



**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



April 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Co-Presidents' Letter	2
March Board Briefs	2
New Members	2
April 15 is Tax Day	3
LWVCA Donor Honor Roll	4
P. Jeane Goings Recognized	4
Mill Creek Update	5
Taft Award Nominees Sought	6
Charter School Information	7
LWV Ohio Convention: Choose Your Own Adventure	10

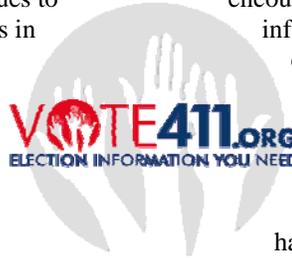
ARE YOU READY FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION? *Tuesday, May 5*

By Sandra Mowell, Voter Service Vice President

On Tuesday, May 5, a primary election is scheduled. For this election, Hamilton County will have a Republican primary. There are also several local issues to consider. Candidates for offices in the cities of Cheviot, Harrison, Norwood and Sharonville (Sharonville includes parts of Butler County) will appear on the Republican primary ballot. Cheviot residents will also consider a proposed tax levy concerning the general construction, resurfacing and repair of streets, roads and bridges. Harrison voters will decide on a proposed tax levy providing funding for fire and emergency services. Cheviot and Harrison voters may cast an issues-only ballot if they do not vote in the Republican primary. In addition, there is a proposed tax levy for residents of Forest Park on fire and emergency services and a proposed tax levy for residents of Arlington Heights for current operating expenses. There is a proposed tax levy for the residents in the Lockland Local School District, a proposed bond issue for residents in the Winton Woods City School District and a proposed bond issue and tax levy for residents in the Northwest

Local School District.

For details including a sample ballot, please visit our electronic voter guide at Vote411.org. Candidates for this election received an invitation from LWVCA encouraging them to share their information including their qualifications and priorities for office. Our VOTE411 service is offered to the community at no charge to help inform and educate the electorate. For those who haven't used the system, be sure and visit our website "voting help" page for a tutorial on how to use Vote411.org.



Your Voter Service Committee is already looking forward to the general election (Nov. 3) and making plans for our voter guide, *Who & What of Elections*, as well as our Issues Forum and other election activities. In addition to the offices for this primary, there will also be elections for offices in the cities of Blue Ash, Deer Park, Mt. Healthy and Reading, and the villages of Elmwood Place, Green Hills, Lockland, and Silverton. We know there will be at least one statewide issue. Issue 1 concerns Redistricting, and we will make every effort to educate voters on it.

Continued on page 3

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

LWV DIVERSITY POLICY

The League of Women Voters recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

The LWVCA affirms its commitment to actively seek diversity in its membership, leadership and programs.

OHIO'S CHARTER SCHOOLS *Monday, April 20, 7 to 8:45 p.m.*

As there are no regular unit discussions this month, Leaguers are urged to attend this forum on some of the well-publicized abuses of charter schools as well as what

might be done to solve these problems.

Background information and details about the forum can be found on page 7



LWVCA Education Fund is a member of Community Shares

CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER



Thank you to Rina Saperstein and to Elizabeth Brown for their work in orchestrating the March discussion concerning **Slavery by Another Name**. If you were unable to attend either the group presentation or a Unit discussion, you still have the opportunity to watch *Slavery by Another Name* online at <http://video.pbs.org/program/slavery-another-name/>. Great discussions emerged from the Unit meetings on this topic, and one suggestion was to form a group that would identify issues in our area and work on ways to address them. If you are interested in working with such a committee, please contact the office at 513-281-8683 or info@lwvcincinnati.org, and we will make sure that you are included in the planning.

Want to be informed and make a difference? The **League Leaders' Emails** from LWV Ohio include updates on proposed bills in the legislature and give helpful information so that you can contact those who represent you and let them know how you would like to see them act on issues. Contact the LWVCA office or visit

LWV Ohio website to request that you receive these updates.

Volunteering in the office is an excellent way to become acquainted with the many aspects of the League. Volunteers answer the phone, assist our Office Manager with routine office duties, interact with the public and candidates by answering questions and generally serve as a welcoming voice of the League. Mary Kay Gardner, our Volunteer Coordinator, is planning a Volunteer Luncheon on April 2, a great time to get to know the job. Please contact the LWVCA office if you'd like to learn more.

LWVCA's **Annual Meeting** will be held the evening of May 20, 2015, in the Social Hall at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church. Please save the date for this event. Following dinner, the League reviews the past year's work and sets out the budget for the ensuing year. This is an excellent way to learn more about our League, what it is doing and ways you might want to volunteer.

Nancy Dawley is still welcoming members to **volunteer for the LWVO Convention** that will be held in Cincinnati at the downtown Hyatt May 15 through 17. Meet League members from all over the state, witness the League's thorough decision-making process on positions and, as a token of our gratitude, your convention fee will be waived. Please contact the LWVCA office for details and to sign up.

