



# THE LOCAL VOTER



Volume XI Issue III

Trumbull County Edition

April 2009

**Membership Meeting**  
**April 27, 2009**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Warren Women's Club**  
**N. Park Ave., Warren**

Speaker: Christine Davidson, Mahoning River Consortium Representative  
Topic: Overview of the Mission of the Mahoning River Consortium



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 11 Board Meeting—9:30 am  
Panera Community Room

April 27 Membership Meeting—  
Mahoning River Consortium @Warren  
Women's Club-6:00 pm

May 1 Law Day

May 1-3 LWVO 2009 Convention  
Columbus

May 16 LWVTC Annual Meeting @  
Lake Vista—9:30 am

### Upcoming Summer Events:

June 26 Community Day—Noon in the  
Park

August 8 Summer Sizzle, Cortland

August 26 Women's Equality Day

**Annual Meeting**  
**May 16, 2009**  
**Lake Vista Community Room**  
**Cortland**

**Registration—9:00 a.m.**  
**Brunch—9:30 a.m.**

**Cost—\$15.00**

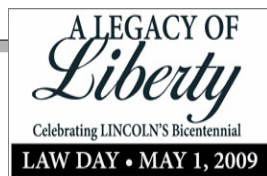
Brunch will be catered by Saratoga Restaurant & Catering. Annual meeting materials will be sent to all members in April. If you wish to prepay now for the Annual Meeting you may do so by sending your check made payable to LWVTC and mailing it to LWVTC, P.O. Box 161, Fowler, Ohio 44418.

You are encouraged to bring a guest to acquaint them with the League.

NOTE: We will not be holding the Trash & Treasure Sale this year.

If anyone has items that they would like to have added to the goodie bag, please let Danielle Schmidt, Annual Meeting chairperson, know ahead of time and she will arrange to get them prior to the meeting so that everything can be in the bags as opposed to spread out on the tables. So, if you have any promotional items from work, business or other organizations, etc., please contact her at 330-637-3925 or email at me221@aol.com.

Look for your annual meeting packet and membership dues notice to be mailed by the end of April to each member.



## ***Of Note...***

**The Regional Chamber.** The LWVTC Board unanimously agreed to join the Regional Chamber for a one year period provided the monies to do so would be donated. Several Board members donated the funds to join. Our League will be joining the Chamber with the Youngstown League and splitting the membership dues at a cost of \$92.50 per League. More information will be provided at the membership meeting in April.

### **Election Reform Work Group**

LWVO is deeply engaged in election reform with the progressive development of an advocacy collation/partnership that includes the League, Ohio Citizen Action, Common Cause Ohio, The Advancement Project, the NAACP, COOHIO and the AFL-CIO. Representatives from the Brennan Center continue to express interest in joining the partnership. We also have participation from Academics who have been heavily engaged in election reform including Candice Hoke.

The workgroup has met several times since January 2009. We are in the process of drafting a partnership agreement to give structure to the group which includes a non partisan agreement, group goals and process. The key issue of focus is Provisional Ballots, both the reduction in the number casts and the counting of those that are casts. The group has engaged in lively conversation as we seek solutions. If you are interested in participating in this work group or lending your expertise, please contact Deidra Reese at [leg@lwvohio.org](mailto:leg@lwvohio.org).

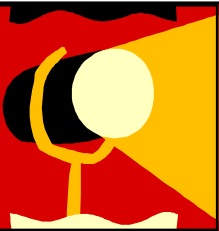
**Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary by Defending the U.S. Constitution** is a local, state, and nation-wide educational campaign focused in addressing the critical issues facing the judiciary. The program has promoted a fair and independent judiciary since 2001. Safeguarding U.S. Democracy's goal is to help protect rights provided by the U.S. Constitution and the system of checks and balances by building a mass amount of informed citizens by exposing them to the critical issues facing the judiciary.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is holding their State Convention in Columbus from May 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will be holding -- with the Ohio State Bar Association -- a forum titled "Ensuring Fair and Impartial Courts." The keynote speaker is Ohio State Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Moyer.

### **League Official Partner in the 2010 U.S. Census**

The LWV is an official partner in the 2010 U.S. Census. Click here for our press release on this vital decennial civic count of all U.S. residents and here for further U.S. Census information. The LWVUS is in the process of creating a webpage at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) that Leagues can access and link to in order to be informed at all times. This is a year-long effort with lots of opportunities for Leagues to get involved. Please contact [zarguedas@lwv.org](mailto:zarguedas@lwv.org) for additional information.

