

## Highlights from Your State League: Mid-May – September, 2011

Your state League kept busy over the summer and into the fall -- as your voice at the Statehouse, with activities to support local Leagues and their leaders -- and much, much more! Below is a snapshot of just some of the things your state League has been working on:

- Election Law and Referendum on House Bill 194: Testified at numerous hearings, participated in television, radio and newspaper interviews and sent Action Alerts regarding the proposed election bills, HB 159, HB 194 and HB 224. Although the proposed photo-ID law was not enacted, the legislature passed HB 194 which reduced early in-person absentee voting hours and days, shortened the mail-in voting period, and prohibited boards of elections from sending unsolicited absentee-ballot applications to all registered voters. Therefore, LWV Ohio and local Leagues joined the referendum effort to repeal HB 194. See Lobbyist Testimony under Advocacy at [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org).
- Ballot Issues: Approved state-wide ballot-issue overviews and the League's stance on the three issues. Available at [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org).
- 2011 Redistricting Competition: Launched *Draw the Line Ohio*, cosponsored by Ohio Citizen Action, demonstrating an open, transparent redistricting process can produce congressional and legislative districts that reflect four objective, public-interest criteria. State and local League representatives testified at numerous hearings across the state and participated press conferences and media interviews. The contest garnered significant media attention and the attention of the legislature and Apportionment Board. We continue to strongly advocate for redistricting reform. See [www.drawthelineOhio.org](http://www.drawthelineOhio.org).
- Clean Air Promise Campaign: Joined LWVUS' campaign to reduce air pollution by engaging community leaders, politicians and the general public to make the promise to support clean air. LWV Ohio Education Fund is providing pass-through funding to local Leagues that are also participating in the campaign. For more information, visit <http://peoplenotpolluters.org/>.
- Judicial Reform: Met with Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice O'Connor to identify areas in which we could jointly advocate for judicial reform and commented on a survey on judicial reform to go to Ohio attorneys.
- Regional Meetings: Sponsored four regional meetings attended by representatives from 22 local Leagues regarding their voter-education / protection best practices and potential changes in election law for the 2011 General Election. The state League then made available to Ohio Leagues a compilation of local Leagues' and LWVUS' best practices for voter-education / protection.
- State Budget: Advocated with coalition partners for the Ohio legislature to adopt a balanced approach to closing the projected eight-billion dollar deficit in the state budget, including enhanced revenue as well as cuts. In the end, a budget was passed which will

result in significant cuts for education and local governments. However, taxes were not raised, loopholes were not closed and the estate tax was eliminated.

- Board Resignation: Accepted, with sincere regret and great appreciation for her many contributions, the resignation of Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, LWV Oberlin Area, from the LWV Ohio board.
- Statehouse Day and Council: Approved offering the combined events on Tuesday, April 10, 2012.