The **May primary** is nearly here! The League has information ready on [Vote 411.org](http://Vote411.org), so log on to see your ballot. The new TRU, our public officials directory, is also available if you've not gotten your copy yet. The Voter Service Committee is already looking toward the fall, so please contact Sandra Mowell or the office to be a part of their activities.

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

MARCH BOARD BRIEFS

By *Burt Roehr, Secretary*

At its March 4 meeting, your LWVCA Board of Directors took the following actions:

- The 95th Birthday Party at the Phoenix was very successful—guests had lots of fun and we met our profit goal of \$3,000!
- Preparations for the LWV Ohio Convention to be held at the Cincinnati Hyatt Hotel are in high gear. Volunteers are needed for all kinds of activities from greeters to running computers. Local Convention Chair N. Dawley will be happy to provide details of what's needed and

sign you up.

- Annual Meeting will be on May 20 in the Social Hall at the Mt. Auburn Presby. Church. Meetings Chair Pinky Kocoshis needs help with set-up, serving, clean-up, etc. We will elect Board members, pass a budget for 2015-16, and hear a speaker. Plan to attend **and** to help with the arrangements.
- The LWVCA staffed a table at XU's International Women's Day on March 19.
- We will have a table at the Juneteenth Festival at Daniel Drake Park. We'll need some folks to represent the League at the event.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

By *Felicity Hill, Membership Director*

The LWVCA Membership Committee would like to welcome our new members that have joined the League since March 1, 2015.

We appreciate each new member as he or she brings a fresh perspective and interesting ideas. Thank you for your

membership!

Judy Strober
Maria Yunker

And a thank you to all our members - Our LEAG_E Needs U!



PRIMARY ELECTION, *Continued*

Continued from page 1

Also of interest will be the candidates for the three seats up for election on the Cincinnati Public School Board.

Please consider sharing some of your time and talents to support our voter education and other LWVCA efforts this year. In addition, the Board of Elections is always looking for reliable and competent precinct election officials (formerly called poll workers.) If you have considered this, this light election year would be a great opportunity to get trained and get some experience under your belt. The Presidential Election is just around the corner, and precinct election officials could not be more important to the process. It is necessary to affiliate with either the Democratic or Republican Party to work as a precinct election official. Personally, I find this requirement unnecessary and another way of discouraging all folks from participating. But if you can get past that, look for information on qualifications and applying to work in this capacity at the Hamilton County Board of Elections website (www.votehamiltoncounty.org/) or contact Gena Howard at 513-632-7041 (Democrats) or Christa Criddle at 513-632-7042 (Republicans).

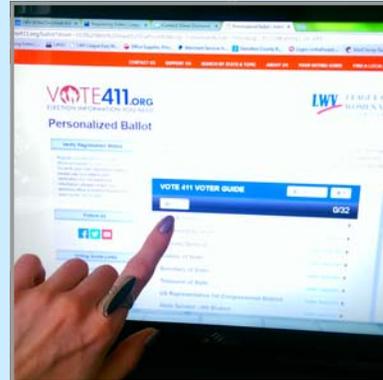
Try it—you'll like it!

Frequently Asked Questions about Ohio's Primary Process

For first time voters, we thought it might be helpful to reprint information from a VOTER article from last year on primary elections.

What is a Primary Election?

A primary election is an election that narrows the field of candidates before an election for office. Primary elections are one means by which a political party nominates candidates for an upcoming general election. This kind of election is necessary if two or more candidates from the same political party are running for the same political position. The victor will then run in the general election against opposing party candidates. The primaries take place months before the general election.



age who will turn 18 on or before the general election date may register to vote and vote a 17-year-old voter ballot in the primary election. The 17 year-old-voter's ballot only includes races that carry over to the general election.

What about Party Affiliation?

In order to vote for candidates in a primary election you must be affiliated with a specific party. Since the purpose of primary elections is for each party to choose its candidates for the general election, only voters who are registered with a particular party may vote for that party's candidates. For example, Democratic voters may only vote for Democratic candidates in the primary election.

Who can vote in a Primary Election?

A resident must register to vote at least 30 days before the election. The deadline for registering to vote in this year's primary is April 6, 2015. In order to be eligible to vote in the state of Ohio, you must meet the minimum voting age of 18. You may register to vote before turning 18 years of age as long as you will have reached the age of 18 before the next general election (November 3, 2015). Voters 17 years of

There may also be issues on the Primary ballot and an elector can request an issues only ballot if he/she does not want to declare a political party and vote for candidates. Some examples of issues that may be on a Primary ballot can be tax levies for schools or cities, liquor laws, charter amendments, etc.

APRIL 15 IS TAX DAY!

