



OHIO VOTER

VOL. 56, NO. 6 AUTUMN 2006

LWVO Defends Constitution; Rejects Amendments

At its September 9 meeting, the League of Women Voters of Ohio staked out its position as defender of the Ohio Constitution. In a unanimous decision, Board members voted to oppose all three proposed constitutional amendments: Issue 2, Ohio Fair Minimum Wage Amendment; Issue 3, Learn and Earn Amendment; and Issue 4, Smoke Less Ohio Amendment.

1. Workers' Compensation Reform Referendum - **NEUTRAL**
2. Ohio Fair Minimum Wage Constitutional Amendment - **OPPOSE**
3. Learn and Earn Constitutional Amendment - **OPPOSE**
4. Smoke Less Ohio Constitutional Amendment - **OPPOSE**
5. Smoke Free Workplace Act - **SUPPORT**

The League's position that the Ohio Constitution should be a clearly stated body of fundamental principles guided decision-making on the three amendments. LWVO Board members studied and debated the issues long and hard before arriving at unanimity. They expressed concern that issue sponsors were using constitutional amendments to enact public policy when the League has long held that *legislation* is the appropriate place for public policy. Legislation is more responsive to changes in context and public will.

Vote Absentee and Avoid New ID Requirements

Vote by absentee ballot. That's one of the central messages the LWVO's Voter Protection committee is bringing to citizens across the state during the time leading up to the November 7 election. Due to the complex new laws governing Ohio elections and their vague and confusing rules, absentee voting has suddenly become the easier, more reliable way to vote. Although several forms of ID are acceptable, a signature and the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number suffice.

Unfortunately, a voter's signature no longer can serve as sufficient verification to cast a vote at the polls. Acceptable IDs are an Ohio driver's license or State ID that shows **either** a current **or** former address, *as long as the ID has not expired*. A voter without these IDs can use a military ID, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck,

Issue 2 caused the most hand-wringing because the League generally supports measurements designed to prevent and reduce poverty. However, the League has no position supporting the minimum wage at either the national or state level; accordingly, the Board felt compelled to uphold its position on the structure of the Constitution.

The LWVO Board unanimously voted to support Issue 5, the Smoke Free Workplace Act, a proposed statute. The League's national air quality position supports maximum protection of public health, and regulation

Athens County hosts first imPACT meeting, page 6.

and reduction of ambient toxic air pollutants. Board members agreed that the Smoke Free Workplace Act *did* provide maximum air quality protection, particularly in comparison to the proposed Smoke Less Ohio amendment.

The League has no position relating to workers' compensation law and therefore could not make a recommendation on Issue 1, the Workers' Compensation Reform Referendum. *At press time, several issues had yet to receive the required signatures.*

Related stories: [BALLOT ISSUE EXPLANATIONS, PROS AND CONS, page 4;](#) [TAKING ACTION ON ISSUES, page 7.](#)

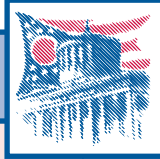
government check, or government document showing name and current address. If a voter does not possess *any* of these IDs, a voter may cast a provisional ballot by using the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number, *or* by signing an affirmation that declares the lack of identification.

The new ID requirements add a layer of complexity to the voting process that increases everyone's risk for experiencing a voting problem. However, the urban poor, people who move more than the general public and are less likely to have driver's licenses, are most at risk.

In an effort to level the playing field for all Ohio's citizens, over 100,000 *Be Sure Your Vote Counts* flyers were distributed across the state by local Leagues and coalition partners Common Cause, COHHIO (Coalition on

See [VOTE ABSENTEE](#) on page 6

ACTION



UPDATE

League Advocacy - A Busy Season

The season leading up to the general election is always busy for the League. But summer/fall 2006 will go down as one of the busiest. Changes in Ohio's election laws and voting equipment account for much of our advocacy throughout Ohio, including:

- * Repeated testimonies by election specialist Peg Rosenfield to try to make HB3 a better election reform bill.
- * Responses to questions from across the state about the new rules established in HB3.
- * Surveys of all 88 Boards of Elections asking about poll worker training plans.
- * News conferences and press releases produced with our Election Protection coalition partners to highlight concerns that the lack of clear rules on voter ID's and provisional ballots will lead to voting problems.
- * Letters to candidates asking them to add vote ID reminders to all of their ads.

