



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLEVELAND AREA

ISSUE: 2

VOLUME: 1

MAY –AUGUST 2010

Serving the cities of Berea, Bratenahl, Brook Park, Cleveland, Euclid, Independence, Middleburg Heights, Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Township, and Strongsville

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a member.

Inside this issue:

State ballot issues, Annual Meeting Invite, Articles Program, Budget, and Nominations

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STATE BALLOT ISSUES FOR THE MAY 4th PRIMARY

ISSUE 1: PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO EXTEND THE OHIO THIRD FRONTIER PROGRAM BY AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH - SUPPORT
(Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly)

League Explanation of Issue 1: At the November 8, 2005, General Election, Ohio voters approved an amendment to the Ohio Constitution to, among other things, authorize \$500 million of general obligation bonds to fund research and development. This bond program became part of the Ohio Third Frontier economic development program to create and preserve jobs. The program has focused on developing five key technology clusters: Advanced Energy; Advanced Materials; Biomedical; Instruments, Controls & Electronics; and Power & Propulsion. This amendment would continue funding for the Ohio Third Frontier program. This amendment would: Authorize the state to issue \$700 million of general obligation bonds to renew and continue programs for research and development beginning in fiscal year 2012. *continued on page 3*

You are cordially invited to the

Cleveland Area League's

Annual Meeting

Euclid Public Library

Saturday, May 22, 2010

10 am - 12:30 pm



Please plan to attend this lively meeting and potluck brunch at the Euclid Public Library, 631 East 222 Street, 10 am brunch followed by League business. Join other members as we elect officers and review/vote on the program and budget. See inside this issue for the proposed budget and current LWVC program. Membership dues can be paid at this time.

- From I-90 take the E. 222 St. Exit and go North about one mile
- Free parking is adjacent to the building

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear League Members,

This has been an eventful winter for LWV Cleveland and its members. We were pleased to work with LWV Cuyahoga Area, LWV Shaker Heights, LWV Ohio and Levin School of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University on an imPACT Town Hall at CSU. REDISTRICTING 2011: IT STARTS NOW featured Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, experts on redistricting practices and practicalities, and proponents of the Ohio State Senate and Ohio House of Representatives' proposals for 2011. If you have access to a computer, you can see the program online. Just go to urban.csuohio.edu/forum/ and click on "Events & Media," which is under the orange heading, LEVIN COLLEGE FORUM. Scroll down to 3/10/10, **Redistricting 2011: It Starts Now** and download individual speakers and Power Points.

We know of at least two LWV Cleveland Area members who are participating in the Transition Committees for Cuyahoga County. If you are involved in the Transition Group, we would love to know about your role. All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage you to observe and participate. The special website, **charter.cuyahogacounty.us/** details the calendar, reports, minutes and other information about the ongoing process. If you don't have computer access, your local public library can help you.

This year on Women's Equality Day on August 26, we will be celebrating the LWV 90th birthday along with our sister Leagues, Cuyahoga Area and Shaker Heights. For details, see the Calendar. This will be a chance to meet other leaguers in a relaxed atmosphere just before the September primary for the new County government.

If you belong to an organization that would like to have a candidates forum for the county primary or election, and/or other offices, please contact LWV Cleveland Area and it is part of our service to provide a moderator and guidelines to run an equitable forum.

In League,

Penny Jeffrey
President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 1: Law Day. The LWV is an official alliance member of the American Bar Associations' Law Day, "Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges."

Tuesday, May 4: 2010 Primary Election. See p. --- for LWVO recommendations On Issue 1 (Third Frontier Program) and Issue 2 (Change in casino Central Ohio location).

Saturday, May 22:
LWVC ANNUAL MEETING

Please come to this important meeting/potluck brunch at the Euclid Public Library, 631 East 222 St., 9:30 am. Membership dues can be paid at this time.

