



VOTER

“How is Homeland Security Working at Home?”

As part of the League’s engagement in civil liberty and security based on our commitment to the notion that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens at all levels of government, and the citizen’s right to know about governmental actions, the Clermont League presents as its January Program “How is Homeland Security Working at Home” by Clermont County Director for Public Safety, Beth Nevel.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was created in response to 9/11 and is made up of 22 agencies, with over-all responsibility for coordinating more than 88,000 different governmental jurisdictions at the federal, state and local levels that have homeland security responsibilities. In its first few years of operation, DHS focused on grants for planning, training, exercises and equipment.



The Citizens Corp Initiative is a national grass-roots organization set up in 2002 as part of President Bush’s USA Freedom Corp Initiative, and receives funding directly from the US Department of Homeland Security. The mission of the **Clermont County** Citizens Corp Council is to coordinate, educate, and train to better prepare and respond to natural and manmade disasters to make safer, stronger, and disaster-resistant communities. For the last two years, Clermont County citizens have been

urged to “get ready” and to prepare for emergencies from natural disasters to terrorists attacks. Whether man-made or natural, disasters require the same attention: prevention, response, and recovery.

Citizens Corps bring together community, emergency and governmental leaders to involve community members in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery. Citizens

Corp Councils work hard to help citizens prepare train and volunteer in their communities. Building on the successful efforts that are in place in many communities, Citizens Corps provide a variety of opportunities for the general public to get involved, rather than be spectators.

This program will help our local League gain a better understanding of how government works, establish personal relationships with officials charged with security, highlight areas of need, open communications on what is and can be done, and educate our members and guests on local security measures against both man-made and natural threats.

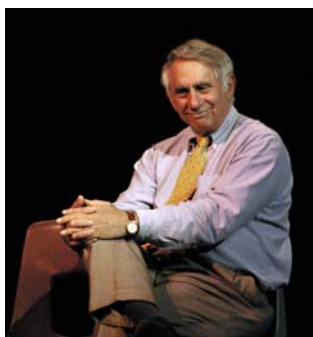
We all have a role in hometown security. We all need to participate in making our communities, our nation and ourselves safer. Bring a friend, a neighbor, a family member to learn from this very informative program.

Register on line at www.lwvclermont.com, by calling Marti Kleinfelter at 513-831-2997 or by e-mail at mkleinfelter@cinci.rr.com

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Clermont Chamber Luncheon features Democracy Challenged: How Big Money in Politics Influences Who Runs for Office, Who Wins, and What They Do Once Elected



Join Americans for Campaign Reform founder and Chair of the Board John Rauh at the Clermont Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon on Friday, January 30, 11:15 – 1:00 at Receptions Conference Center East. The keynote presentation will focus on one of the seminal challenges facing American democracy today: the role of private money in determining who runs for public office, who gets elected, and the public policies that result. Mr. Rauh will examine the effects of private campaign funding on the quality of leadership and governance today, and present an alternative small donor-driven approach to federal campaign finance.

The 2008 election was one of the most expensive, and spirited, campaigns in American history. Both major-party candidates advocated fundamental change, and many Americans voted not only for

change in policies but change in how business is conducted in Washington, DC. Even as the nation faces daunting political challenges on numerous fronts, the 536 national leaders responsible for meeting these challenges operate in a system that is largely defined by private campaign contributions from a small minority of Americans.

In seven states from Maine to Arizona, alternative "Fair Elections" systems of publicly funded campaigns are ushering in a new and more representative politics. Participation from citizen small donors has increased dramatically, and more candidates from diverse backgrounds and points of view are stepping forward to run for public office. Once elected, those candidates are increasingly able to pursue a popular agenda unconstrained by special interests.

With the election behind us and new forms of citizen partici-

pation taking hold, the opportunity for meaningful reform in Washington, DC in 2009 has never been greater. President-Elect Obama has publicly committed himself to fixing the long-standing system of presidential public funding and extending reform to Congress, and senior members of the U.S. House and Senate have stepped forward with bipartisan legislation in the 111th Congress.

To register for the January 30 Legislative Luncheon, contact the Clermont Chamber of Commerce at 576-5000 or visit www.clermontchamber.com. The cost of the luncheon is \$38 for Chamber members and \$50 for non-members.

ACR is chaired by former U.S. Senators Bill Bradley (D-NJ), Bob Kerrey (D-NE), Alan Simpson (R-WY) and Warren Rudman (R-NH). For more information on ACR contact 603-227-0626 or www.youstreet.org.

The LWVCA announces SUSAN B. ANTHONYLUNCHEON: Saturday, February 28, 2009

The Phoenix, Grand Ballroom, 12 noon, 812 Race St. Cost: \$40.

In an age of media consolidation, shrinking news budgets, amateur blogs, YouTube, and info-tainment, maintaining the integrity of hard news reporting is essential to an informed citizenry.

Our luncheon speaker, Maryanne Zeleznik, News Director of 91.7 WVXU, hosts and produces the local broadcast of Morning Edition from NPR, covers daily news, and produces local features. Her speech's theme will be "News Today: Who Can You Trust?"