By Sandra Mowell, Voter Service Vice President

Do you want \$3 of your federal tax to go to the Presidential Election Campaign Fund?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

As a U.S. taxpayer, you are asked to make this choice when you fill out your 1040 federal income tax return. When you check "yes," three of your tax dollars are placed in the Presidential Election Campaign Fund. During each of the last five years, approximately 33 million taxpayers have checked the "yes" box. Checking the "yes" box does not increase the amount of tax you owe, nor does it decrease any refund to which you are entitled. Keep in mind that this is the only instance where you are given a choice on how your tax dollars are spent. In the LWVUS guide to public

policy positions Impact on Issues, it is noted that "the League's campaign finance reform strategy has two tracks: 1) achieve incremental reforms where possible in the short term, and 2) build support for public financing as the best long-term solution." Checking "yes" can help support the LWVUS position on Campaign Finance.

In addition did you know there is an Ohio state tax credit of up to \$50 (or \$100 if married filing jointly) for your political contributions to any of these offices?

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- Auditor of State
- Treasurer of State
- Attorney General
- Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court
- Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court

- Ohio Board of Education
- Ohio Senate
- Ohio House of Representatives

If you expect to owe Ohio State tax you may want to consider making a contribution to the candidate of your choice for one of these offices in the future. Candidates will continue to need money for campaigns and the tax credit encourages actual citizens of Ohio to help finance these campaigns. If many citizens gave small amounts it would lessen the temptation candidates have to take large amounts from single entities which are often located outside the state. These contributions often give the impression that favors are being bought and that Ohio elected officials are doing the bidding of their financial supporters rather than the people they represent.

Making Democracy Work®: THE

We thank the following donors to the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area and/or the Every effort is made to keep this list accurate. Please contact LWVCA's Office Manager Becky

Lydia Chapin Taft Level

Seasongood Good Government Foundation

Celia Lazarus Level

Anonymous	Marjorie Davies	Francie Pepper
Treon Christine	Helen & Don Rhoad	Dee & Heather Shaffer

Agnes Hilton Level

Anonymous	Melissa Currence	Cecilia & Tom Kloecker	Dorothy Lockspeiser
-----------	------------------	------------------------	---------------------

Mary Gorman McManus Level

Becky Algenio	Helen & John Hunter	Constance Reed
Kit Berger	Pam Hinterscher & Kristin McClure	Dee Shaffer
Nancy Forbriger	Mary Kercherval-Short	

Harriett Iglauer Level

Anonymous	Nancy Dawley	Pinky & Sam Kocoshis	Pat Passer	Jane Tucker McHugh
Mary Ellen Addison	Eleonora Fusco and	Kat Lyons	Barbara Robb	Mary & Charles
Jane Anderson	Ingo Kiesewetter	Andrew MacAiodh	Anita Robinson	VanAusdall
Liliana Bramasco	Mary Kay Gardner	Jergens	Burt & Dick Roehr	Jennifer Venson
Kimmet and John	Alphonse Gerhardsstein	Howard Mayer	Nancy Rosenthal	John Vinturella and
Kimmet	Sarah Gideonse	Grace McClorey	Carl and Nancy Schmidt	Susan Howell
Elizabeth Brown	Ann Gilton	Karen McGuirk	Alice & Charles	Jerry Weiper
Christen Browne	Susan E. Grathwohl	Jane McHugh	Schneider	Harvey Weitkamp
Christie Bryant Kuhns	Corinne Gutjahr	Carolyn Miller	Grace Sferra	Gail Wick
Dr. Linda Burton	Lisa Haglund	Sandra & Ernest Mowell	Kathy Shahani	George Wile
Debbie Clark	Fran Harmon	Marlene & Bill Muse	Dee Stegman	Anthony Youngblood
Jim & Linda Coppock	Joan C. Honeck	Shirley Nathan	Peggy Somoza	
Patricia Currence	James R. Howe, Jr.	Mary Newman	Susan & Peter Steele	
Donna & Emil Dansker	Laurie F. Johnston	Susan Noonan	Margaret Straub	
Marge Davis	Marti Kleinfelter	Marilyn Ott	Marcia Togneri	

In Honor Of

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

Barbara Goldberg -
In honor of Nevaeh and Nia Bloom

Marjorie Davies -
In honor of Melissa Currence

LONGTIME LEAGUE MEMBER P. JEANE GOINGS RECOGNIZED

By Becky Haltermon, LWVCA
Office Manager

On Feb. 25, Cincinnati City Councilmember Yvette Simpson and the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission recognized P. Jeane Goings at Cincinnati City Hall for her lifelong commitment to improving Greater Cincinnati.

The resolution that Cincinnati City Council passed to commemorate the date read that P. Jeane Goings, "a woman of boundless energy," received "Council's sincere appreciation



P. Jeane Goings

for her dedication to volunteerism and her willingness to share her incredible compassion and generosity of spirit and time with our community as one of its unsung heroines."

Jeane and her husband were instrumental in founding the Kennedy Heights Community Council, and she was among those who founded the Kennedy Height Arts Center. Jeane served as president of the YWCA Board of Directors for an unprecedented three terms,

working tirelessly to improve services for battered women. Having served on dozens of Cincinnati Boards and organizations, as well as receiving numerous awards, Jeane truly lives by her motto, "To those whom much is given, much is expected."