LWVO continues to monitor the quality of the information others disseminate to voters, including:

- * Asking the Secretary of State to make his web site information for voters clearer and more easily accessible.
- * Assessing the assistance provided by the Boards of Elections in ten target counties for voters seeking to verify their registration.
- * Partnering with Ohio Citizen Action, Common Cause and others to track news coverage in Ohio and other Midwest markets prior to the elections, for analysis of quantity and quality by NewsLab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In July, LWVO asked the Carter Center to send observers to Ohio to monitor the November elections. We are also partnering with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law to provide Ohio voters with a toll free number, 1-866-OUR-VOTE, to verify registration and report problems.

Finally, on a positive note, the League was able to thank members for their lobbying efforts and encourage them to thank their representatives for reauthorizing HR9 - the Voting Rights Act.

LWVUS Spotlights Ohio Voter Protection

League of Women Voters of the United States President Mary G. Wilson recently visited Ohio and five other states as part of the LWV Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project. This was Wilson's second visit to Ohio in as many months, reflecting the pivotal role Ohio will play in the November 2006 elections.

Wilson's appearances in the Cleveland and Columbus areas highlighted the nationwide effort to combat processes that threaten to disenfranchise voters, to educate the public on new election procedures, and to provide voters with the information they need to cast a vote that is sure to be counted.

As part of the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project, the League is distributing nationally the *Five Things You Need to Know on Election Day* information card, calling attention to issues applicable to voters in all states. As part of the project in Ohio, LWVO is distributing the *Be Sure Your Vote Counts* flyer, with information specific to Ohio. The *Five*



LWVUS President Mary Wilson discusses LWVO's Voter Protection program with LWVO Board member Karen Rainey and LWVO Office Manager Mary Cannon.

*Things card can be downloaded at www.lwv.org by clicking "Projects," then "Democracy Agenda." The *Be Sure Your Vote Counts* flyer can be downloaded at www.lwvohio.org by clicking on the Voter Protection flyer.*

OHIOVOTER is published quarterly by the League of Women Voters of Ohio, 17 South High Street, Suite 650, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Articles from **OHIOVOTER** may be reprinted only in full and with complete acknowledgement of the League of Women Voters of Ohio.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

For membership information, call (614) 469-1505, toll free 877-LWV-OHIO, e-mail membership@lwvohio.org, or visit us on the Web at www.lwvohio.org.

Lackluster Interest in Gun Control Helps Gun Lobby Flex Muscles

America's weak gun laws add up to one thing. **Anyone in America can get a gun.** Over thirty thousand Americans die each year from gun violence. Numbers are rising.

Are guns registered in America? Background checks for

FIRST PERSON



Rosie Craig:
Gun Control
volunteer
lobbyist

all gun purchases? Gun owners licensed? Does the ATF regularly inspect gun dealers so that guns don't fall into the wrong hands? Does crime gun trace data flow seamlessly between law enforcement agencies?

Most Americans believe the answer to these questions is YES. *They are WRONG.*

As I enlighten people to the reality of America's gun laws I typically hear, "Why, this can't be true? It's all so *illogical!*"

The power of the gun lobby is *illogical*, but very real! Yet, disturbing are trends to allow more carrying of loaded concealed weapons (CCW) and the increased impunity if weapons are used inappropriately. Meanwhile, other bills to curb illegal gun sales languish.

Take a snapshot of current legislative agendas. These bills have a fair to good chance of becoming law.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION IN CONGRESS

H.R. 5005 Weaken Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm's (ATF) enforcement power, limit crime gun trace data, and loosen restrictions on the importation of non-sporting firearms.

