful spy network to pass on valuable information to northern generals and aided many Union prisoners of war suffering under appalling prison conditions.

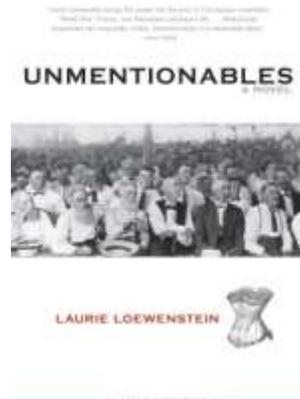
Despite the limitations placed on women of her era, Miss Van Lew showed immense initiative, strength and courage. After the war, her neighbors never forgave her part in the Northern victory.

### *Unmentionables* by Laurie Loewenstein

Interesting things begin to happen in the small town of Emporia, Illinois following the week of its Chautauqua assembly of 1917. Marian Elliot Adams got everyone's attention when she announced, as keynote speaker, "I am here tonight to discuss the restrictive nature of women's undergarments."

When a sprained ankle kept her in Emporia for recovery, things began to happen.

The book brings to the surface additional "unmentionable" topics of the era – woman's suffrage, racial discrimination, war rights, food safety. See how the main characters and town residents deal with these changes to their lives in a very readable story. Find out more about the book at [www.akashicbooks.com/catalog/unmentionables/](http://www.akashicbooks.com/catalog/unmentionables/)

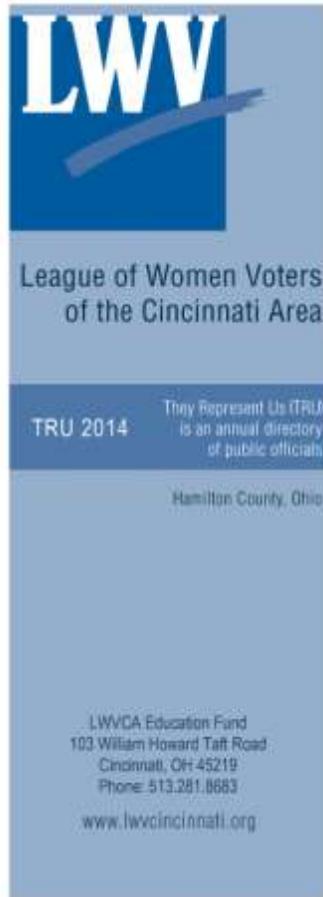


# 2014 TRU IS NOW AVAILABLE!

By Melissa Currence, Voter  
Service Committee

LWVCA's 2014 edition of *They Represent Us: A Public Officials Guide for Hamilton County*, also known as TRU, is now available. Copies can be ordered through the LWVCA Office at 513-281-8683, and the online version is available at [lwcincinnati.org/publicofficialsguide.html](http://lwcincinnati.org/publicofficialsguide.html).

This year, we were able to print 8,000 copies. Printing was made possible through the generosity of The Murray and Agnes Seasongood Good Government Foundation, Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati and OneTouchPoint-Berman.



## REMEMBER TO RENEW! 2013 KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM!

It's simple to sign up—but—your signup lasts  
only one year!

LUCKILY it's equally easy to RENEW!

**DIRECTIONS.** Please sign up for the program - or renew - using the name *League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area Education Fund* or our NPO number #80874. Just go to Kroger.com, click on Community, click on Community Rewards Program and input the information for the League. In a few weeks you should see our name at the bottom of your receipt. Kroger will give a donation for every dollar you spend.

Every little bit helps! Please sign-up or renew today!

## FREE SCREENING OF DOCUMENTARY FILM *TRIPLE DIVIDE* Thursday, March 27 7:30–9:30 pm Esquire Theatre, 320 Ludlow in Clifton

Hosted by Food & Water Watch; Southwest Ohio No Frack Forum; LWVCA; Woman's City Club; State Rep. Denise Driehaus

*Triple Divide* is said to be the only documentary of its kind on the controversial subject of fracking capable of speaking to all sides, with exclusive interviews from the industry, experts, and Americans suffering in the wake of shale gas development. "It's the best movie on fracking to date [using] facts, not fiction or spin" wrote Pennsylvania resident, Robert Donnan.

Academy Award nominated actor Mark Ruffalo co-narrates the film, taking part in the project after being shown an online screener a few weeks before the final release. The film is co-directed by journalists Joshua Pribanic & Melissa Troutman.

Following the movie, we will have a short Q & A with State Representative Denise Driehaus and Food & Water Watch organizer Alison Auciello. This will be an opportunity to learn what is going on in the Ohio Legislature and regulatory agencies. Rep. Driehaus has co-sponsored legislation to ban the underground injection of toxic fracking waste.

Come join us to view the film and ask questions about Ohio's gas extraction and waste disposal.

