



# The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLEVELAND AREA

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Serving the cities of Berea, Bratenahl, Brook Park, Cleveland, Euclid, Independence, Middleburg Heights, Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Township, and Strongsville

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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## **ETHICS: What is it and how can we know if our government officials are behaving ethically?**

by Roslyn Talerico, Vice President LWV Cleveland Area

Over a year ago governmental corruption came to a head in Cuyahoga County. Now public officials are being punished and voters have approved a new charter form of government. Some of our League members served on the Ethics Transition Team and worked to develop a model Code of Ethics for our new government. The County Council approved an ethics code similar to the one presented by the Team, but the new Code needs improvement and the League needs to be in a position to testify when the new charter is revised, probably in 2012.

Help the League have a strong voice. Please complete the consensus form on Ethics you receive and mail it back to Roslyn Talerico at 54 Edinburgh Oval, Olmsted Township, OH 44138. Deadline is before January 27.

Then please come to the Ethics consensus meeting on January 28, 10:15 a.m., at the Fulton Library, 3545 Fulton Road, Cleveland 44109.

With your help, the League can make a difference!

### **LWV TIMELY TOPIC: Human Trafficking**

Please join us for a noon luncheon on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 with speakers from the Collaborative Initiative to End Human Trafficking. The event will be held at Massimo da Milano, 1400 West 25th Street and Detroit Avenue. Reservations are required.

**\*See flyer inside for further details.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow League Members,

It's been a busy few months with elections, studies, testifying before public bodies and trying to update all of you on issues. It was a pleasure to see some of you at the meeting on 19 November, where the committee that has been studying ethics for public officials made an informational presentation on their conclusions. Please join us Saturday 28 January for the consensus meeting on the Ethics Study.

The redistricting issue will no doubt be on the November 2012 ballot. LWV Ohio's competition on redistricting proved that districts can be drawn that are compact, competitive and respect local boundaries. The 2012 Primary Election will be March 6 for candidates for president, U.S. senator and representatives, and local offices. We promise to update our webpage and emails to bring you the LWV stance on the issues.

At the September meeting of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority (CCCPA), I testified for the League in response to their pending Strategic Plan, using the resolution approved by the three local Leagues after the CCCPA study in 2007. This called for greater openness in decision making by the North East Ohio Development Fund, of which the CCCPA is a partner. On behalf of the League, the testimony also urged the Port Authority to turn over management of the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (formerly known as Dike 14) to an agency such as the Metroparks, which would be a more appropriate caretaker. CCCPA President Will Friedman subsequently invited me to meet with him to discuss these topics. He agreed that both our positions have merit and is working toward their accomplishment.

At the 29 November meeting of the Rules Committee of the Cuyahoga County Council, I testified on behalf of the three leagues in support of a proposed ordinance (2011-0032) establishing guidelines for monitoring County funding for "otherwise autonomous boards and commissions over which County government does not have direct authority." League studies of the ABCD's (Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Districts) and that of the CCCPA led to the League's position on this subject. We were well-received, but the Proposed Ordinance was tabled by the Committee.

On behalf of the Boards of the LWVC and LWVCEF, we wish you happy New Year!

In League,  
Penny Jeffrey

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012

(For more info, call the office at 216-781-8375)

**Sunday, January 15:** Deadline for individual League members to submit suggestions for LWVUS advocacy priorities. See page 4 for more information.

**Wednesday, January 18:** "Human Trafficking," noon luncheon at Massimo da Milano co-sponsored with LWV Cuyahoga Area. Reservations required.

**Saturday, January 28:** Consensus meeting on the LWV Cleveland Area's ethics study; approval of resulting position will be taken at the League's annual meeting May 5, 2012.

**January/February:** National League program planning meeting; deadline for submission to LWVUS March 1, 2012.

**Tuesday, March 6:** 2012 Primary Election.

**Tuesday, April 10:** Statehouse Day/Council in Columbus. Check LWV Ohio website ([www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org)) for more details.