Saturday, May 22: Migration Mania at Dike 14 Nature Preserve, 7:30 am – 2 pm, rain or shine. Self-guided hikes along one-mile trail. Wear long pants, long sleeves and sturdy shoes.

Friday, June 11-15: LWVUS Convention in Atlanta, where delegates will elect new national officers, approve the budget and vote on the national program for the next two years.

Thursday, August 26: SAVE THE DATE! On Women's Equality Day, plan to join other Leaguers in the county to celebrate the 90th birthday/anniversary of the founding of the League of Women's Voters. Plans are for an evening cruise on board the Goodtime III, including dinner.

For more information contact:
Cleveland Area League 216-781-8375.

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Y*Continued from page 1***STATE BALLOT ISSUES FOR THE MAY 4TH PRIMARY**

Limit the amount of all state general obligations that may be issued for and the amounts of proceeds from those state general obligations that may be committed to fund research and development to no more than \$225 million in fiscal year 2012 and no more than \$175 million in any fiscal year thereafter.

Require state agencies awarding funding from those state general obligations to obtain independent reviews of and recommendations as to the merits of proposed research and development projects. The Governor, the President and Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives must be provided information regarding the independent reviewer prior to any award. The state agency proposing the award must also notify those officials if the recommendations of an independent reviewer are not adopted by that state agency for the proposed project and the reasons for not adopting those recommendations.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. Issue 1 promotes economic growth and job development by supporting Ohio entrepreneurs and supporting research and development projects that boost the competitiveness of Ohio businesses of all sizes.
2. State agencies awarding funds are required to obtain independent reviews of and recommendations as to the merits of proposed research and development projects.
3. Independent evaluations of the Third Frontier Program confirm that it has proven itself.

Opponents if the proposed amendment argue that:

1. The State of Ohio has a debt limitation in its Constitution to prevent our state government from incurring too much debt and the bonds that would be issued under Issue 1 are not subject to this Constitutional limitation.
2. The additional Third Frontier Program debt will need to be repaid from future state budgets. In repaying the

bonds, legislators lose flexibility in allocating funds for other state services that may be more urgent.

3. The Third Frontier Program allows the State of Ohio to pick winners and losers from the private sector to receive state dollars. While many worthwhile programs may receive funding from this issue, private investments and not public dollars are better situated for such efforts.

ISSUE 2:

**PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
TO CHANGE THE AUTHORIZED LOCATION OF THE
CASINO IN CENTRAL OHIO FROM COLUMBUS TO A
DESIGNATED SITE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY -**

NEUTRAL

(Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of Ohio)

League Explanation of Issue 2: In November of 2009 the voters authorized four casinos to be located in specific locations in Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, and Cincinnati. This amendment authorizes changing the location for the Columbus casino from the downtown Arena District to an abandoned General Motors manufacturing plant on Columbus' West Side.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. Only the location of the casino in Columbus is affected. There is no effect on the casinos approved in Cleveland, Toledo and Cincinnati.
2. Authorizing a change in the location of the Columbus casino will ensure faster development of the casino because fewer infrastructure improvements are needed.
3. The location of the casino would be moved to a community that is in need of economic development and that has demonstrated support for the casino.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

If the amendment approved in November of 2009 is amended, any change should include an increase in the tax revenue the casinos should generate.

LAKE ERIE BASIN COMMITTEE

by Dorothy Cibula, LWVC Secretary

League's Lake Erie Basin Committee (LEBC) is made up of representatives from 32 Leagues from the five states bordering on Lake Erie (Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York). Three meetings are held each year, where discussion focuses on Lake Erie issues such as pollution, invasive species, dredging, dead zones and local environmental problems.

Representatives from the Buffalo-Niagara League have long been concerned about the storage of nuclear waste at West Valley, where the waste products have been stored for about 30 in unlined pits, and some small amounts have leached into Lake Erie. The U.S. E.P.A. has recently been planning to do a "Demonstration Project" at the site, which would involve 2% of the waste products. Residents in the area are hoping for a total clean-up and restoration of the area for future use. This is not likely to happen, partly because nuclear waste is a "not-in-my-backyard" issue. There is simply no place that wants it. Yet nuclear power plans are on the federal government's list of "clean-power" alternatives.