We are thrilled to count Jeane among our membership as she continues in her quest to make Greater Cincinnati a better place to call home.

LWVCA DONOR HONOR ROLL

LWVCA Education Fund for their contributions since June 1 (through press time, March 16, 2015).
Haltermon at 513-281-8683 or becky@lwcincinnati.org to notify us of any errors or omissions.

Gloria Walker Level

Kathleen Addison	Susan Donnett	Teresa Franklin Hudson,	Teri Nau	Barbara Smitherman
Applied Information	Yvette Duguay	CPA	Jeanne Nightingale	Dolores Spears
Resources	Katherine Durack	Marjorie Isaacs	Sarah Noschang	Alice Stadler
Mary Anne Berry	Pearl Edelstein	Dorothy Janson	Peter and Susan Poulos	Margaret Standriff
Steve Blair	Nancy Ertel	Shirley Jason	J. James and Carol Q.	Grace Staples
Lori Beiler	Jan Evans	Suzanne Jeffrey	Pearce	Stephanie and Arnold
Lois Benjamin	Richard and Julie	Mary Jenkins	Adrienne Perez	Stoller
Michael Benjamin	Fairbanks	Clare Johnson	Marcia Philipps	Carol Striker
Ellen Berghamer	Margaret Fanella	Suzanne and William	April Piatt	Heather and Gerald
Glenda & Malcolm	Noah Fleischmann	Joiner	Suzanne Pontius	Sturgill
Bernstein	Mary Friel	Marcia Kaplan	Barry Porter	Fumiko and Shiro
Leah Bird	Jane Foy	Stephan Keller	Doreen Quinn	Tanaka
Bond Hill Presbyterian	Joleen Gardner	Nanci Lantz	Alva Reid	Maryan Tebbutt
Church	George Glover	Patricia Ley	Craig and Sue Richmond	Leah Terhune
Joyce Borkin	Barbara Glueck	Linnea Lose	Erica Riddick	Arlene Thorwarth
Jon Boss	Emily Gnadit Sizemore	Janet Lowry	Kerry & David Rhoad	Howard Tolley
Nellie Broadus	P. Jeane Goings	Dr. & Mrs. Robert	Elaine Roth-Beecher	Marcella Trice
John and Margaret	Barbara Goldberg	Lubow	Beverly and John	Gerald & Barbara
Bruggeman	Louise Gomer Bangel	Julia Mace	Rosiello	Varland
Carole Burdell	Susan D. Gorman	Macy's Foundation	Rina Saperstein & Jeff	Phyllis Vogel
Tim Burke	Anne & Bob Guinan	Cheryl Meadows	Davis	Pam Warman
Michele Carey	Margaret Halberstadt	Carolyn Meyers-Hughes	Christine & Robert	George Wile
Hanna Carp	Judith Harmony	and A. Lee Hughes	Scheidler	Lauren Woodiwiss
Dot Christenson	Rae Hartman	Edward Merkes	Barbara Schenck	Janet Ziegler
Cincinnati AFL-CIO	Joy Haupt	Susan Miller-Stigler	Jill Schiller	Zion Baptist Church
Labor Council	Jenny Heizman	Mark Mitchell	C Jean Schroer	
Barbara Clarke	Patricia Henley	Chris Moran	Marilyn Sesler	
Dorothy Cowan	Sherrie and Fred Heys	Laurie and Alex Morris	Phyllis Sewell	
Martha Crafts	Felicity Hill	Patricia Morrison	Mark Silbersack	
Carol Crow	Florette Hoffheimer	Suzanne Morrissey	Sisters of Notre Dame	
Mary Davis	Elizabeth Horowitz	Ira & Regina Moskowitz	Elizabeth & Paul	
Lily Ann De Mar	Jean Howard	Julie Murray	Sittenfeld	
Richard Dickmann	Lucia & Donald Hudson	Barbara Myers	Genevieve Smith	

MILL CREEK – LOOKING BACK AND TO THE FUTURE

By Nancy Dawley, Action Chair

For twenty years, citizens have been working to reverse the Mill Creek from a chemical, trash and sewage dump back to a thriving ecosystem and recreational spot flowing through 37 communities in Hamilton County. The League of Women Voters, with John Hunter as our leading force, has been part of this for most of that time. Thank you, John!

The progress that has been made and plans for the future were featured in a recent *Cincinnati Enquirer* article by Robin Corathers, Executive Director of Groundwork Cincinnati/Mill Creek.

Corathers writes, "To improve the river's health, Groundwork, its partners and students, and over 9,000 adult volunteers

have completed 33 wetland, streambank and wildlife habitat projects. Thousands of trees have been planted, and derelict properties along almost five miles of the river have been transformed into public greenspace, trails and edible forest gardens."

She continues, "Clearly, much more work is needed to restore full health to Mill Creek and wildlife habitat in the river corridor, but the progress to date is inspiring and provides a firm foundation for future improvements."

