



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA

# THE VOTER

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February, 2014

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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

**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

27th Annual  
Susan B.  
Anthony  
Luncheon

**February 8, 2014**  
11:00 am—2:00 pm



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Santa Ono  
President, University of Cincinnati

**“Engaging Young Adults in Today's  
Political Process.”**

Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza—Hall of Mirrors  
35 W. Fifth St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

- 11:00 am - Noon: Social Hour and Raffle/Auction
- Noon - 2:00 pm: Luncheon and Keynote Address

*This event is for the benefit of the LWVCA Education Fund, a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization*

**RESERVE NOW:** Be sure to return your reservation by January 31 with your check made payable to: LWVCA-Ed Fund, 103 Wm H Taft Rd, Cincinnati OH 45219. You may also make reservations via our website www.lwvcincinnati.org, or by calling the office at (513) 281-8683.

*Come join us in this beautiful setting as we celebrate our past and look forward to our future!*

*Save the Date!*

**ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20, 2014**

Mark your calendars **now** for Tuesday, May 20 for Annual Meeting! We will gather once again in the Geier Room of Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church. Plan to attend for good food, great conversation, be proud of our accomplishments this past year, and conduct the business of our local League.

Anyone interested in helping plan this year's event, please contact Pinky Kocoshis.

## CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon on February 8 at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. This annual event is always a highlight of LWVCA's year, and we expect this year's luncheon to be especially of interest. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Santa Ono, President of the University of Cincinnati, who will talk about "Engaging Young Adults in Today's Political Process". This will also be an opportunity to enjoy a new venue in the Netherland's Hall of Mirrors.



Melissa Currence and her Nominating Committee are at work preparing a slate for next year's LWVCA leadership. Please let her know if you have an interest in serving or if you know of someone who you believe would be a good candidate. Contact the office or Melissa with any suggestions.

In this issue you will find a listing of people who gave generously to the League in 2013. This financial support is vital to the League's mission and has provided funds to produce our publications and other educational programs as well as to maintain the League's daily operations. We thank them for their support and invite other members and friends to consider doing the same.

We hope you will take time to read through this edition of *The Voter* which is filled with information about the League's current and varied activities. One new program this year is Act One, a joint initiative between Woman's City Club and the LWVCA to attract and involve young women and men in the activities of both organizations. You will find additional information on page 5.

The Communications Committee is studying ways to improve the timeliness and ease of *The Voter* delivery. As it happened, January's issue was sent primarily via email with the message that a hardcopy would be available upon request to the office. We made the decision to handle the January *Voter* this way due to unexpected bulk mailing difficulties. The Communications Committee will incorporate this recent experience in its consideration of future *Voter* publications. Please also let your opinions be known by completing the Communications survey either online (the link was sent by email), or by calling the office for a hardcopy. We'll see you at the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon!

In League,

*Helen and Don Rhoad*

2013-15 Co-Presidents

## WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!

*By Susan Steele, Membership Chair*

Your League continues to be strengthened through its Membership. PLEASE **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!** You can do so by mail (LWVCA, 103 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, OH 45219) or PAYPAL via our website [www.lwvcincinnati.org](http://www.lwvcincinnati.org)

Annual dues are \$60 for an individual, \$80 Household, and \$25 for a Full Time Student. Other levels are available. Contact our office at 513-281-8683 for more information.



**WE NEED YOU**



*Sandra Mowell*

## **YOUR VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE HARD AT WORK ON 2014 TRU!**

*By Sandra Mowell, Vice President, Voter Service*

As I write this, LWVCA volunteers are busily checking all the sources we have available to us to update the information for our 2014 edition of They Represent Us (TRU). TRU is a handy and complete guide for contacting public officials. There is no way for our elected (and appointed) officials to know what is important to us if we don't keep in touch with them as the year progresses! This is just another valuable service LWVCA provides to the community to help fulfill our mission of encouraging active participation in government.

As you read this, it is possible the publication is already available. Your Voter Service Committee is striving to have the publication ready for our Susan B. Anthony luncheon and we are in the process of taking orders from organizations, schools and businesses who want to share this valuable resource. We provide copies free of charge to our community members and continue to rely on the generous contributions of our members and supporters who understand the value of the services we provide.

In December, Voter Service conducted a meeting to discuss the last election cycle and to ask for help in planning this year's activities. Thirteen LWVCA members and our Administration Manager braved the questionable

weather, meeting at the Cincinnati Club Building for lunch and enjoyed a productive afternoon. Topics included discussions about our printed and electronic voters' guides, speakers' bureau, candidate forums and plans for improving our voters' guides access for the visually impaired.

We covered a lot of ground! Stay tuned for updates on our progress ... and please, let me know if you have ideas or are willing to help with any of our projects. You are most welcome to join the Voter Service Committee (our next meeting is Monday, February 10 at 7:00 pm) or visit our meetings as your time allows.

## **SNAP OUT OF IT! CHALLENGE**

*By Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati*

Community Shares invites you to "Snap Out of It" by participating in the SNAP challenge. It is a challenge to eat on \$4.50/day or \$31.50/ week for all food and beverages. This is the average amount that low-income Ohioans receive in benefits from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

This action is intended to highlight the struggles encountered week after week for low-income families attempting to provide nutritious meals for their families. By the time you read this, the Challenge program will have ended with a community dinner on January 20. However, *anyone can try this on their own to see what life is like for many families in the tri-state.*

For 62 percent of the children in Hamilton County, this is their reality as they are income-eligible for nutrition assistance and a total of 148,570 people in the county are food insecure.

For other information, please contact Alicia Hildebrand, [hildebrand@cintishares.org](mailto:hildebrand@cintishares.org).



## *Many thanks to our 2013 Donors!*

Without your support, the LWVCA could not fulfill its mission. We are grateful for your generosity.

