

LWVO League Leaders Update
January 27, 2010

DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR LWVUS ROSTER BY JANUARY 31, 2010.

Today's Topics:

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

- **REMINDER** Taxation and Finance Study Materials Now Available**
- **REMINDER** Primary Election Information for Local Leagues Now Available**

MEMBERSHIP

- **REMINDER** State House Day / Council is Coming Soon**
- **REMINDER** Regional Topic Survey**
- **REMINDER** We want to toot our horns about Local League Activities and Accomplishments**

ADMINISTRATION

- **NEW** January 2010 Board Report for Local Leagues**
- **NEW** Phonathon Planning is Underway**
- **UPDATE ** Lawsuit Monitoring – Board of Election Surveys**

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****REMINDER**Taxation and Finance Study Materials Now Available**

There have been significant changes to the tax structure in the last few years, including repeal of the corporate franchise tax which was replaced with a Commercial Activity Tax (CAT), repeal of the personal property tax on business machinery and equipment, decrease in the sales tax, etc. Per the decision of the 2007 LWVO convention delegates, a study group was appointed to review and make recommendations to update the taxation and finance positions in light of the new CAT tax and the phasing out of the corporate franchise and personal property taxes.

The materials were attached to the January 20, 2010, League Leader Update, however you can also log-in to the LWVO members only section of the LWVO website to obtain copies. Please note that each Local League is assigned a log-in and password. If you have misplaced that information, please contact the state office for assistance.

All Local Leagues are requested to submit their completed Consensus Forms by **November 30, 2010.**

****REMINDER** Primary Election Information for Local Leagues Now Available**

The Primary Election Information is now available for Local Leagues. Attached to this League Leader Update is a copy of the 2010 Primary Election Information for Local Leagues which includes candidate questions approved by the LWVO state Board on January 16, 2010, sample letters, local League assignments and additional information about the candidate interview process.

The Filing Deadline for the declaration of candidacy is February 18, 2010. Questionnaires will be sent to all filed candidates for state executive offices, Supreme Court of Ohio as well as the U.S. Senate candidates by the state office. Responses will be requested by March 15th. The state office expects to share candidate responses with local Leagues by mid-March 2010.

For more information on this process, please feel free to contact the state office at 1-877-LWV-OHIO

MEMBERSHIP

****Reminder** State House Day/ Council 2010 is Coming Soon.**

You can now register to attend Statehouse Day/ Council 2010. Start making your plans to attend State House Day/ Council 2010 on April 14, 2010, in Columbus. The planning committee has been working hard to develop a great schedule of events for State House Day. Additionally the Council agenda will include critical updates and of course a vote on the budget.

We also plan a small celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters. Come join us for a great educational and entertaining day on April 14th.

****Reminder** Regional Topic Survey**

Recently Local Presidents were sent a survey soliciting feedback on Regional meeting topics. Thank you to those of you who have already responded. We encourage those who have not yet responded to submit your survey by January 29, 2010.

Your responses will assure that the topics are interesting and relevant. If you have any questions, feel free to contact MEDC Chair Jean Koznarek, at jkozlwv@aol.com or contact Charisse Armstead in the state office at lwvinfo@lwvohio.org or 1-877-LWV- OHIO.

****Reminder** We want to toot our horns about Local League Activities and Accomplishments.**

Has your League done something to crow about? Something to model for other Leagues? Is there something your League would like to find out from other Leagues about their successful programs and strategies? **Then write up a short blurb and send it to us (leg@lwvohio.org).**

Just follow these easy guidelines:

- **Submissions must be received via email** at leg@lwvohio.org no later than **Monday, noon, of the 2nd or 4th week** of each month to be included in the Leaders' Update of that week.

- **Submissions must include the submitter's name and contact information in the body of the blurb;** That way people can contact her/him directly if they want to know more, have questions, etc.
- **Submissions must be 75 words or less** (and we'll follow the rules used for Voters' Guides on length, i.e., just end at the 75th word).
- **We will not edit or change the content of submissions** (again, following the rules used for Voters' Guides).

