

October 2007

October and November Meetings Focus on Immigration

by Jean Byrd

YOU are the strength of the League of Women Voters. YOU are part of the grassroots foundation that comprises the power of the League. YOU can affect League history this October and November by taking part in the consensus phase of the US Immigration Study.

During the 47th LWVUS Convention in 2006 a two-year Immigration Study was initiated. In the first phase of this study a committee was formed and was given the task of researching the impact of immigration at the local, state, and federal level. The results of the committee's research have been prepared and the study process has now reached the member agreement phase. That means YOU.

It is time for LWVMC to take consensus on results of the committee's research. The resulting position will allow the organization to affect national policy for years to come, just as the League has been doing in other areas for 87 years—it's part of the organization's history, it's part of the organization's foundation. Don't be left out on this chance to participate in formulation of a new US position.

YOU can get started in the study consensus by attending an October Units Meeting. The Evening Unit will review a video of the US forum on immigration. The Dinner group will look at immigration in Columbus and the Morning units will examine the process involved in the Immigration Study. To get a start on these discussions there is a link on the MC website, www.lwvcols.org, to the resource papers prepared by the US Immigration Committee and other background material.

The November General Membership Meeting, *Coming to Consensus on Immigration*, will be a follow-up to the October Units. To finish the study consensus process, the LWVUS asks each local League to submit one response to represent the consensus of that League's members. The November meeting will culminate with the MC membership coming to consensus on the position questions presented by the National League. YOU can be a part of it all by adding your voice to this process. Watch for details coming soon about the November General Membership Meeting.

Change to October Units Schedule

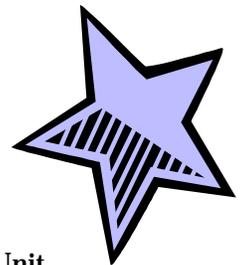
Please note the Evening Unit will meet at the Grandview Library at 7:00 PM on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25. Sorry for any inconvenience. There are no changes to the other Unit meetings.

The Morning Unit will meet at Wesley Glen Retirement Center at 9:00 AM on Thursday October 18.

The Dinner Unit will meet at Wings in Bexley at 5:30 PM on Wednesday October 24.

A portion of the each meeting will be set aside to discuss the Units. These are your Units, so please attend one to provide your opinion on topics such as the time, location, and theme of your Unit.

If you can not attend in October and want to have input, please contact **Stuart Wright** at stuartwright@gmail.com, or **Jean Byrd** at 614-261-0601.



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

by Kitty Burcsu



Women are the most powerful force reshaping the future of America. Stronger than political parties, mightier than religious differences, able to leap cultural schisms in a single bound, women are quietly exerting a unified power to make changes in our culture and in commerce, meeting in the middle to achieve their goals. But they're not using traditional means such as getting together and voting or banging on closed doors to demand equal access. In virtually every arena where American women are causing a sea change, they are bypassing the traditional settings that ignore their needs and are creating parallel circuits, which, in turn, then affect the old standards. Across political, religious, racial, and class differences, this new, vital, female center is heralding the most significant change in American culture in the past century.

This attention-getting paragraph is from the book jacket of a thought-provoking, insightful book: *What Women Really Want: How American Women Are Quietly Erasing Political, Racial, Class, and Religious Lines to Change the Way We Live*. The

authors of this book, Celinda Lake and Kellyanne Conway, will be in

Columbus to speak on Tuesday, October 30, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, at the Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road.

After the presentation by Lake and Conway, a panel of distinguished women leaders will pose questions to the authors. Panel

members are: Lynne Bowman, executive director, Equality Ohio; Jean Droste, Board member, The Women's Fund of Central Ohio; Cindy Lazarus, president & CEO, YWCA Columbus; Rebecca Nelson, assistant VP and director, The Multicultural Center, The Ohio State University; and Dr. Jacqueline Jones Royster, executive dean, Colleges of the Arts & Sciences, The Ohio State University. There will also be time for questions from the audience. A reception will follow.