**Tuesday, May 1:** Deadline for submitting consensus forms on the LWV Privatization Study to the National League.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Saturday, May 5:** Annual meeting, including election of officers and voting on the ethics study.

## NEW COUNTY WEBSITE:

[www.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.cuyahogacounty.us)

Please consider adding the new, much improved county website to your Favorites/Bookmarks list. In addition to the "Council Corner," announcing all meetings with agendas and minutes, the website has a conspicuous link to the Inspector General, including ethics enforcement information and data; and even a Whistleblower Hotline.

## **2011 November General Election Results**

by Sherece Gray, Outreach Coordinator

This past election season was a busy one for the Voter Information Center Hotline, receiving over 100 + calls from all over Cuyahoga and surrounding counties including Lake, Medina, Geauga and Summit. The majority of these calls occurred during the last two weeks before the election. Voters were very concerned about the issues on the ballot, especially Issues 2 and 3, and were anxious to get any information they could to clarify confusing ballot language. The new bilingual ballot also confused many absentee ballot voters. The post-election buzz was about the unfamiliar layout of the new bilingual ballot.

The Voter Information Center Hotline is a vital resource for the community and we were gratified to receive two monetary donations. It is refreshing to know that people want to make informed decisions about their community and recognize that the hotline is a worthy resource.

## **LAKE ERIE BASIN COMMITTEE UPDATE**

by Elva Elger, LWVC Vice President & Chair, Environmental Committee

At the October 19, 2011 Lake Erie Basin Committee (LEBC) meeting, presenters Ralph and Jeanne Cebulla showed a video of geologist James Northrup, former gas and oil industry employee, explaining the historical use of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") to obtain coal in Colorado and oil and gas in Texas. He emphasized that the process is new, but the geological conditions under which it is now being used in the Marcellus Shale regions are different. In the use of "fracking" in Texas, the seismic conditions vary greatly from the Marcellus area. In the New York region, the rock layering has a different porosity and positioning, and state regulations cover only small vertical drilling. Companies have not tested water wells beforehand so no scientific study can be done to determine the safety of fracking there. Currently New York Governor Cuomo has imposed a moratorium on the fracking method of drilling.

This topic is typical of the kind discussed at LEBC meetings. In the fracking process, water injected into the ground can be contaminated by toxic chemicals, possibly affecting the quality of drinking water in wells and the Great Lakes. State governments need to set standards to ensure that the process is handled safely.

The Lake Erie Basin is made up of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. Interested Leaguers from these five states have long been concerned with the welfare of the Great Lakes, our regional treasure. The LEBC meets three times a year and any interested League members are welcome to join. Please call Elva at 440-826-0157 for more information.

## LWVUS UPDATES

**Legislative Priorities:** In January the LWVUS Board of Directors will be setting the League Legislative Priorities for the coming year. Once again, the Board is soliciting suggestions for LWVUS advocacy priorities from members. If you are interested, please consider the goals and criteria that follow: 1) Enhance the League's effectiveness by concentrating resources on priority issues; 2) Build the League's credibility and visibility by projecting a focused and consistent image; 3) Ensure that the League has sufficient issue and political expertise to act knowledgeably; and 4) Enable the League to manage resources effectively.

In setting legislative priorities, the Board considers opportunities for the League to make an impact, program decisions made at Convention and/or Council, member interest and resources available to manage effectively.

If you would like to offer your input for LWVUS advocacy priorities, please email Advocacy Committee Chair Judy Duffy, [jduffy@aol.com](mailto:jduffy@aol.com), indicating that your suggestions are from an individual member. Deadline is January 15, 2012.

**LWV Privatization Study:** The scope of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability and preservation of the common good. Privatization case study papers are now available online; deadline for Leagues to submit consensus forms is May 1, 2012.

**LWVUS New Website:** In announcing its launch, LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara wrote: "It is our hope, as we head into an important election year, that the new site will assist us in better showcasing the collective and vital work done by the League at local, state and national levels to serve the voters and defend our democracy." Visit [lwwus.org](http://lwwus.org) to take a look.

## COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS RESPOND

Several months ago, we emailed the 11 members of the new Cuyahoga County Council, asking them to answer the following questions about their experiences over the past year:

1. What were your expectations of this new office? How different were they from your actual experiences?
2. What are your goals as a council member?
3. How do you handle the large district you represent? How do you balance the needs of your district and those of the county as a whole?
4. In your opinion, what is the greatest achievement of county council to date?
5. What is your greatest achievement as a council member?
6. What is the greatest challenge facing the council?
7. How would you describe the working relationship between council and the county executive?
8. What do you think will be the legacy of this first county council?

Thanks to the five council members who responded: Dave Greenspan, District 1; Dale Miller, District 2; Michael J. Gallagher, District 5; Pernel Jones Jr., District 8; C. Ellen Connally, District 9; and Julian Rogers, District 10. *NOTE: Their responses were not edited.*

### **Dave Greenspan, District 1**

1. I have a unique set of experiences in starting a new form of government. I was involved with and served on the inaugural city council of the largest city in the count ever to incorporate. With this said, where possible, I came to the position with relevant difference between my previous experiences and this one is that in the past we started our government from the ground up and were able to, from the beginning institute a culture and expectations of our constituency. Conversely, in Cuyahoga County we “jumped on a moving ship” and are charged with changing culture and employing a best practices strategy to a \$1.3 billion dollar business.
2. My goals today are no different to when I was a candidate for office. The only difference is that we have achieved some of my early goals of Ethics Reform, the creation of the Agency of the Inspector General and overall engaging in a transparent and open engagement with constituents. As it relates to these items the challenge of enforcement and continued vigilance to support these initiatives is not only the responsibility of us as elected officials, but with residents of the county to maintain vigilance on these policies and programs.
3. The short answer to your first questions is one constituent at a time. Every voice, regardless of political belief, socio-economic status or any other persuasion deserves and receives equal representation. Furthermore, I have conducted monthly town hall meetings each of the six communities that I represent – for a total of twelve meetings in 2011. Additionally, I attend as many meetings, functions and event as I possibly can to make myself accessible to y constituency.
4. In regards to your second question, I apply a basic standard that “the situation is focused on the need not the want” We all have wants for your individual districts but the overarching needs deserve the attention regardless of geographic or political boundaries.
5. I clearly have a biased opinion on this issue – The Ethics Ordinance. I have always maintained that we needed to adopt and we have the most comprehensive Ethics Ordinance in the State of Ohio
6. I have two – the Ethics Ordinance and the creation of the Agency of the Inspector General
7. I would suspect that the greatest challenge facing council would be the continual balance between focusing on the “needs” of the community versus the “wants” of the community. Specifically, with respect to the utilization of fiscal resources.
8. I would describe the relationship as “evolving”. Realizing that this is a new form of government – I would suggest that both branches of government are independently and collectively defining their roles and responsibilities. Open and free forms of communication are keys to the success of this or any entity and we are both striving to enhance our communications skills.
9. Keep in mind that the council has only been in existence a short time. My response today will be different in a few years. My general observation today is that the initial legacy would be how well the eleven member of council interact and engage in debate and dialogue while at the same time maintaining a congenial and strong working relationship. That is not to say that we all get along all of the time or that we share in the same opinion on issues. But what it does say about the body – is that we respect one another, regardless of your beliefs (political or otherwise) for the greater good of the community