Our nation already has a number of these problem-waste sites, and we all need to be aware of the importance of being open, knowledgeable, responsible discussions of the nation's power requirements. The next LEBC meeting will be held on Weds., April 26, in Ashtabula. In you are interested in attending the meeting, please call the LWVC office at 216-781-8375.

STORMWATER IS IN THE NEWS

by Elva Edger, Director, Environment Committee

Area Leagues have studied urban sprawl, polluted rivers and beaches, Dike 14 and the problem of where to put or use material dredged from the Cuyahoga River and the Cleveland Harbor. All of these tie in with stormwater, the result of heavy rains that wash away grease and oil from paved surfaces and also debris and other pollution. The rains cause erosion of ill-protected stream, drain and riverbanks, thus sending silt into the waters. The debris and pollution end up on our beaches and in Lake Erie. The silt must be dredged from the river and harbor so that the federal shipping channels are deep enough for navigation.

Watershed groups have formed to deal with the health of streams and the lands through which the streams run. Watersheds exist without reference to county boundaries. For instance, the Rocky River Watershed contains portions of five counties.

The multi-county Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District is starting to implement a Stormwater Management Plan. The plan addresses ways to lessen erosion and to increase not only areas where rain will percolate into the soil but also collection spots such as rain gardens, etc.

Local fees, some stimulus money and grants help pay for what needs to be done.

League of Women Voters of the Cleveland Area LOCAL PROGRAM Proposed for 2010-2011

Cleveland City Charter – In the Interest of a More Efficient and Responsible City Government – Support of:

- A. Citizen participation in the redrawing of ward boundaries
- B. The election of a Charter Review Commission each twenty years to review the Charter and submit proposed amendments to the electors
- C. Prohibition of specific pay formulas from becoming part of the City Charter since the Charter should be a basic document dealing with basic principles

Cleveland Public Schools (DBA Cleveland Metropolitan School District) – Support of:

- A. A facilities utilization program, financed by capital funds which will be adequate to meet the changing needs of education in the Cleveland Public Schools
- B. Operating funds sufficient to provide quality integrated education in the Cleveland Public School System
- C. School program sufficient to provide quality integrated education

Cleveland Housing (1969, 1999) – Support of:

- A. Enforcement of the housing code to protect the health and safety of all citizens and routine inspection of every housing unit in the city, adequate staffing of and maintaining of inspectors in the Division of Building and Housing.
- B. The principle of Point of Sale Inspection for the purpose of correcting code violations and maintaining the housing stock
A point of sale ordinance which includes:
 - 1. Access to information for the parties who qualify as low income about programs which offer assistance in the correction of code violations
 - 2. Flexibility to allow owner and purchaser to negotiate responsibility for correction of code violations within a specified time frame
 - 3. Flexibility to consider the intended use of the house after sale for other than residential purposes, negating the need for Point of Sale inspection
- C. Adequate supply of safe and sanitary public housing.
- D. An increase in the supply of affordable housing for moderate income purchasers.

Program continued....

- E. A permanent Housing Court with provisions for adequate funds and efficient operation. Housing Court policies to:
 1. Limit the number of continuances
 2. Enforce the provisions of the 1974 Landlord-Tenant Bill
- F. The Community Reinvestment Act of 1977: continue monitoring in order to prevent weakening by new legislation. Elimination of redline practices by Insurance and Housing Leading industries.
- G. Enforcement of Fair Housing laws

Treatment of Rape Survivors – In the Interest of Considerate, Private Compassionate Treatment – Support of:

- A. A need for specially trained men and women for a rape squad
- B. Public Education on the Ohio rape law and its protection of survivors' and defendants' civil rights
- C. Cooperation with other groups to watchdog court trials and urge publication of places giving aid to rape survivors