H.R. 5092 Reduce ATF's power to revoke Federal Firearms Licenses of corrupt gun dealers.

H.R. 1384 Ease restrictions on interstate handgun sales.

OHIO LEGISLATION

HB 460 Allow schools to offer credit for firearm "safety" taught by *private* firearms organizations.

HB 508 Prevent firearms confiscation during state of emergency.

HB 347 "CCW Clean-up bill" to preempt local gun laws.

HB 9 "Open Records Bill" w/ amendment to prevent journalist access to names of CCW permit holders.

HB 541 "Shoot First Law." Allows deadly force for a *perceived* threat. A person using deadly force does not have a duty to retreat. (**NRA's #1 National priority**)

Sadly, polls confirm that Americans really want stricter laws. This silent majority must speak out. They must flex their muscles and demand a difference.

LWVO "Legislative Updates," www.lwvohio.org/legupdates.htm
National concerns: Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence, www.ohioceasefire.org; ask for free emailings at ocago@yahoo.com

Craig is an LWVO volunteer gun control lobbyist.

From the Co-Presidents' Desk

What Wins? Truth or Un-truth?

"The truth will come out." It may be a cliché, but two recent court rulings offer hope that the sentiment remains alive and well.

Federal Judge Patricia A. Seitz handed down a decision on August 28, 2006 that blocked a voter registration law passed by the Florida legislature on January 1. Because of fines mandated in the law, the Florida state League's annual budget could have been devastated by losing just 14 registration forms!



The law also exempted political parties because, according to the law's sponsor, "there rarely is a problem with political parties." Judge Seitz debunked that **un-truth**: There is no evidence in the legislative record to suggest that late or lost voter registration forms have been more prevalent among Florida's non-partisan groups than among its political parties.

The detail in the struck-down law that best showcases its extreme nature is the "strict liability." No extenuating circumstances—not even a hurricane—would have excused the failure to turn in registrations by the law's deadlines. Unbelievably, the Florida Secretary of State's office announced that they will appeal the ruling.

In Ohio, on September 1, Federal Judge Kathleen O'Malley issued a temporary stay to block certain provisions of HB3—provisions that were not as draconian as Florida law, but still had the potential to cripple the efforts of many voter registration groups across the state. Fortunately, the law didn't directly impact League efforts because it focused on compensated registrants, not volunteers. The **un-truth** behind HB3 is that fraudulent registration compromises elections in the state. As Judge O'Malley said, "No one tried to vote as Mickey Mouse."

The judge's ruling also blocked a provision requiring internet training for pollworkers. The judge pointed out that such a requirement would exclude low-income citizens, among others, who have no internet access.

Secretary Blackwell thanked O'Malley for her "clarifying" decision, and said his office will not appeal.

Don't forget, however, that registration is only one part of the process. *We still are faced with the hurdles surrounding ID requirements.* Peg Rosenfield, LWVO election lobbyist, worried, "Let's hope we don't have to have a total election meltdown for lawmakers to give us REAL reform legislation."

In League,

Carol Gibson *Jane K. Dwyer*

November 2006 Voter Guide Proposed Issues Demand Car

As the Ohio Voter goes to press, several issues have yet to receive the required number of petition signatures to be placed on the ballot.

ISSUE 1: WORKERS' COMPENSATION REFORM REFERENDUM OF AM. SUB. SB 7

Proposed by Referendum Petition

Explanation: To implement Sections 4121.10; 4121.12; 4121.131; 4123.01; 4123.512; 4123.52; 4123.54; 4123.56; 4123.58; 4123.61; 4123.65; and 4123.88 and the corresponding statutory references in Section 2 of Amended Substitute Senate Bill Number 7 of the 126th General Assembly of Ohio.

Am Sub. S.B.7, passed earlier this year, revised existing provisions and implemented new provisions governing workers' compensation. Currently, only the sections of the law that are not included in the referendum have gone into effect. The sections of the law being challenged in the referendum are on hold until the vote is taken.

With a majority NO vote, only the sections that are the subject of the referendum will be dropped. With a majority YES vote, all of the law as originally passed by the legislature will go into effect.

