



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

September 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



Co-Presidents' Letter	2
LWVCA Donor Honor Roll	3
LWVUS Convention News	5
MLD Update	6
2014 Taft Award	8
Act One's Second Year	9
LWVCA Budgets	10-11
Candidate Forums	14
September Study Pages	16-18

JOIN US FOR SEPTEMBER UNITS: JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

By Sandra Mowell, VP of Voter Service

In November, Ohio voters will be voting on a number of judicial candidates. On the ballots in Hamilton, Butler and Warren Counties will be candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio Court of Appeals Judge, County Court Judge (Warren County) and Court of Common Pleas Judge. Voting on judicial races poses a major challenge for many voters. In November 2012, 40

percent of Ohioans who cast a ballot skipped voting in judicial races because they lacked information about the judiciary and judicial candidates.

Join us as we delve into the topic of judicial elections at our September Unit meetings. Check the study pages starting on page 16 and our online calendar at www.lwvcincinnati.org to find a Unit meeting near you!

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-VOTE (8683), or write to the LWVCA office at 103 Wm H Taft Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45219, or email info@lwvcincinnati.org.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014

By Sandra Mowell, VP of Voter Service

For the third annual National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) volunteers, celebrities and organizations from all over the country will "hit the streets" in a single day of coordinated volunteer, technology and media efforts to create widespread awareness of voter registration opportunities--allowing us to reach tens of thousands of voters.

Help LWVCA get the word out to new voters and experienced voters alike. While registering to vote is, of course, the first step in voting, keeping your voter registration up-to-date is the surest way to make your voting experience smooth.

their names since the last election that updating their voter registration with their current information is crucial!

Ohio voters may update their address online at the Secretary of State's website ohiosecretaryofstate.org. To update your information online you must provide ALL of the following information:

Name, Ohio driver's license or state identification number, date of birth and last four digits of your Social Security number. In addition, voters may fill out and return a voter registration form to their local Board of Election to update their information.



Remember to update your registration no later than 30 days before the Nov. 4 election (Oct. 6, 2014) to avoid the need to vote a provisional ballot on election day!

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

While LWV encourages all eligible citizens to register to vote, we also take this occasion to remind all registered voters who may have moved or changed

CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER



Congratulations to Melissa Currence and her committee for a successful **summer fundraising** effort and for the enjoyable "Thank You" celebration at Kennedy Heights Arts Center. In addition to seeking funds from non-League donors, we need the financial support of our own members to enable us to have successful programs and to carry out our mission in the Greater Cincinnati area. We thank those of you who contributed recently and, if you haven't contributed recently, we hope that you will in the near future.

The Board of Directors is revising its strategic plan to reflect the current needs and opportunities of LWVCA. **Building membership and marketing the League** to the community to expand our impact will both play a prominent part in our efforts this year. If you would like to help out, Membership Director John Vinturella will welcome your involvement.

If you haven't tried our **Facebook page** at facebook.com/lwvcincinnati, please do so! Check out the postings, and contribute your comments and thoughts. Nancy

Dawley posts pertinent information concerning ideas, articles and events each week. LWV Ohio also has regular online updates to keep us informed of Ohio issues. By going to lwvohio.org, you may opt to receive updates regularly, as well as read about LWV Ohio's activities dealing with voter rights and other subjects.

Please check the information in this *Voter* concerning **Voter Service activities**. Sandra Mowell will welcome your offer of help. In addition to registering voters, the League will host a "Behind the Gavel: Meet the Common Pleas

Judicial Candidates" event, an issues forum and the Anderson Candidates' Forum.

Cincinnati Area Units are making plans for their September discussions. **Our Units** always welcome new participants. If you would like to try the most convenient Unit for you, just contact the League office (513-281-8683) for when and where they'll meet.

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

BEHIND THE GAVEL: MEET THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CANDIDATES EVENT

Monday, Sept. 22, 6 p.m.

By Sandra Mowell, VP of Voter Service

LWVCA and the Cincinnati Bar Association are partnering to present a voter education and candidate event for the candidates

for judge of the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas.

Co-sponsors for the event are the Over-the-Rhine and

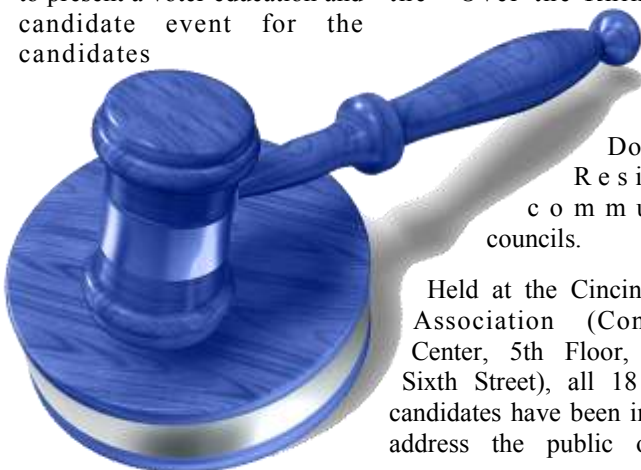
candidacies. There will be time before and after the formal program to informally speak with the candidates. At press time, 14 of the 18 candidates have committed to attend the event.

In addition, the Court Administrator for Common Pleas has been invited to share information on the function of the court and briefly touch on the different divisions involved (drug court, domestic relations, probate and juvenile).

LWVCA will provide information to voters on all the judicial offices on the ballot in November and on electing

judges in general. LWVO is encouraging local leagues to move aggressively to promote voter education and voter engagement in judicial races. LWVCA's judicial candidate event is made possible in part by the Joyce Foundation and the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund.

Light hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Simply Grand Catering before the formal program begins at 6:30 p.m. Space is limited, so please RSVP your intention to attend the event by emailing becky@lwvcincinnati.org or calling the League office at 513-281-8683.



Downtown Residents community councils.

Held at the Cincinnati Bar Association (Conference Center, 5th Floor, 225 E. Sixth Street), all 18 judicial candidates have been invited to address the public on their

NEW DONOR RECOGNITION LEVELS

By Melissa Currence, VP of Development

With almost 95 years of history, the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area is remembering the hard work and dedication of our foremothers with new giving levels starting with our latest summer campaign. With each level, we are honoring a woman who has made a difference in the civil rights of all citizens. Our highest level (\$5,000 and above) is named for Lydia Chapin Taft, the first woman to vote in Colonial America in

1756. Our next level (\$1,000 - \$4,999) is named for Celia Lazarus, LWVCA president from 1950-1952, who was well-known for her fundraising abilities for our local League. Agnes Hilton (\$500-\$999) was the second president of the LWVCA from 1922-24. She was a suffragist and one of the founders of the Cincinnati Charter Committee and later served as LWV Ohio president. The Mary Gorman McManus Level (\$250-\$499) was named for our LWVCA president from 1946-1948 and who served as director of Ohio Public Welfare,

now known as Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The next level (\$100-\$249) is named in honor of Harriet Iglauer, who was LWVCA president from 1964-1966 and was past president of the LWV of Grand Rapids, Michigan. She also served on both the Michigan and Ohio State LWV Boards. The following level (\$99 and below) is named for Gloria Walker, who served as LWVCA president from 1989-1991, and for whom many remember for her passion for growing our League's membership ranks. Our planned

giving society, the Martha B. Taft Society, is named for LWVCA's first president, who served from 1920-1922 and again in 1932-1934.

