

For 89 years the League of Women Voters has been a leader in working to ensure that all citizens have a free role in making democracy work. Year in and year out, the League provides many kinds of voter service and education projects, such as:



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF OHIO

- ✓ Voter registration drives
- ✓ Publications and brochures
- ✓ Nonpartisan candidate forums
- ✓ Printed voter guides
- ✓ On-line electronic voter information and candidate guides
- ✓ Nonpartisan issue forums
- ✓ Presentations on radio, on television, and to school and community groups
- ✓ Town Hall meetings on political reform issues
- ✓ imPACT website dedicated to political reform issues
- ✓ Online opportunities to Speak Up and Connect with your legislators
- ✓ Letters-to-the editor and op eds on election-reform and good-government issues
- ✓ CD on civics education

Working independently and with other civic groups that share our interests, the League is dedicated to helping citizens become informed and active participants in government at all levels. For further information:

Toll Free 1-877-LWV-OHIO
E-mail lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org
Web site www.lwvohio.org
imPACT www.ohioimpact.org

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ADVOCACY AGENDA 2009

The **League** of Women Voters of Ohio, a **nonpartisan** political organization, encourages **informed** and active participation in government, works to increase **understanding** of major public **policy** issues, and influences public policy through **education** and **advocacy**.

Each year, the League of Women Voters of Ohio selects public policy priorities from among its position statements, which are developed through consensus by members across the state. Once identified, the year's priorities lay the groundwork for advocacy efforts by the League's informed membership and volunteer lobby corps.

Members and lobbyists contact policymakers, speaking as the voice of a broad and diverse grassroots membership of Ohioans. Through one-on-one contact, testimony at public hearings, and media advocacy, the League of Women Voters of Ohio helps make democracy work. Members and others can follow the League's work on our Web site, www.lwvohio.org, where the LWVO volunteer lobbyists post reports and action alerts.

The League also offers a Legislative Update which tracks the progress of key bills. The Legislative Update will be posted on the LWVO Web site monthly.

For a complete listing of state League positions, consult the *2009-2010 Agenda for Action*, which can be downloaded from the LWVO website and is available for purchase by calling the LWVO office.

- Akron Area
- Ashtabula County
- Athens County
- Bowling Green
- Canton Area
- Chillicothe/Ross County
- Cincinnati Area
- Clermont County
- Cleveland Area
- Cuyahoga Area
- Darke County
- Greater Dayton Area
- Greater Youngstown
- Delaware County
- Geauga County
- Hudson
- Kent
- Lake County
- Lima Area
- Marietta/Washington County
- Marion
- Metro. Columbus
- Northern Portage County
- Oberlin Area
- Oxford
- Perrysburg Area
- Portsmouth/Scioto County
- Shaker Heights
- Tallmadge
- Tiffin Area
- Toledo-Lucas County
- Trumbull County
- Wayne County

2009 • ADVOCACY AGENDA • 2009

NATURAL RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

The League supports responsible and responsive management of Ohio natural resources, including energy. We advocate:

Energy

- ✓ Implementing a permanent ban against drilling for oil and for natural gas under Lake Erie.
- ✓ Conserving energy and providing environmental protections for air and water quality.
- ✓ Using alternative forms of energy for transportation and at commercial, industrial, and residential sites.
- ✓ Protecting state parks, wilderness areas, wetlands, and state forests from exploitation of natural resources.

Water

- ✓ State and federal funding to help sustain Lake Erie.
- ✓ Responsible interbasin transfer of water projects that reflect public input.
- ✓ Protection of water quality by promoting environmentally sound farming practices and preventing contamination by concentrated animal feeding operations.

Air

- ✓ Reducing air pollution through stronger regulations and enforcement.

Waste

- ✓ Emphasizing reclamation, reduction, recycling and proper storage of solid and hazardous waste.

Land Use

- ✓ Smart growth, urban revitalization, historic preservation, and zoning and farmland preservation.



The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate, but the League does take political action on issues where member agreement has been reached.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

The League promotes an engaged, informed electorate to ensure a representative government and a fair and impartial judiciary. We advocate:

- ✓ Election administration reforms that eliminate voter disenfranchisement and regain public trust in the administration of elections, including:
 - Revising statutes to eliminate ambiguities and contradictions;
 - Reassigning election administration to an independent nonpartisan authority;
 - Removing barriers to voting; and
 - Resolving statewide voter-registration database problems by 2010.
- ✓ Judicial election reforms that improve independence and impartiality.
- ✓ Enforcement and reform of campaign finance laws, full and timely disclosure of contributions, and public financing of campaigns.
- ✓ Independent redistricting/reapportionment procedures.
- ✓ Repeal of legislative term limits.
- ✓ Ensuring the public's right to know and promoting citizen participation in the political process.



JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The League supports a restorative juvenile justice system, citizens' rights, gun control, reproductive rights and abolition of the death penalty. We advocate:

- ✓ Appropriate care and protection for the satisfactory physical, mental, and educational development of children in the juvenile justice system.
- ✓ Protecting civil and human rights, equality of opportunity, and equal protection under the law.
- ✓ Strong gun control measures at the state and federal level.
- ✓ Protecting a woman's constitutional right of privacy in making reproductive choices.
- ✓ Abolition of the death penalty and a moratorium on executions until the death penalty is abolished.

MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

The League supports policies and programs to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families. We advocate:

- ✓ Affordable and accessible health care for all, including mental health services and reproductive health care.
- ✓ A strong workforce-development system that provides training, support services, and jobs leading to self-sufficiency.
- ✓ Sufficient revenues to provide basic human services.
- ✓ Support for the services and programs designed to prevent unintended pregnancy.
- ✓ Protection of the structural integrity of existing mandatory entitlement programs while better meeting basic human needs in a cost-effective way.
- ✓ A high-quality early care and education system for Ohio.
- ✓ Sustainability of affordable housing programs at the state and federal levels.
- ✓ Mitigation of the impact of housing foreclosures on individuals, families and communities.

EDUCATION

The League supports equitable financing and uniform educational standards for public elementary and secondary schools, advocates for affordable access to public higher education, and opposes the use of public funds for non-public schools. We advocate:

- ✓ A funding system for public elementary and secondary education that is adequate, equitable, accountable, and responsive to the taxpayers.
- ✓ State education standards that are developed in a timely and open process, include appropriate multiple forms of assessment, and apply to all schools, public and non-public.
- ✓ Adoption of a uniform statewide performance evaluation tool.
- ✓ The use of public funds only for public schools. Neither federal nor state funds should be used to support non-public schools through tuition tax credits. State funds should not be used to support voucher programs, transportation reimbursements, administrative cost reimbursements, or auxiliary funds.
- ✓ Improved accountability and performance of community (charter) schools, as users of public funds, by requiring that they be sponsored by elected boards of education and comply with all state standards.
- ✓ Access to affordable higher education for all qualified Ohioans.

The *Advocacy Agenda* reflects 2009 advocacy priorities for the League of Women Voters of Ohio. The League will provide leadership in Ohio, particularly on voting and elections issues. LWV-United States has additional priorities for advocacy at the national level (www.lwv.org), and local Leagues may have local advocacy priorities.