These changes involve both the administration of the program and injured worker benefits. Some of these provisions are summarized below.

Administrative Provisions: These provisions will go into effect with a majority YES vote; they will be dropped with a majority NO vote.

- * Expanded anti-fraud provisions, including the designation of the Workers' Compensation Special Investigation Department as a criminal justice agency with access to criminal justice information.
- * Requirements that Workers' Compensation investment criteria must comply with the provisions of the Campaign Finance Law, but may not be more restrictive than the provisions under the Campaign Finance Law.
- * Journalists' access to claimants' names and addresses.

Injured Worker Provisions: These provisions will go into effect with a majority YES vote; they will be dropped with a majority NO vote.

- * The definition of "injury" that excludes psychiatric conditions except when they arise from a physical injury or occupational disease, or from forced participation in sexual conduct.
- * The change in the basis of calculation of "non-working wage loss," and the limitation of such payments to 52 weeks.
- * The definition of "injury" that requires that a pre-existing condition be substantially aggravated by an injury and documented by objective diagnostic findings. Once the condition has returned to its pre-injury state, no compensation can be paid based on that condition.
- * The reduction in the authority of the Industrial Commission to make modifications, changes, findings or awards for a medical or a compensation claim from six years after the payment of medical benefits and ten years from the date of payment of compensation to a limit of five years in both cases.

- * Changes in the qualifications for permanent total disability compensation that eliminate consideration of certain social factors

ARGUMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SPECIFIED PROVISIONS (A YES VOTE):

1. The Ohio Revised Code would gain a provision designed to correct problems identified with the inappropriate investment of workers' compensation insurance funds.
2. The anti-fraud provisions important to reducing fraud and containing workers' compensation insurance costs would be implemented.
3. The changes in benefits that help to eliminate excesses in the system, such as allowing lengthy time periods for filing claims and payment of compensation, would be implemented.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS (A NO VOTE):

1. Several provisions that reduce injured workers' benefits would be eliminated.
2. The provision shortening the time frame for the Industrial Commission's jurisdiction over inactive claims would not be implemented. The shortened time frame could be detrimental because certain occupational injuries and diseases worsen over time and changes may not become apparent within the five year limit.
3. Some factors that were previously included in the determination of permanent total disability, such as education and work experience, were eliminated by one of the provisions and would be restored.

ISSUE 2: OHIO FAIR MINIMUM WAGE AMENDMENT

Proposed by Initiative Petition

Explanation: To adopt Section 34 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

This proposal would raise the state minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$6.85 per hour, and would index the wage rate to inflation (Consumer Price Index) so that it is adjusted annually. It would include exceptions for some small businesses, for family members working in a family-owned business, for employees under age 16, and for some who receive tips or who have disabilities. Employers must keep pay records for three years following the last day of employment, and must provide the record to the employee (or their designee) upon request. It would provide civil penalties for violations. **A majority yes vote is necessary for passage.**

ARGUMENTS FOR PASSAGE:

1. Ohio's minimum wage has remained unchanged since 1991, and Ohio is one of only two states in which the minimum wage is below the national minimum wage.
2. Wage earners paid at the current minimum cannot afford to maintain a decent standard of living with the income erosion due to inflation and the increasing cost of such items as health care and gasoline. Most are living below the poverty line.

Guide to State Ballot Issues Worthful Consideration by Voters



3. Research suggests that there is no measurable negative impact on employment. Rather, states with higher minimum wages have performed as well as, or better, economically than states with lower minimum wages, with more growth in small businesses and small-business jobs over the past decade.
4. Raising the minimum wage would increase the buying power of low income people, increasing tax revenues and stimulating the economy.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST PASSAGE:

1. It is inappropriate to place this proposal in the state Constitution, which should be a clear and internally consistent body of fundamental principles.
2. This amendment would tie cost-of-living minimum wage adjustments to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which may be considered an artificial means of setting wages, not necessarily reflecting the true value of the job.
3. Raising the minimum wage is believed to have a negative effect on job creation and will force job losses, particularly among teenagers and young adults.
4. Increased labor costs are likely to be passed on to consumers as higher prices for goods and services.