We take much inspiration from those who came before us. Thank you for your continued support of the League of Women Voters.

Source document: *75th Anniversary History of the LWVCA: A Chronicle of the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area*, written in 1995.

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 during our 2014 summer campaign (June 1 - Aug. 18 2014). Every effort is made to keep this list accurate. Please contact Becky Haltermon at 513-281-8683 or becky@lwcvcincinnati.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

Pam Hinterscher & Kristin McClure

Harriett Iglauer Level

Anonymous

Joan C. Honeck

Marlene & Bill Muse

Peggy Somoza

Kit Berger

James R. Howe, Jr.

Shirley Nathan

Susan & Peter Steele

Dr. Linda Burton

Helen & John Hunter

Susan Noonan

Margaret Straub

Melissa Currence

Andrew MacAiodh Jergens

Marilyn Ott

Mary & Charles VanAusdall

Alphonse Gerhardstein

Laurie F. Johnston

Anita Robinson

John Vinturella and

Sarah Gideonse

Grace McClorey

Burt & Dick Roehr

Susan Howell

Ann Gilton

Karen McGuirk

Nancy Rosenthal

Anthony Youngblood

Lisa Haglund

Carolyn Miller

Alice & Charles Schneider

Gloria Walker Level

Lois Benjamin

Louise Gomer Bangel

Julie Murray

Barbara Smitherman

Ellen Berghamer

Anne & Bob Guinan

J. James and Carol Q. Pearce

Margaret Standriff

Leah Bird

Corinne Gutjahr

Marcia Philipps

Carol Striker

Liliana Bramasco

Judith Harmony

Suzanne Pontius

Fumiko Tanaka

Tim Burke

Joy Haupt

Barry Porter

Arlene Thorwarth

Barbara Clarke

Patricia Henley

Kerry & David Rhoad

Marcella Trice

Carol Crow

Lucia & Donald Hudson

Elaine Roth-Beecher

Gerald & Barbara Varland

Donna & Emil Dansker

Clare Johnson

Rina Saperstein & Jeff Davis

Harvey Weitkamp

Marge Davis

Pinky & Sam Kocoshis

Jill Schiller

George Wile

Mary Davis

Patricia Ley

Barbara Schenck

Lauren Woodiwiss

Pearl Edelstein

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Lubow

Marilyn Sesler

Janet Ziegler

Nancy Ertel

Kat Lyons

Elizabeth & Paul Sittenfeld

Margaret Fanella

Edward Merkes

Mary Friel

Ira & Regina Moskowitz

P. Jeane Goings

Sandra & Ernest Mowell

In Honor Of

Pam Hinterscher & Kristin McClure -
In honor of Burton Roehr's birthday

NINETY-FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING

We value your membership

By *John Vinturella, Membership Director*



John Vinturella, Susan Howell

I'd like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership with the LWVCA for the coming year.

It has been a great year for the Greater Cincinnati League and our ninety-fifth year looks like it will be even better! You have been a part of last year's successes, and we look forward to your participation during 2014-15.

We truly value your membership. If you haven't yet

renewed for the upcoming year, we hope you will soon. Don't miss the chance to spend time with other League members and to be a part of our efforts in Voter Service, Program, Units and special events.

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 helping you to making the most of your League experience. If you have any questions or suggestions call the League office or write to us at membership@lwvcincinnati.com. We can help place you in a committee working within your areas of interest or connect you with members meeting in your neighborhood.

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

UPTOWN TRANSIT DISTRICT RIBBON-CUTTING

By *Chris Moran, County Government*

Metro's Uptown Transit District had the official ribbon-cutting opening on a pleasant morning in July. The District will enable transit riders to make connections with other Metro bus routes without going downtown.

There are four boarding areas in the Uptown Transit District, each serving as a stop and/or connection for several bus



Photos by Carolyn B. Miller



routes: University of Cincinnati District on Jefferson Avenue, Medical Center on Burnet Avenue, Clifton Heights business District near Hughes High School and Vine Street between McMillian and Calhoun. Each stop has a lighted shelter and real-time information. This requires equipping each bus with GPS (Geographic Positioning System) that tracks the location of the bus and the timing of its arrival at the stop.

All the area stops have rider information, two have ticket vending machines and two are stops for MetroPlus. The wide plaza areas around the shelters, the neighborhood graphic art and the landscaping make these locations attractive.

Metro secured \$7 million from Federal sources, Ohio Department of Transportation and local funds to build Uptown Transit District. For more info about the Uptown Transit District, visit www.go-metro.com/about-metro/uptown-transit-district.

LWVCA'S NATIONAL DELEGATES REPORT:

News from National Convention in Dallas!

By *Burton Roehr, LWVCA National Delegate*

I had the good fortune to attend the LWVUS Biennial Convention this year; it was held in Dallas, TX June 6 through 10 and was attended by 630 voting delegates from 47 states. We covered a lot of ground in those four days, and I've put together a compressed summary of what was decided.

PROGRAM

The National Board had recommended two program items, both of which were adopted after much discussion:

1. A concurrence with the LWV New Jersey's position on Human Trafficking: The League Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.
2. A comprehensive three-part program combining study and review of key, specific structures of American democracy, consisting of:
 - a. A study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution, including constitutional conventions. This will lead to consensus.
 - b. A review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of forty years of change since the Watergate reforms, in order to enhance member understanding of the new schemes and structures used to influence elections and erode protections against corruption in our political process, and to review possible responses to counter them in the current environment of rapid change. This



Melissa Currence, above, center, waits to speak at the LWVUS's Young People Task Force; Pinky Kochoshis, below, center, in line to speak her mind.



may lead to proposals for change.

- c. A review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress, through the existing redistricting task force, for the purpose of developing action steps. Nothing will be required of local Leagues; the task force will report what next steps should be.
3. The LWV Kansas proposed a Living Wage Position that was amended and hotly debated, but delegates ultimately turned it down.
4. We debated Bylaw revisions and voted to revise as recommended by the LWVUS Board.
5. Caucuses, workshops, speakers galore. It was a very busy four days.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. The proposed increase of our LWVUS PMP to \$32 starting in FY 2015-16 passed after lengthy debate.
2. The Nominating Committee's choice to retain Elizabeth MacNamara as President of the LWVUS was challenged by Deirdre McNab, President of the Florida League. Ms. McNab had a well-organized campaign, and we even had a candidate's debate—a very League approach! However, delegates reelected Ms. MacNamara via a secret ballot election.
3. LWVCA's Melissa Currence attended as a member of the LWVUS's Young People Task Force. She and the other members presented a workshop that was so popular it had to be repeated on another day.

Being a delegate to a LWVUS Convention is quite an experience, and your delegates, Kristin Luery, Pinky Kocoshis and I, appreciate our League's giving us the opportunity to represent our membership. We took our responsibilities very seriously, but managed to have a lot of fun doing so! Moreover, we came away with a renewed commitment to the LWV and what it represents.

MLD TEAMS EXCHANGE INNOVATIVE MEMBERSHIP IDEAS

By John Vinturella, Membership Director

LWVCA's Marlene Muse, Susan Steele, Sandra Mowell and I recently attended special training in Columbus for current local League teams and coaches participating in the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program.

The MLD program, sponsored by the Ohio League and LWVUS, is designed to enrich the democracy-building capacity of local Leagues. The program is now being implemented by 18 local Leagues across Ohio with the support of a team of volunteer coaches.

