

2006-07 Annual Report

"No right is more fundamental to America's democracy than the right to vote. As our nation spends millions of dollars to help promote democracies abroad, Congress simply should not allow doubts about the legitimacy of our electoral processes linger here at home."

Letter signed by the LWV of the U.S. and 45 other civil rights organizations urging Congress to fully fund the Help America Vote Act. (Nov. 4, 2003)

The League of Women Voters of Ohio... Reforming the system - Protecting our freedoms - Engaging the public - Promoting civic leadership

At the state level, League activities are coordinated and staffed by two distinct but complimentary organizations.

The LWVO is a 501(c)(4) nonpartisan advocacy and membership organization. Dedicated to promoting political responsibility, the LWVO encourages active and informed participation in government.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund (LWVOEF) is a 501(c)(3) citizen education and research organization. Established in 1982, the Education Fund provides research, publications and conferences on public policy issues and disseminates information and training to help citizens of Ohio thoughtfully engage in the democratic process.

We Believe that...

- The responsibility for good government rests on the shoulders of its citizens.
- Empowering new generations of voters will shape better communities.
- Citizenship requires knowledge as well as the ability and will to act.
- Citizen participation in the democratic process builds better government.

We actively...

- Empower citizens to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy.
- Mentor new civic leaders.
- Educate the public on new voting equipment and changes in election law.
- Provide nonpartisan Voter Guides during each election cycle.
- Work for election administration reform in Ohio.
- Conduct studies on government, social and environmental policy.
- Collaborate with coalitions to reform the system and protect our freedoms.
- Mobilize members and voters across Ohio, lobby legislators and influence change.

Actions

The League of Women Voters of Ohio . . .

- Initiated settlement talks regarding the lawsuit LWVO and LWV of Toledo-Lucas County filed in 2005. Working groups developed a document of best election practices as part of the settlement.
- Placed member & judicial independence expert, Meg Flack on one of the two Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendations Panels (OJARP)-a testament to LWVO's long standing support for the appointment of judges.
- Convened Democratic and Republican leaders to renew the focus on redistricting.
- Led acceptance among key good government groups of 8 points defining our convictions about redistricting.
- Met with Governor Ted Strickland to discuss education policy in Ohio.
- Gave testimony and sent Action Alerts regarding, but not limited to the following topics: redistricting reform, the "Federal Election Integrity Act", public records law, accountability for public education, alternative energy, election and voting reform, special education vouchers and concealed weapons.
- Influenced Secretary of State, Jennifer Brunner on a directive to County Boards of the Election which reflect the updated LWVO 10-point proposal for election administration reform.
- Wrote op ed pieces on the death penalty, election reform, redistricting and more.
- Supported local Leagues with materials explaining LWV activities, policies and program.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund . . .

With money received from the Joyce Foundation, The Kettering Fund and the LWVUS we...

- Provided support for 17 Town Hall Meetings held by local Leagues with an average of 80 attendees per meeting.
- Reached thousands per month with the electronic newsletter "Education Spotlight on..." influencing with topics such as, campaign finance reform, judicial reform, redistricting, election law and political accountability.
- Established a link for voters with their legislators via "Speak Up and Connect" which is accessible through the imPACT website.

Other Key LWVO/EF Programs...

- Hosted statewide media events for LWVUS President Mary Wilson to promote Vote 411.
- Helped voters by distributing flyers on new ID requirements through local Leagues and urban coalition partners.
- Published the Voters Guide for the Supreme Court elections.
- Expanded state/regional partnerships with other Leagues focusing on political reform issues as a part of our membership in the Midwest Democracy Network.
- Hosted Ohio News Network statewide Supreme Court candidate debates.

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.