

# League of Women Voters of Ohio

## Statehouse Day 2011

### Workshop Descriptions

#### WELCOME

##### **Statehouse Day 2011: 91 Years of Making Democracy Work**

**Presenters:** Meg Flack, President, League of Women Voters of Ohio

Terrie Tarchinski-Nielsen, Board Member and Chair of Statehouse Day

**Location:** South B&C

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

##### **Restoring Civility to Our National Discourse**

**Presenter:** Fred Andrie, Associate, The Ohio State University Humanities Institute

**Location:** South B&C

We face many challenges at the local, state, and national level. For Ohio, the budget deficit looms rather large. In order to solve the problems of the state budget and many national issues, there must be bipartisan support of Civil Discourse. The hallmarks of Civil Discourse include an objective review of issues and solutions and the avoidance of hostility and direct antagonism of those participating in the conversation. Civil Discourse, in addition to being the theme for 2011 Statehouse Day will be the subject presented by our keynote speaker, Fred Andrie. Mr. Andrie is a retired National Public Radio host from the Columbus area.

#### BUDGET PANEL

##### **A Discussion of the Governor's Budget: Its Impact on Ohioans and State Government**

**Presenters:** Timothy Keen, Director, Ohio Office of Budget and Management

Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, Co-Chair, Advocates for Ohio's Future

Amy Rohling McGee, President, Health Policy Institute of Ohio

**Location:** South B&C

When Governor Kasich introduced his proposal for the two-year state budget in March, there was great anticipation about how he would address the large deficit. It is a challenging time for the state with an \$8 billion budget shortfall and a still uncertain economic outlook. The Administration, Legislature, and advocates from areas impacted by the budget will now begin discussions and negotiations to come up with a budget for approval by June 30.

This discussion featuring panelists from Advocates for Ohio's Future, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, and the Office of Budget Management will present the budget from different perspectives and explore its impact on Ohioans and state government.

## **LUNCHEON**

**Featured Speaker:** Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted

**Location:** South B&C

Secretary of State Husted will share his proposals for election reform, “Ready 2012 and Beyond” and the way he hopes to modernize and improve operation of Ohio elections and build voter confidence in the results.

## **WORKSHOPS**

**First Session: 1:30 – 2:10 pm (*choose one*)**

### **Workshop #1- The Governor’s Vision for Education**

**Presenter:** Dr. Robert Sommers, Director, Governor’s Office of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education

**Location:** North Room

Governor Kasich's Budget proposal reflects significant changes in the approach to providing Ohioans with a cost effective quality education. Gone is the Evidence Based School Funding model introduced by former Governor Strickland. Although state funding is slightly increased, Ohio school systems will face significant cuts in funding because of the loss of stimulus dollars, other federal dollars, and the phase-out of tangible personal property tax and Kilowatt Hour tax reimbursements. The Governor believes that this need not have an effect on education if schools pursue ways to save money by regional consolidation, such as purchasing pools, and have more flexibility through changes in Collective Bargaining law. Proposed changes also include increasing the number of vouchers and charter schools in an effort to provide students with greater choice. In this workshop, we will have the opportunity to better understand these changes.

### **Workshop #2- Redistricting: The Time is Now**

**Presenter:** Ann Henkener, Legislative Director and Board Member, LWVO

**Location:** South A

Ann Henkener, Legislative Director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio, will provide an overview of the current redistricting process and opportunities for reform. She will also discuss efforts to increase public awareness about redistricting and its implications. Learn how you and your league can participate in this process.

## **WORKSHOPS**

**Second Session 2:20 – 3:00 pm (*choose one*)**

### **Workshop #3- The Ohio Budget and Implementing the Affordable Care Act – Moving Forward**

**Presenter:** Cathy Levine, Executive Director, UHCAN Ohio

**Location:** South A

The Affordable Care Act was passed just over one year ago. What progress has been made on implementing it in Ohio? How does Governor Kasich's proposed budget affect further implementation of the Act? What is it likely to mean for quality health care in Ohio? These and other questions relating to health care will be addressed by Ms. Levine.

### **Workshop #4- Criminal Justice Reform – A Component of Budget Reform**

**Presenter:** Shakyra Diaz, Education Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio

**Location:** North Room

Governor Kasich's budget includes the sale of five prisons. In addition, he is supporting prison reform designed to place low-level offenders in community based settings rather than in prisons. Other elements of the budget may reduce mental health services, drug rehabilitation programs and the like. Ms. Diaz will provide us with a comprehensive overview of the proposed budget and its implications for Ohio's prison population.