*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list. We regret any errors or omissions.*

Anonymous	Margaret Halberstadt	Bridgett Pincus	Marilyn Wall
Doris Adams	Judith Harmony	Suzanne Pontius	Donald Weinschenker
Joyce Asfour	Marty Harrington	Barry Porter	Jerry Weiper
MaryLou Aufmann	Ursula Hassel	Roxanne Qualls	Harvey Weitkamp
Lois Benjamin	Carol Heideman	John & Polly Reading	Gail Wick
Doris Bergen	Patricia Henley	Anna Rechel	Lauren Woodiwiss
Kit Berger	Nancy & Philip Henry	Dorothy Reed	Janet Ziegler
Ellen Berghamer	Emily Hodges	Helen & Don Rhoad	
Ericka King-Betts & Darrell Betts	Florette Hoffmeier	Craig & Suzanne Richmond	
Leah Bird	Carolyn Honkomp	Barbara Robb	
Helen Black	Elizabeth Horwitz	Burton Roehr	Building Healthy Lives
Benjamin Blaney	Lucia Hudson	Mary Ronan	Foundation
Jon Boss	Carolyn Meyers-Hughes & Lee	Patricia Rosenberg	Clever Crazes for Kids
Elizabeth & Prince Brown	Hughes	Nancy Rosenthal	Groundwork Cincinnati/
Joseph Bruening	Helen & John Hunter	Gail Rosero	Mill Creek
Dr. Linda Burton	Marjorie Isaacs	Alicia Rosselot	Housing Opportunities
Hanna Carp	Dorothy Janson	Sylvia Roth	Made Equal
Elizabeth Cavanaugh	Suzanne Jeffrey	Patricia Rupich	Procter & Gamble
Kathleen Chandler	Suzanne Joiner	Robert Scheadler	Progressive Citizens Club
Dot Christenson	Mary Jordan	Kenneth Scheffel	Seasongood Foundation
Treon Christine	Gerald Karches	Frederick & Patricia Schlimm	Village of North Bend
Debbie Clark	Sue Katz	Roselyn Schloss	
Katherine Claybon	Ching Ho & Stephen Keller	Alice Schneider	
Ruth Clinton	Elizabeth Kloppenborg	Grace Sferra	
Daniel & Patricia Collins	Elizabeth Kochheiser	Dee Shaffer	
Robert Conway	Marie "Pinky" Kocoshis	Kathryn Shahani	
Dorothy Cowan	Claire Kortekamp	Susan Shelton	
Ruth Cronenberg	Gerry & Marvin Kraus	Carolyn Shine	
Melissa Currence	Janet Kreider	William Shoemaker	
Donna & Emil Dansker	Barbara Landen	Mary Kercherval Short	
Marjorie Davis	Dorothy Lockspeiser	Ruth Simons	
Mary Davis	David Logan	Elizabeth & Paul Sittenfeld	
Gregory Dawley	Linnea Lose	Norma Skoog	
Nancy Dawley	Robert Lubow	Genevieve Smith	
Richard & Marysue Dickmann	Steve Lykins	Barbara Smitherman	
Carolyn Dowling	Barbara MacLeod	Peggy Somoza	
Judith Dunning	Karen McGuirk	Louise Spiegel	
Barbara Duvall-Collier	Jane Tucker McHugh	Alice Stadler	
Pearl Edelstein	Dr. Robert L. McLaurin	Margaret Standriff	
Irene Ehrmann	Cheryl Meadows	Grace Staples	
Ruth Epstein	Nike Mendenhall	Susan & Peter Steele	
Lindsey Faber	Mary & James Menetrey	Dee Stegman	
Margaret Fanella	Edward Merkes	Ron Steinhoff	
Nancy Forbriger	Carolyn Miller	Louise Stinchcomb	
Jane Foy	Don Mooney	Margaret Straub	
Rochelle Fradkin	Marjorie Motch	Heather & Gerald Sturgill	
Mary Friel	Sandra & Ernie Mowell	Stefanie Sunderland	
Mary Kay & Gene Gardner	Marlene & Bill Muse	Jean Swartley	
Alphonse Gerhardstein	Dona Neiheisel	Fumiko Tanaka	
P. Jeane Goings	Mary Newman	Maryan Tebbutt	
Susan & Robert Gorman	Susan Noonan	Kimberly Thompson	
Carol Grasha	Marilyn Ott	Marcia Togneri	
Sue Grathwohl	Carol Pearce	Howard Tolley, Jr.	
Joanne Grossman	Francie & John Pepper	David Tong	
Robert & Anne Guinan	Marcia Philipps	Mary & Charles VanAusdall	
Lisa Haglund	Connie Pillich	Phyllis Vogel	





# NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING QUALIFIED BOARD MEMBERS

*By Melissa Currence, Nominating Committee Chair*

We all know how powerful the League can be in impacting our personal lives, how important it can be to strengthening our leadership skills and how vital it is in making a genuine difference in our communities on the issues we care about! It is with that spirit and pride, that the Nominating Committee is offering the opportunities for leadership service within the League to candidates for board positions!

As a League board member, you will:

- Gain great leadership skills
- Learn in-depth about issues affecting our community
- Get hands-on experience with advocacy
- Make democracy work in the Cincinnati Area

If you or someone you know in the League would be a great fit for an LWVCA board position, please contact the League office or Melissa Currence, Nominating Committee Chair

## 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:

**FEBRUARY** - Susan B. Anthony Luncheon, Saturday, Feb. 8

**MARCH** - **Agriculture** Update (Unit Meetings)

**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.*

## ACT ONE LEARNS ABOUT LWVCA VOTER SERVICE

*By Melissa Currence, Act One Mentor*



On January 13, members of Act One: Hands-On Civics In Cincinnati - a joint initiative between Woman's City Club and LWVCA for young women and men - met to learn more about LWVCA's Voter Service activities.

Thank you to Sandra Mowell, LWVCA Voter Service Vice President, for leading the discussion, which included the ways the League works at the local, state and national level to ensure voters' are educated and their rights protected.

Act One was developed collaboratively with the membership committees of both LWVCA and WCC. Each participant of Act One is working with a mentor from both organizations.

Act One will be meeting once a month throughout the year. If you are interested in getting more involved either as a participant or a mentor, contact Melissa Currence or Susan Steele for more information.

**WOMAN'S CITY CLUB PRESENTS  
CANDY CROWLEY**

**“The White House vs. Capitol Hill”**

*Co-Sponsored by LWVCA*

Thursday, March 13 at 7:30 pm

On Thursday, March 13, 2014, Candy Crowley, journalist, CNN anchor woman and the first woman to moderate a presidential debate (between Obama and Romney) since 1992 will be speaking at the Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church, 1345 Grace Avenue (corner of Observatory & Grace in Hyde Park). Her topic is “The White House vs. Capitol Hill” and this promises to be a stimulating evening. The event begins at 7:30 p.m.

**BUY YOUR TICKETS FROM THE LEAGUE:** As a co-sponsor, LWVCA has 10 tickets for sale at \$30 per ticket for the event. Please see Phyllis in the office if you want to purchase one.



*Candy Crowley*

**HAMILTON COUNTY  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
JANUARY MEETING REPORT**

*By Janet Steiner, LWVCA Board of Elections Liaison*

Ms. Kocher, Ohio Voter Integrity Project, challenged approximately 64 voters who registered as living at commercial property, destroyed homes, mailbox stores or on streets that no longer exist. Six of these challenges were cleared up before the meeting; one woman was at the meeting and her challenge was dropped. All other challenges were upheld by the Board.

Ms. Karen Berter, also from OVIP, filed one challenge that was upheld.

