

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE GREATER DAYTON AREA
Talbot Tower, Suite 1208
131 N. Ludlow Street
Dayton, OHIO 45402-1703

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We are on the web
www.lwvdayton.org

Advocating Voter
Education and
Action on Issues

President's Message

The League of Women Voters recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. The LWV affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of America in its membership, leadership and programs.

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President's Message:

I always enjoy getting together with League members because the conversation is always stimulating, educational, and civil. The New Year is bringing some exciting new opportunities for us to get together, beginning with January. That month brings not only winter weather, but our annual Program Planning meeting. This year we are reviewing national positions. Program Planning is a wonderful way to voice your opinions about the positions we currently have. What should we keep, what should we eliminate, and what should we review and possibly update? So come spend a morning at the Dayton Art Institute for good food and good conversation. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

Go Columbus

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The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE GREATER DAYTON AREA
VOLUME 89, ISSUE 1



JANUARY, 2012

Dayton League 2012 Planning Program

The Dayton Area League's annual Program Planning meeting will be held on Saturday, January 21, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Dayton Art Institute. **Do not miss this meeting!**

Every two years state and local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues -- *this is how we remain a grassroots organization*. Off years we look at the LWVO Program Planning Issues and of course, each year we focus attention on strictly local concerns and issues as well as how we fit into the national picture.

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. During the process, members have the opportunity to organize support based on factual materials before the deadline of March 1, 2012.

Program, a three-part process that is a core component of the League's mission, is composed of program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy. Information on the National Issues is included throughout this newsletter (see page 3) with online references when you want more detail.

Seating is limited so mark your calendar and let us know you will be attending. A reservation form is included below or you may call the League office to reserve your space at the table **by Jan 13**. Reservations for this meeting cost \$15 and includes a lovely lunch catered by the DAI's Elegant Affair. (meeting only - \$5.)

LWVUS Fights Voter Suppression Laws

As voter suppression laws sweep the nation, the League is fighting back in a variety of ways. The [LWV of Kansas](#) is working in coalition to help educate and register voters before new, stricter laws go into effect. The [LWV of South Carolina](#) steps up the pressure urging the US Department of Justice to deny pre-clearance of the state's voter ID law. The [LWV of Ohio](#), working with other organizations, succeeded in getting a measure on the ballot to overturn a newly enacted law that would significantly decrease the number of early voting hours in Ohio. The LWV of Florida has taken its message to national TV! [LWVFL President Deirdre McNabb](#) eloquently rebuffed a state legislator, who supported the state's new restrictions on citizen registration drives.

Many state legislatures have managed to make it more difficult for citizens to vote in the upcoming 2012 elections. The Attorney General of the United States finally acknowledged what we, in the League, have known for a long time. Voting rights are being undermined in a variety of ways in a majority of the states. The time for action is now if we want the 2012 election to be fair.

Whatever course the Department of Justice takes over the next few months, we know that state legislatures will be coming back into session next year, and efforts will be renewed to require voter ID, curb early voting and discourage groups like the League from registering voters. *Continued, page 2.*

Please save me a seat at the Upcoming LWVGDA Program Planning

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check Enclosed? _____

Pay at the Door? _____

You may also call in (228-4041) or email your reservation league@lwvdayton.org

*General Fund***2011-2012 Leadership Circle Members****President (\$10,000+)***Dayton City Paper****Vice President (\$5,000+)**

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Cabinet (\$2,500+)

Dickey Fund

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Sinclair Community College**

University of Dayton **

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Political Science Department

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Anonymous

Dayton Metro Library

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Carolyn Farrow-Garland

Five Rivers Metro Park,

Rebecca A. Benna, Exec. Director

Deborah & Bruce Feldman

Dona & Ronald L. Fletcher

Herbert Lee

Ellen McCloskey

David A. Neuhardt

Linda & Miles Schmidt

Judy & Tom Thompson

University of Dayton, Fitz Center

All elected officials, political entities and candidates are invited to contribute to the LWV. Names appearing on this list do not constitute an endorsement by the LWV which is nonpartisan.

*In-kind contributions

**In kind and monetary contribution

Recent Contributions Appreciated**General Fund Contributors**

Kevin P. Carton*

William Deighton

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Dane Mutter

Dr. Paul F. Nugent, Jr.

Gerald J. Petrak

Betsy & Leon Whitney

Nancy G. Yarger

Education Fund**Current Major Contributors**

Anonymous (\$1,750)

Charles Berry (\$5,000)

The Dayton Bar Association Foundation (\$1,000)

The Dayton Power & Light Foundation (\$3,000)

The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation (\$6000)

Continued from page 1

We, who understand the importance of full participation, must continue to oppose these efforts in every way possible. Whatever barriers the states throw up, we must work to overcome them. We know this is an organized effort, but regardless of who is behind it or what is motivating it, we must be just as organized and just as determined to make the process work for every voter and to make every vote count.

This final message for 2011, then, is a call to arms to all Leagues! Let's roll up our sleeves and do the valuable work for which we are best known and best qualified. Let's get out and register new voters, provide Voters' Guides, participate in VOTE411, host candidate debates and forums, and mobilize voters for the 2012 elections!