These MLD team members and coaches had an Idea Exchange to share the innovative MLD techniques, materials and programs they have developed over the past year, as well as discuss opportunities and challenges in implementing the MLD

program. In addition, a panel of current MLD team members including Susan, Sandra and Marlene shared their experiences, perspectives and suggestions with new MLD teams and coaches.

As LWVCA Co-President Helen Rhoad said of the MLD program, "In this time of growing polarization, the League of Women Voters is needed more than ever. A strong League is the best way to ensure that we have a citizenry that is informed on the issues, ready and able to cast a ballot, and prepared to ensure that every vote is counted."

Susan Steele added, "I'm honored to be part of a volunteer organization that

people trust and that provides me with great opportunities to make an impact on the Cincinnati area and on our government. This training has gotten me even more excited about the League's work and my ability to make a difference."



John Vinturella, far left, with Susan Steele, far right

GREAT FUN HAD AT SUMMER SOCIAL

By Melissa Currence, VP of Development

LWVCA held a summer social for donors at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center to thank our many supporters for their continued support during our summer appeal. A great time was held by all with both members and community supporters attending the event. We had 22 guests join us.

Thanks to the Development Committee for organizing this event! Special thanks to Kit Berger, Nancy Dawley, Jeane Goings, Becky Haltermon, Felicity Hill, Marlene Muse, Sandra Mowell, Don and Helen Rhoad and Margaret Standriff.



From left to right: Kit Berger, Frank Miller and Carolyn Miller



The mission of Kennedy Heights Arts Center is to enhance the life of the surrounding community through arts and cultural experiences that embrace diversity, foster creativity and build community. To find out about upcoming exhibits, join their mailing list at kennedyarts.org.

WHY USE SOCIAL MEDIA?

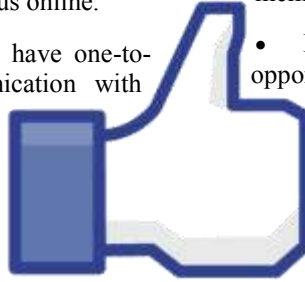
By Alice Schneider, LWVCA social media volunteer

Many of our members shy away from social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) and seem proud that they don't use it. However, if the LWVCA does not adapt to new messaging technologies, we die!

Social media can drive membership, fundraising and marketing. It's an extension to our public relations strategies.

Here are some benefits that social media provide:

- Gives the League the opportunity to begin listening to what others are saying about us online.
- Allows us to have one-to-one communication with members and supporters.
- Can be used to gather feedback about issues.
- Personalizes the League.
- Can be used to share exclusive information to members and supporters.
- Provides potential opportunities for word-of-mouth buzz about the League.
- Helps attract younger members.



We have grown our following on Facebook and Twitter by leaps and bounds this year, so we are reaching more people with our announcements and messages.

Want to help the League? Like us on Facebook (search for us by typing in "League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area), follow us on Twitter (@lwvca) and share our messages on whatever social media platform you use.

GREEN UMBRELLA UPDATE

By Chris Moran, LWVCA volunteer

Green Umbrella seeks to be the 'go-to' site for sustainable activities, news and resources. At the May Summit, each of the Action Teams reported on the past year's accomplishments, including tons of e-waste recycled, progress on mapping off-road hike and bike trails and information about the Cincy Bike Share program among others. "Thought leader" John Picard gave the keynote

address describing futuristic work to connect people and urging the region to take a leadership role in the national sustainability movement.

It is easy to sign up for the weekly newsletter, Green News You Can Use, which links to numerous activities and events in the area and to information on the Action Team meetings. LWVCA is a Green Umbrella member. Check it out at GreenUmbrella.org.



OBSERVING THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

By Pinky Kocoshis, LWVCA Board of Elections Liaison

This summer I began as official LWVCA observer at Board of Elections, and it has been a learning experience for me. The primary elections have been extremely well monitored, after the fact, by BOE staff. Their attention to details (as to every single ballot/vote) is a testament to their office and its work.



Often they bring up very valid issues, such as obtaining a list of all vacant/demolished properties in an attempt to determine if any registered voters are using these addresses. The staff is very respectful of their actions and questions and follows up on them.

I am learning a lot, and will hope to take a more active/advocacy role on behalf of LWVCA when appropriate.

The representatives from the Ohio Voter Integrity Project are in attendance at every meeting.

Please join me in participating in one aspect of our most fundamental rights, our right to vote!!!

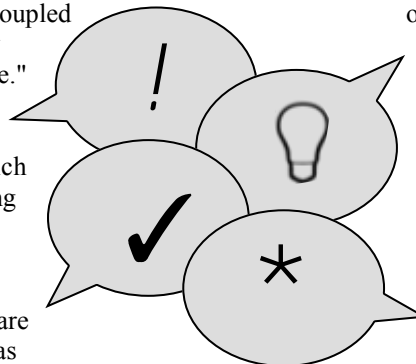
WORD AWARENESS

Word choice can influence the national conversation

By Nancy Dawley, Action Chair

Rebranding of harms can change the way a whole society looks at a problem. The dumping of "sewage sludge" with all of its toxic contaminants becomes "land recycling of biosolids." "Fracking for shale gas" – involving underground explosions, earthquakes, and the contamination of billions of gallons of water – has become

"unconventional extraction" coupled with "energy independence." "Industrial-scale wind farms" – which are bulldozing ridge tops across New England and elsewhere – are now known as "green energy."



Blowing the tops off of mountains, an extraction method created by the mining industry to "harvest" coal, is now known as mountaintop development."

How did this come about? This article goes back over a hundred years to see its development. Read it here: celdf.org/downloads/Community_Rights_Paper_2_NIMBY.pdf.

We can counterattack such word techniques to make the dialogue more honest, if we know how.

2014 MARTHA B. TAFT AWARD GIVEN TO MELISSA CURRENCE

By Carolyn Miller, former Vice President of Program

Melissa Currence was honored with this year's Martha B. Taft Service Award. This is the League's highest honor and is given each year to a long-time League member who is an all-around League contributor and leader, and whose talents have made a difference in the broader community.

Comments from the 2014 Annual Meeting:

I could make this very short by saying – "Melissa has done it all!" But I'll let you know why we all love Melissa and her "of course that can be done" attitude. I can't think of anything that you could ask Melissa to do that she doesn't say "I can do that and what else can I do for you." This is typical of Melissa's abilities and dependability since joining the League in 1997. Melissa is happy to give her most valuable resource - her time - to the issues that are closest to her heart.

Melissa is a member of the Central Evening unit and currently serves as Voter co-editor, Vote411 coordinator and our technology guru. Melissa also served on the HR committee and as Chair of the Nominating this year. In the recent past, Melissa has served as Unit

Chair, Action Chair, Vice President for Voter Service and President from 2010-2012. Melissa has also shared her talents with the state and national levels of the League, serving on the LWV Ohio Board and being a delegate to several League conventions. She currently serves as Co-chair of the Young People Taskforce for LWVUS.

And if that was not enough, Melissa and Jeanne Nightingale conceived and implemented a new endeavor called Act One, a collaboration between the League and the Woman's City Club, which has brought in 16 new members between the ages of 18 and 35 to both organizations.

Melissa has helped so many of us, from doing the Who & What, organizing and often delivering it herself, to filling in for so many people who claim that they "don't have enough time." Time after time, Melissa has lent a hand to the League. When someone posts a question on Facebook, she is happy to respond with thorough, thoughtful answers. When materials need to be updated, events need to be planned or membership needs new ideas, she jumps in with both feet, always with a warm smile and generous attitude!