Staff member, Mr. Eckert, presented an update of all 2013 challenges. There were 406 challenges upheld, meaning these people who attempted to vote at the polls on Election Day would be challenged and required to vote provisionally. 5 of these 406 actually voted on Election Day; two of them changed their address and voted legally. Mr. Triantafilou asked staff to conduct a further investigation into the three people who had not changed their addresses.

Voter Registration Policy: Members will look at proposal by staff and address at next meeting. Mr. Triantafilou wanted to make sure that the BOE is not embarrassed by fictitious names being allowed to register. Mr. Burke said we must be careful about this because increased diversity and unusual names are valid, citing names of some athletes, and we do not want to be embarrassing anyone.

Voter anomaly in 2013 election: A poll worker voted absentee *and* on Election Day. She will be subpoenaed and brought in to answer questions.

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*WE NEED YOU! Are you interested in learning more about the BOE? Have you always wanted to serve as a Liaison but were afraid to ask? Contact Sandra Mowell, Voter Service VP, for more information!*

**JOIN US FOR  
THE  
“RISE OF THE  
MODERATES”**

*By League of Women  
Voters of Greater Dayton*

Has hyper-partisanship gone too far? Join the LWV of Greater Dayton for a discussion with guest speaker Lloyd Bokman of the nonpartisan national group, NO LABELS, on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The program will be held in the Miami Township Branch of Dayton Public Library at 2718 Lyons Road in Miamisburg. This event is FREE and open to the public.

## RACE AND REAL ESTATE IN CINCINNATI:

### Where is our Clybourne Park?

By LWVCA Housing Committee

#### Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) invites you to “See the Play, then Join the Conversation”

Race and real estate are the focus of the new play, *Clybourne Park*, being staged Jan. 18-Feb. 16 at Cincinnati’s Playhouse in the Park. A spin-off of Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun*, the two-act play looks at the same house 50 years apart.

In the first act, in 1959, it has been sold to the community’s first black family. The second act, in 2009, shows the return of white suburbanites to the city. The play uses razor-sharp satire to raise challenging questions.

To discuss those ideas and how they manifest themselves in the Cincinnati region, HOME will host a **free community-wide discussion** Thursday, Feb. 6. Join panelists Kathyne Gardette, president of Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation; Jeffrey Timberlake, urban sociologist at University of Cincinnati; and *Clybourne Park* director Timothy Douglas to discuss the ideas presented in the play and how they manifest themselves today in the Cincinnati region.

To purchase tickets to the play, visit [www.cincyplay.com](http://www.cincyplay.com). Receive a 15% discount in Zones 2 and 3 by entering promo code: HOME. Groups of 15 or more may get a larger discount by calling Piper Davis at (513) 977-2002 (large group discount is subject to availability).



### THE PLAY “CLYBOURNE PARK”

1/8 through 2/16 at the Playhouse

### COMMUNITY-WIDE DISCUSSION

**Thursday 2-8-14 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**

Location: United Way, 2400 Reading Rd  
(parking entrance on Morgan).

For more information see page 4 of the HOME  
newsletter on their website at  
[www.cincyfairhousing.com](http://www.cincyfairhousing.com).

### *Beyond Civility: Communication for Effective Governance* presents

## Back-to-Back: Death Penalty Issues in Ohio

February 11, 2014 - 5:30-8:00pm

St John’s Unitarian Universalist Church, 320 Resor Ave

Join us for our next Back-to-Back featuring Joe Deters, Hamilton County Prosecutor, and David Singleton, Executive Director of the Ohio Justice and Policy Center and Assistant Professor at the Chase College of Law as they explore the various issues surrounding the Death Penalty in Ohio.



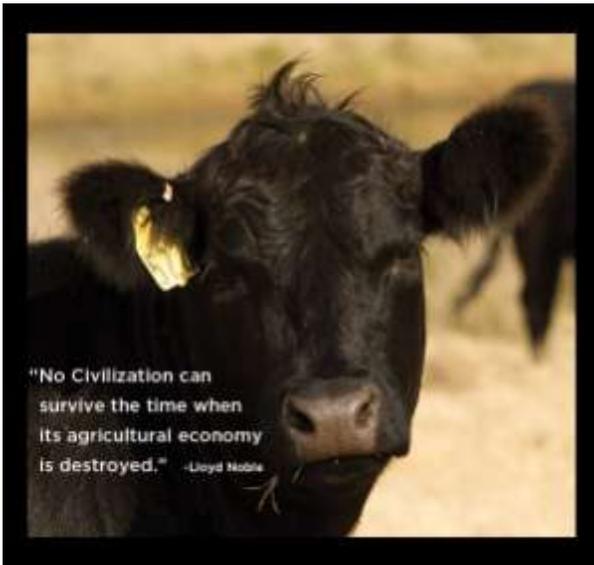
This series features informative “reverse debates” that challenge high-profile advocates on opposite sides of major public policy issues to demonstrate their understanding of the other side’s point of view by explaining it until the other party concedes that they couldn’t have said it better themselves. This format promotes civil, informative discussion of hotly contested issues by trading fact and clear explanation for a typical debate’s spin and obfuscation.

The goal: to learn and practice techniques for communicating around and through our differences; communicating to hear and be heard, to understand and be understood, to show and receive respect, and to find new and better ways to solve problems...together.

# NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE NEWS

## PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE AGRICULTURE CONSENSUS

*By Ernie Mowell, Natural Resources Committee*



While our unit discussions on the Agriculture Position Update are not until March, the Natural Resources Committee of LWVCA is looking ahead. As we said in last month's **Voter**, there is an incredible amount of information to look at. The Agriculture Update Committee "narrowed" it down to five major areas with 11 questions and 53 sub-questions. In a two hour unit meeting, that would give us about two minutes and fifteen seconds to discuss and decide each question.

The LWVCA Natural Resources Committee is taking the unprecedented step of publishing the consensus questions well in advance so League members can appreciate the scope of this project. Along with the questions we are providing links to study information compiled by the Agriculture Update Committee as part of the study. Use the links to help you understand the questions posed, to shape your comments and make your unit meetings more productive.

This update is an ambitious project and will require an investment of your time and effort to participate, but we feel it is worth the investment for two reasons. First, this study came as a grassroots action from the floor of the

League of Women Voters National Convention in Washington, DC. In other words, this is the epitome of how the League takes a stand; with members bringing issues to the national body and then following through with thorough research, discussion and decision. It is the hallmark of league positions and is how we maintain our reputation as a solid source of political information. Secondly, agriculture issues truly affect everyone. Whether your interest is primarily food safety, science, cost, economic or political impact, the process of bringing food to our tables is a basic concern that overshadows most other issues of our day.

### ***NOW AVAILABLE ON THE LWVUS WEBSITE***

LWV website has posted a Study Guide for the Agriculture Consensus Questions. Provides assistance to understand and consider the agricultural issues associated with each question. You can find by searching online for "[Guide to Agriculture Consensus Questions](#) LWV".