For more information on the film, visit: [tripledividefilm.org/](http://tripledividefilm.org/)



## STATE NEWS

### HURRY! ONLINE REGISTRATION ENDS SOON FOR LWVO STATEHOUSE DAY AND COUNCIL 2014

By LWV Ohio

Plan to join other League members from around Ohio at this year's Statehouse Day and Council on Wednesday, April 9, 2014. This will be a dynamic, informative day filled with workshops on important public policy issues.

One of the speakers at Statehouse Day is Michael C. Miller, Professor Emeritus, from the department of Biological Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Miller will be speaking about the Ohio River Basin and protecting the Ohio River watershed.

All attendees will have the option of requesting a meeting with their legislator through the LWVO office.

Statehouse Day will be held at Sheraton Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, OH 43215. The rates are Member \$40, Non-member \$45, Student \$25.

Register online at [lwvohio.org](http://lwvohio.org) or call LWV Ohio at [\(614\) 469-1505](tel:6144691505). Please note the **online registration deadline is Monday, March 24**. After that date, online registration will not be available and a late fee will be charged.



### LWVO MONTHLY ALL-MEMBER CONFERENCE CALL

**1st Tuesday each month, 12:00 Noon**

As a member of LWVCA, you are invited to participate in this monthly all-member conference call! Topics vary each month. This is a great way to hear about current issues and the work our Leagues are doing. Information is usually posted to the LWVO website the week before each call. Visit [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org), or, to receive a reminder email, go to [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org), click on "Get Involved," then click on "Get Updates," then fill out the webform. You will receive emails and reminders from LWVO about upcoming calls and events.

### LWVO UPDATE ON 2014 CHANGES TO OHIO ELECTION LAW

*Last updated March 4, 2014*

Ohio policymakers have been busy enacting a multitude of changes to Ohio elections. And as usual, none of these changes included funding to educate voters about these changes. Thus, it falls to the League and other voter advocates around the state to help voters navigate all these changes.

In the coming weeks, LWVO Education Fund will be creating new voter service materials with the updated rules. We will send an announcement when these new materials are available.

In the meantime, here are some of the changes most likely to impact Ohio voters this year:

#### **Rule Changes in Effect for the May Primary:**

1. Early Voting Days & Hours: On January 15th, Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted issued Directive 2014-01 setting uniform early voting days and hours for all counties in Ohio. They are:

- 8am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, from April 1 through April 4;
- 8am to 9pm on Monday, April 7 (the deadline for voter registration);
- 8am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, from April 8 through April 11;
- 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, from April 14 through May 2; and
- 8am to 12pm on Saturday, May 3.

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**Rule Changes in Effect for the November General:**

1. Golden Week Eliminated: SB 238, which was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Kasich in February eliminated the so-called “golden week” overlap between the start of early voting and the close of registration. Both early in-person and mail-in absentee voting will begin one week later, the day after registration closes.

2. Early Voting Days & Hours: On February 25th, Secretary Husted issued Directive 2014-06 setting uniform early voting days and hours for all counties in Ohio. They are:

- 8am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, from October 7 through October 10;
- 8am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, from October 14 through October 17;
- 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, from October 20 through October 24;
- 8am to 4pm on Saturday, October 25;
- 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, from October 27 through October 31;
- 8am to 4pm on Saturday, November 1.

3. Absentee Ballot Applications: SB 205, which was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Kasich in February prohibits any government official other than the Secretary of State from sending unsolicited absentee ballot application forms. SB 205 also requires that every field on the absentee application be filled out completely or it will be rejected.

4. Absentee Ballot Envelopes: SB 205 also requires that every field on the absentee ballot envelope be filled out completely or it will be rejected.

5. Provisional Ballot Affirmation Forms: SB 216, which was passed by the legislature and was signed by the governor likewise requires that every field on a provisional ballot affirmation form be filled out completely – including newly required information – or it will be rejected. One positive development is that, for voters who do not appear on the rolls, under SB 216 a provisional ballot affirmation form will be able to double as a voter registration form, so that provisional voters who upon review are not on the rolls will be registered.

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### GET YOUR REGISTRATION IN FOR LWVUS CONVENTION 2014 IN DALLAS

By LWVUS

Make your plans to attend National Convention today! It will be held in Dallas on June 6-10. The fee is \$335 per person.

This year’s convention theme is “Power Our Voices, Power Our Votes.”

When you attend convention, you join national, state and local League leaders from around the country for this lively biennial event - to hear nationally known speakers, learn more about the issues important to the organization and the nation, participate in training sessions and join in the discussion and networking that make the League a strong and vital force in our democracy.