## ***Member Spotlight***



**Birthplace:** Warren, Ohio

**Current Residence:** Cortland

**Employer:** Trumbull Mahoning Medical Group for past 11 years as Operations Manager over the clinical area. Worked for 24 years as an RN at Trumbull

Memorial Hospital. I have my MBA.

**Family:** Husband William, one son and two grandsons.

**Years in League:** 12

**Why you joined League?** I joined the League to learn more about the democratic process and to learn about local government and agencies and they are run. I feel it is important that we reach out to the community to encourage and make sure everyone has the opportunity to vote. During these tough economic times, I think it is more important than ever to stay active in local organizations.

**Past/Present positions/activities in the League:** 2nd Vice President, Membership Director; Director (2 years); Secretary (1 year); various committees



**Pamela Hallett, Director**

## ***Regionalism: United We Stand, Divided We Fall?***

### ***Recap of 2nd Session: Elected Officials Talk About Revenue Sharing***

Submitted by Genevieve Germaniuk, League Member

Charlotte Meloni and I attended the second program in a series of three on the topic of Regionalization for the 16 counties in the Northeast quarter of Ohio on February 12, 2009 in Hudson.

Three Mayors were to be on the panel to discuss the concept of revenue sharing from their various perspectives. Unfortunately, mayor Jay Williams was returning from a meeting in Washington, D.C., and did not make the meeting. It is unfortunate, as representation of the Mahoning Valley seems to be lacking in this process. He was to present the effects of urban blight and steps they are taking to overcome their situation.

Mayor Bruce Akers, Pepper Pike, Cuyahoga County, acknowledged that strife has hit this area very hard for several years, not just the last one or two. He explained that in Cuyahoga there are 57 political sub-divisions engaged in duplicating services, waste and inefficiencies. And in a time where there is a decrease in revenue and increase in cost we have three choices: increase taxes, decrease services or find efficient ways to stretch the dollar.

One concept is through revenue sharing (of new, not existing revenues) between jurisdictions. My simple understanding of it is that in an effort to stop our trend of sprawl away from the "city core," companies would be encouraged to move back into the city core, and 50% of the taxes generated by these companies would be returned back to the city, or place the company had been, for a period of 5 years, until they back-fill those jobs with something else.

There is/would be an Economical Development Fund available to facilitate companies' movement back to the city core, revitalizing abandoned infrastructure. This concept of revenue sharing would foster collaboration and cooperation an winners on both sides.

Mayor Bill Robertson, Rittman, Wayne County, represented a rural town of 6500 people where the annual income is around \$35,000. A cardboard company folded in 2006, Dow Chemical doesn't allow development on the surface of land they own and mine for table salt (Morton Salt) and the folks have to shop out of town, mostly. On the positive side they are the home of Uni-block landscape materials, and the National Cemetery. The Chamber and city developed a new logo promoting their hike and bike trails.

Mayor Robertson pointed out that there are 487 political sub-divisions in our 16-county area in Northeast Ohio and noted the state needs to help cities work together. How our lands are used is the first consideration and becomes a quality of life issue. In our global approach to planning, realize we are competing with those global markets rather than competing with markets in Ohio. He said collaboration requires trust, and we need to change the way we do government.

## ***Regionalism: United We Stand, Divided We Fall?***

### ***Recap of 3rd Session: Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI)***

Submitted by Charlotte Meloni, Director

The third and final public meeting of this series on Regionalism was held at the Hudson Public Library on Thursday, February 26. Representing LWVTC were: Alice Cosgrove, Terri Crabbs, Genevieve Germaniuk, and Charlotte Meloni. The topic presented by Mayor William A. Currin of Hudson and Mayor Michael Lyons of the Village of Richfield was Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) - *planning, sharing and growing ... together*. The goal of this organization is to establish realistic and workable solutions, through regional land use planning and new growth revenue sharing, for the region's long-term benefit.

RPI has studied other collaborate efforts across the United States, such as the Twin Cities and Dayton, to help determine what has worked and what the challenges have been. These areas have provided a road map for RPI's phases of development. Phase I consisted of: 1). Stakeholder Input (the 16 counties), 2). Data Gathering, 3). Analysis, 4). Develop Alternatives, and 5). Study Production. Phase I findings were approved on April 9, 2008 and again on May 15, 2008. Phase II of the study is based on "how do we get there" (i.e. Regionalization), and includes: 1). State Legislative (changing of some laws), 2). Commutation, 3). Fundraising/Finance, 4). New Growth Revenue, 5). Land Use, and 6). Engagement Mobilization. RPI's current time frames are to have the Phase II report completed on July 31, 2009 and The Land Use Planning and New Growth Regional Sharing report completed in January 2010.