On top of all her League work, Melissa has worked with Talbert House and now works as Interactive Media Manager at the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. As a valuable member of the Government

As we take the time to look back on our recent achievements in the League and look forward to planning for the coming year, it's clear that this is Melissa's time. Her impressive impact on the League, coupled with her



Carolyn Miller, left, with Melissa Currence and her award

Panel of the Cincinnati Association, she has helped coordinate a number of televised candidate debates with a coalition of community partners including the League. Melissa holds a BA from Xavier and an MA from Ohio State University.

burning drive to continue our growth, confirms her commitment. We honor that commitment today.

What does Melissa have in store for the future of the League? We can't wait to see!

JOYCE ASFOUR MADE LIFE MEMBER

By Becky Haltermon, Office Manager

When Joyce Asfour joined the League 50 years ago, she began an adventure that would include being active in several Units, editing this fine publication and serving on the LWVCA Board as a Director and Secretary.

Over the years, Joyce's interests in League program topics have included the United Nations,

Foreign Relations, Human Rights and currently, giving her time to the Housing Committee.

Joyce's passions outside the League have been intertwined with her League interests, including serving as Director of the International Visitor Center, serving on the Board of the Crazy Ladies in Northside, founding and directing Grace Place (a shelter for women and their kids) in College Hill and

being active in Grailville programs.

We could never repay the five decades wisdom, passion and drive that she has shared with the League, but we can honor her commitment by inducting her as a Life Member of the LWVCA.



Joyce Asfour with her award

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL LAUNCHES AMERICAN CITY COUNTY EXCHANGE

By Nancy Dawley, Action Chair

We think that League members want to know about such organizations as American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and American City County Exchange (ACCE). As legislation is proposed, you may ask the question, "What is the source of this legislation and who will most benefit from it?"

ALEC, formed in 1973, brings elected state officials together with representatives of corporations, giving those companies a direct channel into legislation in the form of ALEC "model bills". (See alec.org/about-alec/history/ for more information.) The stated purpose of these model bills is to make it easier to move best practices legislation that makes the states

more business-friendly across the country more quickly. Corporations pay a yearly fee of \$7,000 to \$25,000, plus an additional \$2,500 to \$10,000 to be included on a task force. Legislators pay \$50. (See alecexposed.org/wiki/What_is_ALEC%3F for more information.)

How has it affected Ohio legislation? Take a look at a report from People for the American Way, written in 2011: site.pfaw.org/pdf/ALEC-in-Ohio.pdf. One of the key findings is that between January and October 2011, 33 bills were introduced in the Ohio legislature that are identical to or contain elements from 64 different ALEC "model" proposals. Nine of those bills, containing elements from 33

pieces of ALEC legislation, have been signed into law.

Now ALEC is launching a new network, introduced in late July, 2014 at its Dallas convention, which will seek to replicate its current influence within state legislatures in city councils and municipalities. ACCE will provide corporations with a direct conduit to city and county officials for the purpose of influencing local laws. Lobbyists work directly with elected officials to create "model legislation" that are then voted on by the committee and taken by elected officials back to their councils to implement. Corporations pay a yearly fee to be part of the organization, and an additional fee to sit on each working committee. (See [\[mar/06/conservative-group-alec-city-local-government-and-theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/30/alec-acce-lobby-local-tax-cuts-republicans\]\(http://mar/06/conservative-group-alec-city-local-government-and-theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/30/alec-acce-lobby-local-tax-cuts-republicans\) for more information.\)](http://theguardian.com/world/2014/</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

Until the "Stand Your Ground Laws" were decried a few years ago upon the death of Trayvon Martin in Florida, much of ALEC's work was done without citizens knowing what influence corporate lobbyists play on state legislation. During those four decades of quiet work, state law made major changes. The Stand Your Ground furor has receded, and ALEC model bills continue to be introduced and passed in Ohio and other states.

Will ACCE models do the same in local government?

ACT ONE CONTINUES FOR A SECOND YEAR

By Melissa Currence, Act One Committee

The LWVCA Board approved the continuation of "Act One: Hands on Civics in Cincinnati" at their July board meeting through a Steiner Fund request, increasing the number of spots to 30 to accommodate current Act One members plus additional slots for new members.

Recruitment of the second year of members began in August 2014. The financial commitment from the Steiner Fund would be up to \$2,050 (30 members at \$60 each, plus \$250 for committee expenses).

Act One was developed with Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati (WCC). For our first year, LWVCA board authorized the Steiner Fund to pay for up to 20 members for \$1,200. We were able to engage 17 new members to join LWVCA and Woman's City Club. Our actual Act One expense for 2013-14 was \$870 for 17 full

memberships. Five members came in 2014 when the amount for membership was \$30. The other 12 joined Act One during 2013-2014 when the amount for membership was \$60.

Partnering with WCC was a key to the success of this project. The leadership of both organizations had a similar concern, "How do we ensure our work will be passed along to the next generation of leaders?" A committee of five, including a member in the targeted age range, designed the program. Both organizations had a history of having younger members join but then not renew. Together, we were able to get media coverage in the local newspaper, post fliers and share on social media and among the organizations' total membership of more than 400.

Using information gathered for the LWVUS Young People's Task Force, Act One was designed with these components to appeal to younger people: (1) An application process (2) Intergenerational approach so as not to separate younger members from the rest of the organization (3) A focus on résumé-building skills and leadership training (4)

assistance from their mentors, these members are blending within our organization. Several members are participating based on their individual interests: attending unit meetings, joining the Agricultural Study and Housing committees, attending national convention as a delegate, joining the social media and Vote411 teams and volunteering at our signature fundraising event. An Act One member now serves as Communication Committee chair and another member serves on the nominating committee.

We look forward to a second year of Act One!

Recognition at LWV events and in our publications.

What did Act One Class I Members contribute to LWVCA? These members attend monthly meetings and planned a March 2014 voter registration drive at Cincinnati State, registering and updating the addresses of 55 voters. With

Act One was one of four finalists in the League of Women Voters of the United States' 2014 Power: Our Voices, Our Votes Award in the Membership Development category.

For questions on this project, please contact members Susan Steele or Melissa Currence.



BUDGET OF LWVCA AND LWVCA EDUCATION FUND

The following budget was approved at our 2014 Annual Meeting of the LWVCA in May 2014.