Cleveland Civil Service – Support of:

- A. Enforcement of those sections of the City Charter governing:
 1. Classified Civil Service positions to ensure that all employees are selected by merit rather than political patronage
 2. Civil Service examinations to all temporary employees within 90 days of their appointment
- B. Public notices in a variety of places for:
 1. Upcoming tests for Civil Service positions
 2. Certified results of those tests
- C. Distribution to every employee of the City of Cleveland a copy of the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Division and the Personnel Department

Tax Abatement – 1997 – Support of the following:

- Tax abatement in the City of Cleveland should be available only for
 - 1) Newly renovated housing that was vacant or abandoned,
 - 2) Lease-to-own housing,
 - 3) Small neighborhood businesses creating jobs,
 - 4) New owner-occupied homes up to the median price home in the community
- In addition to the municipality's Economic Development Department and its legislative body, community representatives should be part of the negotiation process when a business seeks tax abatement, specifically including representatives from the local school district, county government, local public library system, community college and other nonprofit organizations.
- That portion of property tax earmarked for the local school district should be excluded from as abatement.
- The municipal authority granting tax abatement should be required to implement geographically targeted hiring from the municipality and to publish and widely distribute an annual report to the community on the status of each tax abatement business contract.
- Accountability measures that should be written into tax abatement contracts are
 - 1) clawbacks (the return of tax abatement money if a business does not meet its contractual obligation with the municipality granting the abatement,
 - 2) on-site inspections of all businesses receiving tax abatement,
 - 3) contract cancellation.

Program continued....

1. Have a Board appointed by elected officials, such as mayors and county commissioners
 2. Publicly disclose criteria used to select projects
 3. Give public notice of chosen projects before final acceptance
 4. Invite public comment on proposed projects
 5. *Address possible conflict of interest issues of NEODF staff and board.*
- F. In order to address the disparity of representation on the CCCPA Board, equal numbers of Board members should be appointed by the Mayor of Cleveland and the Cuyahoga County Commissioners, with a final member named by joint agreement.
- G. Public officials who appoint Board members should
1. Require a disclosure statement of each CCCPA Board candidate and member
 2. Conduct periodic reviews of board members' compliance with legal requirements
- H. *Any CCCPA levies should be limited to a duration of not more than five years.*

Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Districts (2007) Support of the following:

Measures to promote the accountability, accessibility, visibility, citizen participation in and coordination of all boards (i.e. authorities, boards, commissions and special districts) connected to Cuyahoga County governance.

- A. Compliance by all boards with all open-meeting and open-records provisions of Ohio Law.
- B. Active involvement and oversight by the appointing officials with the boards they appoint or fund, including (but not limited to) the following administrative strategies:
1. An open appointment process through widely circulated vacancy lists, active recruitment of candidates, safeguards against conflicts of interest, and attention to diverse representation.
 2. A dedicated data center which holds and coordinates the candidate pool and computerizes access to up-to-date board documents, public records and contact information.
 3. Increased public awareness through phone listings, easily accessible websites, media attention and public spotlight.
 4. Ongoing monitoring of board activities through contact with appointees and regular scrutiny of the use of appropriated funds.
- C. Accessible, accountable and transparent actions by all board members and their boards, including (but not limited to) the following practices:
1. All public business done openly, with easy access through websites, email contact, phone listings and publicized meetings.
 2. Regular reports to or conferences with appointing officials, including submission of annual reports, budgets, bylaws and other documents.
 3. Routine accounting for the expenditure of public funds to the officials who appropriated those funds.
 4. Cooperation with all inquiries by appointing officials, the press, service users or interested citizens.
 5. Safeguards against possible conflicts of interest
- D. The establishment of discretionary boards by County Commissioners when there is a

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Program continued.....

demonstrated need, when citizen participation is desired, when a supra-municipal focus is sought, or when Ohio Law permits no preferable alternative.

