



Here is the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund imPACT e-newsletter.

This month's feature is a Letter to the Editor from LWVO President Linda D. Lalley on Redistricting. The letter was published in the September 2 edition of *The Columbus Dispatch*.

Reform redistricting while time is right

The League of Women Voters of Ohio fully supports your call to reform the redistricting process in Ohio. As your Sunday, August 19, 2007 editorial indicated ([The Columbus Dispatch : Don't forget](#)), the time for making this needed change is now, while bipartisan cooperation is still rife.

The methods currently used to determine electoral districts have given us state legislature and national congressional delegations which do not proportionally reflect the political affiliations of Ohio voters. The last two presidential elections showed Ohioans to be closely divided ideologically. However, our legislative representation would lead one to believe Ohio is a heavily right-leaning state. Politicians are selecting their voters when voters ought to be selecting their politicians.

In addition to partisan gerrymandering (the political manipulation of district lines), Ohio's current redistricting methods have guaranteed "safe" districts. Recent budget cooperation aside, safe districts more often produce highly polarized legislators unable to compromise with their political opposites across the aisle.

During the last biennium, the Ohio legislature considered having a bi-partisan commission that would redraw the electoral district lines to maximize competitiveness and maintain communities of interest. Work on this plan should continue.

I encourage your readers (a) to attend a Town Hall Meeting hosted by local Leagues of Women Voters across Ohio to learn more about the need for this change, (b) to visit our political reform web site at www.ohioimpact.org to see the electoral district manipulation that can and does occur under current law, and (c) to read the League's 8-point plan for redistricting and view a PowerPoint presentation on gerrymandering at www.lwvohio.org. With a better understanding of the process, we can all work to safeguard our democracy.

LINDA D. LALLEY
President League of Women Voters of Ohio

How would you draw the lines if you had the power? Try your ideas on how to create fair election districts by playing The Annenberg Center's [The Redistricting Game](#).

The Redistricting Game was created at the University of Southern California Game Innovation Lab - part of the USC School of Cinematic Arts, Interactive Media Division. "It was developed for the USC Annenberg Center for Communications," explains Catherine Turcer, *Ohio Citizen Action*.

To contact your representative in the Ohio Legislature to let them know how you feel, click here.
[Contact Ohio Legislators.](#)

