



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA

THE VOTER

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

October 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



Co-Presidents' Letter	2
LWVCA Donor Honor Roll	3
Live Captioning at Events	4
Fund LWVCA without Spending More Funds	5
Photos: Happy Hour	6
EPA's Clean Power Plan	7
9th District Debate	8
LWVO 2015 Convention	9
October Study Pages	10-14

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 17 (or 18 and older). For information, call 513-281-VOTE (8683), or write to the LWVCA office at 103 Wm H Taft Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45219, or email 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.



LWVCA Education Fund is a member of Community Shares

COME TO THE LWVCA ISSUES FORUM Wednesday, Oct. 1, 7 p.m.

By Glenda Bernstein, Issues Forum Chair

The LWVCA Issues Forum, our annual event designed to explain the issues that will appear on the November ballot, will take place in the Huenefeld Tower Room at the Public Library's Main Branch (downtown). This forum is free and open to League members, guests and the public.

Issues to be presented for Hamilton County Residents are:

- # 6 Hamilton County Tax Levy Renewal - Family Services and Treatment Programs
- # 7 Hamilton County Tax Levy Renewal - Health and Hospitalization Services
- # 8 Hamilton County Sales and Use Tax - Union Terminal

For Cincinnati Residents:

- # 1 Cincinnati City Schools Tax Levy Renewal
- # 11 City Of Cincinnati Proposed Charter Amendment

This is a great chance to hear about all the issues in one setting. If you are wondering about any aspect of an issue, speakers will take questions from the audience. To enhance understanding, there will be live captioning of each speaker.

We provide information both in favor of and in opposition to the issues. At press time, no organized opposition to the ballot issues has been identified.



Issues Forum



The library is located at 800 Vine Street. The closest city garage is the Garfield Garage located on the south side of 9th Street

between Vine and Race. For driving directions, detailed parking information and more, visit cincinnati.library.org.

We look forward to seeing you at the forum! Volunteers are needed for various support functions – it is a fun, easy and flexible way to become involved. If you are interested in volunteering, call Glenda Bernstein or contact the office at 513-281-8683 or voterservice@lwvcincinnati.org.

GET EDUCATED ON ELECTION ISSUES

Our October unit meetings will focus on preparing to cast our ballots as thoughtful voters. This is what LWV is all about!

Be sure to consult your *Who & What of Elections* and *Vote411.org* for information on candidates and issues. At our unit meeting, we will be discussing the issues on the Nov. 4 ballot. The information provided on these issues has

been thoroughly researched by our hard working committees.

For over 94 years, our beloved League has been helping all voters feel confident in casting an educated vote and in knowing their rights as voters. Attend your unit meeting for this timely discussion. Please join us and bring a friend! They'll thank you later!

Visit Vote411.org for ballot information for the Nov. 4 election and please spread the word!



CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER



Sometimes we focus so much on voter rights, election information and government effectiveness that we forget some of the **other League activities** that must take place if we are to succeed at our mission.

Building membership is an important part in our new Strategic Plan. Some innovative and proactive plans by our Membership Committee, led by Director John Vinturella, are producing exciting results. Act One, begun last year, is continuing as a collaboration between LWVCA and the Woman's City Club to attract new and younger members by offering them **introductory free memberships** along with mentoring by experienced members. The results to date indicate that, of the initial

"class" of new members through Act One, at least half are already contributing their time and talents to the League.

Another creative approach is purely social – an example of which is our recent gathering at a suburban grill to enable newer members to get to know one another and learn more about the League. We believe that, while being a Leaguer can involve hard work, it also can open doors to new friendships and satisfying accomplishments. Membership in LWVCA is an attractive option for women or men looking for ways to contribute to the community, learn new skills and meet new people. We just need to get their attention. Our Membership Committee is showing refreshing creativity. To learn more, contact John

through the League office at 513-281-8683.

During discussions with our new members and also at our last Board meeting, members suggested that we include **responsible gun ownership and health** (including mental health) as topics for discussion. If you are interested in either of these topics or in an unrelated one, please call the office at 513-281-8683 to let us know of your interest.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio participated in a lawsuit to improve the **voting rights** of Ohioans. A federal judge recently ruled that cuts to early voting in Ohio must be restored in time for the November election. This is an excellent example of how LWV Ohio works on our behalf. The

League is participating with other organizations in spreading the word to register in time to vote in November.

Please say **"Yes" to Sandra Mowell** when she asks for help for the various Voter Service activities this fall. The League will be sponsoring forums, debates and other election events along with publishing our election guide, *The Who & What of Elections*, and maintaining Vote411.org. Participating in these activities will be interesting experiences and helpful when you go to vote.

In League,
Helen and Don Rhoad
2013-15 Co-Presidents

NEED PAPER COPIES OF NOVEMBER'S STUDY PAGES?

By Melissa Currence, Voter Newsletter Co-Editor

Because of the changes to our *Voter* newsletter, you will need to contact the League office if you want a printed copy of our study pages for November 2014 mailed to you. We are happy to mail you a copy, if you request it. Members who have signed up to receive emails from LWVCA will receive the November study pages via email.

If you have questions, please contact Becky Haltermon at 513-281-8683.

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER BOARD BRIEFS

By Burton Roehr, LWVCA Secretary

August:

- Co-Presidents Helen and Don Rhoad sent a letter to Sharon Coolidge commending her for her article in *the Enquirer* on voting rights.
- Congratulations were sent to Camille Borders upon attaining her Girl Scout Gold Award. Her project, mentored by LWVCA members, was a workshop encouraging girls to run for office.
- A Strategic Plan has been developed from input at a June 28 planning session.
- We are in the second year of a Membership and

Leadership program developed by the LWVUS and piloted through LWV Ohio. Membership Director John Vinturella is our coordinator.

- The Board approved using some Steiner Fund money for a social event aimed at retention of newer members

September:

- Nancy Dawley is chair of the local committee to work on the LWVO Convention, which will be held in Cincinnati, May 15-17, 2015. It will be based at the Hyatt Hotel downtown. There are lots of opportunities for local

Leaguers to volunteer and your help is needed. Please alert Becky Haltermon in the office if you want to participate.

- Voter Service is juggling several activities at this time: a forum for judicial candidates, the issues forum for League members, a debate of candidates for the 9th District OH Senate seat, *The Who & What*, VOTE 411 and Anderson Unit's debate. It may be an "off-year," but it's still "on" for the League and our Voter Service team!
- Our 95th birthday event will take place in February. Watch for details of what, when, where.