***Regionalism: United We Stand, Divided We Fall? (continued from previous page)  
Recap of 3rd Session: Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI)***

The Mayors stated that the major obstacle to Regionalism is the fragmentation of the area. There are 487 forms of government in the 16 counties. They also stressed that Regionalism is not consolidation or replacement of existing governments, or an effort to eliminate independent governments or municipalities. The goal is to try to do things better by cost savings of public infrastructure, reinvestment in core cities, establish specific areas for growth, and protection of agricultural and green spaces. For more information on RPI please check out their web site at [www.NEO-RPI.org](http://www.NEO-RPI.org).

***Mahoning River Consortium (MRC)***

Submitted by Judie Hartley, Director & Chair

The Mahoning River Consortium (MRC) is a community based, non-profit organization that seeks to restore the environmental integrity of the Mahoning River and the lands along the River Corridor. As we are now a member of this organization, we are looking for members that would be interested in attending some of their meetings.

It is very exciting to hear about what the organizations are doing to promote and develop the area in which we live. The River Corridor runs from E. Liverpool to Newton Falls. We all have been aware of the Mahoning River but not many of us think about what this means to our future and the future of our children. This river was the backbone of the industry in our area for almost a hundred years and now we must work to again make it part of our lives by enhancing the social, recreational, and economic activities that positively impact the quality of life along the river.

If you go to the website, [www.mahoningriver.com](http://www.mahoningriver.com) you will be able to link to all the other organizations that are working together to attain this goal.

**Future Meetings of Mahoning River Consortium**

**April Meeting**

Date: Friday, April 17, 2009 @ 1:00 p.m.

Agenda: Mill Creek MetroParks

Speaker: David Imbrogno, Director of Mill Creek Metroparks

Location: Mill Creek MetroParks DD Davis Center, Radius Room, 123 McKinley Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44509

Board Meeting: Will immediately follow the membership meeting.

**May Meeting**

Date: Friday, May 15, 2009 @ 1:00 p.m.

Agenda: The Trust for Public Land: Conserving Land for People

Speaker: William Carroll, Ohio Director, The Trust for Public Land, Cleveland, Ohio

Location: Mill Creek MetroParks Farm, McMahan Hall, 7574 Columbiana-Canfield Road, Canfield, Ohio 44406

Board Meeting: Will immediately follow the membership meeting.



To Recognize Child Abuse & Neglect Month, the Child Advocacy Center and Trumbull County Children Services will be holding the 4th Annual ***"Pinwheels for Prevention Event"*** on Thursday, April 9 from 1—1:30 pm at the Trumbull County Children Services, 2282 Reeves Rd. NE.

Remarks by Public Officials and Child Advocates will be held, as well as a special presentation by the Warren G. Harding High School Choir. Prevent Child Abuse Ohio Pinwheels for Prevention is a public awareness campaign designed to increase awareness about child abuse and neglect in communities across Ohio.

***Thank you...***

**All League Members**—Thank you for being supportive of our League and working to help us to grow...everyone's contribution is what makes us ... The League of Women Voters of Trumbull County. ***Thank you!***

## Statehouse Day—March 17, 2009

Terri Crabbs and Charlotte Meloni traveled to Columbus on St. Patrick's Day to attend the League of Women Voters of Ohio Statehouse Day 2009. The day brought out more than 23 Legislators or their staff members to join more than 80 League members from across the state to become better informed on key issues and to network with each other as we continue to identify the League of Women Voters of Ohio as a key resource to the community and Ohio Legislators.

The day was kicked off by a lively session entitled *Anatomy of a Budget Crisis* by Dr. Howard Fleeter. Dr. Fleeter provided an informative and entertaining perspective on the current state budget crisis and offered opinions on how we arrived at our current woes. Dr. Fleeter even provided insight on the impact of the Obama administration's Stimulus package and how it might bolster the Ohio Economy.

League members participated in lively discussion on Regionalism by panelists Larry Wolpert, Chester Jourdan, Jr. and Michael Cochran. Regionalism has become a topic of interests to many local Leagues across the state. Witnessing the discussion between the panelists provided great insight to the variety of views regarding the pros and cons of such concepts.