**Dale Miller, District 2**

1. I expected the job to require much more time than commonly believed, due to the complexity of setting up and legislating for government of this size and complexity. I felt that my legislative experience would be helpful. The actual experience was close to what I expected, with transitional issues being even a little more complex and persistent than I anticipated.
2. My goals are: 1) Establish the Council as a strong and independent branch of government in its legislative role, 2) Develop effective systems of oversight that will improve efficiency and prevent corruption, 3) Help in implementing the Charter requirement that the County have a strong economic development focus with a strong workforce development component, 4) Develop a comprehensive strategic plan for human services, with strong emphasis on prevention, 5) Develop a new, better, and sufficient system of funding for mental health services 6) Focus attention on encouraging the people of Cuyahoga County to increase their own capabilities by taking more responsibility for their wellness, education, employment skills, social skills, and addiction prevention, 7) Assist in developing a postsecondary education scholarship program that coordinates well with existing programs and helps more of our young people complete postsecondary education or training, 8) Assist the County in expanding consolidation and collaboration efforts to improve the efficiency of our government and the other local governments in the region, 9) Develop and place on the ballot charter amendment proposals to clarify outstanding issues, starting in November, 2012, before the formal charter review, 10) Develop a successor system of funding to insure the continuation of support for arts and culture 11) Develop a relationship with the Executive that is co-operative and supportive, but also gains the Executive's respect for the Council's legislative and oversight functions and that the Council will have its own agenda, 12) Develop effective operating procedures for the Council, with a high level of transparency and public participation, 13) Assist in developing budgets for Cuyahoga County that are responsive to the needs of our community, within what is fiscally prudent, 14) Work to improve employee morale, which is being severely affected by transitional issues, 15) Support programs that will enable the County to conserve energy and protect our environment, 16) Provide excellent constituent service, 17) Always put the good of the County above personal or political goals.
3. I do my best to respond to all inquiries and try to stay in touch with local leaders and organizations as barometers of what is needed in my district. I prepared some district-specific proposals for amendment to the County's economic development plan; however, so far there has been surprisingly little conflict between the needs of the County and the needs of my district. By working to create a strong foundation for the workings of the new government, I am helping both the County and my district.
4. The County Council set up an effective legislative process and committee system and started operating as an effective and transparent legislative body in a very short time.
5. I was the prime sponsor of the Contracting and Procurement ordinance, which I wrote from scratch with no precedent. I received a lot of help along the way, and the ordinance went through many versions before being passed, but I was the leader of this process, and it seems to be functioning well, providing both good oversight and flexibility for county business to get done.
6. We need to move from being primarily concerned about the internal structure of our government to focusing on how we can improve economic and social conditions in the County and lead our people to expand their own capabilities.
7. There are some aspects in which the Executive and the Council have somewhat differing views as to how we should proceed, but there is a strong commitment by both the Executive and Council to a cooperative relationship, which is enabling us to work together to solve problems.
8. The first county council contributed greatly to the new government making a very strong start.

### Michael Gallagher, District 5

1. I expected the council to be able to change the culture of the county as we moved forward. That has happened and continues to this day. Every day is different and usually brings new challenges. Challenges that many of us did not see coming, which makes going to work that much more rewarding.
2. Our biggest task is, and will always be, to make sure the budget is secure. We have to be smart with the peoples money and that leads to my personal goal of attaining a aaa rating for the county.
3. I have had town hall meetings and attend as many functions as possible. I maintain close contact with the Mayors of the cities in the District and have started a quarterly breakfast with the Economic Development directors within District 5. The District is important but the County, as a whole, must come first. No one District will be able to carry the full load as we are situated. It is very much like a chain. All the links are important and all must be able to hold together or it breaks.
4. The ability of 11 strangers coming together with incredible expectations from the community to right a very badly listing ship.
5. One, non-council related, was being part of the team (Executive and Director of Law being the other members) that brokered the compromise vote by mail dilemma with the Secretary of State. Second, council related, would be the Metro Hospital/ Sheriff's Office jail medical cooperative which is a good start on having shared services within the county. This will save money and provide better service for the jail.
6. Our greatest challenge is daily. Something always comes up and we have to be ready to deal with whatever we are dealt.
7. I did not know what to expect, but I can say that I am quite pleased with how the Executive has opened his door. We work well together and I think that has been reflected in what we were able to accomplish this year.
8. Eleven different people from varied backgrounds working together for a common goal and doing more than what was expected.