ISSUE 3: LEARN AND EARN AMENDMENT

Proposed by Initiative Petition

Explanation: To adopt Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

This proposed amendment would permit up to 3,500 slot machines at each of seven race tracks and at two non-racing sites in downtown Cleveland, for a total of 31,500 slot machines. It would also permit Cuyahoga County voters to approve additional gaming after four years. More than half (54%) of the revenues would go to the slot and casino operators, and would be exempt from all Ohio taxes. For the first 12 years of the program, 30% of the annual gross revenues would go to the Board of Regents for college scholarships, available to the top five percent of students graduating from accredited public or non-public high schools. The rest would be divided among local governments (8%), race tracks for purse money (6%), gambling addiction services (1%), and for the administration of the Gaming Integrity Commission (1%), which would regulate gaming and be appointed by the governor and majority legislative leaders. The proposed amendment does not specify nor guarantee how much Ohio high school graduates will receive or when scholarships will be paid after the first 12 years of scholarship funding. **A majority yes vote is necessary for passage.**

ARGUMENTS FOR PASSAGE:

1. Ohioans are now going out of state to gamble, and Ohio is losing tax revenue to neighboring states. This amendment would keep such revenues in the state.
2. Scholarships for higher education in Ohio would help to offset the high costs associated with earning a degree.
3. Eight percent of the gross proceeds would go to local governments for economic development activities.

4. One percent of the gross proceeds would support gambling addiction services.
5. Funding for scholarships and grants provided through this amendment is intended to supplement, not supplant, funds the General Assembly is obligated to provide for such purposes.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST PASSAGE:

1. The amendment primarily benefits a few business interests in specific Ohio locations, and is far too detailed to be placed in the Constitution. It includes descriptions of two specific locations in downtown Cleveland for casino development, which may or may not be appropriate.
2. Gambling can become addictive behavior, and compulsive gambling increases with proximity to casinos and gambling machines. Numerous social problems, including increases in poverty, crime, bankruptcy and suicide, are associated with gambling addiction.
3. Financial return to the community is limited. For example, only 30 % of gross revenues would go toward higher education scholarships, only 8% to local governments, and only 1% for addiction services.
4. The amendment would exempt all the gambling revenues from state and local taxation.
5. The amendment does not specify nor guarantee how much Ohio high school graduates will receive, or when scholarships will be paid after the first 12 years of scholarship funding.

ISSUE 4: SMOKE LESS OHIO AMENDMENT

Proposed by Initiative Petition

Explanation: To adopt Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

This proposed amendment would allow smoking in the following enclosed public areas: separate smoking areas in restaurants, most bars, bingo or bowling facilities, separated areas of hotels and nursing homes, race tracks, tobacco stores, private residences and nonpublic facilities. It would prohibit smoking in all other enclosed public areas. The amendment would also override home rule, invalidating and prohibiting local bans on smoking. **A majority yes vote is necessary for passage.**

Note: There are two smoking-related ballot issues. This proposal is to approve a constitutional amendment.

ARGUMENTS FOR PASSAGE:

1. This amendment allows indoor smoking in a variety of enclosed public places.
2. This amendment would be beneficial to the tobacco and hospitality industries because it provides for numerous exceptions to an indoor smoking ban.
3. This amendment would restrain governmental interference into the personal choice to smoke.
4. This amendment would impose uniform smoking standards around the state.

See *BALLOT PROS AND CONS* on page 7

Athens County imPACTs Political Reform

LWV Athens County kicked off the statewide political reform Town Hall series, imPACT (Political Accountability for Citizens Today), with a packed hall and a buzz of discussion. In keeping with the project's intent to energize civic participation, upwards of 70 audience members engaged in spirited debate about two of the five targeted topics - redistricting reform and public accountability.

