

**The League of Women Voters of Ohio
Legislative Update**

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[HB1](#) **BIENNIAL BUDGET** (SYKES, V) To make appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2011 for the operation of state programs.

Current Status: 7/17/2009 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**, eff. 7/17/09
appropriations; other sections subject to referendum 10/16/09

Comments: The League supported additional revenue to maintain social services. Several letters were sent to the conference committee members and General Assembly to generate additional revenue to support social services. The League has sent out an action alert.

Categories: Budget and Appropriations, State Government

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB3](#) **MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES** (FOLEY, M) To address the current mortgage foreclosure crisis.

Current Status: 1/12/2010 - Senate Finance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)

Comments: This bill would provide a moratorium on mortgage foreclosures. It passed the House on May 20 with 3 Republicans joining the majority. LWVO support is based on national League principles that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination and our national urban policy in that it is intended to stabilize neighborhoods.

Categories: Financial Institutions, Housing

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB5](#) **TRANSITION FUNDS** (OKEY, M) Permit individuals elected or appointed to state office to establish transition funds to receive donations and to make expenditures for transition activities and inaugural celebrations.

Current Status: 6/10/2010 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**, eff. 6/10/2010

Comments: This bill provides limits on contributions and requires disclosure of funds collected by an elected official prior to the person taking office. It passed the House on a 95-0 vote on May 27. The League supports this bill. Elections Specialist Peg Rosenfield testified in support of this bill on May 13, 2009.

Categories: Campaigns & Elections, State Government

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB7](#) **BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS** (HARRIS, M) To require a building or structure erected or constructed using state capital moneys to adhere to certain sustainability standards.

Current Status: 5/18/2010 - Senate Finance and Financial Institutions, (Second Hearing)

Comments: This bill would require building erected or constructed using state capital monies to meet certain sustainability standards.

Categories: Construction, Land Use, State Government
[Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB9](#) **RENTAL PROPERTY FORECLOSURE** (CELESTE, T) To require that notice of foreclosure and related sale of residential rental property be given to tenants at that property.

Current Status: 1/12/2010 - Senate Finance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)

Comments: This bill would require notice be given to tenants prior to foreclosing on a rental property. It passed the House by a 53-42 vote. LWVO support is based on national League principles that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination and our national urban policy in that it is intended to stabilize neighborhoods. The League has sent out an action alert.

Categories: Housing

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB26](#) **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT** (WILLIAMS, B) To prohibit corporal punishment in all public and chartered nonpublic schools.

Current Status: 11/17/2009 - Referred to Committee Senate Highways and Transportation

Comments: The League supports this bill and has sent out an action alert.

Categories: Education

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB36](#) **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS** (DYER, S) Require expanded minutes for legislative committee meetings or a transcribed record of committee proceedings in lieu of minutes, and to require sworn testimony of all witnesses testifying before legislative committees.

Current Status: 5/20/2009 - House State Government, (First Hearing)

Comments: The League supports more comprehensive committee meeting minutes.

Categories: Political, State Government

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB89](#) **OFFENSE PENALTIES** (PROBATION OFFICERS/JUDGES (Fende, L) (passed by the Ohio House Oct. 6, 2009): To make the killing of a judge or magistrate an aggravating circumstance for the imposition of the death penalty for aggravated murder.

Current Status: 3/24/2009 - Referred to Committee House Judiciary

Comments: None

Categories: Crime & Punishment

Position: None

[HB92](#) **ELECTIONS** (MECKLENBORG, R) To require absent voter's ballot identification envelope statements to be completed for absent voter's ballots to be counted, to generally prohibit same day

voter registration and application for absent voter's ballots.

Current Status: 9/30/2009 - House Elections and Ethics, (First Hearing)

Comments: There are no provisions that the League favors as well as opposes in the bill.

Categories: Campaigns & Elections

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB103](#) OFFENSE PENALTIES (PROBATION OFFICERS/JUDGES (Fende, L) Residential and familial information of a probation officer is not a public record, to increase penalties for offenses of victim is a judge.