## **CHANGING CO<sub>2</sub>URSE SERIES: LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO A GLOBAL CRISIS**

*By Nancy Dawley, Natural Resources Committee Chair*

**"Revisiting Al Gore's Inconvenient Truth: New Realities and Local Impacts"** March 30, 7:00 pm. Location: TBA.

In 2007, Al Gore's documentary about climate change, *An Inconvenient Truth*, earned many awards including two Oscars. Al Gore's work was recognized with a Nobel Prize. A lot has happened since 2007. The threat of future climate change has turned into a reality whose effects we see almost every day. How has Al Gore's message changed since 2007? What does climate change mean for Cincinnati?

In March, Larry Falkin, the City of Cincinnati's Director of Environment and Sustainability director, will give the updated Al Gore Climate Reality presentation and discuss what it means locally. In the summer of 2013, Larry spent three days with Al Gore and the Climate Reality Project receiving intensive training for this presentation.

Check our website at [www.lwvcincinnati.org/calendar.html](http://www.lwvcincinnati.org/calendar.html) for the most up-to-date information on this event.

Cosponsors of the series: St. John's Green Sanctuary Partners, Woman's City Club, LWVCA, The Sierra Club, and The Environmental Community Organization (ECO).





## CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY: A CONTINUING SERIES

By John Hunter, Natural Resources Committee

1. **Energy efficiency improvements are not impacting climate change as much as needed.** Improved energy efficiency has been recognized as the quickest, greenest and cheapest route to reducing the burning of carbon based fuels, a key requirement for reducing the level of greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere. However, reduced energy costs mean that customers can afford to use more, for example, the US economy has grown six times faster than energy usage since 1972 and the standard of living improved dramatically. Improvements in energy efficiency and the resulting lower energy costs per unit simply led to increased production and consumption. For much of that period, greenhouse gas emissions continued to rise.

2. **Concerted policy action by the international community is required to direct energy efficiency towards climate change.** Stanford University's Energy Modeling Forum of leading international energy analysts from all energy sectors issued a report "Energy Efficiency and

Climate Change Mitigation". They concluded that concerted policy actions were required to reduce total emissions. The experts modeled carbon taxes on emissions, mandated energy efficiency standards, and subsidies and found all three to be effective in changing the long term trend lines for emissions.

3. **Since the international community has had little success in adopting binding climate change policies, depending on policy changes to delay climate change is risky at best.**

4. **Dramatically improved renewable energy efficiency technology that displaces carbon based fuels offers a route to both economic and climate benefits.** Harvard University scientists have discovered a radically new battery that is low cost and high in capacity that provides a means of energy storage at wind, and solar sites to smooth out delivery of power at night or low wind periods. Electrical grids can also use the technology to add stability and reduce the need for backup gas powered generators. Publication is in the January 9, 2014 issue of *Nature*.

## SPREAD THE WORD TO THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID IN OHIO

By Advocates for Ohio's Future

Ohioans who are eligible to enroll in Medicaid need to apply through the state's website at [www.Benefits.Ohio.gov](http://www.Benefits.Ohio.gov).

Because the Federal health care enrollment website is not currently communicating with the state system, **Ohioans who have already applied for Medicaid through the Federal website must re-apply through the state website.**

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	138% FPL
1	\$15,856
2	\$21,406
3	\$26,952
4	\$32,499
5	\$38,047
6	\$43,594
7	\$49,142
8	\$54,689
For each additional individual in the household add \$5,347.	

Adults with income up to 138 percent of poverty may now apply for Medicaid coverage through the state website. The chart on the right side shows income eligibility limits for different household sizes. Or, log onto the website, and it will walk you through the steps to determine your eligibility.

It is estimated that more than 60,000 Ohioans have applied for Medicaid through the Federal website and will need to re-apply through the state website. If you think you are registered, take a few minutes to verify your enrollment.

Please share this information with your networks and your family, friends and colleagues. We need your help to let people who are eligible for Medicaid know that they must apply at [www.Benefits.Ohio.gov](http://www.Benefits.Ohio.gov).



**From Advocates for Ohio's Future – The LWVCA endorses this organization.**

## STATE NEWS

### LEAGUE FIGHTS TO PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS IN OHIO

*From the LWVUS Blog and written with the assistance of LWV of Ohio*

Following similar voter suppression efforts in North Carolina, Wisconsin and elsewhere across the country, Ohio is among the latest states to take steps to restrict the right to vote. A handful of anti-voter election bills that passed the Ohio Senate in 2013 are currently expected to be considered by the House and could reach the Governor. The most troubling of the bills are two measures which would slash the state's early voting period and restrict its absentee voting process. Together, the bills threaten to erase the vast improvements that the state made in the aftermath of its troubled 2004 elections, during which low-income and minority voters were disproportionately affected by problems at the polls.

Fortunately, the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVOH) and other state voting rights advocates are fighting the voter suppression measures. LWVOH has submitted extensive testimony to the Ohio Legislature calling for lawmakers to reject anti-voter bills and uphold access to early and absentee voting. In addition to shortening the period during which voters can provide the required documentation for provisional ballots these bills, if passed would also:

- Establish extreme restrictions to the absentee voting process. Ohio saw a record absentee voter turnout in the 2012 election. Yet lawmakers are seeking to greatly restrict the absentee voting process by slashing the period during which absentee ballots can be sent to voters, prohibiting any official other than the Secretary of State from sending unsolicited absentee ballot requests and undermining the funding for such mailings. With more and more voters casting absentee ballots, LWVOH estimates that the bill could negatively impact the voting rights of a quarter of Ohio voters.
- Slash the state's early voting period by six days – or more. Another bill seeks to slash the state's prized "Golden Week," during which voters can register and vote on the same day. Evidence shows that early voting is critical to American's elections, helping to decrease wait times and provide voters with increased access to the polls. Voting rights advocates in Ohio worry that the bill will open the door to further reductions. "Today they want to cut Golden Week, but we expect additional time, including evenings and weekends, to be on the chopping block," says LWVOH executive director Carrie Davis.

Ohio's anti-voter bills are not an isolated case of voter suppression, but instead are part of a larger national trend toward restricting voters' rights, particularly in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's ruling gutting key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. LWVOH and their allies are joined in solidarity with League members working to protect voters' rights across the country. But in addition to numerous attacks on voters' rights, there have been some positive developments, including in New York and Florida, which both recently passed legislation to expand early voting. What's more, alongside Ohio's anti-voter legislation is a proposal that takes important steps to modernize voter registration – a positive move, though it fails to establish secure online registration (PDF). There's also reason to be hopeful in Ohio, where the League has a track record of thwarting voter suppression efforts. In 2012, LWVOH helped lead a successful referendum campaign to defeat an omnibus voter suppression bill.