### Pernel Jones, Jr., District 8

1. The office actually met my expectations. This was an opportunity to build a new government from the ground up. This was an opportunity to lay a foundation that would help restore the public's trust in County government after all the corruption that had taken place in years past.
2. My goals have been to (1) Restore the public's trust in County government (2) Make county government more efficient and effective (3) Invest dollars in initiatives that will improve the economic competitiveness of the county
3. I handle the district by staying engaged with the residents. I attend the ward clubs, block watches, community events and meetings. Establishing representatives from my office to participate in community outreach will be one of my objectives for the coming year. The needs of the County and the district are not mutually exclusive. They are in most cases the same. Whenever I meet the needs of one, I do my best to communicate how both the district and the county benefit from my decisions.
4. Three items collectively reflect: a. Establishing an ethics ordinance and an Office of the Inspector General to investigate any fraud and unethical behavior. b. Identifying wasteful spending and practices. We have established an evidence based program called County Stat to measure the performances of all County departments. c. Investing these savings that the county identifies in

initiatives that will move this county forward. (a) Community Policing Initiatives (b) 100 million dollar economic development fund and many other initiatives

5. As the Chair of the Public Works Contracting and Procurement Committee, I passed a Contracting Ordinance that established the County's policies when it comes to distributing contracts. This ordinance insures that all contracts are awarded in a transparent and equitable manner.

6. The greatest challenge has been building this new government while keeping it running at the same time. I have described it as "building an airplane in flight!"

7. We have established a strong and healthy working relationship. As council we have brought a perspective to the executive that reflects the concerns of each district, while balancing the needs of the county as a whole.

8. Well, our legacy will be determined by others looking back on our work years from now. I hope that our legacy will be that we laid the foundation for a reformed government that is transparent, efficient and effective and is an asset to the residents of Cuyahoga County and a model for all other counties within the State of Ohio to follow after.

### **C. Ellen Connally, District 9**

1. I expected a position that would involve two to three days a week. The reality is that, while I enjoy every hour that I devote to council business, the position is more like a full time job.

2. Before starting my term of office I thought that I knew a lot about county government and what the county does. County government is a huge operation. We of the county council are still learning and investigating various aspects. My primary goal as a council member is to be a watch dog for the citizens of the county especially in fiscal matters and make sure that the citizens of the county receive the best services that the county can deliver.

3. I am in frequent contact with the Mayors and representatives of the various cities and state elected officials within my district to become aware of specific needs within the district. When the day to day operations of the Council office and staff are more firmly in place, I hope to spend more time attending municipal council meetings and holding community forums. There are several projects within my district that I have a particular interest in and I have been working with other local representatives as it relates to them. There are also times when a council person considers legislation that affects his or her district from that perspective rather than the county as a whole. In general, my primary focus is on the county as a whole.

4. The greatest achievement of county council is the establishment of the legislative branch of the Cuyahoga county government. Lacking any established institutions of government or any institutional memory, County Council had to start from the basics. Usually a person is elected to a legislative branch of government and the structure has been in place for many years. That was not the case with County Council. We had to establish committees, schedules for regular and committee meetings and create rules and procedures. We had to confirm cabinet level appointees for the Executive Branch and also establish a procedure for that process. This was all done in compliance with the Open Meetings and Sunshine Laws. This evolution of the legislative branch of government is an on going process and there may be changes in the next year. But in general, I believe that Council has done an outstanding job of creating an effective legislative branch of government.

5. As Council President I believe that I have established an effective staff operation, for the council and set the tone for efficiently run meetings and operations of Council. I might also point out that when Council was elected we did not have office space or staff. We literally had no one to answer the phone. Part of my job has been to work with staff to obtain office space and establish a proper system of customer service and constituent services. I believe that I have been successful in that regard.