Current Status: 10/20/2009 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice

Comments: None

Categories: Crime & Punishment

Position: None

[HB113](#) SCHOOL ENERGY MEASURES (FOLEY, M) To authorize school boards, for on-site renewable energy generation measures and in the same manner as for energy conservation measures, to enter into installment contracts subject to specified terms of payment.

Current Status: 02/02/2010 Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing)

Comments: The League testified on this bill when it was in the House. We recommended several changes, which were adopted as amendments are included in the bill as-passed by the House.

Categories: Education, Energy & Utilities

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB132](#) Minor Nudity. (Maag, R.) To prohibit a minor, by use of a telecommunications device, from recklessly creating, receiving, exchanging, sending, or possessing a photograph or other material showing a minor in a state of nudity.

Current Status: (06/17/09) House Criminal Justice (Second Hearing)

Comments: This bill is similar to SB 103. The LWVO could consider supporting this bill because it supports the main premise of the position: children under the age of 18 are not adults and their treatment within the juvenile justice system should relate to their stage of development.

Categories: Children and Family Issues, Education, science and Technology, State Government.

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB176](#) SEXUAL/GENDER DISCRIMINATION (STEWART, D) To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Current Status: 9/22/2009 - Referred to Committee Senate Rules

Comments: None
Categories: Crime & Punishment
Position: None

[HB235](#) **CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF A DELINQUENT CHILD** (HEARD, T) Regarding the transfer for criminal prosecution of an alleged delinquent child.

Current Status: 10/7/2009 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)

Comments: The LWVO can support this legislation because it would make some adjustments in the judicial treatment of juveniles that conform with League positions. Judicial discretion regarding bindover is restored; the age of eligibility for Serious Youthful Offender is raised from 10 to 14; and allows juvenile courts to provide individualized justice and intervention that may result in use of more community-based programs.

Categories: Children and Family Issues, Crime & Punishment

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB260](#) **ELECTION LAW** (STEWART, D) To revise the Election Law.

Current Status: 2/2/2010 - Referred to Committee Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs

Comments: The League testified in support of this bill.

Categories: Campaigns & Elections

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB293](#) **THE OHIO PREVENTION FIRST ACT** (Yates, T) 12/2/2009 - House Health, (Third Hearing)

Status: *Current* 12/2/2009 - House Health, (Third Hearing)

Comments: LWVO strongly supports this bill, which has been introduced in the past two general assemblies also. Volunteer lobbyist, Anne Smead, gave proponent testimony on Nov. 18th, 2009.

Categories: Health Care

Position: [LWVUS Health Care](#)

[HB301](#) **ADVANCED ENERGY FUND** (FOLEY, M) To replace the current Advanced Energy Fund revenue rider on retail electric distribution service rates with a new rider that will terminate on January 1, 2025 and permit aerospace institutes to receive fund money.

Status: *Current* 1/19/2010 - House Alternative Energy, (Fourth Hearing)

Comments: None

Categories: Energy & Utilities

Position: None

[HB316](#) ACT FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE (Slesnick, S) To establish statutory standards for comprehensive, age-appropriate, sexual health education, and HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention education in public schools.

Current Status: 2/23/2010 - House Education, (Second Hearing)

Comments: This bill is one piece of the Ohio Prevention First Act. We expect more hearings in March, 2010. LWVO will have opportunity to testify.

Categories: Health education

Position: [LWVUS Health Care](#)

[HB318](#) INCOME TAX FREEZE (SYKES, V) Postpone for two years the last of scheduled income tax rate reductions, create the Construction Reform Demonstration Project, provide for delay in all day kindergarten.

Current Status: 12/22/2009 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**, Some sections eff. 12/22/09; others 3/23/10

Comments: The League supports this bill.

Categories: Budget and Appropriations, Construction, State Government, Taxation

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB332](#) CONTRACEPTIVE BENEFITS (STEWART, D) To prohibit sickness and accident insurance policies, public employee benefit plans, and health insuring corporation policies, contracts, and agreements from limiting or excluding coverage for prescription contraceptive devices.