LWVCA

<u>ACCOUNTS</u>	<u>2013-2014 ACTUALS</u>	<u>2013-2014 BUDGET</u>	<u>2014-2015 BUDGET</u>
BANK BALANCE JUNE 30, 2014			\$35,347.46
<u>REVENUE</u>			
Dues	13,671.69	14,000.00	12,000.00
Investment Income	0.00	800.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	525.00	0.00	700.00
Annual Meeting	836.00	0.00	0.00
FROM RESERVES	0.00	9,953.00	0.00
TO RESERVES	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contributions	6,325.00	3,500.00	5,200.00
Foundations/Project/Funding			0.00
Donations to Ed Fund	30,000.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenues	\$21,357.69	\$28,253.00	\$53,247.46
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
General Supplies	226.80	270.00	580.00
- Voter Supplies	343.79	180.00	125.00
- Membership/Annual Mtg	231.17		0.00
Postage-General	116.26	240.00	420.00
- Membership/Annual Mtg Postage	194.89		
- TRU Postage	72.72		
- Voter Postage	50.67	225.00	225.00
Telephone	224.56	160.00	460.00
Rent	930.33	950.00	1,900.00
Payroll Expenses (Office Mgr)	2,747.66	2,450.00	4,900.00
Cleaning	86.40	90.00	172.80
Insurance	0.00	50.00	100.00
Equipment Usage/Maintenance Fee	220.00	265.00	420.00
Presidents' Expense	0.00	150.00	50.00
Board Administration	0.00	150.00	50.00
Membership Committee	-169.54	1,000.00	1,040.00
Finance Committee	0.00	75.00	75.00
Program Committee(s)	384.00	300.00	400.00
Community Relations	177.00	15.00	200.00
Tax Preparation & Review	425.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
Convention (National or State)	2,250.00	2,250.00	1,000.00
Conferences/Coalitions/Annual Mtg	558.12	400.00	400.00
Action	-65.00	1,200.00	100.00
LWVUS PMP	8,153.00	8,153.00	8,150.00
LWVO PMP	6,246.25	7,150.00	4,866.00
PayPal Fees	33.80	65.00	100.00
Bank Fees	55.22	315.00	0.00
Publications Purchase	10,500.00 *	350.00	250.00
Donation to Ed Fund	19,500.00 **	0.00	12,000.00
Contingency		500.00	0.00
Expenses Other	89.02	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$53,582.12	\$28,253.00	\$39,283.80
PROJECTED BANK BALANCE June 30, 2015			<u>\$13,963.66</u>

*Who & What Publishing Cost as LWV to replace previous transfer

**Balance LWV transfer to Ed Fund

BUDGET OF LWVCA AND LWVCA EDUCATION FUND

For questions, please contact Treasurer Margaret Standriff or co-presidents Don and Helen Rhoad.

LWVCA EDUCATION FUND

<u>ACCOUNTS</u>	<u>2013-2014 ACTUALS</u>	<u>2013-2014 BUDGET</u>	<u>2014-2015 BUDGET</u>
BANK BALANCE JUNE 30, 2014			\$26,040.12
<u>REVENUE</u>			
Investment Income	1,394.15	4,000.00	0.00
Contributions	18,220.05	15,000.00	15,000.00
Community Shares	4,360.95	3,200.00	3,200.00
Foundations/Project Funding	6,005.48	10,000.00	10,000.00
Susan B Anthony Luncheon	1,322.53	8,000.00	3,000.00
Kroger Rewards	291.94	300.00	300.00
Corporate Contributions/Fundraising Events	0.00	4,000.00	2,000.00
FROM RESERVES	30,000.00	29,684.00	12,000.00
TO RESERVES	0.00	0.00	8,000.00
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>\$61,595.10</u>	<u>\$74,184.00</u>	<u>\$79,540.12</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
General Supplies	2,728.40	2,430.00	2,670.00
Postage	1,788.22	2,160.00	1,680.00
Telephone	2,291.24	1,440.00	1,880.00
Rent	8,378.04	8,550.00	7,400.00
Payroll Expenses (Office Manager)	19,778.25	22,050.00	19,600.00
Cleaning	727.20	810.00	690.00
Insurance	475.00	450.00	350.00
Equipment Usage/Maintenance Fee	2,426.92	2,624.00	2,200.00
Depreciation	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
Finance Committee	0.00	75.00	75.00
Community Relations	250.00	135.00	100.00
Membership Committee	68.90	0.00	0.00
Tax Preparation & Review	0.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
Conferences/Coalitions	1,600.00	100.00	100.00
Web Page/Online Project	400.00	2,000.00	500.00
Voter Supplies	0.00	420.00	420.00
Voter Postage	61.35	525.00	525.00
PayPal or Give Unity Fees	37.31	115.00	50.00
Bank Fees	25.00	0.00	0.00
Who & What of Elections	0.00	20,500.00	20,500.00
They Represent Us (TRU)	2,109.90	2,500.00	2,200.00
Smart Voter/Vote 411	1,391.86	2,500.00	1,200.00
Voter Services Activities	617.49	1,500.00	1,500.00
Community Shares Dues	475.00	500.00	450.00
Contingency	0.00	500.00	0.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$45,630.08</u>	<u>\$74,184.00</u>	<u>\$65,390.00</u>
PROJECTED BANK BALANCE June 30, 2015			<u>\$14,150.12</u>

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE LOOKS AT PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS THE ADMINISTRATION CAN TAKE TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY, SECURE JUSTICE

By Brennan Center

What can be done to move the government forward when Congress and the President are in deadlock?

The Brennan Center for Justice has published a report identifying areas where the president has a "broad opportunity to make significant progress" by "taking steps to help fix the broken systems by which public decisions get made. Individual policies, no matter how valuable, will achieve little if we do not fix our broken democratic systems. Bold executive action can help unstick some of the very gridlock that plagues government."

The report identifies 15 steps that the President can take to "strengthen democracy." See the entire article at brennancenter.org/publication/15-executive-actions.

In brief, the 15 executive actions are:

1. Commission a Justice Department report, The Constitution in 2025, modeled after the Constitution in the Year 2000.
2. Direct federal agencies to find ways to increase voter participation nationwide.
3. Direct federal agencies to accept designation as National Voter Registration Act agencies.
4. Enlist the private sector to assure free and fair elections.
5. Appoint Republicans and Democrats to the Election Assistance and Federal Election Commissions.
6. Sign an executive order requiring disclosure of political spending by

entities awarded government contracts.

7. Request that the Securities and Exchange Commission issue regulations requiring disclosure of corporate political spending.
8. Request that the Federal Communications Commission require more thorough disclaimers of outside spending on political advertisements.
9. Create a Presidential Commission on Mass Incarceration, modeled after the "Kerner Commission."
10. Issue an executive order directing federal agencies to recast their criminal justice grants in a Success-Oriented Funding model.
11. Direct the Justice Department to identify federal prisoners to whom the Fair Sentencing Act

would retroactively apply, and recommend commutations for all those eligible, barring exceptional circumstances.

12. Issue an executive order to "ban the box" on federal agency job applications, except for law enforcement positions.
13. Direct the Attorney General to issue new guidance banning discriminatory law enforcement techniques.
14. Request that the Attorney General survey the use of "secret law" in the federal government and develop procedures to make the law public.
15. Issue an executive order applying key federal information-sharing restrictions to "suspicious activity reports" provided by state and local law enforcement.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S TASK FORCE TOOLKIT

By LWV Ohio

The Young People's Task Force (YPTF) was created as a collaborative effort between LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara and LWVUS staff in response to Leagues' desire to attract the next generation of League leaders. This toolkit is the result of two years of research by the five-person Task Force and provides tools and ideas for where to reach young people and how best to engage them with your League.

Toolkit link: forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/young-peoples-task-force-building-league-tomorrow

YPTF Webinars:

- Interning with the League of Women Voters --

forum.lwv.org/member-resources/link/young-peoples-task-force-interning-league-women-voters

- Reaching out to Millennials on Campus -- forum.lwv.org/member-resources/link/young-peoples-task-force-reaching-out-millennials-campus
- Mentoring in League -- forum.lwv.org/member-resources/link/young-peoples-task-force-mentoring-league
- Young People and the League: Where do we go from here? -- forum.lwv.org/document/webinar-young-person-and-league-where-do-we-go-here



ELECTING JUDGES IN OHIO: TIME FOR CHANGES?