## **RECEPTION**

**Please join us in the South B&C at 3:00 pm to honor Peg Rosenfeld and Joan Lawrence *for their outstanding advocacy, leadership and commitment to making democracy work!***

## **PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILES**

### **Keynote Address**

**Fred Andrie** was Executive Producer and host of the WOSU public affairs talk program Open Line for more than 20 years, until his retirement in 2009. He is now an Associate with the Ohio State University Humanities Institute, where he hosts a monthly "Conversation in the Humanities." Fred holds a Master's Degree in Communication from Stanford University. The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus presented him with their Democracy in Action award in 2009. Fred received the 2010 Bjornson Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities from the Ohio Humanities Council. Fred's poetry collection, Love Life was published by XOXOX Press (Gambier, Ohio) in 2008.

### **Budget Panel**

**Timothy S. Keen** became Director of the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) on January 10, 2011, bringing more than 25 years of fiscal management and public policy expertise to his responsibilities as Governor John Kasich's chief financial officer. This is the second time he has held this position, leading the cabinet-level agency that provides financial management and policy analysis to help ensure the responsible use of state resources.

From 2007 through 2010, Director Keen was Senior Policy Advisor to Auditor of State Mary Taylor, following his previous service with OBM as Assistant Director and then as Director with the administration of Governor Bob Taft from 1999 through 2006. Earlier in his career he was Deputy Director of Policy Development at OBM, and served as President of the State Controlling Board (1992-1993). His career in public service, beginning in 1986 as a Budget Analyst with the Ohio Legislative Budget Office, also includes senior budget policy positions with both houses of the Ohio General Assembly.

Director Keen received an undergraduate degree in communications from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and holds a master's degree in public policy from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University.

**Amy Rohling McGee** is the President of the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, a statewide nonpartisan organization that forecasts health trends, analyzes key health issues, and communicates current research to Ohio policymakers, legislators, and others.

Ms. McGee was named HPIO President in November 2010 and has many years of experience creating, analyzing, researching and implementing public policy, including health policy. Most recently she served as an executive assistant for Health and Human Services Policy in the Governor's Office, focusing on opportunities to improve access to high quality health care and decrease the cost of health services.

As the Interim Director of the Executive Medicaid Management Administration from December 2009 to November 2010, she also worked to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Medicaid program. Previously she was the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Free Clinics, representing clinics that primarily use volunteers to serve the uninsured.

**Gayle Channing Tenenbaum**, current co-chair of Advocates for Ohio's Future, brings more than 40 years of experience in all aspects of human services. Gayle has extensive experience in the areas of public policy development and implementation, group facilitation, planning, and development, as well as media and public relations. She is a highly sought after human services policy expert and recently served as the Health and Human Services Policy Director for Governor Ted Strickland's Transition Team.

Currently, Gayle is a Senior Policy Fellow with Voice's for Ohio's Children. Simultaneously, she lends her expertise and experience to a number of children and human service organizations including her role as Legislative Director for the Public Children Services Association of Ohio. In addition, Gayle is CEO of Channing and Associates, a human services and public policy consulting firm.

Previously, she served as executive assistant of human services for Governor Richard Celeste. In that capacity she was responsible for coordinating the cabinet departments of human services, mental health, mental retardation, youth services, health, and education. Before joining the administration, she was the director of several human services organizations in Cuyahoga County.

She holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Cincinnati. She is an adjunct professor, teaching public policy, at the Ohio State University College of Social Work.

### **Featured Speaker**

**Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted** brings a strong record of leadership and a unique breadth of experience to the office. Husted was first elected to the legislature in 2000. In 2005 and again in 2007, Husted's colleagues honored him by electing him Speaker of the Ohio House.

As speaker, Jon Husted was instrumental in passing an overhaul of the state tax system and the most fiscally conservative budget in 40 years. His philosophy then and now is that Ohio must invest its limited resources in areas that will grow the state economy, as well as keep taxes low and regulations in-check to be competitive for maintaining and attracting jobs. As the custodian of business filings, Secretary Husted is committed to ensuring an employer's first interaction with the state of Ohio is positive – free from red tape and bureaucratic delays that cost time and profit.

In 2008, Husted was elected to continue his legislative work as a member of the Ohio Senate where he was a leading advocate for election, campaign finance and redistricting reform. Secretary Husted's highest priority will be to work with local election boards to improve the overall administration of elections, ensuring a fair, transparent and efficient process in which all Ohio voters can be confident.