Making Democracy Work®:

THE LWVCA DONOR HONOR ROLL

We thank the following donors to the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area and/or the LWVCA Education Fund for their contributions since June 1 (through press time, Sept. 15, 2014). Every effort is made to keep this list accurate. Please contact Becky Haltermon at 513-281-8683 or becky@lwcincinnati.org to notify us of any errors or omissions.

Lydia Chapin Taft Level

Seasongood Good Government Foundation

Celia Lazarus Level

Anonymous

Francie Pepper

Dee & Heather Shaffer

Agnes Hilton Level

Anonymous

Helen & Don Rhoad

Mary Gorman McManus Level

Nancy Forbriger

Pam Hinterscher & Kristin McClure

Constance Reed

Harriett Iglauer Level

Anonymous

James R. Howe, Jr.

Susan Noonan

Margaret Straub

Kit Berger

Helen & John Hunter

Marilyn Ott

Mary & Charles VanAusdall

Dr. Linda Burton

Andrew MacAiodh Jergens

Anita Robinson

John Vinturella and

Melissa Currence

Laurie F. Johnston

Burt & Dick Roehr

Susan Howell

Alphonse Gerhardstein

Grace McClorey

Nancy Rosenthal

Gail Wick

Sarah Gideonse

Karen McGuirk

Carl and Nancy Schmidt

Anthony Youngblood

Ann Gilton

Carolyn Miller

Alice & Charles Schneider

Lisa Haglund

Marlene & Bill Muse

Peggy Somoza

Joan C. Honeck

Shirley Nathan

Susan & Peter Steele

Gloria Walker Level

Lois Benjamin

P. Jeane Goings

A. Lee Hughes

Elizabeth & Paul Sittenfeld

Ellen Berghamer

Louise Gomer Bangel

Edward Merkes

Barbara Smitherman

Leah Bird

Susan D. Gorman

Ira & Regina Moskowitz

Margaret Standriff

Liliana Bramasco

Anne & Bob Guinan

Sandra & Ernest Mowell

Carol Striker

Tim Burke

Corinne Gutjahr

Julie Murray

Heather and Gerald Sturgill

Barbara Clarke

Judith Harmony

Jeanne Nightingale

Fumiko Tanaka

Carol Crow

Joy Haupt

Peter and Susan Poulos

Arlene Thorwarth

Donna & Emil Dansker

Patricia Henley

J. James and Carol Q. Pearce

Marcella Trice

Marge Davis

Lucia & Donald Hudson

Marcia Philipps

Gerald & Barbara Varland

Mary Davis

Clare Johnson

Suzanne Pontius

Harvey Weitkamp

Pearl Edelstein

Suzanne and William Joiner

Barry Porter

George Wile

Nancy Ertel

Mary Kercherval-Short

Kerry & David Rhoad

Lauren Woodiwiss

Jan Evans

Pinky & Sam Kocoshis

Elaine Roth-Beecher

Janet Ziegler

Margaret Fanella

Patricia Ley

Rina Saperstein & Jeff Davis

Mary Friel

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Lubow

Jill Schiller

Eleonora Fusco and

Kat Lyons

Barbara Schenck

Ingo Kiesewetter

Carolyn Meyers-Hughes and

Marilyn Sesler

In Honor Of

Pam Hinterscher & Kristin McClure -

In honor of Burton Roehr's birthday

OCTOBER UNIT MEETINGS ON BALLOT ISSUES *and Other Voter Service Activities*

By Sandra Mowell, Voter Service Vice President

What a busy time of year this is for the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area! Your Voter Service committee has been hopping as we prepare for the electronic and printed publication of our non-partisan voter guide, *Vote411.org* and *Who & What of Elections* respectively, and coordinate other activities including candidate meetings, issues forum, the list is rather long! Our League could not carry out all the exceptional services we provide to the community without the skills and dedication of our many volunteer members in concert with our plucky office manager, Becky Haltermon!

Have you stopped to consider how much more complicated making your voting decisions would be without the aid of our voter guides and candidate forums? Life for everyone I meet seems to be going at a never ending pace. How much time would you, as an individual, spend on researching information on every candidate on your ballot and trying to understand ballot language concerning issues and sorting out

what it all really means? Well, lucky for us all, we are members of an organization that takes these things seriously and does much of the ground work for us! LWVCA is proud to be your one stop shop for the pertinent information you need! While our work involving candidate information is much like a clearinghouse since we invite candidates to provide their own information which we review and compile, our issues work is slightly more complicated. Our committees compile the facts on ballot issues but they also provide explanations to make the issues understandable. Our County Government committee members have been hard at work putting together the information we will need to know about the Health and Hospitalization levy, the Family Services and Treatment levy, and the Cincinnati Union Terminal sales tax levy. Our City Government committee quickly springs into action when city council approves a charter amendment for the November ballot a few days into September! Our Education committee provides city residents information they need to know about the school levy on the ballot. I don't know about you, but I am extremely proud to be a member of an

organization with such smart, talented and dedicated volunteers who go that extra mile every year to provide these valuable services to their fellow community members. Next time you see a member of one of these committees be sure to add your thanks and appreciation to mine!

Please review the unit study pages included in this issue that our committees have so painstakingly researched and produced before your unit meeting time approaches. If you do not regularly attend our unit meetings, this might be a great topic to check out.

Also, we have several events this month that you won't want to miss including our Issues Forum (to provide information on all the issues mentioned above) on Oct. 1 (see cover article), Candidate Forum for Ohio House District 27 candidates on Oct. 7 (see page 8) and Candidate Debate for State Senate District 9 candidates on Oct. 8 (see page 8). Please see additional articles in this issue for further details.

And let's keep up the good work!

USE OF LIVE CAPTIONING IMPROVES VOTER ACCESS

By Nancy Dawley, Action Chair

Live Captioning – an idea whose time has come? The LWVCA thinks so! We live captioned our “Behind the Gavel: Meet the Court of Common Pleas Candidates” event and will be live captioning the Hamilton County Issues Forum. (See cover story for more about the Issues Forum.)

Did you know that one in five people has hearing loss? That means that they may only hear some of what is said by speakers at forums, debates and lectures. Check out this information on Live Captioning, and see what the League of Women Voters may do to help these voters become better informed.

What is live captioning? As an individual speaks aloud, a person in the background with special training, talent and equipment places all the words of the speech into text on a screen. Those who do not quite (or at all) hear what was said can read it all. This is called “real time” or live speech-to-text.

Why use it? If you have learned from experience that you will likely not hear the speaker, why bother to attend? This technology may bring this large percentage of our population back to our forums and debates. No more frustration from soft voices or faulty speaker systems.