Elizabeth MacNamara, Preseident, LWVUS excerpts from the 12/15/11 Leaders' Update

Human Trafficking Study to Begin in January

LWV GDA is looking for volunteers to participate in a state-wide study of Ohio's Human Trafficking problem.

Quick Facts:

Human trafficking involves the buying and selling of human beings for commercial profit. Trafficking victims are exploited for both labor and sex. The average age a young girl is first commercially sexually exploited is 12 to 13. At any given time, there are 6,500 people in Ohio at risk of commercial exploitation. Human trafficking is a rapidly growing problem affecting Ohio's inner cities, affluent suburbs and rural areas. Human trafficking is very appealing to traffickers because profit far exceeds the risk - often, it is the victim who is jailed as a prostitute.

Ohio is considered one the "Dirty Dozen," which is comprised of states that either ignore human trafficking or employ a very weak approach to their legislation. Until recently Ohio's legislation on Human Trafficking was so weak that **it had never been used**. In December 2010, Ohio passed a law making human trafficking a second-degree felony.

What We Can Do:

Though the League believes in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States, that principal alone, without a supporting study and consensus, is not enough for the League to act on the human trafficking issues. Therefore, at the 2011 LWV Ohio State Convention, attendees voted to participate in a study on the issue to allow Leagues to come to a consensus which would then free both state and local leagues to advocate for the victims in their communities, who frequently are minors and who are often treated as criminals rather than victims.

A Human Trafficking position will allow Leagues to:

- Advocate for legislation assuring victim's rights, with a focus on how minor victims of sex trafficking are treated by the criminal justice system;
- Join in coalition with other organizations in local communities to provide community-based services to victims;
- Educate communities on how to recognize and report human trafficking.

This study is a short- term project. Please join us as we address this very important issue. Call the League office at 228-4041 or email league@lwvdayton.org to participate in this study.

Mark Your Calendars

Board Meeting Schedule

January 17, 2012 (Tuesday) 5:30 pm
 February 20, 2012 (Monday) 5:30 pm
 March 19, 2012 (Monday) 5:30 pm
 April 16, 2012 (Monday) 5:30 pm
 May 21, 2012 (Monday) 5:30 pm
 June 18, 2012 (Monday) 5:30 pm

Note: All meeting are held in the Talbott Tower, 10th Floor Conference Rm. 1000

LWV Program Planning: Jan 21, 2012

8:00 - noon; Dayton Art Institute

Fracking Program: February 29, 2012

7:00 p.m. University of Dayton

Naturalization Ceremony Dates, 2012

January 25
 February 23
 March 15
 April 19
 May 3
 May 19 At World Affair
 June 21
 July 19
 August 9
 August 30
 Sept 20
 October 4
 October 25
 November 15
 December 20

All ceremonies are held in the U S District Court, 200 W. Second St. Dayton Unless otherwise noted. Please call the League office 228-4041, if you would like to attend, so that we can make arrangements with the courts.

Snowbirds Notice

Please let us know if you will be out of town for large parts of the 'cold' Winter Season. We will hold your mailings so that we don't incur large return fees.

Thanks for your help!!

LWVUS Program Positions

KEEP	REVIEW UPDATE	STUDY
_____	_____	_____

Directions: Please review each of the LWVUS Program Positions and make a check at the right to denote your feelings. Should we keep the position, should it be reviewed and updated or does it merit further study. Bring your reviews with you to the Program Planning meeting at the Dayton Art Institute on January 21st. If you cannot attend, please send your reviews in to the League office at: 131 N. Ludlow, Suite 1208, Dayton, 45402

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT:

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.

VOTING RIGHTS

Citizens Right to Vote: protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote
DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation: Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and representation in both houses of Congress.

ELECTION PROCESS

Apportionment: Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance: Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President: Promote the election of the President and Vice President by direct popular vote and work to abolish the Electoral College. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

CITIZEN RIGHTS

Citizen Right to Know/Citizen Participation: Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Individual Liberties: Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices: Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY

Congress: Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency: Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations, strengthening international organizations.

UNITED NATIONS: Support a strong, effective United Nations and its efforts to promote world peace and security and meet the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

TRADE: Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U. S. RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: Promote U. S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

ARMS CONTROL: Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

MILITARY POLICY AND DEFENSE SPENDING: Work to limit reliance on military force; examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. (Continued page 4)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL: Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality: Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources

Energy: Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use: Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources: Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management: Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues: Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

AGRICULTURE POLICY: Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers, and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY: Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY:

Equal Rights: Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment and Housing: Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

FISCAL POLICY:

Tax Policy: Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit: Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding Entitlements: Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

HEALTH CARE: Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to quality care for all U. S. residents and controls health care costs.

IMMIGRATION: Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS: Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance: Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services: Provide for essential support services.

Housing Supply: Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living

CHILD CARE: Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

EARLY INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN AT RISK: Support policies and programs that promote well-being, development and safety of all children.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION: Support violence prevention programs in all communities.

GUN CONTROL: Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

URBAN POLICY: Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

DEATH PENALTY: The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.