In Ohio, absentee and early voting have been extremely successful and are hugely popular among voters. We hope policymakers will use careful consideration and seek public input when considering these proposals. If this is done – in Ohio and elsewhere – policymakers will likely find that imposing harsh restrictions and cuts on absentee and early voting only hurt voters.

The League of Women Voters believes that the goal of any and all election reforms should be to increase turnout and draw more voters to the polls. It's critical that our elections are free, fair and accessible, and we will continue join with League members across the country to protect the voting rights of all eligible voters by pushing back against Ohio's – and any other state's – voter suppression measures.

*To get more links and documents, visit this blog post online at [lwv.org/blog/league-fights-protect-voting-rights-ohio](http://lwv.org/blog/league-fights-protect-voting-rights-ohio)*

### LWVO SOUTHWEST REGIONAL MEETING

**Saturday Feb 15, 2014....10:00 am - 12:30 pm**

LWV Dayton, Talbot Tower, 131 N Ludlow St, 45402

Discussion topics will include:

- **LWVUS Agriculture Study Update** (first hour) - On the January 7th all-member call, several League members expressed concern about the narrow window of time to review the study materials and return consensus reports in April. We will spend the first hour of regional meetings presenting an overview of the two topic areas, ag finance and ag technology and will distribute summary materials that you can share with your Local League.
- **Cuyahoga Area Leagues' Proposed Study of Primary Elections** (10-15 minutes) - The three Leagues in Cuyahoga County are proposing a national study of different ways to run primary elections. Join us to learn the details of this proposed study.
- **Judicial Voter Education** (second hour) - The second part of the meeting will discuss next steps in our judicial voter education program and anticipated voter service needs in 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact the State League office at (614) 469-1505 or email at [lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org](mailto:lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org).

## NATIONAL NEWS

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

*By LWVUS*

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

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](http://www.lwv.org/content/your-guide-lwvus-convention-2014) at [lwv.org/content/your-guide-lwvus-convention-2014](http://www.lwv.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.

Questions? Contact LWVUS staffer Kelly McFarland Stratman at [kmcfarland@lwv.org](mailto:kmcfarland@lwv.org)



*U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder at 2012 LWVUS Convention.  
Photo By LWV of Colorado*

### SHARPEN YOUR LEAGUE SKILLS WITH THE NIKKI HARRIS ONLINE TRAINING LIBRARY

*By Melissa Currence, Co-chair of LWVUS Young People's Taskforce*



*Nikki Harris*

LWVUS has great training webinars available anytime from their website through the Nikki Harris Online Training Library at [lwv.org/member-resources/nikki-harris-online-training-library](http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/nikki-harris-online-training-library)

The topics of these webinars are wide-ranging and include How to Start an Intern Program for Your League, How to Reach out to Millennials on Campus, How to be Become a Shur Fellow, Succeeding in the Spotlight: How to be an Effective Spokesperson, Fundraising 101 and Social Media 101.

Nikki Harris was involved with Leagues all over the country for more than 30 years. Her devotion to democracy and empowerment of women in civil society also took her to other countries to share her expertise. Given Nikki's devotion to the League of Women Voters and especially, in the past few years, to training and coaching Leagues to strengthen their work in our democracy, her husband, Craig Spitzer and her daughters Donna and Debbie, have endowed the National League with a fund to support the ongoing training and coaching of Leagues.

The Nikki Harris Online Training Series will help us continue Nikki's work in developing League leadership and honor her life and efforts to help build the future of the League. Nikki is remembered by her many friends in the League for her great sunshine of a smile, her buoyant energy, her determination to make a difference and her belief that, working together through the League, we can all be part of making democracy work! We are grateful for all she means to the League family.

# LEAGUE COMMENDS ADMINISTRATION'S LATEST STEP AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

By LWVUS

Washington, DC (01/08/2014) - Today the Obama Administration published a new proposal limiting the amount of carbon pollution for new power plants in the Federal Register. This is an important step in the fight against climate change.



Elisabeth MacNamara

"We are quite pleased that today the President has kept his commitment to confront the greatest challenge of our lifetime: climate change," said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

"Power plants are the largest emitter of life-threatening carbon pollution in our country. Reducing the amount of carbon pollution, which is the leading cause of climate change, is a life-saving measure that will protect our children, our nation and the world from the devastating effects of climate change," MacNamara said.

"The League has been proud to be a part of the push to garner support and collect comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in support of regulations to cut carbon pollution from power plants," added MacNamara. "Thousands of League members from around the country have already vocally expressed their support for this life saving proposal. These same League members will

continue to lead the way by expressing their support for the finalization of this historic regulation that will reduce the deadly effects that carbon pollution has on the health of our children and our environment," MacNamara stated.

"Carbon pollution comes at a high cost to all of us, contributing to more frequent and deadly weather that results in billions of dollars of recovery for communities and the federal government each year," said MacNamara. "Today's announcement is another important step in the fight to beat back climate change."

"The League is proud to continue to stand in support of the President's plan to cut carbon pollution from new power plants and fulfill his commitment to people, not polluters," concluded MacNamara. "We look forward to continuing to work with him to implement this proposal, as well as a future proposal on existing coal fired power plants. Together, these regulations will create life-saving measures to protect our children, our nation and our world from the damaging effects of climate change."

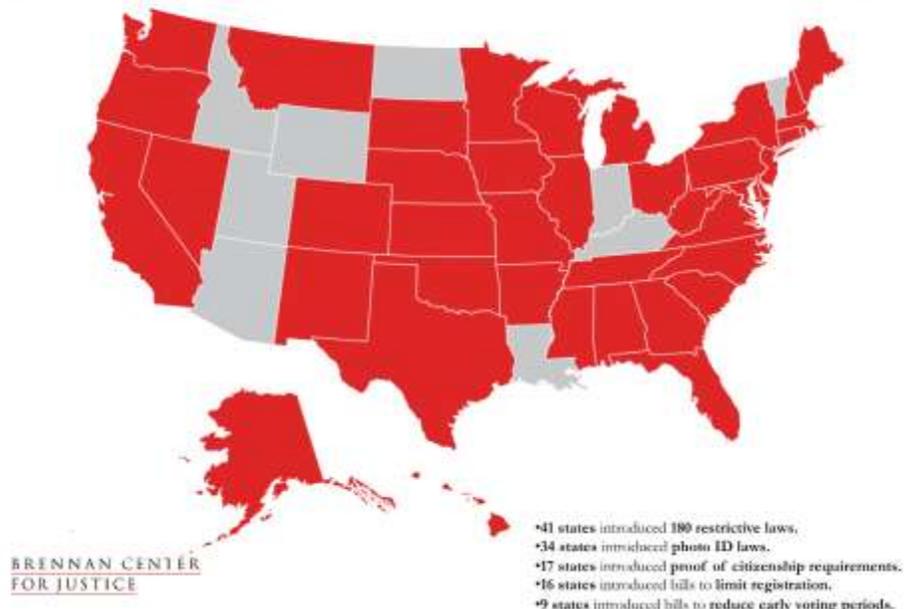
## NEW STUDY LOOKS AT WHY STATES CONSIDER AND ADOPT RESTRICTIVE VOTER POLICIES

By LWVUS

Nearly half the states in the country passed laws restricting the right to vote in the five years leading up to the last presidential election. A new study released in December week examines the factors associated with both the proposal and adoption of legislation that restricts voters' rights between 2006–2011.