How do you get started? There is a nonprofit organization called the Collaborative for Communication Access via Captioning (CCAC) that has designed a unique online service called CaptionMatch. CaptionMatch connects event organizers with those in your area who can do live captioning for your event. Learn more on their website at captionmatch.com. CaptionMatch does not DO captioning for you, they ASSIST you in the process. If no one is available on the day or in your area, they aim to find a “remote” captioner for you who can provide the same “speech-to-text” service via the Internet. Those interested can register on CaptionMatch’s website, identify their event and then receive proposals from captioning

providers. You can ask questions, compare the proposals (costs) and select the captioner you want to use.

CCAC is sponsoring an election year campaign at cccaptioning.org/captions-capture-the-votes.

Some venues are already familiar with providing real-time captioning, so first check to see if your venue does this. If not, you may be able, with the assistance of CaptionMatch, to find an organization or person to do so. There is a cost for the captioning service, yet there is no cost for using CaptionMatch itself. It makes it easy for people to ask questions and learn more. So plan ahead and apply for grants or advertise for donors, or join with a partner who can provide this for some publicity. And make sure that you update your event publicity so the public knows of this service!

The League wants to empower all citizens to vote. Here is one more way!

THANK YOU, SEASONGOOD!

By Melissa Currence, VP of Development

We are happy to announce LWVCA Education Fund recently received a grant from the Murray and Agnes Seasongood Good Government Association for \$10,000 to help defray the cost of printing this year's voter guide, the *Who & What of Elections*, and public officials guide, *They Represent Us*. We thank the board of the Seasongood Good Government Foundation for again being a valued partner in our Voter Service efforts this year.

I'd also like to thank the volunteers who put together our grant application this year: VP of Voter Service Sandra Mowell, Nancy Dawley, Becky Haltermon, Felicity Hill, Sarah Noschang, April Piatt, Don Rhoad, Helen Rhoad, Alice Schneider and Mary Van Ausdall.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE

By National Human Trafficking Resource Center

Keep your eyes alert for potential cases of human trafficking happening right here in the Greater Cincinnati area. Call 1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree (233733). The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) is a national, toll-free hotline available to answer calls and texts from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. To connect a victim to immediate local services, call 513-800-1863. Want more information? Check out this website: polarisproject.org/what-we-do/national-human-trafficking-hotline/the-nhtrc/overview.

SPECIAL EVENT UPDATE!

By Melissa Currence, VP of Development

The Development Committee has been hard at work retooling our League's 2015 signature special event, formerly known as the

Susan B. Anthony Luncheon, that helps fundraise for LWVCA Education Fund.

Plans are still in the works, but we plan a celebration in February 2015, marking LWVCA's 95th birthday.

Have items you'd like to donate for a silent auction? We will be having a silent auction at our February event. If you have items you would like to donate or would be willing to contact businesses for donations, please contact Melissa Currence. We need your help to make our silent auction a success!

If you are interested in joining our event committee, please contact Melissa Currence at fundraising-@lwvcincinnati.org or call the League office at 281-8683.



WITH AMAZON, KROGER OR GOODSEARCH, YOU CAN SUPPORT THE LEAGUE!

By Melissa Currence, VP of Development

Did you know if you shop at Amazon or Kroger or use GoodSearch, your activity could help our Education Fund?

Amazon Smile - smile.amazon.com

Amazon donates 0.5 percent of the price of certain eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice, including LWVCA Education Fund. AmazonSmile has the same products and same prices as Amazon.com. To support the LWVCA Education Fund, visit smile.amazon.com and search for "League of Women Voters Cincinnati."

Kroger Community Rewards - kroger.com/communityrewards

Kroger Community Rewards® makes fund-raising easy...all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! Connect your Kroger Plus Card to the LWVCA Education Fund by visiting kroger.com/communityrewards or going to the customer service desk at your local store. Our organizational number is # 80874.



GoodSearch - Goodsearch.com

GoodSearch is a search engine that works with over 100,000 organizations — ranging from national non-profits to local schools and community groups. The site will make a donation to your chosen cause, like LWVCA Education Fund, when you complete an action on Goodsearch. Looking up research for your upcoming unit meeting? Use GoodSearch and help support our mission at the same time. Go to goodsearch.com/register and get started.

Goodsearch also uses Goodshop, which gives a percentage of your purchases with participating retailers and donates it to the Ed Fund. Find out more at goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx

ACT ONE STARTS SECOND YEAR

By Melissa Currence, Act One Steering Committee

The Act One Steering Committee is proud to announce the second year of Act One: Hands-On Civics in Cincinnati.

Act One is a joint member initiative for young men and women ages 18 to 35 between Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati and LWVCA.

We were very impressed about our quality of candidates this year. Please join us in welcoming our latest Act One members: Stephanie Kollmann Baker, Christian Bowerman, Jena' Bradley, Christina

Brown, Imani Driskell, Desirae Futel, Theresa Giacobbe-Esposito, Kelly Glover, Alicia Hildebrand, Sarah Noschang, Melissa Rowland, Liz Shockey, Lorita Shrider, Emily Thobe and Elizabeth Zak.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor for an Act One member or if you know someone interested in joining Act One, please contact Susan Steele or Melissa Currence.

Members of Act One meet for an August Happy Hour at Mecklenburg Gardens.



LWVCA WELCOMES NEWER MEMBERS AT HAPPY HOUR



The Membership Committee held a Newer Members Happy Hour in September at Keystone Bar and Grille in Hyde Park. Fun was had by all!



Clockwise from top left: LWVCA Office Manager Becky Haltermon with new member Rhonda Koenig; LWVCA Co-President Helen Rhoad with new member Beth Sheehan; Members new and seasoned comingle; Meredith Atherley welcoming Felicity Hill

LEAGUE LEARNS ABOUT CLEAN POWER PLAN

By Nancy Dawley, Action

League members from across the United States were eager to hear directly from Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on a LWVUS phone conference. The topic was the ongoing work being done to fight climate change at the national level, including the EPA's Clean Power Plan, which limits carbon emissions from power plants.

Administrator McCarthy encouraged members and citizens to submit comments to

the EPA on its "Clean Power Plan" proposal. Going beyond that, she asked each league to create dialogue within our communities and states to address this public health crisis of carbon emissions.

For more details on Ms. McCartney's comments and the Clean Power Plan, and to submit your comments to the EPA, please visit lwv.org/blog/epa-administrator-gina-mccarthy-speaks-league-members.

Gina McCarthy



THANKS FOR RENEWING YOUR LWVCA MEMBERSHIP

By John Vinturella, Membership Director

I'd like to offer a sincere thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership with the LWVCA for 2015.

You have been a part of last year's successes, and we look forward to your participation. We truly value your membership. If you haven't yet renewed for

the upcoming year, we hope you will soon.