Read the full article online at www.cincinnati.com by searching for "Robin Corathers."

Several summers ago, the LWVCA toured some of the new walkways,

and observed the beauty and the wildlife. You may want to make plans to see it for yourself this spring as new trees and plantings begin to leaf out, and families enjoy walking and biking along this developing corridor.



One of the yearly cleanups of the Mill Creek

KASICH BUDGET IMPACTS MEDICAID SERVICES

By Nancy Dawley, Action Chair

Information from the Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN Ohio) explains that Governor Kasich’s proposed budget would eliminate Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women and women diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer who have incomes between 138-200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).

In addition, the Governor’s proposed budget would eliminate the Family Planning program, which provides family planning services for men and women with incomes up to 200 percent FPL.

UHCAN details the administration’s rationale and compares it with opposing viewpoints in an article entitled, “Five Reasons Why Proposed Ohio Medicaid Eligibility Cuts for Pregnant Women and

Women with Breast or Cervical Cancer are a Bad Idea.”

In the article, UHCAN notes, “If the Administration is serious about reducing infant mortality – and we believe it is – then it cannot, as a matter of good public policy, strip away Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women with incomes between 138 and 200 percent FPL. If the administration wants to make sure that women can obtain screening and treatment for breast and cervical cancer without financial barriers, it should leave this program in place. If the administration wants uninsured Ohioans with incomes above 138 percent FPL to obtain insurance through the federal Marketplace, then the administration should undertake a public campaign to inform Ohioans about the availability of private insurance, with

financial help to make it affordable, through the Marketplace.”

Read UHCAN’s article in its entirety at <http://uhcanohio.org/content/five-reasons-why-proposed-medicaid-eligibility-cuts-pregnant-women-and-women-breast-or-cervi>

The League’s Position on Health Care begins: **BASIC LEVEL OF QUALITY CARE:** Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care.

You can read the entire Health Care Position on page 70 of Impact on Issues (2012 – 2014).

MARTHA B. TAFT AWARD NOMINEES NEEDED

By Don and Helen Rhoad, Co-Presidents

The committee to name the next Martha B. Taft Award recipient requests suggestions from our membership.

Presented at the Annual Meeting (May 20, 2015), the Martha B. Taft Award is LWVCA’s highest honor. It is named after our first president, who served from 1920-22 and again in 1932-34.

Taft Award recipients must meet the following criteria:

1. He or she must be a long-time member of the local League.
2. He or she must be an all-round contributor to the League.
3. He or she must be a leader in the general community.

In addition to the stated criteria, past committees have felt that current or recent activity in the LWVCA is essential.

Do you know someone who fits these requirements? Please contact Don or Helen Rhoad or the LWVCA Office (513-281-8683; info@lwvcincinnati.org) with your suggestions for the committee.

Recent Martha B. Taft Award Winners:

2014 Melissa Currence	2009 Rose Kearney	2005 Dottie Campbell
2013 Corinne Gutjahr	2008 Sherrie Heyse	2004 Mickey Croyle
2012 Marjorie Davies	2007 Helen & John Hunter	2003 Ann Gilton
2011 Dee Shaffer	2006 Helen Rhoad	2002 Sue Gorman
2010 Rina Saperstein		2001 Nancy Forbriger



Above, Carolyn Miller receiving the Martha B. Taft Award in 1990;
Below, Carolyn Miller giving Melissa Currence the award in 2014



Events

ACCOUNTABILITY IN OHIO'S CHARTER SCHOOLS

Monday, April 20, 7 to 8:45 p.m.

By *Burt Roehr, Education Committee Chair*

League members, please note that we will not be having regular unit discussions this month.

Instead, you are urged to attend a forum at the Clifton Recreation Center (320 McAlpin Ave., Cincinnati 45220) that the League is sponsoring along with seven other nonprofits (to date) and educational institutions where you'll learn about some of the well-publicized abuses of charter schools as well as what might be done to solve the problems that currently exist. See the end of this article for further details about the forum.

Ohio began the process of establishing charter schools in the late 1990s. The "choice" movement in the U.S. was quite strong, and some citizens were not convinced that traditional public schools, especially in our urban areas, were providing a quality education despite the fact that the cost of public education was constantly rising and levies regularly appeared on local ballots.

By 1997, charter schools (called "community" schools in Ohio) had been established in 29 other states and Ohio's legislators followed suit by drafting and passing legislation outlining how they were to operate and how they would be funded. These schools could be set up differently from traditional public schools, e.g., longer school days, specialized activities used as student incentives, more use of uniforms, programs unique to a particular institution.

Charter schools were envisioned as a new form of public school. They would be exempt from many of the rules and requirements that governed regular public schools so they would be free to use different approaches to educate students in order to (hopefully) overcome the problems Ohio's urban schools faced. They were institutions chosen by students and/or their parents who hoped for better outcomes than they experienced in traditional schools. While the list of exemptions was lengthy,

some of the following are examples of ways these schools could operate:

- Teachers and students were not assigned to a community school. They chose where they wanted to teach and attend.
- Community schools were accountable to the public through a contract between the sponsor and the school's governing authority. Said contract detailed how the school would educate its students; the school could remain open only as long as they succeeded in educating students.
- Each school had its own board of directors, chosen by its sponsor.