*By Marianna Brown Bettman,
law professor at the University
of Cincinnati College of Law*

Ohio elects all of its judges—from Municipal Court to the Ohio Supreme Court. Why? Our state constitution has required this since 1851. And all judicial terms are six years. Presently, the only requirement to become a judge is to have practiced law in Ohio for six years, and the meaning of “practice” has at times been quite liberally construed.

There is regular grumbling about electing judges, particularly in light of the unseemly amount of cash that now goes into judicial races. People tell me all the time they have no idea who they are voting for in many cases. And yet, people are also reluctant to give up the right to vote in any kind of election.

Like many states, Ohio has a number of quirks about its judicial elections. One of the quirkiest is Ohio has partisan primaries for judges, followed by non-partisan elections. The whole shooting match used to be partisan, but judicial general elections became non-partisan in Ohio in 1911. By law, all the non-partisan races come after all of the partisan races. So the judicial races are at the very end of the ballot. And they aren't even first on the non-partisan ballot. They follow state school board elections. Why? Because the legislature passed a law setting the order of the non-partisan ballot. This has resulted in what is known as fall-off in the judicial races. Voters don't bother going all the way to the end of the ballot especially when they don't recognize any of the names. Studies have shown that as many as 25 percent of the voters just skip these elections.

Judicial elections used to be ho-hum affairs because judges aren't supposed to say much except they will judge each case fairly and impartially.

But due some U.S. Supreme Court decisions, that restriction has been loosened up.

Ohio's late Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer became increasingly troubled by judicial elections—particularly by the negative advertising and the huge amount of money involved. He favored merit selection, at least for appellate judges and supreme court justices, as an alternative way of choosing judges. Under that system, which was started in Missouri, and is used in a number of states, a lawyer is initially appointed to judicial office, then runs in a retention election, where there is no opponent, and voters decide whether or not to retain that person as a judge. Merit selection for Ohio has been floated a number of times in the past, always unsuccessfully. Moyer had planned to spend his time and focus in retirement on this issue, but died unexpectedly shortly before the end of his term.

Our present Chief Justice, Maureen O'Connor, is taking a different tack. She has abandoned the merit-selection alternative favored by her predecessor, because she thinks the voters don't want it. Instead, at the 2013 annual meeting of the Ohio State Bar Association, she made an eight-point proposal, formulated as a series of questions, that she suggests be aired in a series of discussions around the state, ultimately culminating in an action plan. Here are her questions, with a few thoughts of my own

1. Should Ohio change the law so judicial races are no longer listed at the end of the ballot?

I think this is an excellent idea, and would require an amendment to the existing law. This should help with the fall-off problem.

2. Should all judicial elections be held in odd-numbered years?

Judicial races are now held every year, so some (municipal court) are already in odd-numbered years. But common pleas, appellate, and supreme court judicial races are in even-numbered years, and must compete with elections for things like president, senator, governor, attorney general, and members of Congress. That contributes to the fall off problem. But I'm not sure this suggestion is a good idea. Wisconsin, which has such a system, is now one of the most contentious courts in the country. It's almost as if this encourages too much attention, in a bad way.

3. Should Ohio centralize and expand its civic education programming and institute a judicial voter guide?

Absolutely. This one is a no-brainer. Arizona has an excellent model for this. And I applaud the Court for allowing cameras in the courtroom, including at the Ohio Supreme Court. It is amazing how much a voter can pick up simply by watching a proceeding.

4. Should Ohio eliminate party affiliation on the ballot in judicial primaries?

I think it is absolutely time to do this. It just no longer makes any sense. There is, however, a whole school of thought that favors making all judicial elections partisan, believing that the non-partisan ballot for judges is a fiction anyway, since most, if not all the candidates are endorsed by a political party, their names appear on the party's sample ballot, and they receive money from political parties. Personally, I still favor the non-partisan judicial ballot.

5. Should Ohio join other states that have a formal, non-partisan system for recommending nominees to the governor to fill judicial vacancies?

I think absolutely yes on this one. Former Governor Strickland used such a system, which I was privileged to chair for a couple of years. I think it encouraged outstanding lawyers to apply for judgeships who would not have ordinarily, and greatly increased diversity on the bench. I was proud to be a part of this.

6. Should appointments to the Ohio Supreme Court require the advice and consent of the Ohio Senate?

I don't like this one at all. I think it is an unnecessary intrusion into the separation of powers. It is not at all like the federal system, where Senate confirmation is part of a lifetime appointment process. These state supreme court interim appointments are short, and the voters have a say quickly. From 1803-1851, judges were appointed by the General Assembly. Some very bad stuff (like impeaching judges or eliminating their jobs for declaring laws unconstitutional) happened during that time.

7. Should Ohio increase the basic qualifications for serving as a judge?

I see no harm in requiring more experience at the appellate and Supreme Court level.

8. Should Ohio increase the length of judges' terms?

I think this warrants a hard look. Wisconsin, for example, has just received a proposal for a single 16-year term for Supreme Court justices. There's good and bad here. The bad is there would be no way at all short of impeachment to get rid of a bad judge. And I would imagine that first election could be a killer, exacerbating the worst of what we already have. The good is such a system would insulate judges from political pressure and spending time on fund-raising for re-election. This one needs a lot of thought.

TRAVEL ACROSS THE COUNTRY *with the LWV Florida this Fall*

By LWV Florida

The League of Women Voters of Florida has three trips planned this fall:

Sept. 24 through 28, 2014 - Join LWV Florida for a trip to Washington, D.C! See the Capitol, the Supreme Court, the Florida Embassy House and much more! Other highlights include a production of *Driving Miss Daisy* at the historic Ford's Theatre and a tour of the Library of Congress.

Oct. 3 through 5, 2014 - Join us for a weekend trip to Cumberland Island and historic St. Marys, Georgia! Explore the island through a fascinating Land & Legacies tour, where you will see the Plum Orchard mansion, the remains of Robert Stafford's plantation and cemetery, the First African Baptist Church, the Cumberland Wharf, and much more!

Oct. 22 through 26, 2014 - Join LWV Florida as we travel to upstate New York

and retrace the American suffragist movement! See the homes of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, visit the National Women's Hall of Fame, and much more.

For more information on these and other trips, please visit the Florida League's website at thefloridavoter.org/events/other-trips, or contact LWV Events Manager Megg Murphy at lwvfevents@gmail.com or 850-224-2545.



St. Marys, Georgia



Upstate New York

REGISTER NOW FOR GREAT DECISIONS *Starts end of September*

By Greater Cincinnati World Affairs Council



Join the Greater Cincinnati World Affairs Council, in partnership

with the Cincinnati Museum Center, to explore different foreign policy topics every month with Great Decisions.

The three-hour classes will include a tour of Cincinnati Museum Center, networking, reading materials, short films, featured speaker and discussion,

as well as light food, drinks and a cash bar!

Great Decisions dates and topics:

- Sept. 27 - China Foreign policy
- Oct. 25 - Food and Climate

- Nov. 22 - Israel and the US

Pricing for the program is \$45 for one class and \$110 for all three classes. For more information, contact Greater Cincinnati Worlds Affairs Council at info@cincyworldaffairs.org or 859-448-8984.

HOUSE DISTRICT 27 CANDIDATE FORUM *Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.*

By Pinky Kocoshis, Anderson Unit

LWVCA's Anderson Unit will be presenting a Candidate Forum at the Anderson Center (7850 Five Mile Road in Anderson Township, 513-688-8400). The forum will be free and open to the public and will

feature the candidates running for Ohio House of Representatives District 27: Tom Brinkman (R) and Joe Otis (D).