6. The three greatest challenges are the budget process, dealing with the local media and establishing a countywide scholarship fund that is mandated by the charter. Fortunately, Council Person and Finance Chair Dale Miller has broad experience in the budget process. He has been invaluable in getting Council through the process. However, working out the details of how much money is sufficient for each agency coupled with fulfilling the needs of the public is a serious challenge. Currently, my greatest challenge is to get the Cleveland Plain Dealer to cover positive aspects of County Council. Many positive things that have been done by Council have been ignored by the Plain Dealer. One prime example is the work that Council Person Mike Gallagher and I have done regarding working to improve the County Fair Grounds. While the paper wrote three stories about attempts by Cleveland Police - who I invited to the meeting - to regulate gun shows at the Fair Grounds, never once did they mention Council's input on that topic or that Council Person Gallagher and I organized the meeting. Nor did they mention any of the other positive plans for the Fair Grounds that grew out of the meeting. In late October the Plain Dealer ran a headline story accusing me of violating the Sunshine Law. That story was followed up by a cartoon and an editorial. There were no truths to the allegations of violations of the Sunshine Law. This opinion was shared by the County Law Director who forwarded his opinion to the reporter prior to the publication of the story. That fact was not mentioned in the story. I simply sent out an email asking for suggested times for a meeting. No decision was made. Legislation was introduced in a public meeting. Based on that email I was accused by the Plain Dealer in a headline story of violating the Sunshine Law. Council dealt with major issues at the meeting of October 25, 2011, which immediately preceded the article, including the first ordinance of its kind in the state regarding the contracting process; a possible \$35 million dollar tax lien sale and attempts to recover millions of dollars in county monies - but none of that was covered. On Nov 1, Council had a special meeting devoted to honoring Veterans and Veterans Affairs - that meeting was never covered in the Plain Dealer. The Plain Dealer refused to print my response to their headlines, editorial and cartoon, saying that they would consider a 200-word letter - not my 650 word op-ed. To add insult to injury, Brian Tucker, of Crain's Cleveland Business, based solely on the Plain Dealer story, wrote an editorial asserting that my violation of the Sunshine Law was so egregious that I should resign from office. Brian Tucker never interviewed me. I sent him an email pointing that out and a copy of my response but he has yet to respond. The Scene Magazine has run two extremely negative stories about me. I've never been interviewed by the Scene. Council encourages citizens to attend its meetings We provide free parking. Council has a web page and a Face book Page and streams all of its meetings on line in an attempt to get our message out. Yet it is difficult to demonstrate the positive aspects of Council when we are constantly attacked by the city's only major newspaper and followed up by other media outlets who write stories based on the same misinformation. Lastly, the Cuyahoga County Charter mandates that Council implement a countywide scholarship program that will be funded by the savings from the new form of government. While this may sound easy, our first challenge is to fund the program and determine what amount we will receive from the Treasurer and private funding sources. Council has been working on preliminary plans for this scholarship along with the Executive Branch since the beginning of the new government. There are many issues that need to be considered such as whether the focus should be on vocational education or traditional four year college programs; whether the scholarships should be based on grants or loans; whether the scholarships should be based solely on academic merit; the guidelines for residency requirements and whether a recipient should have to repay grants if they leave the county have to be considered. We recently conducted a survey where citizens were asked to provide their input. This was very helpful however we have a lot more work to do before we made final decisions as to the actual program.

7. Generally the relationship between Council and Executive has been good. There have been times when members of Council felt that there had been a failure of the Executive Branch to communicate information to us on a timely basis. However, that situation seems to have improved. There are also times that we feel that legislation is given to us at the last minute with request to expedite it reducing the time that Council has to consider all of the ramifications of the legislation. As we work together, I feel that this situation will also improve.

8. I believe that my legacy will be that I worked to establish an orderly and well-run form of government that complies with all of the rules that Council established along with all of the State laws.

