



# Spotlight

*A monthly email from the League of Women Voters of Ohio focusing on a state policy issue*

## The Governor's Budget Proposal

As Governor Kasich introduced his proposal for the two-year state budget yesterday, there was great anticipation about how he would address the large deficit. It is a challenging time for the state with an \$8 billion budget shortfall and a still uncertain economic outlook. The Administration, Legislature, and advocates from areas impacted by the budget will now begin discussions and negotiations to come up with a budget for approval by June 30.

An initial review of the Governor's proposed budget, entitled "The Jobs Budget," reveals significant reduction of local government funding to reduce spending. This has the potential for reducing community services while increasing both local taxes and job layoffs.

The budget also proposes to privatize five prisons and keeps in place the last of five cuts to achieve a 21 percent total reduction in the state income tax authorized by HB 66 in 2005.

Analysis of the Governor's budget proposal has just begun and attention must be paid to the details so that Ohio's most vulnerable citizens are protected. Visit [the Office of Budget and Management](#) to view the executive budget and supporting information.

An objective assessment of the implications of the proposed budget is needed. Please join us at Statehouse Day on April 7, 2011 to learn more!

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## Learn More at Statehouse Day 2011

The League of Women Voters of Ohio invites you to join us at Statehouse Day to learn more about the state budget and its impact on Ohioans. Statehouse Day will be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> floor of the Vern Riffe Center in Columbus, Ohio on **Thursday, April 7, 2011**. (Please note the date change from what was published in the VOTER earlier this year.) To register, visit [Statehouse Day 2011](#).

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## **Event Details**

*The schedule for the day will be as follows:*

<b>8:30am - 9:30am</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Continental Breakfast</b>
<b>9:30 am- 9:45am</b>	<b>Welcome by Meg Flack, President of LWVO/EF</b>
<b>9:45am - 10:30am</b>	<b>Fred Andrle, a discussion of "Civil Discourse"</b>
<b>10:30am - 10:45am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:45am - 11:45am</b>	<b>Conversation on State Budget</b>
<b>11:45am - 12:00pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>12:00pm - 1:15pm</b>	<b>Lunch and Remarks by Secretary of State Husted</b>
<b>1:15pm - 1:30pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>1:30pm - 2:10pm</b>	<b>Workshop #1 - The Kasich Plan for Education</b>
	<b>Workshop #2 - Redistricting</b>
<b>2:10pm - 2:20pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>2:20pm - 3:00pm</b>	<b>Workshop #3 - The Ohio Budget and implementing the Affordable Care Act - Moving Forward</b>
	<b>Workshop #4 - Implications of the Budget on the Criminal Justice System</b>
<b>3:00 Reception</b>	<b>Honoring Peg Rosenfield and Joan Lawrence (Refreshments will be served)</b>

This year, attendees will have the option of requesting an afternoon meeting with their legislator through the LWVO office and if they desire, be teamed up with a member of the Lobby Corps. Legislator meetings will be scheduled between 1:30 - 3:30pm.

For registration information, go online to [Statehouse Day 2011](#). Bring a friend and join us in Columbus! Registration is \$35 for League members, \$40 for guests, and \$20 for students and includes continental breakfast, box lunch, all sessions and materials. **The registration deadline is March 30.**

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## The Budget and Advocates for Ohio's Future

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is a coalition member of [Advocates for Ohio's Future](#), which represents the health, human services, and early care & education service agencies that provide the safety net for Ohio's most vulnerable citizens.

In a press release this week, Advocates for Ohio's Future said of the state budget, "A statewide coalition of health, human service, and early care and education groups today applauded many facets of Governor John Kasich's executive budget that protect low-income Ohioans and those struggling with the recession. But Advocates for Ohio's Future cautioned that cuts in other key areas will take their toll on the state's most vulnerable populations."

If you would like to learn more about the coalition, please visit [Advocate for Ohio's Future](#). Many tough decisions lie ahead for our legislators, so please take the time to share with your friends, family, and legislators why health and human service funding in Ohio is important, how it has impacted your life, and your ideas for the future.



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