The event will be televised live on Anderson Community Television (ACTV).

CLERMONT COUNTY CANDIDATE FORUM *Tuesday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.*

By LWV Clermont County

LWV Clermont County will host a candidates' forum at UC Clermont College, at Krueger Auditorium in Batavia.

The moderator is Cindi Andrews, Cincinnati Enquirer reporter and journalist.

The candidates from the following offices are invited: U.S. 2nd Congressional District, Ohio State House 66th District, Ohio State House 65th District and Clermont County Commissioner.

IMPORTANT 2014 ELECTION DATES

Oct. 6, 2014: Voter registration deadline for November general election

Nov. 4, 2014: General Election Day

Help Wanted

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

By April Piatt, Voter Service Committee member

Have you ever been in front of the camera? Have you ever wanted to be?

Well, the LWVCA needs you! Our Voter Service Committee is looking to make several short videos, to be used via social media to better inform voters. Topics will include: how to vote absentee, what to expect at the polls and small tutorials for things such as navigating our new VOTE411.org.

So if 15 minutes (or less) of fame is your fancy, or if you have behind-the-camera experience, please contact the office at 513-281-8683 or email Sandra Mowell at voterservice@lwcincinnati.org for more information.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

By Burton Roehr, LWVCA Education Committee Chair and Board Secretary

Our Education Committee needs League members to help with two projects this next program year:

- People to monitor Cincinnati Public School Board meetings, get information about the proposed levy that will be on the November ballot, and generally provide information to the Committee about CPS and its activities.

- Folks to help research and compile information about local charter schools and how the tax dollars they receive are used. The goal is to prepare for unit meetings next April on accountability in charter schools, an issue the State League has taken on as a priority next year.

If you want to join the committee, please call the office at 513-821-8683 and leave your name, phone number and which project you'd like to undertake. It will be forwarded to me and I'll be in touch with you.

OFFICE HELP IS NEEDED

By Mary Kay Gardner, Office Volunteer Coordinator

Some help is needed in the LWVCA office in Mt. Auburn for one morning a month. We are looking for several good women or men to answer phones and greet the public. This volunteer job is fun and always interesting - never know what will come up! We will provide training for you. Please call Mary Kay Gardner or the LWVCA office at 513-281-8683.



Volunteering isn't all hard work - sometimes it involves pizza and cake!

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT VOTE411.ORG!

By April Piatt, Voter Service Committee

Please spread the word that LWVCA will be using Vote411.org for November's election.

While the nationally recognized VOTE411.org is new to LWVCA, the website has proven to be an asset in finding new ways to involve and educate voters across the country. The website is easy to navigate for both those behind

the scenes and for the voter. Once up and running, the website will be a well-organized tool for all races and issues.

As with any new beginning, there will be a lot of ground

work to prepare our League, the website and the voting public. LWVCA volunteers have been busy training and are anxious to put our new knowledge to good use.

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



JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

In November, Ohio voters will be voting on a number of judicial candidates. On the ballots in Hamilton, Butler and Warren Counties will be candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio Court of Appeals Judge, County Court Judge (Warren County), and Court of Common Pleas Judge. Voting on judicial races poses a major challenge for many voters. In November 2012, 40 percent of Ohioans who cast a ballot skipped voting in judicial races because they lacked information about the judiciary and judicial candidates.

INFORMATION ON THE JUDICIARY

The Supreme Court of Ohio – The Supreme Court is established by the Ohio Constitution (Article IV) and is made up of seven justices. It is responsible for the leadership of the judicial branch of Ohio government. Most of its cases are from the 12 district Courts of Appeals. The Supreme Court also has appellate jurisdiction in cases involving questions arising under the Ohio or United States Constitution, hears all cases in which the death penalty has been imposed and reviews the actions over certain administrative agencies including the Public Utilities Commission and the Board of Tax Appeals. The Supreme Court of Ohio also regulates admission to the practice of law, the discipline of attorneys admitted to practice and all other matters relating to the practice of law.

The Ohio Court of Appeals – The Courts of Appeals are established by the Ohio Constitution (Article IV). As intermediate level appellate courts, their primary function is to hear appeals from the common pleas, municipal and county courts. Each case is

heard and decided by a three-judge panel. The state is divided into twelve districts and the number of judges in each district varies between four and twelve depending on various factors including the court's caseload and size of the district.

Ohio Court of Common Pleas - The trial courts of the state court system of Ohio, the courts of common pleas are the only trial courts created by the Ohio Constitution (Article IV). Each of Ohio's 88 counties has a court of common pleas. The courts of common pleas are often divided into divisions including general, domestic relations, juvenile and probate. In order to be appointed or elected to the court, a person must be an attorney with at least six years of experience in the practice of law.

Warren County Court - The Warren County Court was created in 1958 by an act of the Ohio General Assembly to replace township justices of the peace. The court handles an average of approximately 8,000 criminal, traffic and civil



cases per year and its jurisdiction includes cases in the following Townships: Clearcreek, Hamilton, Harlan, Massie, Salem, Union, Washington and Wayne.

WHAT VOTERS SHOULD UNDERSTAND

The courts are an important part of our democracy and provide essential balance in our government. American democracy depends on the People's knowledge of the role of the courts within our constitutional system, the difference between judges and other elected officials, how judges make decisions and the reasons why our courts should be free from political influences. Politics and special interests have no place in the courts, as the courts' purpose is to uphold the Constitution and interpret and apply state and local laws.

The peaceful resolution of differences depends on fair judges. When we end up in a lawsuit, we need to have confidence that judges will decide our case ON THE BASIS OF THE LAW and the evidence with no consideration of the relative wealth or political clout of supporters or detractors who may be lobbying for a particular result. The judicial process is

threatened when large amounts of money and political pressure are applied to influence how cases are decided. Voters play a critical role in protecting courts from these pressures by participating in choosing judges.

HOW TO FIND OUT ABOUT JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

Those voters who consider the political party an important factor in voting for judicial candidates will need to remember which candidates were on which ballots for the primary election. It can be hard for the average person to decide among judicial candidates because most voters don't know much about them. This is because most citizens do not routinely interact with judges in their communities, so they tend to know very little about how judges conduct themselves in the course of doing their jobs. In addition, state rules do not allow judicial candidates to discuss their views on controversial issues because judges must be impartial on the bench; if they discuss their personal beliefs, they might appear to be prejudiced toward a particular viewpoint.

Other candidates for office often inform voters by discussing issues and policies and by promising to do certain things if they are elected. The Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 4, spells out rules for permissible and prohibited conduct by candidates for judge.

A judicial candidate may: present his or her record of public service and other relevant experience and qualifications; discuss his or her general views about the administration of justice; talk about court management and policies.

A judicial candidate may not: make speeches on behalf of a political party or act as a leader of a political party; publicly endorse or oppose a candidate for another public office; comment on any substantive

In the general election, there are no party designations listed on your ballot for judicial

JUDICIAL ELECTIONS, *continued*

matter relating to a specific case pending on the docket of any judge; make any statement that would reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending or impending in any court; in connection with cases, controversies, or issues that are likely to come before the court, make pledges, promises, or commitments that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of the adjudicative duties of judicial office.

