



A project sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund

On Saturday, May 5, 2007 at the Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls, during the bi-annual Convention of the League of Women Voters of Ohio, a statewide imPACT Town Hall Meeting was held.

imPACT recognizes and honors individuals and organizations that have made an impact on civic life by promoting citizen involvement and education. The Ohio League believes that the kind of civic engagement and citizen participation promoted by these honorees provide the key for us to make democracy work throughout our state, indeed throughout the nation. *Our town hall meetings are an opportunity to discuss how to help make Ohio government more responsive, fair and honest.*

Get inspired:

Honorees for this Town Hall Meeting included: **The Akron Community Foundation, Akron International Friendship**, and the **Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics**. Each has demonstrated a unique commitment to promoting citizen involvement and education as a means of enhancing our democratic community.

Get educated:

Participants learned about two burning issues: the role of big money in shaping public policy, and its threat to judicial impartiality and fairness. **Catherine Turcer**, Legislative Director for Ohio Citizen Action and **Professor Bill Rich**, University of Akron School of Law, experts in campaign finance regulations and judicial elections respectively, spoke about these issues.

Get involved:

Presentations set the stage for rousing round-table discussions. No one left the Town Hall meeting without having learned something new about these critical issues and everyone talked about a range of solutions that would help mitigate the problems that jeopardize the quality of our democracy. Without grassroots support for change, change is unlikely to happen.

Here are some ideas that were shared during the THM wrap-up.

(Note: These opinions and suggestions do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the League of Women Voters.)

- Find a balance between merit selection of judges and election of judges by pre-qualifying candidates.
- Campaigns for retaining judges who would be selected could be publicly financed.
- Require broader, higher standards for judicial candidates.
- Establish free television advertising for federal candidates.
- All media should give free, equal time to candidates.
- Free ads must undergo fact checking first.
- Encourage broadcasters to spend more time on election coverage.
- Establish a National Primary Day.
- Require full campaign donation disclosure.
- Create genuine oversight and penalties for campaign donation violations.
- Do more research on the impact of internet-based campaign donations.
- Research corporate campaign contributions and their effect on policy.
- Create comprehensive voter guides.
- More voter education.

It's now up to you to get engaged. [Ohioimpact.org](https://ohioimpact.org) is a good place to start.

Questions about imPACT? Call the League of Women Voters of Ohio: 877-598-6446 (toll-free).