The Statehouse Day Agenda included four concurrent workshops on: Health Care Reform, Education Funding Reform, Sunshine Law and Government Transparency and Election Reform. Each session featured expert presenters including our own League member Peg Rosenfield who is recognized nationally as an election reform expert. The legislators and staff members who attended these sessions expressed that they came away well informed and eager to build relationships with League members as we work for meaningful reform in the topic areas.

The day culminated with a presentation by Ohio House Speaker Armond Budish who shared Legislative Priorities and Economic Realities. Speaker Budish answered questions regarding Rail Service, the Budget Process and potential election reforms to be considered in this General Assembly.



Pictured (L-R) Charlotte Meloni, Deirdra Reese, Executive Director of LWV-Ohio, Lindia D. Lalley, President of LWV-Ohio and Terri Crabbs.

### LWV of Trumbull County MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual dues for the League of Women Voters of Trumbull County are:

Individual—\$50  
Two at same Address—\$80  
Student—\$30

Dues assistance is available. Included in your membership are subscriptions to the *National Voter*, *Ohio Voter* and *Local Voter* newsletters. Dues are not tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday/Month: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:  
**Kirsten Burkey, Membership Chair**  
**LWV of Trumbull County**  
**P.O. Box 161**  
**Fowler, OH 44418**  
**(330) 367-4886**

***Do As Much Or As Little As You Want,  
But Remember...  
Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport!***

## ***Ohio's Redistricting Competition—Opens April 6, 2009—May 4, 2009***

Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner announced a Redistricting Competition to create an open process for producing fair legislative districts in Ohio. She made the announcement at the Ohio Elections Conference on March 12. This competition is the result of many months of planning involving the League of Women Voters of Ohio, Former State Representative and 50+ year member of the LWVO Joan Lawrence, Ohio Citizen Action, State Representatives Dan Stewart and Vernon Sykes, Common Cause and Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner.

Because Ohio's population has dropped significantly since the last time elections districts were drawn, Ohio will have one less district, dropping from 19 districts to 18. While Ohio's population is essentially divided evenly between Republican and Democratic voters, Ohio's Congressional representation was 67% Republican for the first part of this decade. Many districts are not competitive and do not relate to their communities or to geographic compactness.

Rules for the competition include the need for Compactness, Competitiveness, Representational Fairness, and Communities of Interest. The rules are available on the Secretary of State website at <http://www.sos.state.oh.us> and click on Ohio Redistricting Competition. Any plan falling in the bottom 25% of ANY category will be disqualified. The plan must contain Contiguity, Equipopulation, and compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act.

The following is the Fact Sheet on Ohio's Redistricting Competition.

### **What is the competition?**

The goal of the Ohio Redistricting Competition is to demonstrate that an open process based on objective criteria can produce fair legislative districts in Ohio. During the competition, it is our belief that a robust public conversation about the process can occur, leading to the development of the best possible redistricting recommendations for consideration by the Ohio General Assembly.

The Ohio Redistricting Competition represents the culmination of over nine months of planning amongst the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO), Ohio Citizen Action, Common Cause, Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, Former State Representative Joan Lawrence, and State Representative Dan Stewart.

### **What criteria will be used?**

In crafting proposed redistricting criteria, competition partners paid special attention to the need for balance between traditional redistricting principles long recognized by courts and modern redistricting principles that can help achieve fairer districts in Ohio. In the competition, these principles will be applied in a quantifiable manner to each proposed congressional plan. To that end, the following criteria were proposed:

*Compactness.* Sometimes referred to as the “look” of a district, compactness assures that bizarrely-shaped legislative districts are minimized. This measure helps promote fair representation within a district.

*Communities of Interest.* Counties, municipalities, and other government boundaries give Ohioans a sense of place and shared interests. This measure seeks to minimize counties divided between districts, while opening a dialogue about the role of municipal, township and other community divisions given the rapid growth of suburban and exurban communities in Ohio.

*Competitiveness.* Our democracy thrives when the marketplace of ideas is truly competitive, especially on Election Day. This measure seeks to maximize the number of legislative districts that could be won by either party, providing Ohioans with a stronger voice in choosing their representatives.

*Representational Fairness.* The counterbalance for competitiveness is assuring that a final redistricting plan does not unfairly bias one party over another. This measure seeks to minimize this outcome by comparing the partisan bias of legislative districts to the real world voting history of Ohioans.