The evening began with four highlighted honorees, Pat DeWees from the Institute for Local Government; Amy King from the ACLU; David Horn, long-time advocate of redistricting reform; and George Wood, local high school principal and founder of the Institute for Democracy in Education. DeWees and Horn then led topic groups.

The Redistricting discussion held the audience spellbound. Both League member and non-member participants expressed shock that Ohio had the worst record for judicial independence.

Said LWVAC Co-president Kathryn Jellison, "I am pleased with the level of support we received from the

state office. The staff not only attended to many of the details, but also provided a calming presence for us." Participants left the meeting with a new understanding



Audience members engaged by LWV-Athens County's explanation of redistricting issues.

of the most pressing issues affecting Ohio citizens today. LWVAC will follow up with topical public programming in the spring. In the meantime, visitors to the imPACT web site, www.ohioimpact.org, can continue the discussion with other engaged individuals determined to make a positive difference in Ohio.

The imPACT Town Hall series of discussions across Ohio is a program of the League of Women Voters of Ohio Educational Fund, made possible by a grant from the Joyce Foundation.

LWVOEF Awarded Safeguarding Democracy Grant

LWVO Educational Fund is pleased to announce it has received a grant to fund Safeguarding Democracy, an LWVUS project to expand upon the judicial independence aspects of the imPACT Town Hall series. "In applying for grants, LWVOEF looks for projects that capture and expand upon member enthusiasm,

local League visibility and citizen engagement," said LWVOEF Executive Director Jerolyn Barbee. "Our members' enthusiasm for and positive response to the imPACT Town Hall series on political reform has led us to search for funds to continue the popular series into the future." "Of course, if our Educational Fund projects happen to attract new members, we won't complain," quipped Membership Manager Lisa Frye Hall.

Vote Absentee *Continued from page 1*

Homelessness and Housing in Ohio) and Ohio Votes. This Voter Protection Committee made a concentrated effort to target urban centers through libraries, churches, schools, public agencies and gathering places. Participating Leagues in Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Clermont County, Metro Columbus, Cuyahoga County, Dayton, Oberlin, Shaker Heights, Toledo, and Youngstown were central factors in the successful distribution. The flyer was also distributed in Spanish to several regions in the state.

A copy of the flyer was sent to all 88 county Boards of Elections' Directors, accompanied by a cover letter encouraging them to use the concise information contained in the flyer to complement the Secretary of State's 2006 *Voter Information Guide*.

The Voter Protection flyer can be downloaded at www.lwvohio.org



The Voter Protection Committee was chaired by Roslyn Talerico, LWV-Cuyahoga Area, and Norman Robbins, LWV-Shaker Heights. The project was funded by a grant from the national League of Women Voters Educational Fund.

Taking Action on Issues

The following is reprinted from the Autumn 2005 issue of the Ohio Voter.

The League's reputation for nonpartisanship leads many citizens to rely on us for balanced voter service – in the case of issues, a plain-language explanation along with pros and cons. But not everybody understands that the League's mission to influence public policy also requires that we take stands on state ballot issues, even – or especially – controversial ones. The League's stand on an issue is grounded in LWVUS principles and positions and in LWVO positions, all of which were adopted after comprehensive study and member agreement.

Taking a position on a state ballot issue involves multiple steps. First, the state board's Advocacy and Citizen Education Committee (ACE) determines if there is a state or national position that permits the League to take action. Next, the committee gathers

background information about the issue and develops pro and con arguments.

The committee considers this information when formulating a recommendation for Board action, as well as the priority of the issue in relation to others on the ballot, and the effect that taking a position will have on the credibility of the League. At the Board level, members receive a summary of the issue, a recommendation for action and the rationale for that recommendation (e.g. pros and cons, supporting position statements, etc.) Thorough discussion concludes with a determination of board action, which requires a two-thirds vote: to support, to oppose, or to take no stand on the issue. In each instance, however, it is then the League's responsibility to educate voters about the issue, including the basis for its stand.

A local League that disagrees with the LWVO's position remains silent. The League may take political action only on those issues on which member agreement has been reached.