Read the study at [tinyurl.com/jimcrow2-0](http://tinyurl.com/jimcrow2-0)

States with restrictive voting legislation introduced since 2011



# Agriculture Update Consensus Study Pages

## with consensus questions keyed to research papers

There are 11 categories of consensus questions with sub-parts underneath. To help you find information on the issues more easily, we have added links to related LWVUS study papers. It is suggested that you review 1 question at a time, then click on the links and read the background information. Consider what you now understand and what more you need to make a decision. Jot down your thoughts and questions to bring with you to a Unit meeting. At the Unit meeting we will discuss each question and try to reach consensus (Yes, No, or No Consensus).

Please Note: Each question provides an opportunity to comment. Each comment section has a 250 word limit. Please include the letter(s) from each question that is relevant to the comment(s). For example: In question 1, if you wanted to make a comments about Disaster assistance and crop insurance, you would include the letter ‘b’ before your comments on Disaster assistance and ‘c’ before your comments on crop insurance.

*Comments:*

*a: Your comments on disaster assistance would go here.*

*b: Your comments on crop insurance would go here.*

## Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector

To answer the first four questions members should be familiar with the pros and cons of current and past agricultural subsidy programs which are described briefly in [United States Department of Agriculture](#) on the USDA, in [Overview of Agricultural Subsidy](#) which describes different types of agricultural subsidies, and in [Overview of Crop Insurance](#) which describes the crop insurance program. Some of the areas of current or potential government support listed in the questions are not covered or only briefly mentioned in the overview materials (e.g., dairy program, livestock program, specialty crops, and best management practices). Members are asked to consider these questions from the perspective of their local and state agricultural interests and knowledge they have obtained from farmers in their area. For cases where there is some relevant discussion for one of the sub-question topics, we have noted the resource paper and section of relevance below.

<i>1. Should government financial support for agriculture be directed to:</i>	Yes	No	No Consensus
a) Subsidized agricultural credit (loans) <a href="#">Overview of Agricultural Subsidy</a> page 6 has link to recommended reading that describes 10 agricultural loan programs.			
b) Disaster assistance <a href="#">Overview of Agricultural Subsidy</a> page 3			
c) Crop insurance <a href="#">Overview of Crop Insurance</a>			
d) Farms that supply local and regional markets <a href="#">Overview of Farm Management</a> , pages 1-2 on Farm Characteristics and Consolidation, page 4 on Vertical Integration, and pages 6-7 on Small Farms, Urban Farms, and Local Food Systems; <a href="#">Overview of Animal Management</a> , page 3 on AFO/local farm issues and pages 4-5 on issues of vertical integrations and consolidation.			

<p>e) Subsidized implementation of best management practices</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Overview of Soil Management</a>, page 2 on Incentives for good soil management;</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Overview of Water Management</a>, several mentions of incentives to encourage good water management practices throughout the document;</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Overview of Farm Management</a>, page 5 on Influence of Government Policies provides an illustration of negative incentives for BMP</li> </ol>			
<p>f) Commodity crop programs, e.g., corn, soybeans, sugar, cotton, wheat</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Overview of Animal Management</a>, page 5 illustrates how commodity crop subsidies affect animal production choices;</li> <li>2. <a href="#">United States Department of Agriculture</a>, page 3 mentions current issues concerning commodity crop subsidies;</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Overview of Agricultural Subsidy</a>, pages 1-3 on descriptions of different types of current subsidies and many of the recommended readings</li> </ol>			
<p>g) Commodity livestock program</p> <p>Not mentioned specifically in any document but indirect subsidies affecting AFO production decisions are mentioned in <a href="#">Overview of Animal Management</a>, page 5</p>			
<p>h) Commodity dairy program</p> <p>Not specifically mentioned in any document but a brief description of current price support program for milk producers is available at <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milk_Income_Loss_Contract_Payments">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milk_Income_Loss_Contract_Payments</a></p>			
<p>i) Specialty crops, e.g. fruits, vegetables, nuts, etc.</p> <p>Not specifically mentioned in terms of support programs but <a href="#">Overview of Farm Management</a>, pages 1-2 on Farm Characteristics and page 5 on Influence of Government Policies is of some relevance</p>			
<p>j) Other production methods, e.g. organic, hydroponic, urban, etc. farms</p> <p>Not specifically mentioned in terms of government support but <a href="#">Overview of Farm Management</a>, page 5 describes Organic Agriculture, and page 6 mentions a variety of other production techniques used by Small Farms/Urban Farms/Local Food Systems</p>			
<p>Comments for discussion:</p>			

<p>2. <i>What changes should government make regarding direct payment programs to farm operators?</i>                  Note: Farm operators can be anything between family farms to huge corporations.                  All of the <a href="#">Overview of Agricultural Subsidy</a> paper should be read.</p>	Yes	No	No Consensus
<p>a) <i>Eliminate</i> direct payments to farm operators</p>			
<p>b) <i>Update</i> the rules for direct payments to farm operators to support sustainability                  Definition: A sustainable agriculture must be ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially responsible.</p>			
<p>c) <i>Broaden</i> the types of farms that are eligible</p>			
<p>d) <i>Broaden</i> the types of crops that are eligible                  Note: Mainly now only commodity crops – not fruits and vegetables.</p>			
<p>e) Effectively <i>enforce</i> existing rules</p>			
<p>Comments for discussion:</p>			

<p>3. <i>What changes to current crop insurance programs should government make?</i>                  All of the <a href="#">Overview of Crop Insurance</a> should be read.</p>	Yes	No	No Consensus
<p>a) Extend to more types of crops</p>			
<p>b) Link to the use of conservation practices</p>			
<p>c) Limit insurance for the cultivation of marginal and environmentally sensitive land</p>			
<p>d) Cap amount of premium subsidy to a single farm operator (see note in question 2)</p>			
<p>Comments for discussion:</p>			

<p>4. <i>Should government act on any of the following?</i>                  All of the <a href="#">Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)</a>,  <a href="#">Antitrust Enforcement Agencies and Legislation</a>,  <a href="#">Overview of Farm Management</a> papers should be read.  <a href="#">Overview of Animal Management</a> – for consideration of  <i>local butchering</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No Consensus</p>
<p>a) Revise anti-trust legislation to ensure competitive agricultural markets</p>			
<p>b) Enforce anti-trust laws as they relate to agriculture</p>			
<p>c) Promote alternative marketing systems, including regional hub markets, farmer cooperatives, farm markets, etc.</p>			
<p>Comments for discussion:</p>			

## Animal Management

We recommend that you read the entire [Overview of Animal Management](#) paper for helpful background for questions 5 and 6.