In 1997, when Ohio's Legislature originally adopted the mechanisms for establishing charter schools in the state, they restricted them to locations within the "Big Eight" urban districts: Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Canton, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown. Within those districts, the schools could locate anywhere they could find a suitable site, students and faculty. By 2001, changes had been made to allow charter schools in districts that were in Academic Emergency or Academic Watch. In Southwest Ohio, this expansion of "eligible" districts led to charters in other locations such as Mt. Healthy, Hamilton and Middletown, Ohio.

Once the legislation was adopted and put into effect, charter schools proliferated

within the urban districts. Unfortunately, the state's oversight of the schools was at best very spotty. Each school had a "grace period" of three years which allowed it to develop and grow its approach before being subject to the state's proficiency testing. As the initial start-up times passed for the schools and test results began to be public, it became apparent that many—not all—of these charters' performances were indeed worse than the local public school district's performance.

This was despite the millions of dollars of state dollars that were being allocated to these schools. As examples of flagrant misuse of state dollars and inept performance routinely appeared in various news media throughout the state, calls for reform began to surface.

By 2005, educators, citizen groups and others were calling for reform. Students who chose many of these schools were losing years of educational opportunity, many local districts found themselves faced with students returning having lost a year or two of progress and tax dollars were being misspent on failing schools. There were many legal challengers; the Ohio Supreme Court found that the establishment of these schools

was indeed constitutional, but left many other legal contests to the lower courts.

Charter schools in Ohio are funded by the Department of Education's General Revenue Fund and the Ohio Lottery, which supply the largest funding component for primary and secondary education in the state. This includes 612 public school districts, 49 vocational districts and 370 public community (charter) schools. The biennial budget will determine a per pupil amount that the state will provide to every district based on its student population, and it is that amount that follows each charter student to the school of his/her choice. The funding is funneled through the district in which the charter is located.

Continued on page 8

Events

CHARTER SCHOOLS, *Continued*

Continued from page 7

Of the 370 community schools currently operating in Ohio, some are excellent and some are wasting both tax dollars and valuable educational opportunity for kids. The League continues to insist that community schools must adhere to the same standards of accountability and transparency as traditional public schools and that the state must assume responsibility for seeing that they do. League representatives testify in Columbus whenever there is legislation pertaining to our position. There still is **plenty** of room for improvement!

Locally, our LWVCA Education Committee has joined with other co-sponsors to produce a forum on charter schools. Speakers will discuss charters in depth—the good and the not-very good and what needs to be changed. Although this forum will replace our April unit discussions, we encourage members to meet to talk about the views expressed at the public meeting.



Ohio's Charter Schools: Are They Accountable?

Monday, April 20, 7 to 8:45 p.m.

Clifton Recreation Center
320 McAlpin Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45220

Speakers

Aaron Churchill, Ohio Research Director
for the Thomas B. Fordham Institute

Steve Dyer, Policy Fellow at Innovation Ohio

Mary Ronan, Superintendent of Cincinnati Public Schools

A fourth, TBD

Moderator

Krista Ramsey, journalist

Sponsors to Date

U.C. College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services

XU School of Education

Cincinnati Association

Applied Information Resources, Inc.