**Julian Rogers, District 10**

1. My expectations for this new council are not that much different from the actual experience. I anticipated that the time spent working to create a new government and getting up to par on the multitude of services and programs that the county provides would add up to be much more than a part time job. What has surprised me most however, is how well the members of Council work together. While we have differences in opinion, we usually come to consensus and work in the best interest of the County. The same cannot be said of our legislative bodies at the state and federal level.
2. My goals as a council member are to always add value to discussions regarding the direction of this county, to be accessible to my constituents and do always do what I feel is right and in the best interest of the County. I hope that by the end of my term, we would have set in place policies and procedures to guide the council for years to come; created efficiencies in the way we deliver services and spend taxpayer dollars; and restore faith and trust in our County government.
3. I try to attend as many community meeting and events within my district to stay in touch with residents. I also have frequent conversations with the other elected officials within my district. The lack of a staff person makes it difficult to do everything that needs to be done. Many hours are spent on tasks such as writing letters and scheduling meetings that could be better spent analyzing legislation or actually in meeting. I do not see a conflict in balancing the needs of my district and those of the County as a whole. What's good for the county is good for my district and vice versa.  
We cannot be focused on just our districts. We must focus on the County as a whole. My role is to bring the unique perspective of my district to the table around discussions of improving the entire county.
4. I believe that our greatest achievement so far has been in the creation and development of complicated ordinances such as the Contracting and Procurement Ordinance, Ethics Policy and our Council Rules. These ordinances took several weeks or months in some cases and involved hours of discussion and research. This was done with a council that for the most part did not know each other and many members having no prior government experience. The end result of these ordinances has made Cuyahoga County a stand-out in comparison to other government entities in the state and nation. We have one of, if not the strongest ethics policy in the nation. Our Contracting Ordinance created a Board of Control that allows the County to act quickly, while still providing the necessary oversight and it provides greater opportunity for small businesses to participate in large county contracts – thus improving our local economy.
5. I have worked hard to ensure that the Council and its activities are open and accessible to county residents. I pushed to have our meetings held at 6:00 pm and also authored the legislation that provides free parking for anyone who attends our meeting. I also drafted legislation that in part, along with lobbying our state delegation, led to the protection of \$6 million in Home Weatherization funding. As a result of saving this funding, hundreds of Cuyahoga County residents with have their homes or apartment upgraded with energy efficient windows and heating units.
6. Long term – I'm not sure, but immediately pressing is the creation of our first two year budget. Major decisions need to be made in order to ensure that we are providing the highest level of services, particularly to our most needy residents, while at the same time being fiscally responsible. Over the next few weeks, we will be make determinations of which departments receive increases and which will not, as well as determining how much, if any, will we dip into reserve funds to balance the budget.
7. I would say that the working relationship between the Council and the Executive is good. In the beginning of the year there were some communication problems between the two bodies and have since been addressed. The Council is in place to provide oversight, but also to serve as a partner in the important reform efforts underway.
8. I hope that the history books will record that this first, part-time Council accomplished a lot and set the foundation for future councils to be successful.

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

*Presents a Hot Topic:*

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**Karen Walsh**

**Sister Ann Victory**

Directors of the Collaborative Initiative  
to End Human Trafficking

*LWVO has adopted this topic as a study item for 2012-2013.  
This will give us background for this vital subject for our local  
consensus meeting next year.*

**\*JANUARY 18, 2012, 12:00 noon**

Massimo de Milano

1400 West 25 Street, Cleveland

Free parking across the street to the north on Detroit

*Buffet Lunch for \$11*

*(Pay separate checks at the restaurant)*

**Reservations are required.**

RSVP to Mary Warren by phone: 216-221-2975  
or by email: mwarren25@cox.net by Monday evening Jan.  
15.

*Presented by LWV Cuyahoga Area along with LWV Cleveland*

\* Blizzard date: Feb 15

**LWVC MEMBERSHIP  
2011-2012**

I/We want to (re)join the League. Please check one or more:

- \_\_\_\_\_ one-year individual membership \$60  
 \_\_\_\_\_ one-year household membership \$90  
 (two sharing an address)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ my/our dues plus something extra \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ sustaining member \$100

**Please make checks payable to the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would you like to receive the "Voter" and other League updates online.  
 (Your mailing information is NOT sold/leased to organizations outside LWV.)

Mail to: Membership  
 League of Women Voters Cleveland Area  
 850 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1010  
 Cleveland, OH 44114



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
 CLEVELAND AREA &  
 CLEVELAND EDUCATIONAL FUND

***Making Democracy Work for Over 90 Years***

850 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1010  
 Cleveland, Ohio 44114

**Contact Information**

Phone: 216-781-8375  
 Fax: 216-619-5026  
 Website: [www.lwvcef.org](http://www.lwvcef.org)

**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.

Member of Community Shares