



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a member.

League of Women Voters of the Cleveland Area and
League of Women Voters of Cleveland Educational Fund

THE CLEVELAND AREA VOTER

SERVING THE CITIES OF CLEVELAND, BEREA, BRATENAHL, BROOK PARK, EUCLID, INDEPENDENCE, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OLMS TED FALLS, OLMS TED TOWNSHIP AND STRONGSVILLE

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LWV OHIO URGES VOTING CENTERS WITH OPTICAL SCAN

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is between a rock and a hard place for the 2008 elections. They can either stick with touch screen voting machines that never work right, or they can switch to optical scan paper ballots on just two months' notice. The League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO) proposes that the least problematic solution is to conduct the 2008 primary and general elections at "voting centers" using optical scan ballots. While this is not ideal, there isn't time to create an ideal solution.

Voting centers would save money, would allow efficient use of trained poll workers, and would be feasible in a short time. Peg Rosenfield, elections specialist for the League, noted, "Voting centers were first introduced in Colorado and have been used successfully to reduce the number of poll workers and the number of voting devices needed, while providing better service to voters." Several thousand voters could vote at each one and could be served by intensively trained poll workers who can process voters from a wide geographic area. Because there would be only a few voting sites, they could be places with ample parking, plenty of space and supplies, and immediately available administrative and technical expertise. "Since 2005, as part of a 10-point election reform proposal (www.lwvohio.org (http://www.lwvohio.org/)), the League has urged use of paper ballots which are optically scanned to be counted," said LWVO President Linda Lalley, a resident of Cuyahoga County. "Even with its shortcomings, the use of optical scan ballots is more likely to provide a better outcome than the present flawed system." Optical scan is a simpler technology; it provides a recountable paper ballot; and it reduces the likelihood of long lines because voters can mark a ballot without depending on a machine. Even if scanners created a bottleneck, voters could simply deposit their voted ballots into a sealed ballot box. Handicap-accessible voting machines would still be provided for voters with disabilities.

The efficient use of voting centers might require that the Secretary of State be given temporary authority to modify some existing legal and administrative restrictions about where voters may cast a valid ballot. Doing nothing sets the stage for Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio to once again be known throughout the nation and the world for its inability to conduct a presidential election competently

A crisis situation requires thinking outside the box. If a simple solution existed, smart minds would have already come up with it. Voting centers such as those in Colorado are one, albeit imperfect, solution.
Linda D. Lalley
President, LWV Ohio

Peg Rosenfield has recommended the following website for more information on voting centers:
www.co.larimer.co.us/elections/votecenters_tab.htm

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(League office 216-781-8375 for more information)

Saturday, January 26, 2008: Discussion of LWVUS Public Policy Positions (see page 3) at the League office, 850 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1010, 10-noon. Please RSVP.

Monday, January 28 thru Monday, February 4 from 4-6 pm: Voter registration at the RTA's Terminal Tower. Call to volunteer.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

Tuesday, February 4: Deadline for registering for the March 4 primary.

Thursday, February 14: Happy Birthday, LWV!

Saturday, February 23: Monthly membership meeting at the League office, 10-noon. Topic TBA.

Tuesday, March 4: Ohio primary election. Please VOTE and encourage others to do the same.

Now accepting orders for the **2008 Public Officials Directory** for Cuyahoga and surrounding counties. To order your copy, please send check payable to LWV Cleveland Educational Fund for \$10 plus \$2.25 shipping and handling to LWV Cleveland Educational Fund, 850 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1010, Cleveland, Ohio 44114.



Did you know? Our own **Elva Edger** (C seated) attended the Nuremburg Trials in Germany.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

On 5 December, I had the privilege of participating in "A Safer, More Compassionate World" forum, sponsored by LWV (US) Educational Fund and Our Voices Together. Our speaker, Wilson Ray Huhn, McDowell Professor, University of Akron School of Law, and a constitutional law specialist, focused on the rule of law, the foundation of American democracy.

Prof. Huhn is inspired by Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, who earlier in his career served as the Chief Prosecutor at the Nuremburg Trials after WWII. The conduct of the US at those trials, in contrast with the current treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo and at secret CIA facilities, is sharp. Before voting in the 2008 primary and general elections, one of our questions to candidates should be about the issue of treatment of prisoners of war. Our conduct toward them is a strong indication of how we regard the rule of law.

My gratitude goes to Sharon McGraw, Executive Director of the LWV Cleveland Educational Fund, who organized the forum, and to those who attended.

On behalf of the LWV Cleveland Area Board, may 2008 be happy and filled with the true spirit of League.

Sincerely,

Penny Jeffrey



Professor **Will Huhn** (L) and Ed Fund Board Chair **Cathryn Kapp**

LWVUS PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

(See www.lwv.org for full text)

Come to the January 26 League meeting to share your views

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.

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT:

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

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote
DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation

Election Process

Apportionment
Campaign Finance
Election of the President

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation
Individual Liberties
Public Policy on Reproductive Choices

The Congress and the Presidency

Congress
Presidency

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

United Nations

Trade

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries

Arms Control

Military Policy and Defense Spending

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

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

Natural Resources

Resource Management

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Air Quality
Energy
Land Use
Water Resources
Waste Management
Nuclear Issues

Public Participation

Agricultural Policy

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
Education, Employment, Housing

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy
Federal Deficit
Funding of Entitlements

Health Care

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Income Assistance
Support Services
Housing Supply

Child Care

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Violence Prevention

Gun Control

Urban Policy

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LWVC's Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of the Cleveland Area is committed to achieve a membership representative of the multicultural composition of our city. Membership is open to all persons, age 18 or older, regardless of color, creed, national origin, race or sex. League welcomes the diversity of thought, opinion and ideas reflective of all citizens in our democracy.

Dates to remember in early 2008

Monday, February 4th, 2008	Voter registration deadline for March 4, Presidential Primary closes 9:00 pm
Friday, February 8th, 2008	Absentee voting opens (25 days prior to election)
Saturday, March 1st, 2008	Absentee voting by mail closes at noon
Tuesday, March 4th, 2008	Primary polls are open for voting from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm

Not a member? Join today!

I want to join the League of Women Voters Cleveland Area

Please check one or more:

- one year individual membership \$50
- one year household membership \$75 (two sharing an address)
- Sustaining member \$100
- I'm unable to join the League now but enclose a donation

Please make checks payable to the **League of Women Voters**

Return to: **Membership**
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