Ballot Pros and Cons *Continued from page 5*

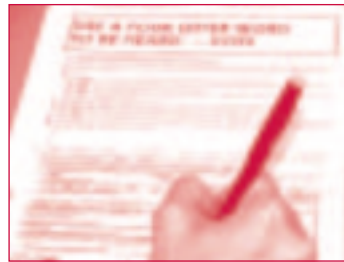
ISSUE 4: SMOKE LESS OHIO AMENDMENT *Cont* Arguments against passage:

1. Patrons and workers in businesses that permit smoking would be subjected to the dangers of second hand smoke, a proven health hazard.
2. Because of the relationship between smoking, second-hand smoke and ill health, permissive smoking laws contribute to the escalation of health care costs.
3. The amendment would override home rule prohibitions that now exist in 21 Ohio municipalities, as well as any future attempts at local control of smoking.
4. It would also override the proposed Smoke Free Workplace Act if both were passed.

ISSUE 5: SMOKE FREE WORKPLACE ACT Proposed by Initiative Petition

Explanation: To enact Chapter 3794 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio

The purpose of this statute would be to prohibit smoking in enclosed areas of public places and enclosed areas in places of employment, exempting most private residences, family businesses, tobacco stores, some hotel rooms, some private clubs, smoking areas for residents of nursing homes, some patios and incense at religious ceremonies. The Ohio Department of Health would educate citizens and enforce the law. Please note that this proposal is to approve a law and not an amendment to the Constitution. **A majority yes vote is necessary for**



passage.

Note: There are two smoking-related ballot issues. This proposal is to approve a law and not an amendment to the Constitution.

Arguments for passage:

1. The U.S. Surgeon General has determined that second-hand smoke causes premature death and serious diseases in smokers and non-smokers alike, including the patrons and workers in businesses that permit indoor smoking.
2. Because of the relationship between smoking and ill health, curtailment of indoor smoking and second-hand smoke helps control health care costs.
3. Economic impact studies have shown that clean indoor air laws do not hurt businesses.

Arguments against passage:

1. The prohibition is too restrictive, and passage could be detrimental to certain businesses in the tobacco and hospitality industries such as bars, restaurants, and places of entertainment.
2. Ohio currently receives about \$600 million annually from cigarette taxes. If smoking is restricted and fewer cigarettes are purchased, the legislature will need to compensate for the loss of revenue.
3. Government should not control an individual's personal behavior.

LWV-Metro Columbus Accepted in Pilot Project

After a rigorous review process of an overwhelming number of applicants, LWVUS selected the Metro Columbus League and ten other local Leagues from around the country to participate in the LWVUS Membership Initiative pilot program. The pilot program will test membership initiatives to a targeted demographic: newly retired women.

All participating Leagues will be implementing three communications strategies: (1) direct outreach to the media and community to raise the profile of the League, (2) outreach to allies and groups already interacting with members of the test demographic group, and (3) ongoing outreach to help insure every activity is a membership growth opportunity.

LWVUS will promote the work of the pilot Leagues throughout the organization. They will present an analysis of the project to attendees at the national Council meeting in 2007.

Local Leagues Challenged to Produce Best Newsletter

LWVO announced at its May 2006 Council meeting a year-long local League newsletter contest in the areas of Best Editorial Content, Features, Design, Overall Excellence, Consistency, and Use of Photos. "The

MEMBERSHIP FORM



Yes, sign me up as a member of the League of Women Voters of Ohio!

\$50 Individual
 \$75 Household

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail this form with check to
LWVO, 17 South High Street, Suite 650
Columbus, OH 43215

newsletter is our messenger to the world. The Voter is the League's marketing tool, public relations tool and membership tool," said LWVO Board member Nina Sabrack, chair of the judging committee. Newsletter tips and tools are available on the LWVO web site: www.lwvohio.org.

INSIDE: 1 NEW VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS 4 ISSUE PROS & CONS 6 FIRST IMPACT TOWN HALL MEETING

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