To get started, visit Your Guide to LWVUS Convention 2014 at [lww.org/content/your-guide-lwvus-convention-2014](http://lww.org/content/your-guide-lwvus-convention-2014)

Registration is now open. The \$335 fee includes participation in all trainings, briefings, caucuses, general sessions, and national networking events, and includes the LWVUS-hosted banquet and program on Monday evening. The online registration deadline is May 23, 2014. Registrations after that date will be charged at \$50 late fee. Online registration will remain open until May 31.

If you have questions about convention, contact LWVUS staffer Kelly McFarland Stratman at [kmcfarland@lww.org](mailto:kmcfarland@lww.org).



# OHIO IS AT IT AGAIN, RESTRICTING POPULAR VOTING METHODS AHEAD OF A MAJOR ELECTION

*Reprinted from the LWVUS Blog, 03/06/2014*

**EDITORIAL NOTE:** This guest blog was written by Carrie Davis, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio

Earlier this year, we helped LWVUS shine a spotlight on some dangerous bills that were working their way through the Ohio Legislature. Unfortunately, Ohio is at it again. In the last two weeks, Ohio has enacted four major anti-voter changes to voting rules that will be in place for the general election this November, including some of the provisions we highlighted before the legislature returned to session in January.



These anti-voter provisions include:

- **Eliminating the first week of early in-person and mail-in absentee voting.** Commonly known as “Golden Week,” the first week of early voting overlapped with the last week of voter registration and had offered a narrow window of same-day registration and voting.
- **A Secretary of State directive eliminating Sunday and weekday evening hours for early in-person voters.** Sunday and evening voting have been hugely popular, especially “Souls to the Polls” programs that shuttle voters to the polls after Sunday church services.
- **Imposing new restrictions on absentee voting, which could lead to voters not receiving their absentee ballot or ballots being rejected for simple paperwork mistakes.** Rejecting absentee applications and ballots for minor mistakes blatantly violates a section of the Civil Rights Act that says states cannot reject voting forms for immaterial errors or omissions. The bill also prohibits any government agency other than the Secretary of State from sending unsolicited absentee applications, going so far as to prohibit counties from automatically giving them to poll workers.
- **Unnecessarily complicating voting by provisional ballot, which could increase the number of provisional ballots cast by eligible voters being rejected.** The new provisional ballot form requires voters to provide additional information on provisional ballot forms, including checking two boxes; ballots will be rejected if the forms are not completed properly. Not only does this violate federal law by rejecting ballots for immaterial errors or omissions, it undermines the safety net provisional ballots are supposed to provide as a “last chance” for voters who, for whatever reason, cannot cast a regular ballot.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio and our coalition partners presented extensive testimony expressing our concerns with the proposed legislation and tried to work with legislators to craft amendments to fix problems with the bills. Regrettably, despite our efforts, many problems remain in the final bills and Ohio Governor John Kasich ignored our plea to veto these voting restrictions.

**So what’s next in Ohio? We’re not done, but we are switching gears.**

We have three critical tasks ahead of us in 2014, which includes not only the Congressional midterm elections, but also the elections of all of Ohio’s statewide offices:

1. Voter service. Not surprisingly, none of these bills or directives included funding to educate voters about the new rules in advance of this fall’s elections. Thus, it falls to the League and other voter advocates around the state to help voters navigate all these changes.
2. Making the case for free, fair and accessible elections. We cannot let these cuts go unanswered. Ohio policy-makers need to hear from voters loud and clear that it’s time to make voting more accessible, not less, by restoring evening and weekend voting.
3. Voter Registration. Like every year, we also remain committed to registering as many new voters as possible. Local Leagues across the state are integral to this effort.

We hope in our next report, we’ll be able to share our successes on these and other issues. Keep up to date with the League of Women Voters of Ohio on Facebook at [facebook.com/lwvohio](https://www.facebook.com/lwvohio) and on Twitter at [twitter.com/lwvohio](https://www.twitter.com/lwvohio).

## Affordable Housing in Hamilton County

*by LWVCA Housing Committee*

In 1949 the U.S. Congress passed the National Housing Act setting a goal of decent, affordable housing for all Americans. Though repeatedly reaffirmed by Congress, the goal has not been met. In Hamilton County, Ohio, government rental housing programs provide housing to about one in three low-income households. Most families with incomes under \$30,000 a year live in housing which costs more than they can afford or is substandard.

The best measure for housing affordability is the housing cost burden, or the percentage of income one spends on housing. Using the housing cost burden measure, spending more than thirty percent of income has been defined as an excessive cost burden. For renters this means rent and utilities should not exceed 30% of their total income. Similarly, for homeowners, mortgage payment, taxes, insurance, and utilities together should not exceed 30% of their total income. Therefore, affordability is defined not by where one lives, what type of housing, or whether a subsidy is involved, but whether housing costs exceed 30% of household income.