All of this is for a mere \$60 per year (\$80 for a household and \$25 for students). Contact us at 513-281-8683 or info@lwvcincinnati.org with any questions or for more information. You can also renew at lwvcincinnati.org (see "Join" on the left menu).

The Membership Committee is committed to help you make the most of your League experience. Contact us with questions or suggestions at membership@lwvcincinnati.com or call 513-281-8683.

With your help, our 95th year can be our best!

In Brief



Sara Johnson and John Honeck of the Anderson Unit

LWVCA's Anderson Unit has created a display at the Anderson Public Library (7450 State Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45230) to encourage voter participation.

Come see the display through the Nov. 4 election!



LWVCA recently purchased a new podium banner. We hope you see it at an event soon!

We would like to thank Jesse Roley at RoSho

Awards and Graphics for the banner they put together for us. RoSho is a locally owned company and can be reached at 513-731-8111.

Events

CANDIDATES DEBATE FOR 9TH DISTRICT

Wednesday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m.

By Janet Steiner, Voter Service Committee

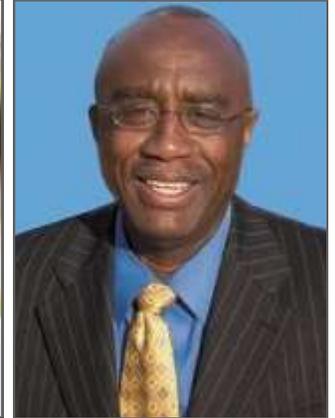
LWVCA is partnering with the Community Action Agency and *The Cincinnati Enquirer* to sponsor a debate between the candidates for the 9th District Ohio Senate seat, Cecil Thomas and Charlie Winburn.

The debate will take place in the Community Action Agency's plaza-level auditorium (1740 Langdon Farm Road; the old Swifton Shopping Center). The debate will be free, open to the public and also live streamed at Cincinnati.com. Cindi Andrews of the *The Cincinnati Enquirer* will moderate.

You can show your support of this League effort by participating in one of several ways:

- Attend the debate
- Volunteer – we will need time-keepers, help with distributing cards and pencils as people arrive, collecting questions from the audience, vetting the questions
- Help with ensuring the debate remains nonpartisan – no signs, shirts, hats, badges, etc. inside the auditorium. Candidates may have their information on tables outside the auditorium.

To volunteer, please contact voterservice@lwvcincinnati.org or call the office at 513-281-8683.



Cecil Thomas, left, and Charlie Winburn

CELEBRATE U.N. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

Saturday, Oct. 11, 5 p.m.

By Freedom Center

Please join the Freedom Center and Dining for Women as we celebrate U.N. International Day of the Girl Child with a reception, international dinner and screening of the acclaimed movie "Girl Rising."

"Girl Rising," rated PG-13, tells the powerful stories of nine girls from different parts of the world who face heartbreaking injustices but demonstrate that through education, the strength of the human spirit

can prevail. Narrators include Kerry Washington, Salma Hayek, Selena Gomez, Anne Hathaway and Meryl Streep. The international dinner will include recipes from the countries of the girls in the movie.

Participants will have the opportunity to



meet people from various organizations that support justice for girls and women worldwide, and to talk with them during the reception and dinner about what individuals can do to help. Tara Abrahams, president of Girl Rising and the movie's producer, will be the keynote speaker. Single tickets range from \$10 to \$50. All are welcome.

HOUSE DISTRICT 27 CANDIDATE FORUM

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.

Our nonpartisan voter guide, *The Who & What of Elections*, will be available the second week of October. Members will receive a copy in the mail.

Not a member? Call the office at 513-281-8683 or email info@lwvcincinnati.org to order your free copy!

Tom Brinkman and Joe Otis will participate in an Ohio House District 27 candidate forum at the Anderson Center (7850 Five Mile Rd., Anderson Twp., OH 45230). Presented by the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, the forum will be aired live on local Anderson Community Television.

Opening remarks will be provided by Carolyn Washburn, Editor of *The Cincinnati Enquirer*. A moderator who does not live in Anderson Township will present questions from the League of Women Voters, and community residents will

have the opportunity to ask questions from a microphone.



Joe Otis, left, and Tom Brinkman

Help Wanted

LWVCA AND SOUTHWEST REGIONAL LEAGUES JOIN HANDS TO CREATE THE 2015 LWVO CONVENTION

By Nancy Dawley, LWVCA State Convention Planning Chair

You'll want to be part of the fun of creating a fabulous May 2015 State LWVO Convention in Cincinnati. Let's show the city what the League is all about.



Committees are just

forming, and we'd like to include you. The more ideas and hands we have, the better it will be. So please indicate your interests by calling Becky at the office, 513-281-8683. We are inviting members of other regional leagues to join us too.

Nancy Dawley, as project manager for the event, will be glad to help you find a satisfying spot that meets your interests and time availability. Though May seems quite far away, there is lots to do now to get speakers, determine workshops, plan banquets and excite people all over the state so they choose to come. Then, closer

to the convention, we will again gear up to welcome all the visitors and ensure the convention runs smoothly.

There is something for every interest.

1. **Program Committee** – Develop the convention theme, suggest keynote speakers and topics for workshops. Coordinate with LWVO staff on inviting potential speakers.
2. **Welcoming Committee** – List area attractions, dining options, optional activities during downtime. Prepare maps, directions, local transportation options and parking info. Solicit local businesses, chamber, tourism for "welcome" tote bags and contents.

Some members may want to make this a long family weekend, so attractions near to the other League cities will be of interest. We want people to make a family weekend of this, if possible, so we will want a website they can go to help with their planning.

3. **Friday optional welcome event and Saturday Evening Dinner and Fundraiser Committee** – Find a location, and suggest speaker and topic

ideas. Arrange transportation, if needed. Plan fundraising component to benefit host League(s).

4. **Convention Volunteers Committee** – This committee looks at the three days of the Convention, and forecasts how we will be good hosts to attendees and make sure the business needs are met.

Such procedures as Registration; Problem resolution; Meeting support (manage pro/con mics, counting votes); Interfacing with hotel on office equipment; Wares Market organization must be planned. Then volunteers recruited, trained and scheduled.

5. **Publicity and public relations** – Develop a "Welcome to Cincinnati Convention" article for the LWVO Voter. Create articles for Ohio leagues, but also publicity for Ohio newspapers about the convention. Issue public relations articles and daily updates from the convention. All of this will be in connection with LWVO. Consider use of Facebook and Twitter to make the convention accessible to those audiences.

HELP IN THE OFFICE DURING ELECTION TIME

By Mary Kay Gardner, Office Volunteer Coordinator

We are still in need of one or two office volunteers on a regular schedule of one morning a month. The League would hate to go into this busy election season short-

staffed. We would especially like to add extended hours for election day and the days leading up to the election.