Current Status: 1/13/2010 - Healthcare Access & Affordability, (First Hearing)

Comments: None

Categories: Health Care

Position: None

[HB358](#) ABSENTEE VOTING (UJVAGI, P) To change the time by which absent voter's ballots must be ready, to authorize the Secretary of State to make emergency revisions in the armed service absent voting provisions, and to establish write-in absent voter's ballots for certain overseas voters

Current Status: 2/2/2010 - House Elections and Ethics, (First Hearing)

Comments: None

Categories: Campaigns & Elections

Position: None

[HB377](#) BALLOT INTEGRITY ACT (GARRISON, J)) To prohibit persons who have been convicted of or pleaded guilty to an offense involving identity theft, forgery, or fraud from witnessing or circulating election petitions; to require circulator to be notarized.

Current Status: 6/2/2010 - Senate Government Oversight, (Second Hearing)

Comments: The League testified in general support of this bill in March 2010.

Categories: Campaigns & Elections

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB439](#) **TAX EXEMPT-RENEWAL ENERGY** (Phillips, D) To exempt from property taxation the cost of energy-conservation or renewable energy improvements to business property and to authorize an additional income tax deduction for the costs of such improvements if the property is sold for a gain.

Current Status: 5/11/2010 - House Alternative Energy, (First Hearing)

Comments: None

Categories: Energy & Utilities

Position: None

[HB443](#) **ENERGY EFFICIENCY** (Gerberry, R) To create the Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group to review energy efficiency and peak demand reduction programs and related matters.

Current Status: 02/17/2010 – Referred to Committee House Public Utilities

Comments: None

Categories: Campaigns & Elections

Position: None

[HB458](#) **CAMPAIGN CIRCULATORS** (DYER, S) To restrict the use of circulators to candidates seeking statewide office.

Current Status: 3/2/2010 - Referred to Committee House Elections and Ethics

Comments: None

Categories: Campaigns & Elections

Position: None

[HB464](#) **WIND/SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES (Winburn, R)** To exempt qualifying wind and solar energy facilities from property taxation for up to 20 years and to require payments in lieu of taxes on the basis of each megawatt if production capacity of such facilities.

Current Status: 6/3/2010 - House Ways and Means, (Eighth Hearing)

Comments: The League plans to testify on this bill after Spring Break and recommend that the proposed tax exemption be reduced. Bill is very similar to SB232.

Categories: Education, Energy & Utilities

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HB469](#) **HOME ENERGY TAX CREDIT** (PHILLIPS, D) To allow a non-refundable tax credit against the personal income tax for home energy audits.

Current Status: 5/11/2010 - House Alternative Energy, (First Hearing)

Comments: None

Categories: None

Position: None

[HB472](#) **TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY ACT** (LUNDY, M) To enact the "Textbook Affordability Act" with respect to college textbook sales.

Current Status: 5/18/2010 - House Education, (Second Hearing)

Comments: None

Categories: Higher Education

Position: None

[HB474](#) **RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES** (HITE, C) To exempt from property taxation renewable energy facilities that are not financed through the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority and to require a payment in lieu of taxes on the basis of each megawatt of production capacity.

Current Status: 4/13/2010 - Referred to Committee House Alternative Energy

Comments: None

Categories: Energy & Utilities

Position: None

[HB479](#) **INCARCERATED SCHOOL AGE ADULTS** (WEDDINGTON, C) To permit the establishment of a community school to serve adults of school age who are incarcerated or who have been released from the custody of the Department of Youth Services and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 5/18/2010 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Education, (Second Hearing)

Comments: None

Categories: Crime & Punishment, Education

Position: None

[HB485](#) **FEEDSTOCKS PRODUCTION-AGRICULTURE** (PRYOR, R) To include the production from certain feedstocks of biodiesel, biomass energy, electric or heat energy, and biologically derived methane gas in the definition of "agriculture" for purposes of laws governing county zoning and use valuation.

Current Status: 5/26/2010 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Agriculture and Natural Resources, (Third Hearing)

Comments: None

Categories: Agriculture, Environment, Local Government

Position: None

[HCR25](#) **CAP AND TRADE LEGISLATION** (JORDAN, K) To urge the Congress of the United States to refuse to enact cap and trade legislation that would negatively impact Americans.