VOTERS SHOULD FOCUS ON ESSENTIAL QUALITIES FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

Integrity -- A judge should be honest, upright and committed to the rule of law.

Professional Competence -- A judge should have a keen intellect, extensive legal knowledge and strong writing skills.

Judicial Temperament -- A judge must be neutral, decisive, respectful and composed.

Experience -- A judge should have a strong record of professional excellence in the law.

Service -- A judge should be committed to public service and the administration of justice.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT A JUDICIAL CANDIDATE

As an attorney, has the candidate handled a variety of cases such as tax law, divorce, criminal, etc.?

If the candidate is a judge, has he/she presided over a variety of trials?

What is the opinion of practicing attorneys and/or the

local bar association regarding the candidate?

Is the candidate considered impartial?

Does the candidate possess a deep commitment to the law?

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

Ohiojudges.org -- Ohio Judicial Conference provides a citizen guide brochure to include an overview of Ohio's court system and legal terminology. Website includes links to elected judges.

State.oh.us/sos -- Ohio Secretary of State "Candidate Profiles" link: profiles and position statements of candidates for Justice and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

The local bar association in your area may rate candidates, or guide you to other information such as judicial performance evaluations. See OhioBar.org for the Ohio State Bar Association "Ohio Metro Areas" that will help you find your local Bar Association listing.

Attend voter information sessions -- The LWVCA's "Behind the Gavel" event on Sept. 22 (see related article on page 2) features information on the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas and the judicial candidates for this office.

Check campaign web sites and voter guides provided by nonpartisan groups such as the League of Women Voters -- lwvcincinnati.org; lwvohio.org; vote411.org

Above all, consider who is paying for any advertising about any particular judicial election. There are contribution limits for judicial candidates

under Ohio law. For candidates of the Ohio Supreme Court individuals are limited to \$3,425 and \$6,325 for political action committees for both the general and primary elections. State and local party organizations are limited to \$172,500 for the primary election while the limit for the general election is \$316,250. For contributions to candidates for the Ohio Court of Appeals, individuals are limited to \$1,125 and \$3,450 for political action committees for both the general and primary elections. State and local party organizations are limited to \$34,500 for the primary election while the limit for the general election is \$69,000. Contributions for all candidates for the Ohio Court of Common



Pleas are limited to \$575 for individuals and \$3,450 for political action committees. State and local party organizations have different limits for Common Pleas candidates. For candidates in a population greater than 750,000, the limits are \$34,500 for the primary election while the limit for the general election is \$69,000. For a population less than 750,000 the limits are \$28,750 for the primary election while the limit for the general election is \$57,500. The primary election campaign limits for party organizations are only in effect if there is a contested primary. Campaign finance for Ohio judicial elections are governed by the Ohio Secretary of State. The Ohio Secretary of State is

responsible for all handling of administrative and reporting functions of Ohio's campaign finance laws.

When voters understand what judges do and how the courts are supposed to work, they are more likely to vote for judges possessing character, integrity, impartiality and a willingness to decide cases on the evidence presented and the law, not on political or special-interest agendas or out of a fear of unpopularity. If we support or oppose judges based on the popularity of their decisions, the threat of political retribution will undermine fairness, equality and impartiality in our courts.

These study pages were compiled using the following publication sources:

- "Electing Judges: Why Judicial Candidates can be hard to hear and How to find their voices" – Ohio Judicial Conference, Columbus, Ohio;
- "What Voters Need to Know" and "Questions for Judicial Candidates" – League of Women Voters of Ohio;
- "Informed Voters, Fair Judges" – National Association of Women Judges;
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio_Courts_of_Common_Pleas; Judgepedia.org/Campaign_finance_requirements_for_Ohio-Judicial;
- co.warren.oh.us/county/court/GenInfo/history.aspx;
- sconet.state.oh.us/SCO/jurisdiction/default.asp;
- sconet.state.oh.us/JudSystem/districtCourts/default.asp

The Courts in Ohio



SUPREME COURT
 CHIEF JUSTICE AND SIX JUSTICES

Original jurisdiction in select cases; court of last resort on state constitutional questions and questions of public or great general interest; appeals from Board of Tax Appeals, Public Utilities Commission and death penalty cases

COURT OF APPEALS
 TWELVE DISTRICTS, THREE-JUDGE PANELS

Appellate review of judgments of common pleas, municipal and county courts; appeals from Board of Tax Appeals; original jurisdiction in select cases

COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS
 IN EACH OF 88 COUNTIES

GENERAL DIVISION Civil and criminal cases; appeals from most administrative agencies	DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION Divorce and dissolutions; support and custody of children	JUVENILE DIVISION Offenses involving minors; most paternity actions	PROBATE DIVISION Decedents' estates; mental illness; adoptions; marriage licenses
--	---	---	---

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY COURTS

Misdemeanor offenses; traffic cases; civil action up to \$15,000

COURT OF CLAIMS
 JUDGES ASSIGNED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE

All suits against the state for personal injury, property damage, contract and wrongful death; compensation for victims of crime. Three-judge panels upon request

MAYOR'S COURTS

Not courts of record. Violations of local ordinances and state traffic laws. Matters can be reheard in municipal or county courts



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE CINCINNATI AREA

103 Wm. H. Taft Road Cincinnati, OH 45219 • (513) 281-8683 • Fax (513) 281-8714 • www.lwvcincinnati.org

In Memoriam: **THE LEAGUE COMMEMORATES**

James Berry, devoted husband to LWVCA member Mary Anne McCord-Berry, passed on Aug. 5, 2014. Our heartfelt condolences to the Berry family. Donations can be made to Mt. Washington School (1730 Mears, Cincinnati, OH 45202). Memorial services held privately.

LWVCA Lifetime member **Pat Earley** passed on Aug. 17, 2014. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family, friends and colleagues in the Hilltop North Unit.

THE VOTER **COLLATING SCHEDULE*** ***2014-2015***

Sept. 18
October Voter
Metro Day

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!

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).

Editor:
Melissa Currence

Layout/Design:
Becky Haltermon

Please submit articles to:
newsletter@lwvcincinnati.org

Next deadline: Friday, Sept. 5
for the ***September Email Update*** and
the ***October 2014*** issues



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



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.

UPCOMING LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

All 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!

- Monday, Sept. 1 Labor Day Holiday, League office closed
- Wednesday, Sept. 3, 6 p.m. LWVCA Board Meeting
- Thursday, Sept. 4, 6 p.m. Newer Member Happy Hour
- Friday, Sept. 5 Deadline for submissions for the next *Voter*
- Saturday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m. Discussion Leaders Briefing
- Monday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m. Northeast Evening Unit Discussion
- Tuesday, Sept. 9, 12 p.m. Hilltop North Unit Discussion
- Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m. Anderson Unit Discussion
- Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m. Warren/Butler County Unit Discussion
- Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7:15 p.m. Central Evening Unit Discussion
- Tuesday, Sept. 17, 12 p.m. Eastern Day Unit Discussion
- Tuesday, Sept. 17, 12 p.m. Metro Day Unit Discussion
- Sunday, Sept. 21 *Special Note:* Anniversary of the Founding of the LWVCA
- Monday, Sept. 22, 6 p.m. Behind the Gavel: Meet the Common Pleas Judicial Candidates (*See page 2*)
- Tuesday, Sept. 23 National Voter Registration Day (*See cover page*)
- Tuesday, Sept. 23, 6 p.m. LWV Clermont County Candidates Forum (*See page 14*)

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.