The office is where things happen and where the public "sees and hears the League." Office hours are from 9:30 a.m. to

12:30 p.m., except for October when we extend the day until 1:30 p.m.

If you can spare some time for League, please call Mary Kay Gardner or the office at 513-281-8683.

Celebrations

PAT LEY

We congratulate Pat Ley on her 90th birthday. The Anderson Unit helped Pat celebrate and in attendance were Sherrie Heyse, Ruth Hardy, Phyllis Vogel and Joan Honeck. Pat Ley is a retired lawyer, mother, League member, former Steiner Fund trustee and good friend.



ELIZABETH KELLY

We congratulate Elizabeth Kelly, long-time LWVCA member, on her upcoming 101st birthday on Oct. 23! Happy birthday, Elizabeth!

Do you know of a League member that is celebrating an important birthday or anniversary?

Please call or email Becky Haltermon at 513-281-8683 or becky@lwcincinnati.org and share the special occasion with us!

NOVEMBER 2014 HAMILTON COUNTY BALLOT ISSUES

ISSUE 1

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL) - CINCINNATI CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall a levy renewing an existing levy be imposed by the Cincinnati City School District, County of Hamilton, Ohio, for the purpose of EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS, in the sum of \$65,178,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county auditor to average ten and twenty-six hundredths (10.26) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to one dollar and two and six-tenths cents (\$1.026) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five (5) years, commencing in 2015, first due in calendar year 2016?

FOR THE TAX LEVY AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

EXPLANATION: In April, the Cincinnati Board of Education voted to place a renewal levy of 10.26 mills on the November ballot. If approved, it will continue an **emergency** levy (NOTE: because this levy is a renewal of an emergency levy, it, too, must be designated “emergency”) that was last approved in 2009 and will expire in December 2014. Voters are being asked to approve this renewal of 10.26 mills for a five-year period (commencing in 2015, first due in calendar year 2016) which will raise approximately \$65,178,000 per year and will be used to fund the operations of the Cincinnati Public School District (CPS).

The estimated cost to the owner of a \$100,000 home will be \$307.92, which is slightly less than the amount paid currently. Since it is a renewal, a homeowner’s taxes will not be raised.

The levy was placed on the ballot by the Cincinnati Board of Education per a resolution passed at its April 14, 2014 meeting.

WHAT THE LEVY WILL DO: At its June 23, 2014 meeting, the Cincinnati Board of Education approved a \$497 million General Fund Budget for 2014-15. Some of the expenses included in that General Fund are personnel salaries and benefits, athletics, facilities/security,

career technical expenses, information technology, evaluation and testing, and transportation for + 31,000 students. This levy, if approved, will provide about 14-15% of that budget figure.

The district obtains its funding from several sources: Federal - 13.8%, State - 35%; Local - 45.8%; Other non-tax sources - 4.4%. By law, they must operate with a balanced budget.

BACKGROUND: Voters are being asked to renew a levy that has been renewed successfully for many years. Its last renewal was in 2009. The district has had no **new** money since 2008, when a 5-year emergency levy for new monies was passed. A subsequent request for new monies was defeated in 2011. While making needed cuts to stay within their budget as required by law, in 2014 CPS achieved a 97% passing level of 3rd graders reading at grade level at the end of Grade 3, and the district reached a performance index trend of 87.5, the highest of Ohio’s urban districts.

CPS has faced decreasing funds from reduced State formula reductions in the 2011 and 2012 budget cycle. They have instigated several reforms to enable them to operate with less funding:

- Downsized the number of schools from 75 to 55 over a 10-year period;
- No pay raises for six years;
- Employees now pay 20% of their health care premiums and co-pays;
- Reworking transportation routes and school starting times;
- Utilized consultants to recommend best pricing for utilities and bulk purchasing.

Despite these efforts, however, the district could face severe deficits if levy is not approved.

A newly negotiated contract with the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers led to a complete overhaul in the Teacher Evaluation System. It is now aligned with more rigorous standards and requires student growth equal to 50% as part of the evaluation. The contract defines a clear, more expeditious exit ramp created for teachers who perform ineffectively. All employees receive their first pay raises in six years.

Through the effort of the Health Foundation and changes in the Affordable Health Care Act, twenty-one schools in the district are now equipped with in-house health clinics. CPS partners with several health institutions to staff the clinics; the plan is to provide needed services to the whole community.

The district has gained national recognition for its Community Learning Centers and outperforms all other urban districts in Ohio academically. Passage of this renewal and the resources it will provide will ensure that the district’s progress will continue.

ISSUE 6

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL) - HAMILTON COUNTY A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Hamilton County, Ohio, for the purpose of SUPPLEMENTING THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE FAMILY SERVICES AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THOSE PROVIDED BY TALBERT HOUSE at a rate not exceeding thirty-four hundredths (0.34) mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to three and four-tenths cents (\$0.034) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five (5) years, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.

FOR THE TAX LEVY AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

EXPLANATION: The Family Services and Treatment levy (FST) is a renewal of an existing levy of 0.34 mills on residential and commercial property for family services and treatment programs including those currently provided by Talbert House for five years beginning in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015. Under this proposed levy the owner of property valued at \$100,000 will pay \$10.20 per year the same amount as is paid currently. The proposed levy will raise approximately \$6 million per year. The levy was placed on the ballot by the Hamilton County commissioners following a review by the Tax Levy Review Committee.

WHAT THE LEVY WILL DO: This levy will fund alternatives to incarceration that will educate,

NOVEMBER 2014 HAMILTON COUNTY BALLOT ISSUES, *continued*

rehabilitate and retrain offenders who have alcohol and drug addiction and mental illness associated with criminal behaviors under the county policy to reduce recidivism and preserve limited jail space for the most serious offenders. The levy also supports community based anti-drug programs. The levy would produce approximately \$6 million a year for five years for Talbert House programs and other agencies:

- Residential Treatment Programs for incarcerated offenders (1617 Reading Road): jail-based treatment for men and women offenders.
- Turning Point: provides screening and intake, assessment, pre-treatment, treatment services, transitional, and aftercare services.
- 10-day DUI Program: residential rehabilitation services
- ADAPT (Drug Court): residential/outpatient services for men and women with felony drug-driven offenses.

Levy funds also are for Hamilton County Prison Reentry Programs, the Sheriff’s Office for facility security, Probation and Municipal Court, Drug Free Communities Program and Treatment Court Staff Program.

BACKGROUND: The Family Services and Treatment levy was first approved in 2009 to continue funding for programs previously provided for in an expired levy. The FST levy provides treatment opportunities for individuals in the criminal justice system.