Current Status: 6/17/2009 - Referred to Committee House Public Utilities

Comments: None

Categories: Business & Corporate

Position: None

[HJR1](#) **COMPENSATION FOR VETERANS (PRYOR, R)** To provide compensation to veterans of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq conflicts.

Current Status: 2/19/2009 - House Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)

Comments: None

Categories: Veterans

Position: None

[HJR2](#) **OHIO LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS BOARD (SAYRE, A)** Proposing to enact Section 1 of Article XIV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board.

Current Status: 7/6/2009 - **ADOPTED BY SENATE**, Vote 31-1

Comments: None

Categories: Agriculture, State Government

Position: None

[HJR8](#) **GENERAL ASSEMBLY TERM LIMITS (YATES, T)** Proposing to amend Section 2 of Article II and Section 9 of Article V of the Ohio Constitution to eliminate the term limits and restrictions on returning to office that apply to members of the General Assembly.

Current Status: 11/17/2009 - Introduced

Comments: None

Categories: Political & State Government

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[HJR13](#) **INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM APPROVAL (DOMENICK, J)** To require sixty-seven per cent of the electors voting in an initiative or referendum to vote in favor of the issue in order for the issue to be approved.

Current Status: 2/2/2010 - House Elections and Ethics, (First Hearing)

Comments: None

Categories: Campaigns & Elections

Position: None

[HJR15](#) **STATE G.A. DISTRICTS (LETSON, T)** - To revise the process for apportioning the state for General Assembly districts.

Current Status: 6/3/2010 - Senate Rules, (First Hearing)

Comments: The League testified in general support of this bill.

Categories: General Assembly

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[SB6](#) **SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS (COUGHLIN, K)** To create the Special Education Scholarship Pilot Program.

Current Status: 3/17/2009 - Senate Education, (Fifth Hearing)

Comments: The League opposes this bill.

Categories: Education

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[SB8](#) ELECTIONS CLARIFICATIONS (SEITZ, B) To require absent voter's ballot identification envelope statements to be completed for absent voters that their ballots will be rejected if they do not complete the required statement, prohibit same day voter registration.

Current Status: 3/23/2010 – Provisions related to compliance with overseas military voting now included in HB48.

Comments: The League opposes this bill and have testified against it.

Categories: Campaigns & Elections

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[SB10](#) TRANSITION ACCOUNTS DISCLOSURE (WIDENER, C) Permit individuals elected or appointed to state office to establish transition funds to receive donations and to make expenditures for transition activities and inaugural celebrations.

Current Status: 2/25/2009 - Senate Government Oversight, (First Hearing)

Comments: The League supports this bill.

Categories: Campaigns & Elections, State Government

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[SB13](#) FORECLOSURE ACTIONS (MILLER, D) Require a clerk of courts to notify tenants when a foreclosure action is filed, to prepare a publication to assist owners and tenants of foreclosed properties.

Current Status: 6/24/2009 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT**, Senate Judiciary - Civil Justice, (Sixth Hearing)

Comments: This bill is similar to HB 9 and requires notification to tenants prior to foreclosure.

Categories: Housing

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[SB61](#) U.S. SENATE VACANCY (HUSTED, J) Require Governor to call a special election to fill a vacancy in the representation of Ohio in the United States Senate.

Current Status: 3/31/2009 - Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)

Comments: None

Categories: Political, State Government

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[SB103](#) Minor Nudity (Schuler, R.) To prohibit a minor, by use of a telecommunications device, from recklessly creating, receiving, exchanging, sending, or possessing a photograph of other material showing a minor in a state of nudity. The bill creates a misdemeanor category for cases that involve minors sending pictures of themselves in various state of nudity to other minors using a cell phone. This behavior is known as “sexting,” and is currently tried under child pornography statutes, which could lead to registration as a sex offender.

Current Status: 5/6/2009 - Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice, (Second Hearing)
Comments: The LWVO could consider supporting this legislation because it supports the main premise of the position: children under the age of 18 are not adults and their treatment within the juvenile justice system should relate to their stage of development. A minor who engages in sexting has no intention of engaging in child pornography and should not be labeled a sex offender. Children should receive education about inappropriate behavior regarding nudity and how it can damage future employment and relationships.
Categories: Children and Family Issues. Crime and Punishment
Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

SB165 OIL AND GAS LAW (NIEHAUS, T) To revise the Oil and Gas Law.