Dike 14 (2002) – Support of:

The preservation of Dike 14 as a nature preserve with judicious public access, such as nature trails, boardwalks, coastal overlooks, benches, viewing scopes, a hawk tower, and educational/informational signage.

**COUNTY POSITIONS (Originally adopted by the Cuyahoga County ILO)
(2003) Administration of Justice in Cuyahoga County (1971, 1973)**

Support of comprehensive planning, improved bail system, rehabilitation of offenders, alternative handling of some crimes, 'no victim' crimes, improved police-community relations, uniform code of training and conduct, and adequate financing.

Community College (1962, 1964, 1979, 1999)

Support of Cuyahoga Community College as the two-year higher education institution of the County that provides accessible and affordable educational programs and services which meet the needs of the County's population.

County Government (1979)

Support of a structure of county government that would include: a single executive and a responsible representative legislative body; adequate financing for county services and capital improvements; provision of urban services by that level of government that can be most effective.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park (1979)

Support of continued development of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and its restoration and preservation as an open green area.

Natural Resources/Environment – Lake Erie (1966, 1999)

Support restoration and preservation of Lake Erie and its tributaries.

Transportation (1972, 1999)

Support of mass transit as a public service, publicly controlled, with operating costs subsidized to meet the transit needs of all residents of Cuyahoga County, including the special transit needs of senior citizens and handicapped persons.

Support of comprehensive planning by local, county, regional, state and federal governments and agencies in order to achieve policies on transportation, tax structures and allocations that will encourage a sustainable balance between urban areas, farmland and open spaces.

Support of government of Cuyahoga County working with federal, state, regional, and local governments and agencies to develop and implement transportation policies that encourage balanced growth and quality of life.

Health Services (1973, 1983, 1984, 1997)

Support of health care delivery system that provides adequate health care to all residents of Cuyahoga County and effective comprehensive health planning by bodies representative of consumer interest as well as health professionals. Continued evaluation of health care

Continued on page 8....

Program continued....

services for all in Cuyahoga County with particular attention to financing, delivery, distribution, and availability. Support of continuation of health services to the indigent.

EUCLID UNIT – PROPOSED PROGRAM 2010-2011

FINANCING EUCLID PUBLIC LIBRARY: LWVCA supports continuation of recent service levels of Euclid Public Library (EPL). LWVCA believes that Real Property Taxes should augment the state funding to continue adequate support for operation of EPL.

FINANCING CITY OF EUCLID – SEWERS: The Sewer System in Euclid is not adequate. capital improvements needed should be financed by an adequate sewer rate and should be done as funds are available.

FINANCING CITY OF EUCLID – RECREATION: LWVCA believes that there must be two-part sources of revenues in order that there be equity for users and non-users of the recreation program and facilities. Non-residents should be charged higher fees than residents.

1. The total revenue should be sufficient to support all the recreational activities.
2. Improvements should be scheduled to keep the Recreational Facilities in acceptable condition.
3. A totally coordinated recreation budget should be prepared. Each activity should prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The Recreation Department should prepare and publish an annual fiscal report.

SEWAGE TREATMENT: LWVCA supports adequate sewage treatment for Euclid, i.e.: a plant to meet the standard set forth in the state and federal recommendations and strive to meet LWVUS positions.

RECREATION AND PARKS IN EUCLID: LWVCA supports well-located coordinated, environmentally responsible, well-maintained and diverse recreational programs to fulfill the needs of all age groups. The lakefront areas should be used as city park land with maintenance and preservation of green space. The disposition of the recreation facilities at each of the closed schools will depend on the usage of those properties.

CITY OWNED BUILDINGS: LWVCA supports maintenance of the buildings to prevent deterioration: Henn House, Old City Hall.