Raised in Northwest Ohio, Husted attended the University of Dayton (UD), where he earned All-American Defensive Back honors as a member of the 1989 Division III National Championship football team. After receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees from UD, Husted stayed in the Dayton area and worked for the Montgomery County Commissioners and later as Vice President of Business and Economic Development at the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

## **Workshop #1- The Governor's Vision for Education**

**Robert Sommers** currently serves as Director of the Governor's Office of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education. Sommers came to the Governor's Office with more 25 years of experience in education. Over the course of his career, Sommers has developed a proven track record of success in developing innovative programs that prepare students for academic and career challenges. As the Chief Executive Officer of Butler Tech in Hamilton, Sommers helped propel the school from the 41st-ranked career center in the state in overall student performance to first.

Most recently, Sommers served as Chief Executive Officer of Cornerstone Charter Schools in Detroit. After only its first year in existence, Cornerstone Charter Academies' two schools were named in the top 10 charter schools in the first-ever study of public, charter and private schools in the Detroit metro area.

Sommers received his Ph. D. in Research and Leadership from The Ohio State University. He also has earned a Masters in Agricultural Education from Ohio State and received his bachelor's degree in Education from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He is a member of the Association for Career Technical Education, the United Way, and the American Association of School Administrators.

## **Workshop #2- Redistricting: The Time is Now**

**Ann Henkener** received her bachelor's degree in Sociology from the Ohio State University and her Juris Doctorate from Capital University Law School. Her professional experience includes serving for eight years as in-house counsel for a non-profit health care organization in Columbus, Ohio and spending over 20 years as an Assistant Attorney General, representing the State of Ohio in regulating health care and regulating public utilities.

She has been on the Board of Trustees of the Columbus Metropolitan League of Women Voters since 2003 and the Board of Trustees of the League of Women Voters of Ohio since 2007. She is also the Ohio League's Legislative Director and focuses on redistricting and public records.

## **Workshop #3- The Ohio Budget and implementing the Affordable Care Act—Moving Forward**

**Cathy J. Levine, JD** is the Executive Director of the Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio (UHCAN Ohio), a consumer advocacy organization promoting quality, affordable health care for all. Cathy co-chairs Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage (OCHC), a coalition of diverse consumer interests building the consumer voice in health care reform convened by UHCAN Ohio. She was an appointee of Governor Strickland to the Ohio Health Coverage and Quality Council, a multi-stakeholder body developing recommendations on health reform – and recently disbanded by the current administration. Her policy and advocacy work has included Medicaid and Medicare, hospital billing practices, immigrant health care, local access efforts, and delivery system reform.

Cathy is on the Board of Trustees of Congregation Tifereth Israel and is active in BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity), uniting diverse faith congregations to work for justice. Cathy, an attorney, lives in Bexley with her husband, a teenage son (the older son is in college), and two dogs.

#### **Workshop #4- Criminal Justice Reform—A Component of Budget Reform**

**Shakya Diaz** is the policy director for the ACLU of Ohio. She works on public policy campaigns, legislative advocacy, coalition building initiatives, and impact programming.

During her time at the ACLU she has worked on initiatives that have successfully reversed long-standing, racially disparate practices and have resulted in sentencing reform. Diaz develops impact programs that give voice to community concerns around that state. Some of those programs have examined hip-hop as a form of political activism, reproductive health care access for Latinas, in-effective gang initiatives, failed and biased drug law policies, selective enforcement, youth and police relations, the school to prison pipeline, anti-immigrant policies, and sentencing reform to name a few. Diaz has co-authored or contributed on several ACLU of Ohio publications, curriculums and reports dealing with law enforcement, youth rights, immigrant rights, juvenile justice, racial justice, and criminal justice reform.

Prior to joining the ACLU she served as both project director and program coordinator for Youth Opportunities Unlimited, and as retention specialist and education specialist for Case Western Reserve University's Upward Bound Program, both pre-college programs for low income, 1<sup>st</sup> generation students.

Diaz is a member of the Employment of Ex-Offender Work Group for the Ohio Re-Entry Coalition, Ohio Hispanic Social Service Workers Association and the Hispanic Health Committee. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Hispanas Organizadas en Lake y Ashtabula and Hispanic Umadaop. Diaz is the vice-chair of Citizens for a Safe and Fair Cleveland and she is the chair of the Interpreters Advocate Advisory Committee via the Center for Reducing Health Disparities.

Diaz received her Bachelor's of Arts and Science from Case Western Reserve University in Communication Science's and Sociology with a concentration on social inequity.