The largest programs paid for by the FST levy are programs for inmates at 1617 Reading Road approximately 38% of the total levy in 2013. The contract with Talbert House for Turning Point and 10-Day DUI represented about 16% and the ADAPT (Drug Court) was about 21.7% of total levy funding in 2013. The Sheriff’s Corrections Staff for security at Turning Point and 10 Day DUI was 9.3% of 2013 levy funds. Reentry programs beginning with entry into the criminal justice system through community reintegration aim to include connecting offenders to appropriate programs including Medicaid and were about 6% of levy funds in 2013. The Drug Free Communities funds youth directed

educational programs promoting drug free environments through supporting community mobilization efforts and was a small proportion of levy funds.

Inmates in detention are not eligible for healthcare under the Affordable Care Act. Health coverage purchased through a Health Insurance Exchange is accessible to those who are in jail custody but not yet adjudicated. Inmates in a jail or prison remain eligible for Medicaid coverage for “inpatient services”, i.e., medical services provided through a hospital or long-term care facility for a period longer than 24 hours.

In Hamilton County the opiate epidemic is a large burden on local county services. Directing candidates to the programs paid for by the FST levy is being significantly impaired due to the need to first detox an individual before they are eligible for entry. There is a shortage of detox centers in the County.

Without a millage increase, there would be an insufficient fund balance at the end of the upcoming levy cycle. The current proposed millage rate represents a 10% cut in the funding for these programs and will provide flat funding of the programs during the levy cycle. The Off the Streets program serving indigent women will be moved to the Health & Hospitalization Indigent Care levy.

TAX LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE (TLRC) Recommendations:

Consultants reported that service providers were doing more with less and did not identify any areas of non-compliance with terms of the current levy agreements. Based on those reviews and discussions, TLRC recommended: the Family Services and Treatment (FST) levy be renewed at the same millage, an across the board 10% reduction of all currently funded programs and flat funding of the programs during the levy cycle. Also TLRC recommended moving the Off the Streets program out of the FST levy and into the Health and Hospitalization Indigent Care levy since this program primarily serves indigent women who have no place to turn to get off the streets. For TLRC Reports: www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/tlrc

ISSUE 7

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL) - HAMILTON COUNTY A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Hamilton County, Ohio, for the purpose of SUPPLEMENTING THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE HEALTH AND HOSPITALIZATION SERVICES, INCLUDING UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, NOW KNOWN AS UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI MEDICAL CENTER at a rate not exceeding four and seven- hundredths (4.07) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to forty and seven-tenths cents (\$0.407) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for three (3) years, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.

FOR THE TAX LEVY AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

EXPLANATION: The Health and Hospitalization levy is a renewal of an existing levy adopted in 2011 to provide health and hospitalization services at a rate of 4.07 mills on residential and commercial property for three years beginning in 2014 first due in calendar year 2015. The proposed levy will raise approximately \$37 million per year for medically indigent residents of Hamilton County at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center (UCMC) and Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) and county services for indigent care.

It will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home approximately \$51.11 per year, the same as is paid currently. The levy maintains current millage with no adjustment for inflation. The levy was placed on the ballot by the Hamilton County commissioners following a review by the Tax Levy Review Committee.

WHAT THE LEVY WILL DO: The Health & Hospitalization levy would provide funds for medically indigent county residents at University Hospital, Children’s Hospital and certain indigent care programs.

The levy would provide \$14.9 million to UCMC and about \$5 million to CHMC for 2015, 2016, 2017.



NOVEMBER 2014 HAMILTON COUNTY BALLOT ISSUES, *continued*

And the levy would provide funding for non-hospital Indigent Care services including:

- Sheriff Inmate Medical Contract
- Sheriff Inmate Medical Staffing
- MHRS Treatment Programming (Extended Detoxification Program and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services overseen by Mental Health and Recovery Services Board)
- Health District (TB Control Syphilis Prevention)
- Juvenile Medical
- Alternative Interventions for Women
- Probate Hearings
- Homeless Medical Coordination
- Charitable Pharmacy
- Medical Enrollment
- 1617 Reading Rd (22 beds)
- Off The Streets

Eligible residents of Hamilton County who are at or below the federal poverty level (FPL) and who are ineligible for Medicaid are eligible for indigent care levy-funded services. Both hospitals have active programs to identify insurance coverage for uninsured patients and help patients obtain coverage where available.

The majority of direct inmate medical services takes place at the Hamilton County Justice Center

(HCJC) through contracted health care services. Costs for inmate Emergency Room or admission to University Hospital or a local nursing home are covered by funds provided to University Hospital from the Indigent Care Levy. The Sheriff's Department provides security for the Admissions Section, Health Services Section and the Psychiatric Unit located at the HCJC (Hamilton County Justice Center) and the 1617 Reading Road facility for adult misdemeanor and felony offenders.

The County Health Department will reallocate some Indigent Care Levy funds to syphilis testing in the Justice Center.

The costs of medical services associated with the Juvenile Court are funded from the HHIC Levy.

The Youth Center contracts with Children's Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) for on-site medical services.

The Alternative Interventions for Women (AIW) Program provides court ordered services for women in the criminal justice system who have both mental health and substance abuse disorders. In 2013, approximately 68% of all current funding for AIW was derived from the HHIC Levy.

Homeless Healthcare Coordination would provide funding to Strategies to End Homelessness (STEH), an organization that coordinates the work of agencies that shelter and service the homeless in Hamilton County. The funds would support costs related to on-site medical and behavioral health care, case management, and accessing resources (Medicaid, health and behavioral health services).

St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy ("SVPD") provides free pharmaceutical care to individuals who do not have insurance coverage and cannot afford their medication. SVPD serves as the pharmacy of last resort for those who do not qualify for other programs or are unable to pay for discounted medication.

Medical Enrollment program would fund one medical enrollment specialist dedicated to efficiently facilitating the enrollment of indigent persons living in Hamilton County in Medicaid or other programs through the Affordable Care Act.

Residential Treatment Programs for incarcerated men and women offenders are located at 1617 Reading Road. Prior to 2009 158 beds were primarily funded by the Hamilton County Health and Hospitalization Services Levy. Beginning with 2009 twenty-two of the 158 beds that are contracted were funded by the Levy.

Off the Streets coordinates services to assist women involved in prostitution, providing housing and non-traditional group services to assist women through the recovery process.

BACKGROUND: The aim of the current levy approved by voters in 2011 is focused on prevention of illness and disease and coordination of medical care.

Payments to UCMC and CHMC are conditioned on the hospitals providing services to medically indigent Hamilton County residents for which the Hospital receives no payment. The amount of services must be at least equal to the levy payments made each year. Both Hospitals meet this requirement.