ADMINISTRATION

****NEW** January 2010 Board Report for Local Leagues**

LWV-Ohio and LWV-Ohio Education Fund Board Report: January 15-16 Meeting

Your state League Boards (LWV-Ohio and LWV-Ohio Education Fund) meet every other month in Columbus. Here's a brief snapshot of what your state League accomplished at our January 15-16 meeting:

Board actions initiated by the Membership Engagement, Issues Education and Advocacy Committees:

- Approved the consensus questions for the State Finance and Tax Study Update.
- Approved questions for statewide and regional candidates for the May primary's Voters' Guide.
- Approved a 2010 Statehouse / Council fee of \$35/person and \$20/student, noting the event's costs are kept down because of volunteer involvement and the imPACT grant support.
- Approved the 2010 *Action Agenda*.
- Approved recommending a national study on consumer protections related to financial institutions for LWVUS program planning.

Discussion and updates regarding:

- LWVO's and local League's involvement in the LWVUS Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI).
- On-going League efforts for redistricting, election and judicial reform.
- General Assembly legislative activity since November.
- The importance of continued clear communication to the board regarding LWVO's lobbying on legislative matters that may become ballot issues, and the board's responsibility to keep informed.
- The potential timing and content of proposed regional meetings.
- Phonathon timeline and state supporting activities with Rosanne Thomas, LWV-Hudson, 2010 Chair.
- Options for state League's use of social networking.
- 2011 Convention planning.
- Highlights from committees', executive director's and the president's written reports.

Development of proposed 2010-2011 budget:

- Approved Carolyn Rice, LWV-Greater Dayton Area, as 2010-2011 Budget Committee Co-chair.

- Discussed League priorities and essential activities, and assessed the current 2009-2010 budget in light of that discussion in preparation for developing the 2010-2011 budget.
- Discussed implications for receiving / not receiving grant support for the 2010-2011 imPACT project.

Assessment of current 2009-2010 budget:

- Approved realignment of spending/ revenue for the next six months to ensure continuation of essential services and to address a projected budget shortfall.
- Approved a 15% rebate to local Leagues for the 2009 Power Pledge.

****NEW** Phonathon Planning is Underway**

As you are aware, we will soon initiate Phonathon 2010 to raise funds to support the essential work of the League. The planning committee has been working to develop a plan that is simple and efficient for local Leagues. Soon a schedule of activities and other information will be shared with local Leagues as we launch the drive.

The feedback and ideas suggested have been very helpful and we encourage the sharing of ideas to make this effort successful. If you would like additional information on the Phonathon Plan, please contact Rosanne Thomas at rosanne.thomas@gmail.com or 1-330-656-2383.

Look for more details in upcoming League Leader Updates.

****NEW ** Lawsuit Monitoring – Board of Election Interviews Moving Along**

Thank you to all of the Local Leagues that have scheduled and/or completed their interviews with county Boards of Election.

Submit your survey responses through Survey Monkey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YF29PGS> or by returning it by U.S. Mail to the state office at 17 South High Street, Suite 650, Columbus, Ohio 43215 or by submitting it to Scott Britton via email at sbritton@wowway.com. If you submit your responses via written form, please be sure to print clearly so that we can capture all of the information you worked so hard to gather.

Keep up the good work.

Mark your calendars now--Dates to Remember

Roster Updates Due to LWWUS

January 31, 2009

State LWVOEF Board Meeting

March 12-13, 2010

Statehouse Day/ Council

April 14, 2009

LWWUS Convention- Atlanta Georgia

June 11-15, 2010

**LWVO Lobby Lunches
11:30 am**

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month,

Anyone is Welcome to Attend

Columbus Metropolitan Library
96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus,

Call 877-598-6446 for more
information

If you have Local League Leaders or other League members who would like to receive the Leaders Update, please send their email information to leg@lwvohio.org