### Question 5:

- Look in particular at the section on Consolidation (pp. 1-5)
- EPA Regulation of CAFOs (p. 6)
- Right to Farm Laws (p. 7)
- Animal Health and Welfare (p. 7)
- Aquaculture (pp. 11-12)

### Question 6:

- Read Consolidation (pp. 1-5)
- Indirect and Direct Subsidy of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (p. 5)
- EPA Regulation of CAFOs (p. 6)
- Right to Farm Laws, (p. 7)
- Aquaculture (pp. 11-12)
- Climate Change (p. 13)

See also [Overview of Soil Management](#) paper, section on Nutrient Management, page 2

<p>5. <i>Which of the following approaches to animal management should government achieve?</i>  <a href="http://www.lwv.org/content/overview-animal-management">http://www.lwv.org/content/overview-animal-management</a></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No Consensus</p>
<p>a) Transparently collect and disclose data about regulated animal feeding operations (AFOs) or aquaculture operations and about the health of animals in such regulated operations</p>			

b) Apply and enforce existing clean air and clean water regulations to animal or seafood management facilities			
Comments for discussion:			

6. Which of the following approaches to animal waste management should government require or bring about?	Yes	No	No Consensus
a) Treat animal waste with environmentally sound technologies for all regulated AFOs			
b) Prioritize federal funds to mitigate existing environmental challenges (such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program, cost share, loans, etc.) rather than construction of new facilities			
Comments for discussion:			

## Research and Development

Research and development (R&D) uses science and engineering to gain a basic understanding of processes and structures of organisms, to create new products or processes for agriculture, to determine health and safety of a product, to determine the environmental impact of a product or process, to develop conservation methods, and to improve efficiency, among other things. R&D utilizes scientific methods and statistical testing to achieve valid repeatable results.

Private corporations, universities, consulting organizations and laboratories, and government agencies perform agricultural R&D. Agricultural research by public universities began in 1862 when the Morrill Act established land grant universities across the United States; much of the basic research on agriculture was developed through these universities. Private R&D is generally more applied than basic and is motivated by the desire to produce a profitable product. Government agencies review this private research when regulatory approval for a product or process is required. And many government agencies conduct their own research.

To learn more about required research and development for agricultural *products and processes*, we recommend you review the study papers addressing

- [Overview of Key Agencies Supporting and Regulating Food and Agriculture](#)
- [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)
- [United States Department of Agriculture](#)
- [USDA's Role in American Nutrition](#)

For an *overview* of public and private R&D funding, see [Overview of Agricultural Subsidy](#).

[Patent and Trademark Office \(USPTO\)](#) discussion of the Bayh-Dole Act is particularly relevant as a driver of agricultural *R&D policy*.

Review the papers [Overview of Plant Breeding, Seed Industry, and Biodiversity](#), [Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food System](#), [Overview of Nanotechnology and Other Technologies](#), and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes of Health](#) for information on *specific types of R&D*.

The papers on [Overview of Farm Management](#), [Overview of Pesticide Management](#), [Overview of Water Management](#), [Overview of Animal Management](#) and [Overview of Soil Management](#) provide links to R&D on *agricultural processes*.

In evaluating the materials and suggested references and links, please consider the sources. Blogs, newspaper articles, and information pieces from sources with an identified bias may not necessary reflect all information on the topic and should be treated accordingly. The validity of scientific information increases as hypotheses are repeatedly tested. Thus a *single* paper reporting a research result should not be considered as the final truth.

7. Which of the following approaches to research and development (R&D) should government fund or accomplish?  Note: For the purpose of these questions and some questions below, “ <b>developed using any new technology</b> ” or “ <b>new technologies</b> ” refer to any of many scientific processes for developing new crops or animals with genetic engineering, nanotechnology or other new techniques, which are not the traditional breeding or hybridization techniques.	Yes	No	No Consensus
a) Basic research			
b) Independent third-party (such as an academic institution) risk assessment of products <i>developed using any new technology</i>			
c) Research to assess the impacts of <i>new technologies</i> on human health and the environment, prior to their widespread adoption			
d) Research that advances the continuation of diversified and sustainable agricultural systems			
e) Seed banking, research, and other means that promote and preserve genetic diversity			
f) Both transparency in the reporting of research studies related to approval of new products <b>and</b> respect for intellectual property rights of private enterprises engaged in research			
g) Research on long-term effects of new crops, products and processes			

h) Development of new practices and technologies to promote conservation for all types of farms			
Comments for discussion:			

## Food Safety

The United States has a complex food system. Risks to food safety can occur during the development of new plant and animal hybrids, during the growing of foods, during the harvest and processing of foods and during shipment and storage. Additional risk may accompany imported foods. Risk includes contamination with chemicals used in production, contamination with bacteria, fungi or viruses from multiple sources, nutrient loss due to processing or production techniques, introduction of allergens or other cross contamination.

To increase food safety, federal agencies have developed a variety of standards, and guidelines. Testing to meet these standards is performed by private groups and governmental agencies. To learn more about safety requirements we recommend you review the paper on [Overview of Key Agencies Supporting and Regulating Food and Agriculture](#). Learn more about the role of the USDA [United States Department of Agriculture](#), the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#), the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes of Health](#) and the [Interaction of Federal Agencies with Food Safety Missions](#). Please note that in some instances testing and reporting is mandatory and in other instances guidelines are provided with the onus placed on the producer to meet standards. For specific examples of requirements and approaches read the papers on [Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food System](#), [Overview of Nanotechnology and Other Technologies](#), [Overview of Pesticide Management](#) and [Overview of Animal Management](#).

Sections of the above papers that are directly relevant to each of the Food Safety consensus questions are listed below, with page references and section names.