Parents for Public Schools of Greater Cincinnati

Faith & Community Alliance

Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati

LWVCA

SAVE THE DATE: SPRING SOCIAL FOR NEW MEMBERS

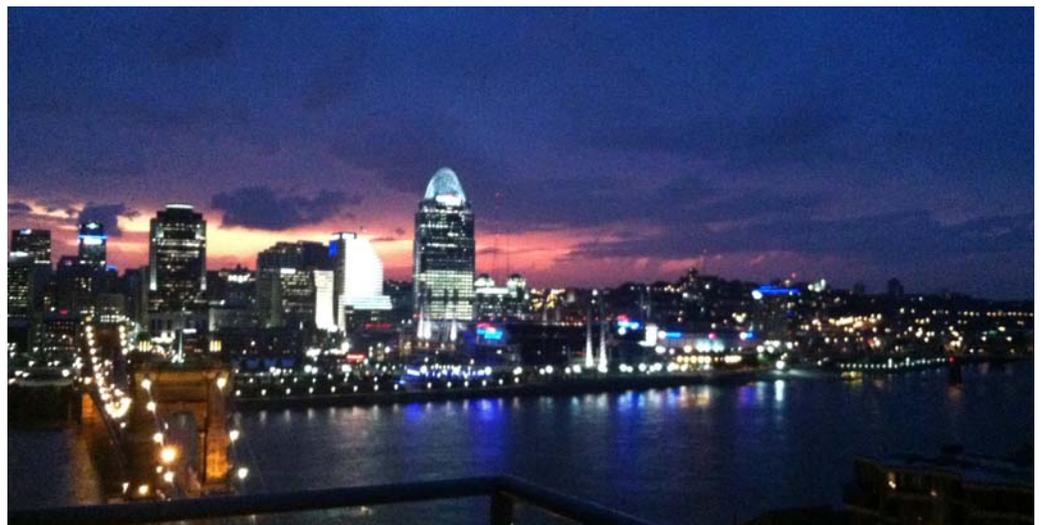
Thursday, April 23

By Felicity Hill, Membership Director

Please save Thursday, April 23 for a evening of networking and refreshments at the Ascent, the beautiful curved structure at the foot of the Roebling Bridge in Covington.

Enjoy fantastic views of Cincinnati and stellar conversations with members both new and veteran.

The view from a balcony at the Ascent



Events

SAVE THE DATE: LWVCA'S ANNUAL MEETING Wednesday, May 20

By Don and Helen Rhoad, Co-Presidents

Join your fellow Leaguers in the Social Hall at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church for dinner, a review of the League's past year and the setting of the next budget. The committee is arranging for a speaker to add to the program, as well.

Learn more about our League, while enjoying good food and fellowship.

*A group discussion
at the 2014 Annual Meeting*



SAVE THE DATE: CINCINNATI PRIDE PARADE Saturday, June 27

By Felicity Hill, Membership Director

Join the LWVCA Membership Committee and Act One members as we plan to march in the 2015 Pride Parade and host a table at

the Pride Festival in conjunction with Woman's City Club.

If you'd like to take part by either planning our t-shirts or table display or by marching

and tabling the event, please contact the office at 513-281-8683 or info@lwcincincinnati.org.

MISSING AN APRIL UNIT MEETING?

By Becky Haltermon, Office Manager

There is no planned Unit topic in April, but this is a great time to plan a meeting to focus on your Unit. Some suggestions from our leadership include:

- Explore alternative formats for your Unit, including lunch/dinner, guest speakers, social events, etc.
- Plan a small-group discussion of large-group LWVCA programs such as charter school issues or other current topics
- Invite an area school official to talk about the Common Core, its affects and the future of Ohio classrooms
- Meet to brainstorm suggestions for new projects for the League
- Undertake a self-assessment of your Unit's strengths and weaknesses as a method of creating a stronger, more inclusive group

This is a great opportunity to serve the individual needs of your Unit. Please contact the office at 513-281-8683 or info@lwcincincinnati.org for information on any of these ideas.