Before a plan can be considered, three legal thresholds must be met:

*Population equality.* Federal case law requires that districts be as equal in population as possible.

*Contiguity.* All districts must be contiguous, meaning that every part of a district must be reachable from every other part without crossing the district's borders. “Point contiguity” or “touch-point contiguity” are not permitted.

*National Voting Rights Act.* All plans must provide for at least one majority-minority congressional district, in keeping with federal law and case law.

## Redistricting (con't)

### **How will plans be scored?**

Each plan can earn up to 75 total points – 25 points for the most compact, 25 points for the most preservation of communities of interest, 12.5 points for the most competitiveness, and 12.5 points for the most representational fairness. Plans will be scored and rank-ordered for these criteria. All plans will be ranked based on their total points and the top 25% plans will qualify as competition winners. However, any plan that scores in the lowest 25% of a category will be disqualified.

### **Who is administering the competition?**

The organizations requested that the office of the Ohio Secretary of State administer the competition. The office is, in turn, finalizing a contract with an independent consultant to develop materials, provide technical training, and conduct all plan scoring. This will provide an additional layer of confidence in the competition.

## ***2009 Election Calendar (Condensed Quick Reference)***

Courtesy of Ron Massullo, Regional Liaison, Secretary of State's Office

\*Apr. 6 Deadline for voter registration for primary election (30 days before the primary)

Apr. 23 Pre-primary election campaign finance reports must be filed by 4 p.m. (12 days before the primary)

May 4 Nominating petitions for independent candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before the primary)

### **May 5 Primary Election**

May 16 Boards may begin official canvass (11 days after the primary)

May 21 Local questions and issues must be certified to the board by 4 p.m. for August 4 special election (75 days before the special)

May 26 Boards must complete official canvass (21 days after the primary)

June 12 Post-primary election campaign finance reports must be filed by 4 p.m. (38 days after the primary)

July 6 Last day for local option petitioners to send street listing to Div. of Liquor Control (45 days before petition filing deadline)

\*July 6 Deadline for voter registration for Aug. 4 Special Election (30 days before the election)

### **Aug. 4 Special Election** may be held

Aug. 20 Candidates nominating petitions for non-partisan races must be filed by 4 p.m. (75 days before the general)

Local questions and issues must be certified to board by 4 p.m. (75 days before the general)

Sept. 2 Write-in candidates for general election must file Declaration of Intent by 4 p.m. (62 days before the general)

Sept 29 General election absentee ballots must be ready (35 days before the general)

\*Oct. 5 Deadline for voter registration for general election (30 days before the general)

Oct. 22 Pre-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by 4 p.m. (12 days before the general)

### **Nov. 3 General Election**

Nov. 14 Boards may begin official canvass (11 days after the general)

Nov. 24 Boards must complete official canvass (21 days after the general)

Dec. 11 Post-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by 4 p.m. (38 days after the general)

\*In some instances, the statutory deadline falls on a day when the office of the Secretary of State and boards of elections are closed. In those instances, the deadlines are extended to the next succeeding day when the offices are open.

## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MISSION STATEMENT**

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

## *League of Women Voters Turns 89*



Members from Trumbull County celebrated the 89th birthday of the League of Women Voters at their membership meeting in February held at the Art Outreach Gallery at the Eastwood Mall. The League turned 89 on February 14. For nearly nine decades, the League has worked to ensure our democracy is transparent, effective and truly representative. The League of Women Voters is a trusted, nonpartisan political organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Members attending the meeting were front row, Eddie Wolcott and Jeanne Evans; second row (l-r) Charlotte Meloni, Kirsten Burkey, Pam Hallett, Mary Hoke, Alice Cosgrove and Terri Crabbs; back

row (l-r) Janice Hardman, Gail Stark, Genevieve Germaniuk and Sue Smith.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
**P.O. BOX 161**  
**FOWLER, OHIO 44418**  
**(330) 367-4886**



### ***2008-2009 OFFICERS***

#### ***President***

Terri Crabbs

#### ***1st Vice President***

Danielle Schmidt

#### ***2nd Vice-President***

Kirsten Burkey

#### ***Secretary***

Janice Hardman

#### ***Treasurer***

Gwen Logan

#### ***Directors***

Alice Cosgrove

Pamela Hallett

Judie Hartley

Hattie Hawkins

Charlotte Meloni

Phyllys Savelle

Edwina Wolcott