8. Which of the following approaches to food safety should government perform or fund?	Yes	No	No Consensus
a) Clarify and enforce pre-market testing requirements for new foods and food additives <i>developed using any new technology</i> (see note below question 7) 8(a) to 8(c) <a href="#">Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food System</a> , pages 2-3 (Ht and Bt crops) and pages 4-6 (Regulatory Framework for GE Crops) <a href="#">Overview of Nanotechnology and Other Technologies</a> , pages 3-4 (Safety and Regulation of Nanotechnology) <a href="#">Food Labeling: FDA and USDA</a> , page 4 (Bioengineered Foods) and page 9 (Future of Food Labeling)			

<p>b) Require developers to monitor all food products <i>developed using any new technology</i> after releasing to the market</p>			
<p>c) Withdraw marketing approval if products are shown to be unsafe</p>			
<p>d) Require post-market monitoring of approved pharmaceutical applications in animal production for human health and environmental impacts                  8(d) &amp; 8(f)  <a href="#">Overview of Animal Management</a>, pages 8-10 (Pharmaceuticals in Animal Feed)  <a href="#">Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food System</a>, pages 7-8 (GE Animals)</p>			
<p>e) Require developers of new products to provide data and other materials to independent third-parties (such as academic institutions) for pre- and post-market safety assessment as appropriate                  8(e) and 8(g)  <a href="#">Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food System</a>, page 5 (Deregulation paragraphs)  <a href="#">Overview of Agricultural Subsidy</a>, pages 4-5 (Indirect Agricultural Subsidies for Research and Development)</p>			
<p>f) Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to treat and control disease</p>			
<p>g) Fund independent third-party (such as academic institutions) risk assessment of long-term and multiple exposures from foods on human health and the environment</p>			
<p>h) Promote crop management practices that decrease dependency on added chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers)                  8(h)  <a href="#">Overview of Farm Management</a>, pages 4-6 (Sustainable Agriculture and Organic Agriculture)  <a href="#">United States Department of Agriculture</a>, pages 3-4 (Current Issues)  <a href="#">Overview of Agricultural Subsidy</a>, entire document provides insights on incentives provided by current programs</p>			
<p>i) Fund, train and add personnel for assessment and compliance functions of regulatory agencies                  8(i)  <a href="#">Interaction of Federal Agencies with Food Safety Missions</a>, page 4 (Current Issues)  <a href="#">United States Department of Agriculture</a>, pages 2-3 (Farm Bill and Budget Authorizations)</p>			

<p><a href="#">Food Labeling: FDA and USDA</a>, page 2 (FDA Funding Concern)  <a href="#">Food and Drug Administration (FDA)</a>, page 3 (Federal and State Appropriations)</p>			
<p>Comments for discussion:</p>			

## Food Labeling

<p>9. <i>How sufficient are the following regarding current food labeling?</i>                  We recommend you read all of <a href="#">USDA's Role in American Nutrition</a> and <a href="#">Food Labeling: FDA and USDA</a>.</p>	Insufficient	Sufficient	Too much	No Consensus
<p>a) Nutrition Facts on food labels</p>				
<p>b) Nutrition Facts on food labels as a means of consumer education</p>				
<p>c) Common allergen labeling</p>				
<p>d) Health and ingredient claims that consumers can understand</p>				
<p>Comments for discussion:</p>				

<p>10. <i>Which of the following should government achieve regarding marketing and ingredient claims on food labels?</i>                  We recommend you read all on <a href="#">Food Labeling: FDA and USDA</a>.</p>	Yes	No	No Consensus
<p>a) Define (and approve for use) health and safety marketing terms (e.g. immunity support, humane, pasture-raised, natural, etc.)</p>			
<p>b) Regulate the use of images or other sensory advertising</p>			
<p>c) Require that ingredient marketing claims accurately represent what is in the required ingredient list</p>			
<p>Comments for discussion:</p>			

*11. Recognizing that each food developed using any new technology can be unique, and assuming that required food labeling should be useful to consumers, should the following generalized information relating to how products or components are developed be presented on food labels?*

See note below question 7. All these questions also assume some percentage threshold of new technology ingredients, such as the 0.9% used in the European Union.

We recommend you read all of [Food Labeling: FDA and USDA](#), [Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food System](#) and [Overview of Nanotechnology and Other Technologies](#).

	Not Recommended	Voluntary	Mandatory	No consensus
a) Contains ingredients developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved				
b) Does <b>not</b> contain ingredients developed using any new technology				
c) If meat, fish, eggs, or dairy products are from animals that have consumed feed developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved				
Comments for discussion:				

ALL of the LWVUS research papers, including a glossary of terms, and acronyms can be found on the [LWVUS Agriculture Update Site](#). They include:

- [Leaders' Guide for the Agriculture Update Consensus](#)
- [Overview of Key Agencies Supporting and Regulating Food and Agriculture](#)
- [United States Department of Agriculture](#)
- [USDA's Role in American Nutrition](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)
- [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#)
- [Food Labeling: FDA and USDA](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes of Health](#)
- [Interaction of Federal Agencies with Food Safety Missions](#)
- [Patent and Trademark Office \(USPTO\)](#)
- [Antitrust Enforcement Agencies and Legislation](#)

- [Introduction to Agriculture Technology](#)
- [Overview of Farm Management](#)
- [Overview of Plant Breeding, Seed Industry, and Biodiversity](#)
- [Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food System](#)
- [Overview of Pesticide Management](#)
- [Overview of Soil Management](#)
- [Overview of Water Management](#)
- [Overview of Animal Management](#)
- [Overview of Nanotechnology and Other Technologies](#)
- [Overview of Agricultural Subsidy](#)
- [Overview of Crop Insurance](#)
- [Agriculture Update Acronyms](#)
- [Agriculture Update Glossary](#)

## *The Voter* Collating Schedule\* 2013 – 2014

August 22  
September *Voter*  
**LWVCA Board**

September 19  
October *Voter*  
**Warren/Butler**

October 24  
November/December *Voter*  
**Central Evening**

December 19  
January *Voter*  
**Anderson**

January 23, 2014  
February *Voter*  
**Eastern Day and Office Volunteers**

February 20  
March *Voter*  
**Hilltop North**

March 20  
April *Voter*  
**Metro Day**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email:

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

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

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***Please submit articles to:***

[newsletter@lwcincinnati.org](mailto:newsletter@lwcincinnati.org)

**Next deadline: Friday 02/07/2014  
for the *March 2014* issue**



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

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**FEBRUARY 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)*

Tuesday	Feb 4	2 pm	LWVCA Board Meeting
Friday	Feb 7		<b><i>Deadline for submissions for March "Voter"</i></b>
Saturday	Feb 8	11 am	<b>Susan B. Anthony Luncheon, Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza</b>
Monday	Feb 10	Noon	Housing Committee
Monday	Feb 10	7 pm	Voter Service Committee
Thursday	Feb 13	6 pm	Communications Committee
Thursday	Feb 13	7 pm	Natural Resources Committee
Saturday	Feb 15	10 am	LWVO Southwest Regional Meeting - LWV Dayton, 131 N Ludlow, 45402
Wednesday	Feb 26	5:30 pm	Program Development Committee
Wednesday	Feb 26	7 pm	Discussion Leader Briefing for March
Saturday	March 1	10 am	Discussion Leader Briefing for March