### **Subsidized Housing**

Some housing is made more affordable through a government subsidy. The largest housing subsidy program in the U.S. is the mortgage deduction on individual income tax, which costs over \$70 billion a year. Smaller subsidized housing programs in Hamilton County include:

The Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) serves all of Hamilton County. It owns and manages about 5000 public housing units, and also administers the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program that provides vouchers to another 10,000 households.

About 90% of the public housing in Hamilton County is within Cincinnati. The other 10% is scattered throughout the county in small apartment buildings and houses. There has been a decrease in the amount of public housing in Hamilton County in the last 15 years.

Section 8 vouchers are used on the private rental market. The families select where they want to live and find a landlord who will rent to them. CMHA determines eligibility and inspects the housing annually. The vast majority of rundown housing assumed to be “Section 8 housing” is not part of the program and would not qualify to be rented by a family with a voucher because it could not pass the strict inspection standards. Rundown and substandard housing is rented by low-income renters who cannot afford anything better because they do not have a subsidy.

42% of people with Housing Vouchers are elderly or disabled, 35% are employed. 53% of the families use the voucher for less than five years. It is very difficult to get a Housing Voucher because of long waiting lists. Locally when the waiting list was opened for a few days, 19,000 families applied. The waiting list currently has about 10,000 families and is closed.

### **Resources**

A 13-minute video “Who Needs Affordable Housing in Greater Cincinnati?” was produced by Affordable Housing Advocates. It can be accessed from their website at [www.ahacincy.org](http://www.ahacincy.org). Also on the AHA website is a 41 page “2011 Housing Report for Hamilton County” that provides statistics on homelessness, foreclosures, substandard housing and accessible housing.

***The Voter***  
**Collating Schedule\***  
**Remainder of 2014**

April 17  
 May/June Voter  
**Northeast Evening**

June 19  
 July/August Voter  
**Hilltop North**

*\*All dates are subject to change.  
 Call Pinky Kocoshis when your Unit's  
 time is coming up!*

## Join the League of Women Voters

*Because Democracy is not a spectator sport!*

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 LWVCA and LWVO.

- Individual - \$60.00
- Household - \$80.00
- Student - \$25.00
- Dues pose a hardship. I can pay \_\_\_\_\_
- Optional additional deductible contribution:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

## MOVING?

Please remember to contact the office with your new address and contact information! This will ensure you receive any League communications and helps keep our records up-to-date.

Please also let us know when you change email addresses! Send notices to [info@lwvcincinnati.org](mailto:info@lwvcincinnati.org) with "Address Change" in the subject line.



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

Editors:

Melissa Currence and Marty Harrington

Layout/Design:

Marty Harrington and Phyllis Nesselroad

***Please submit articles to:***  
[newsletter@lwvcincinnati.org](mailto:newsletter@lwvcincinnati.org)

**Next deadline: Friday 04/04/2014**  
 for the *May/June 2014* issue



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

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**MARCH-APRIL 2014 - LEAGUE ACTIVITIES:** *All meetings are open to the public and are held at the League Office, 103 Wm. Howard Taft, unless otherwise noted. Bring a friend! (All meeting dates/times subject to change. Please be sure to check the calendar on our website [www.lwvcincinnati.org](http://www.lwvcincinnati.org) for the most up-to-date meeting and activity information)*

Wednesday	Mar 26	5:30 pm	Program Development Committee
Wednesday	Mar 26	7 pm	Discussion Leader Briefing for April
Saturday	Mar 29	10 am	Discussion Leader Briefing for April
Tuesday	Apr 1	2 pm	LWVCA Board Meeting
Friday	Apr 4		<b><i>Deadline for submissions for May/June "Voter"</i></b>
Tuesday	Apr 8	12:30pm	Hilltop North Unit Discussion - Friendship UMC, Springfield Pike & Fleming Rd
Tuesday	Apr 8	7 pm	Anderson Unit Discussion - Anderson Twp Gov't Ctr, 7850 Five Mile Rd
Tuesday	Apr 8	7:30 pm	Warren/Butler Counties Unit Discussion - Mason UMC, 773 Mason-Montgomery Rd
Wednesday	Apr 9	7:15 pm	Central Evening Unit Discussion
Thursday	Apr 10	7 pm	Natural Resources Committee
Monday	Apr 14	7 pm	Northeast Evening Unit Discussion - Madeira Public Library, Miami & Euclid Rds
Tuesday	Apr 15	7 pm	County Government Committee
Wednesday	Apr 16	Noon	Eastern Day Unit Discussion - Marjorie P Lee Retirement Community
Wednesday	Apr 16	Noon	Metro Day Unit Discussion
Thursday	Apr 17	9:30 am	May/June Voter mailing - Northeast Evening Unit @ LWVCA
Tuesday	Apr 29	6:30 pm	Investment Committee
Wednesday	Apr 30	7 pm	Program Committee