Two provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are: the reduction in the number of uninsured residents through Medicaid expansion and Health Insurance Exchanges, and mandated hospital reimbursement reductions. The financial benefits to hospitals because of fewer uninsured residents in Hamilton County are somewhat modified by Medicare and Medicaid reductions in reimbursements to hospitals.

CHMC patients are children who have a higher rate of insurance coverage from existing programs than adults. The net impact of the ACA changes on CHMC is estimated to be relatively modest \$2.1 million, less than 0.2% of revenue.

The levy has a 38 year history of support for indigent care at the two hospitals. Funding for other county health care-related programs has been added over time.

TAX LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE (TLRC) Recommendations: The TLRC recommended placing the levy on November ballot at the current millage, with no adjustment for inflation, for a three year term. The estimates of the impact of the ACA are uncertain because implementation continues.

UCMC should be funded in the levy and has:

- been good steward of levy funds,
- taken positive steps to expand its Emergency Department diversions program,
- expanded its presence in its primary care clinics
- encouraged indigent patients to seek health care coverage

CHMC should be funded in the levy and:

- has done an outstanding job diverting Emergency Department visits to its primary care system

NOVEMBER 2014 HAMILTON COUNTY BALLOT ISSUES, *continued*

- is commended for reopening a pediatric health care clinic in Harrison
- has been a good steward of Levy funds.

Other TLRC recommendations include:

- Adjust the annual services test in the levy contracts with CHMC to account for a more realistic estimate of uncompensated care;
- Enforce current reporting requirements with UHMC and CHMC and work with both to develop better measurements to analyze the services provided by the Levy and ensure funds are well spent.
- The Sheriff Inmate Medical Contract should be renegotiated to better manage costs and a funding cap should be set for Inmate Medical Staffing at the 1617 Reading Road facility.
- For Homeless Healthcare coordination TLRC recommends that STEH receive funds in a phased in manner as facilities and additional healthcare related services are brought on-line and work with the Off the Streets program to help secure housing for women in that program.
- The County needs a knowledgeable healthcare finance professional to negotiate more effectively with the hospitals. This person would be focused on managing and overseeing the expenditure of taxpayer dollars on health care in the county, with the goal of maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of county funding.

ISSUE 8

PROPOSED SALES AND USE TAX - HAMILTON COUNTY A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

The Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County proposes to increase the levy of the sales and use tax in the amount of one-quarter of one percent for the purpose of providing additional general revenues and paying the expenses of administering such levy, the application of which general revenues shall be limited to acquiring, constructing, equipping, improving,

maintaining, rehabilitating, and renovating Union Terminal for a period of five years.

Shall the resolution of the Hamilton County Commissioners proposing to increase the levy of the sales and use tax in the amount of one-quarter of one percent for a period of five years be approved?

YES
NO

EXPLANATION: This is a proposed sales tax increase of one-quarter of one percent for five years which is estimated to generate \$170 million for Union Terminal. It would provide the Museum Center funding for renovation and repair of the Cincinnati Union Terminal, a public building occupied by the Cincinnati Museum Center. It would raise the sales tax currently paid in Hamilton County from 6.75% to 7%, and remain for five years beginning in 2015.

The levy was placed on the ballot by the Hamilton County Commissioners.

WHAT THE LEVY WILL DO: The proposed levy would provide funding for the renovation of Union Terminal to keep as a functional asset for years to come. According to a University of Cincinnati Economic Center study of June 2014, approximately 53% of the sales tax support would come from Hamilton County residents and the remaining 47% of the sales tax would be paid by non-residents. The projected cost of the sales tax is estimated to be \$23 per resident per year. A family of four would provide \$92 per year support to the renovation projects.

The Cincinnati Cultural Facilities Task Force study prioritized work needed for restoration which included:

- Exterior restoration and preservation to prevent continuing water infiltration and damage.
- Mechanical equipment replacement since most of this equipment dates from 1970's.
- Replacement of obsolete and inefficient lighting and electrical systems.

BACKGROUND: Built as a train station in 1933, Union Terminal was

renovated and reopened as a Museum Center in 1990. A 2013 Comprehensive Cincinnati Museum plan indicated the need for significant repair and renovation to preserve Union Terminal. The Art Deco structure has been deteriorating for many years largely because of the construction methods used to build it. The building's design allows moisture to get behind the bricks, which causes the structure's supporting steel beams to rust.

Currently the Cincinnati Museum Center receives funding from a Hamilton County 2009 property tax levy for operations, maintenance and repair of the Union Terminal. Building improvements were funded in part by this levy which expires in 2014 and will not be renewed. When the Museum Center requested a renewal, the Tax Levy Review Committee recommended the Museum Center establish an achievable plan to repair and restore Union Terminal. Hamilton County Commissioners wanted a comprehensive plan for the restoration of the building.

Located at Union Terminal, the Cincinnati Museum Center is a non-profit cultural organization including the Cincinnati Natural History Museum, Cincinnati History Museum and Library, Children's Museum and the Omnimax Theatre. In addition the Museum Center maintains collections and provides exhibitions and programming for the general public.

TAX LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE (TLRC) Recommendations: In December 2013 the Cultural Facilities Task Force was formed and in June 2014 proposed addressing renovation of Union Terminal and included Music Hall renovation which was the proposal reviewed by TLRC.

In a November 2013 review, the TLRC found the Cincinnati Museum Center does an excellent job of running all 4 segments of the Museum center (the Children's Museum, the Omnimax Theatre, and the Natural History Museum and the History Museum). They have improved operating efficiencies, and enhanced non-museum revenue.



NOVEMBER 2014 HAMILTON COUNTY BALLOT ISSUES, *continued*

ISSUE 11

PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION - CITY OF CINCINNATI A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Charter of the City of Cincinnati be amended to remove obsolete language from the Charter, improve clarity and remove ambiguity related to existing provisions, ensure consistency with state and federal law, and to improve efficiencies related to the operations of municipal government, by amending Article 1, "Powers of the City"; amending Sections 5, 6 and 7 of Article II, "Legislative Power"; repealing Sections 4 and 5 of Article III, "Mayor"; amending Sections 5 and 6 of Article IV, "Executive and Administrative Service"; repealing Section 7 of Article IV, "Executive and Administrative Service"; amending Sections 1, 5 and 6 of Article V, "Civil Service"; repealing Article VI, "Institutions"; amending Section 2 of Article VII, "Boards and Commissions"; repealing Sections 12 and 13 of Article VII, "Boards and Commissions"; repealing Article X, "Miscellaneous"; amending Sections 1, 3 and 4 of Article XIII, "Campaign Finance"; and repealing Section 5 of Article XIII, "Campaign Finance"?