Current Status: 3/31/2010 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**, eff. 6/30/10
Comments: None
Categories: Energy & Utilities
Position: None

SB170 POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS (FABER, K) To limit to \$500 the amount of political contributions that may be made by or accepted from the principals and key employees of an entity applying for a license to operate video lottery terminal games in this state.

Current Status: 12/9/2009 - Senate Government Oversight, (Second Hearing)
Comments: None
Categories: Political
Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

SB191 CAMPAIGN FINANCE (SCHURING, K) To require each campaign committee that receives a contribution from an individual that exceeds \$100 to identify the individual's employer on the campaign committee's campaign finance statements.

Current Status: 3/23/2010 – **BILL AMENDED**, Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs, (Fourth Hearing)
Comments: None
Categories: Campaigns & Elections
Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

SB222 CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES (HUSTED, J) To require vendors to disclose to campaign committees all expenditures made on their behalf and to require campaign committees to report all expenditures made by third parties on their behalf.

Current Status: 2/24/2010 - Senate Government Oversight, (Third Hearing)
Comments: None
Categories: Campaigns & Elections, State Government

Position: None

[SB223](#) **ALTERNATIVE ENERGY** (STEWART, J) To Expand energy improvement projects/solar energy loans-for alternative energy.

Current Status: 02/09/2010 – Senate Energy & Public Utilities, (Second Hearing)

Comments: LWVO testified in favor of this bill. It authorizes a procedure for local government to establish revolving loan funds for property owners to install alternative energy and/or energy conservation.

Categories: Energy & Utilities

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[SB232](#) **RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES** (Widener, C) To exempt from taxation renewable energy facilities that are not financed through the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority and require a payment in lieu of taxes on the basis of each megawatt of production capacity in such facilities.

Current Status: 6/9/2010 - Sent to Governor for Signature

Comments: The League testified on this bill and recommended that the proposed tax exemption be reduced. The bill is very similar to HB464.

Categories: Education, Energy & Utilities

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[SB240](#) **CAMPAIGN FINANCE STATEMENTS** (Husted, J) To permit domestic corporations and labor organizations to make independent expenditures and electioneering communications in support of or opposition to candidates for nomination or election and to require a domestic corporation or labor organization that makes such expenditures to file related campaign statements.

Current Status: 6/2/2010 - Referred to Committee House Elections and Ethics

Comments: This bill would permit domestic corporations and labor organizations to make independent expenditures and electioneering communications in support of candidates and require the filing of campaign statements. The League will be following this bill and a related bill which we expect will be introduced by Sen. Goyal.

Categories: Representative Government – Election Process

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[SB246](#) **INCARCERATED SCHOOL AGE ADULTS** (SAWYER, T) To permit the establishment of a community school to serve adults of school age who are incarcerated or who have been released from the Department of Youth Services and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 5/12/2010 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

Comments: None

Categories: Crime & Punishment, Education

Position: None

[SCR21](#) **ENSURE MILITARY VOTE** (HUSTED, J) To memorialize Congress to ensure military and overseas voters have the right to vote and register to vote.

Current Status: 10/27/2009 - Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)

Comments: None

Categories: Campaigns & Elections, Military Affairs

Position: None

[SJR4](#) **REDISTRICTING** (COUGHLIN, K) To revise the redistricting process for General Assembly districts.

Current Status: 5/26/2009 - Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs, (Third Hearing)

Comments: This bill would add members to the apportionment board and require a larger majority for adoption of a plan.

Categories: General Assembly, State Government

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

[SJR5](#) **REDISTRICTING PROCESS** (HUSTED, J) To revise the redistricting process for General Assembly and Congressional districts.

Current Status: 1/13/2010 - House Elections and Ethics, (First Hearing)

Comments: This bill would provide a bi-partisan commission to draw district lines for the Ohio House and Senate and Congressional seats. The League testified in support of this bill with some changes.

Categories: General Assembly, State Government

Position: [Click Here for League Position](#)

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