



LWVOHIO CONVENTION IN CINCINNATI IN 2015

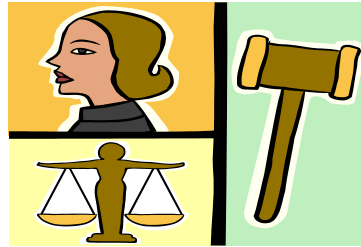


The state convention of the League of Women Voters Ohio will be held May 15-17, 2015, at the Hyatt in Cincinnati. Presently state leaders are brainstorming ideas for workshops at the convention and possible speakers. They are also compiling a list of events conventioners could attend downtown and then a list of sites of interest to visit as they leave town on Sunday. Our Clermont County League has been asked to give information about possible destinations in Clermont County. A gift bag will be given to all attending the convention having items of local interest and places to go to after the convention. At the actual convention help will be needed from our members. Specific jobs will be listed later.



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RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO JUDICIAL ELECTIONS



Nancy Brown is president of the League of Women Voters of Ohio. She argues in favor of a different way of selecting judges. Her column in the *Columbus Dispatch* appears below.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio has for years believed that the kind of elections which work for politicians don't work well for the judiciary. Judges are different. Judges are required to apply the law, regardless of their personal beliefs. They are prohibited by judicial ethics from indicating how they will rule in a particular case. Judges should be knowledgeable about the law and should demonstrate administrative skills, patience and respect for all who appear before them. Most voters, who seldom appear in a courtroom, have little ability to determine whether judicial candidates meet these qualifications.

The League has advocated adopting an alternative way to select judges in which qualified candidates are appointed and then voters decide through a yes-or-no vote whether to retain them as judges. This is commonly called an appointment-retention election system. Under such a system a commission would be established to vet judicial candidates for selection by the Governor. The commission should be nonpartisan, not dominated by attorneys, and include a wide variety of citizens from different walks of life. Its work would be public and would encompass a careful investigation of judicial candidates to determine whether or not they are qualified for the judicial position.

After the appointed judge had been in office for one or two years, voters would have the opportunity to vote on whether to retain the candidate. To insure that the voter has enough information to cast an informed vote, a public body would provide judicial performance evaluations: Has the judge demonstrated knowledge of the law; respect for people who appear before him; good courtroom management skills, etc. With this information, voters would be well equipped to vote in a retention election.

In our current system, many judges run unopposed. Voters have no choice whether to retain those judges if there is no opposing candidate. Retention elections would give voters the option not to retain a judge if they have a record of poor performance. If that happens, the screening commission would recommend qualified replacements for the governor to appoint.

The League believes that for the most part Ohio has competent hard working judges, but moving to an appointment-retention election system is likely to improve the quality of our judiciary and will surely improve Ohioans' faith that their judges are impartial and fair.

LEAGUE BY-LAWS TO BE UPDATED



Yvette Duguay, Eve Enders and Marti Kleinfelter are in process of updating our local league by-laws. This task has not been done for several years. The team is looking at national and state League by-laws and comparing them to our own in order to ensure compatibility. They hope to present their report to the League Board at the January Board meeting. The final results will be presented to the membership for approval at our May 2015 meeting.

LWV WORKS WITH LOOK TO CLERMONT



In a cooperative effort, league members Linda Pilon, Marcia Oganowski and Marti Kleinfelter met with students on November 18th for Government Day at the Clermont Co. Commissioners office. Following a joint lunch with the students, Marcia and Marti presented a hour long program that included what the our League is and what we do. They also discussed the *Now You Are 18* booklet with the students. Marcia talked about Vote411.org and showed an example of the ballot. Two students registered to vote.

In return, students are helping us with the update for the elected officials guide. Students are getting information on officials in our local cities, villages, townships and school districts.

2014-2015

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League of Women Voters Clermont County

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2014 General Meetings

General Meetings and Programs
All Meetings begin at 6:30 pm

December 2
Annual Christmas Dinner
6:00 Social Time
6:30 to 8:00 Dinner
Pinebrook Retirement Living
Wolfpen Pleasant Hill Road,
Miami Township

Open to all League members

GENERAL MEETINGS

January, 2015 No meeting

February 24 Mental Health Services in Clermont County

All meetings begin at 6 pm in the Milford Administrative Building at Five Point.

For more information:
(513)7528011

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
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It's Time to Renew: 2015