1. **Old North Street School** Since the Old North Street School has historic value to the City of Euclid and The Euclid Historical Society is charged with preserving Euclid's history, the LWVCA supports designating the Old North Street School as Euclid's primary Historical artifact and the Society should have exclusive use of the building for these activities.
2. **Shore Cultural Centre** The current Shore Cultural Centre usage, although a good start, is limited and needs to increase diversity. For example, the auditorium should be used for more cultural events not just the gymnasium for sports. Since the building is publicly owned, it should be made available for all city groups with a reasonable fee structure (charge less for public service groups, more for businesses). The rationale for the financial structure using both the Shore Cultural Centre (City of Euclid) and The Shore Civic Centre Corporation (Shore Corp.) is valid and has merit for the purpose of the building. If the building is made

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Program continued....

more available for all city groups with a clear cut policy on fees, then it is all right for city funds to be used to underwrite expenses.

LAND USE – PLANNING AND ZONING: Land Use in the City of Euclid encompasses the Master Plan and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

1. LWVCA supports comprehensive long-range planning and effective zoning measures.
2. LWVCA supports the Leagues of Women Voters in Northeast Ohio in opposition to the Lake Erie Regional Transportation Authority proposal for the construction of any jetport facility anywhere in Northeast Ohio.

EDUCATION: LWVCA supports the maintenance of Euclid's education system and taxation necessary to maintain the quality as defined in the study, October 1974, kept active through updating. LWVCA feels there is some extension of services desired: for example, elementary counseling, adequate nursing staff, expanded pupil personnel services, maintenance of average class size of 25 pupils. LWVCA supports a salary schedule that is competitive with other systems in the area, and wholesome working conditions conducive to creative teaching. LWVCA believes public funding should be used for public schools. LWVCA supports a funding system for public elementary and secondary education that is accountable and responsible to the tax payer.

HOUSING IN EUCLID: LWVCA supports:

1. opportunities for adequate housing provided for all levels of family income, and maintained according to Euclid's Housing Code.
2. mandatory inspection of multiple unit dwellings upon application for a certificate of occupancy of said unit. Mandatory re-inspection at a specified period of time. LWVCA opposes a limitation of occupancy based on a definition of "family".

TERM LIMITATION:

LWVCA opposes term limitation for members of the Euclid City Council
LWVCA opposes term limitation for the office of Euclid City Mayor.

NEW JOINT POSITIONS ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AND REGIONAL TAX-BASED REVENUE SHARING

The League of Women Voters of Cleveland Area supports:

1. Voluntary intergovernmental, collaborative agreements which reduce costs, foster transparency and accountability, improve efficiencies and maintain service standards. Such agreements: are appropriate at local, county, metropolitan, multiple-county or regional levels; should be practical and of manageable size and scope; and should demonstrate the interconnectedness of all neighboring communities.
2. Regional tax-base revenue sharing as a constructive form of intergovernmental cooperation for the mutual benefit of participating communities. Such programs should: advance smart growth, economic development and fiscal equity within the target area; impact positively upon infrastructure, housing, education, recreation, inclusion and/or shared public facilities; set standards for finance, staffing and administration that are consistent, accountable, transparent and efficient; pool contributions from an agreed portion of new growth in local commercial and industrial tax revenue; distribute that revenue pool among participating communities to further fiscal equity across the area; honor local sovereignty and school funding resources; be flexible and grow with time. Formulas for collection and allocations should be determined by the participating communities and periodically reviewed.

Nominating Committee Report

Submitted by 2010 Nominating Committee:

Barbara Sones, Chair

Germaine Hahnel

Claire Moore

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Nominating Committee – 2011

Germaine Hahnel, Chair

Doris Geist

Barbara Sones

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
CLEVELAND AREA &
CLEVELAND EDUCATIONAL FUND

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LWVC's Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of the Cleveland Area is committed to achieve a membership representative of the multicultural composition of our city. Membership is open to all persons, age 18 or older, regardless of color, creed, national origin, race or sex. League welcomes the diversity of thought, opinion and ideas reflective of all citizens in our democracy.