You may contact the LWVCA at 513-281-8683 or www.lwvcincinnati.org for reservation information.

LEAGUE LAWSUIT CAN MOVE FORWARD

The President of the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO), Linda Lalley, announced on November 26, 2008 that the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit had ruled that a lawsuit filed in 2004 by the LWVO, the LWV Toledo-Lucas County, and individuals concerning Ohio's voting system can move forward in the courts (League of Women Voters of Ohio et al. v. Brunner et al.) The state had tried to have the case dismissed, but the 6th Circuit Court ruled that the case can proceed based on equal protection and due process claims, but not on a violation of procedural claims. The lawsuit asks that defendants put in place "...a competent and fair voting system as required by the Constitution and federal voting rights laws to ensure that every Ohio resident eligible to vote can do so on fair and equal terms and that each eligible vote is fairly and equally counted - no matter where or how it is cast."

(Response of plaintiffs to defendants' motion to dismiss at http://www.nvri.org/about/ohio_opposition_brief_091905.pdf)

To read the decision please visit:
<http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/opinions.pdf/08a0429p-06.pdf>.

Help Promote your League at A Day of Dance

Mercy Hospital will host its annual "A Day of Dance" program at Eastgate Mall on Saturday, February 28, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. A Day of Dance is a day of dancing, heart health activities, education, music, and health screenings, held across the country, designed for entire family and primarily geared toward meeting the needs of women. This is a good opportunity to get the word out about the good work of the League and to recruit new members. Your League of Women Voters plans to have a booth at A Day of Dance again this year, and we need your help. Please contact Cyn Macke at 553-7349 or isaacmacke@fuse.net today to sign up for a two hour shift to help promote your League.

2008-2009

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Place
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2008-09 General Meetings

- January 27th** Homeland Security Working at Home - Beth Nevel, Director, County Emergency Services
- February 24th** Agenda 360
Kevin R. Ghassomian, ESQ.
Greenebaum Doll & McDonald PLLC
- March 24th** Education, A Look at the Governor's New Initiatives
- April 28th** To be Announced
- May 19** Annual Meeting

General Meetings will be held at Receptions, East unless otherwise noted

It's Time to Renew: 2008—2009

Please mark one:

- \$65 Individual
- \$85 Dual (2 adults same household)
- \$99 Family \$25 Student

Name: _____

Additional Names: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone: _____ (home) Phone: _____ (office)

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Enclose form with check payable to LWVCC:

League of Women Voters Clermont County
P. O. Box 733
Milford, OH 45150



Take advantage of one of the main perks of being in League: direct access to legislators. So...

JOIN US FOR STATEHOUSE DAY 2009

MARCH 17, 2009 9 A.M. – 3:15 P.M.

AT THE VERN RIFFE CENTER, COLUMBUS

THE BUDGET SHORTFALL: WE'RE ALL GOING TO FEEL THE PINCH!

HARNESSING THE POWER OF LEAGUE: WHAT CAN WE DO IN OHIO'S FINANCIAL CRISIS?

How will the projected \$7 billion deficit affect education, social services and other issues close to League members' hearts? Where did it come from? What can we do?

MORNING SESSIONS:

- *Economist Howard Fleeter, Ph.D., of Driscoll & Fleeter*, has been invited to join us for "An Anatomy of a Budget Crisis."

- *Armond Budish, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives*, has been invited to join us for "What's Next: Legislative Priorities and Economic Realities."

LUNCH: An opportunity to network & exchange ideas with other participants and LWVO lobbyists.

AFTERNOON CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS/CONVERSATIONS:

Meet with legislators, issue experts and League lobbyists to learn about and advocate your issue.

- ◆ Health Care Reform & Funding
- ◆ Election Reform
- ◆ Education Funding Reform
- ◆ Sunshine Laws and Government Transparency

CALL TO ACTION & WRAP UP

Legislative Visits: We encourage participants to connect with their own legislators and make their own appointments to see them at the conclusion of Statehouse Day. Legislators' contact information can be found at www.legislature.state.oh.us. LWVO packets will be available to take to legislators' offices.

9-9:45	Registration and Continental Breakfast
10:00-12:15	Sequential Morning Sessions
12:15-1:20	Lunch
1:30-3:00	Workshops/Conversations
3:00-3:15	Call to Action & Wrap Up

JOIN US FOR AN EXCEPTIONAL

DAY FILLED WITH INFORMATION, ADVOCACY AND ENERGIZING NETWORKING.

A complete agenda and map to the Riffe Center will be emailed to registrants and are posted in the Statehouse Day section on LWVO's website (www.lwvohio.org). Questions? Call LWVO toll free at 1-877-LWV-OHIO.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **March 1, 2009** (One form per person)

Name _____ Local League _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Fee (meal & materials): \$35 adult _____ \$20 student _____ Special dietary needs _____

Make checks payable to LWVO and remit this form with payment to:

LWV Ohio • 17 South High Street, Suite 650 • Columbus, Ohio 43215