YES
NO

EXPLANATION: This proposed ballot issue would amend the Charter of the City of Cincinnati by changing certain sections of the Charter and repealing others.

The changes in this Charter Amendment are proposed to remove obsolete language from the Charter, as well as to improve clarity and remove ambiguity from existing provisions in the Charter, ensure consistency with state and federal law, and improve operational efficiencies of municipal government.

This proposed Charter amendment was placed on the ballot by an ordinance passed by City Council.

WHAT THE AMENDMENT

WOULD DO: The amendment proposes to remove obsolete language from the Charter, improve clarity and remove

ambiguity related to existing provisions, ensure consistency with state and federal law, and to improve efficiencies related to the operations of Cincinnati's municipal government (without substantive policy changes).

The amendment proposes to add a general severability clause in the charter (Article I) which would affect the whole charter and repeal individual severability clauses in Article III, Sec 5; Article X, Sec 2 & 4; and Article XIII, Sec 5.

The amendment proposes changes in Article II, Sec 5 & 6, which clarify how legislation is enacted by Council, how and when notice of proposed legislation is given to the Council and the public, and how and when notification of legislation is made available to the public and media after its passage.

The proposed amendment would clarify the duties of City Solicitor and fix gender-specific pronouns (Article IV, Sec 5 and 6) and repeal the section requiring the appointment of a director of public utilities by the City Manager (Article IV, Sec 7).

The proposed amendment would clarify appointment procedures for the Civil Service Commission (Article V, Sec 1) and remove obsolete language from Article VII, Sec 2 (City Planning Commission).

The amendment proposes to list additional ranks as currently used by the Police and Fire forces and clarify whether they are in the unclassified or classified civil service (Article V, Sec 5 & 6).

The proposed amendment would repeal in its entirety Article VI (Institutions) of the current Charter. This Article details the process of conversion of the University of Cincinnati and its affiliated hospital (Cincinnati General Hospital) from a municipal university to a state university. Since this conversion was completed in 1977, the Article is obsolete and can be repealed.

The proposed amendment would repeal sections in Article VII providing for the "board of trustees of the sinking fund" (Sec 12) and the "board of rapid

transit commissioners" (Sec 13), both of which are obsolete.

The amendment proposes to repeal Article X ("Miscellaneous") in its entirety because its provisions are obsolete or will now be covered in other sections of the charter.

The amendment proposes to delete references to public financing of campaigns in Article XIII, Sec 1, 3 and 4 (Campaign Finance). In 2002 voters passed a Charter amendment (Article XIII, Sec 3) prohibiting public financing of campaigns.

BACKGROUND: Many of the changes proposed in this Charter Amendment have been recommended by the Charter Review Task Force. The Charter Review Task Force was established by a majority vote of the Cincinnati City Council. The citizen task force members have been meeting since May 2014. After an initial determination of the items within the Charter that merit review, study and public discussion and potential modification, the Charter Review Task Force made recommendations to the Cincinnati City Council related to certain obsolete language in the Charter, as well as proposed minor amendments which would clarify or remove ambiguity from the Charter, ensure consistency with state and federal law, and improve operational efficiencies of municipal government without substantive policy changes. After review by the Rules and Audit Committee of City Council, Cincinnati City Council voted in early September to put this Charter Amendment on the November 2014 ballot. The Charter Review Task Force is continuing to meet and work on more substantive issues and will bring these issues to the public for discussion over the next year. Based on these discussions, additional Charter Amendments may be proposed for the ballot in the future.

The Cincinnati City Charter is the municipality's constitution and any changes to it require an affirmative vote of the electorate. The Cincinnati City Charter can be viewed at cincinnati-oh.gov. Select government and enter charter in the search box.

THE VOTER

COLLATING SCHEDULE*

2014-2015

Dec. 18
January Voter
Northeast Evening

Feb. 19
March Voter
Warren/Butler

March 19
April Voter
Anderson

April 16
Workbook I
Central Evening

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

CHANGES TO THE LWVCA VOTER NEWSLETTER

By Becky Haltermon, Office Manager

In addition to the five traditionally printed and mailed issues of the *Voter* newsletter, LWVCA leadership has decided to send periodic special editions of the *Voter* to members by email to keep you better informed.

Please email Becky@lwvcincinnati.org or call 513-281-8683 to make sure we have your email or to share your comments and concerns.

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 with "Address Change" in the subject line.

Thank you!



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 or
join online at lwvcincinnati.org!

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

Editors:

Mary VanAusdall
Melissa Currence

Layout/Design:
Becky Haltermon

Please submit articles to:
newsletter@lwvcincinnati.org

Next deadline: Friday, Oct. 3
for the November Email Update



THE 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



UPCOMING LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

All committee meetings are open to the public and are held at the League Office (103 Wm. H. Taft Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45219) **unless otherwise noted**. Bring a friend!

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, Oct. 1, 5:30 p.m. | Program Development Committee (PDC) Meeting [Huenefeld Room, The Public Library of Cincinnati Main Branch, Vine Street, Cincinnati] |
| Wednesday, Oct. 1, 7 p.m. | Issues Forum (<i>See Cover Story</i>)[Huenefeld Room, The Public Library of Cincinnati Main Branch, Vine Street, Cincinnati] |
| Friday, Oct. 3 | November Electronic <i>Voter</i> Deadline |
| Monday, Oct. 6, 6 p.m. | LWVCA Board Meeting |
| Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m. | Ohio House District 27 Candidate Forum (<i>See page 8</i>) |
| Wednesday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m. | Senate District 9 Candidate Debate (<i>See page 8</i>) |
| Monday, Oct. 13 | Columbus Day - LWVCA Offices Open |
| Monday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m. | Northeast Evening Unit Discussion [Madeira Public Library] |
| Tuesday, Oct. 14, 12 p.m. | Hilltop North Unit Discussion [Friendship United Methodist Church, Wyoming] |
| Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. | Warren/Butler County Unit Discussion [Mason United Methodist Church, Mason] |
| Wednesday, Oct. 15, 12 p.m. | Metro Day Unit Discussion |
| Monday, Oct. 27, 6:30 p.m. | Investment Committee Meeting |
| Wednesday, Oct. 29, 5:30 p.m. | Program Development Committee (PDC) Meeting |
| Wednesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m. | Discussion Leaders' Briefing |
| Friday, Oct. 31 | Halloween |
| Saturday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m. | Discussion Leaders' Briefing |

All meeting dates/times subject to change. Please be sure to check the calendar at lwvcincinnati.org for the most up-to-date meeting and activity information.