The Hilltop North Unit at their Spring Luncheon in 2014

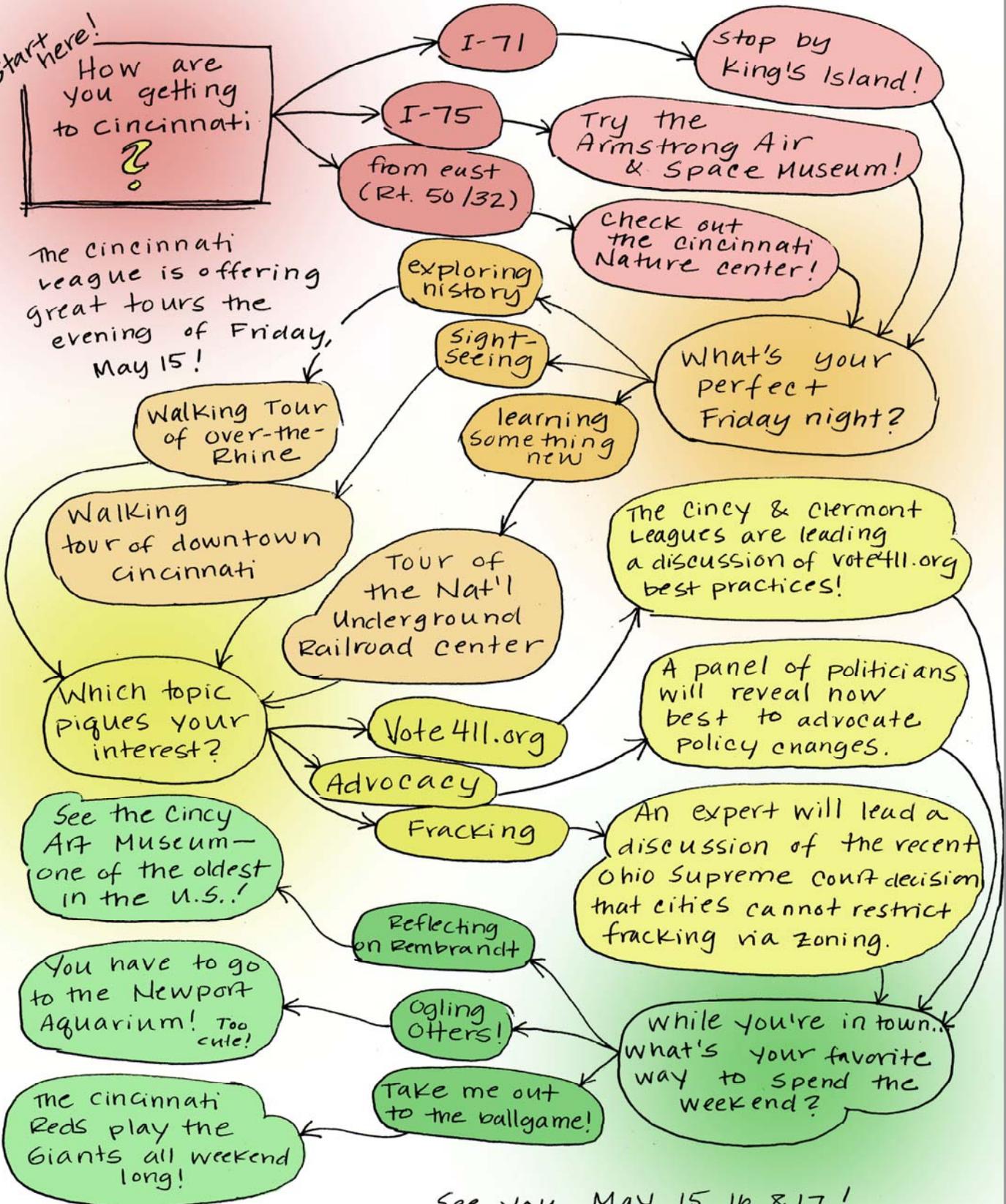
LWV OHIO CONVENTION

Enjoy an UN "CONVENTION" AL Convention!

start here!

How are you getting to Cincinnati?

The Cincinnati League is offering great tours the evening of Friday, May 15!



See you May 15, 16 & 17!

LWV OHIO CONVENTION

May 15 through 17

By LWV Ohio

This year's state convention—during which we will be celebrating LWVO's 95th anniversary—will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio's largest playground.

Held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel downtown (151 West 5th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202), the theme is "1920 to 2015: Celebrating 95 years of Empowering Voters and Better Government."

The LWVCA Convention host committee has compiled a list of attractions and activities that you can do while you are in town - check them out at www.lwvohio.org.

There is a great Early Bird Discount of \$5 off if you register for the Convention before April 15. Register online at www.lwvohio.org.

Students also receive a \$5 discounts, as do new members who joined within the last 12 months or join at Convention.

Convention Registration closes on Friday, May 8. There will be an additional late fee of \$20 starting May 8, including for walk-ins.

If you have any questions, please contact the LWVO office at 614-469-1505 or lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org.

Don't miss the fun! Register today - and bring a friend!

THE VOTER COLLATING SCHEDULE* 2014-2015

April 17
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:
Mary VanAusdall

Layout/Design:
Becky Haltermon

Please submit articles to:
newsletter@lwvcincinnati.org

Next deadline: Friday, April 3
for the *Mid-April Update*



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of the CINCINNATI AREA
103 Wm. H. Taft Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45219
513-281-8683 Fax: 513-281-8714
info@lwvcincinnati.org www.lwvcincinnati.org

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



UPCOMING LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, April 1, 6 p.m. | LWVCA Board Meeting |
| Thursday, April 2, 11:30 a.m. | Office Volunteer Luncheon (<i>See Co-Presidents' Letter, page 2</i>) |
| Friday, April 3 | Voter Deadline - <i>Mid-April Update</i> |
| Monday, April 6 | Deadline for Workbook I content |
| Monday, April 6 | Deadline for registering to vote in this year's primary |
| Tuesday, April 7, 6:30 p.m. | Act One Meeting (Geier Room, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church) |
| Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. | Voter Service Committee Meeting |
| April 15 | Last day for 2015 LWVO Convention early bird discount |
| Friday, April 17, 9:30 a.m. | Mailing of Workbook I with the Central Evening Unit |
| Monday, April 20, 7 p.m. | Ohio's Charter Schools: Are They Accountable? (Clifton Recreation Center) (<i>See page 7</i>) |
| Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m. | Investment Committee Meeting |
| Wednesday, April 22, 6 p.m. | Program Development Committee (PDC) Meeting |
| Thursday, April 23 | Spring Social for New Members (The Ascent) (<i>See page 8</i>) |
| Friday, May 1 | Voter Deadline - <i>May Electronic Voter</i> |
| Monday, May 4, 6:30 p.m. | Act One Meeting (Location TBA) |
| Tuesday, May 5 | Primary election |
| Wednesday, May 6, 6 p.m. | LWVCA Board Meeting |
| May 8 | Final registration date for 2015 LWVO Convention |
| Monday, May 11 | Deadline for Workbook II content |
| May 15 - 17 | LWV Ohio Convention (<i>See pages 10 and 11</i>) |
| May 20 | LWVCA Annual Meeting (Social Room, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church) (<i>See page 9</i>) |

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.