This event, sponsored by the Women's Place, The Ohio State University, is free and open to the public. LWVMC is pleased to be a partner in this event and I am honored to serve as the moderator for the panel.

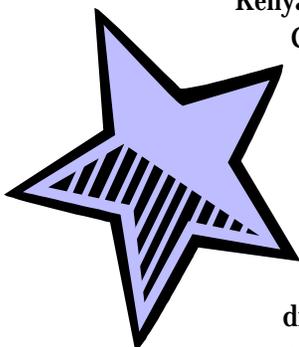
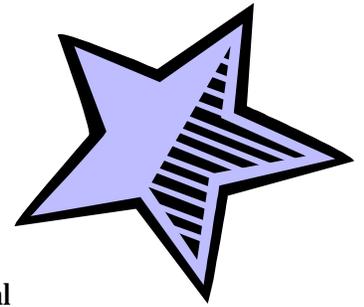
I am extending a personal invitation to all League members to participate in this stimulating event. Hope to see you on October 30!

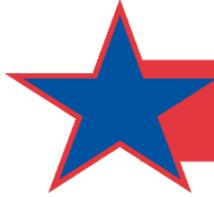
Voter Service Committee Report by Janyce C. Katz

A big THANK YOU to the League members who volunteered for the voter registration drives held in August and September. They are: **Esther Connors, Kathy Dougherty, Jane Young, Jan Patton, Nancy Brown, Gloria Davis, Peg Rosenfield, Karen O'Neil, Alice Jackson, Ann Henkener, Janyce Katz, Barb Hykes, Cathy Elkins, Angela Anderson, Mary Helen Hart, Barbara Daniel, Jean Byrd, Paige Kohn, Scott Britton, Lucy Buzzee, and Jerolyn Barbee.**

Be sure to look for your copy of the *Voter Information Bulletin* in the mail the week of October 22, and in *The Columbus Dispatch* on Sunday, October 28. The *VIB* is your source for informed voting.

The Columbus Voter (USPS 318-990) (Vol 39, Issue #3) is published ten times a year by the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus, PO Box 130, Blacklick, Ohio 43004 for \$5.00 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Columbus OH. Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Columbus Voter*, PO Box 130, Blacklick, Ohio 43004. President: Kitty Burcsu. Editor: Cheryl Markino. Deadline is the 13th day of the month for the following month's issue. Submit copy and photos to cherylmarkino@ee.net.





FREE TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

**The Franklin County Consortium
for Good Government**

Presents

“Meet The Candidates” FORUM

All forums moderated by local news anchors from
NBC 4 ☆ WSYX-TV 6 ☆ WBNS-10TV ☆ WOSU

★ Evening Forum Hours

Reception/Refreshments 6:30-7:00 PM
Program 7:00 PM

★★ Morning Forum Hours

Reception/Refreshments 9:30-9:45 AM
Program 9:45 AM

- ★ **TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 9, 2007**
Temple Beth Shalom
5089 Johnstown Road, New Albany, OH
- ★ **THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 11, 2007**
Temple Israel
5419 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH
- ★ ★ **FRIDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 12, 2007**
Jewish Community Center
1125 College Avenue, Columbus, OH
- ★ **TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 16, 2007**
Brookwood Presbyterian Church
2685 East Livingston Ave., Columbus, OH
- ★ **WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 17, 2007**
Corpus Christi Church
1111 East Stewart Avenue, Columbus, OH
- ★ **THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 18, 2007**
Broad Street Presbyterian Church
760 East Broad Street Columbus, OH
- ★ **TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 23, 2007**
Prairie Township Senior Center
4656 West Broad Street, Columbus, OH
- ★ **WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 24, 2007**
St. Joan of Arc Church
10700 Liberty Road, Powell, OH
- ★ **THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 25, 2007**
Congregation Beth Tikvah
6121 Olentangy River Road, Worthington, OH
- ★ ★ **MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 29, 2007**
Haimerl Center 1421 Morse Road
(west of the old Northland Mall location)
Sponsored by Northland Community Council
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(west of the old Northland Mall location)
Sponsored by Northland Community Council

SPONSORS:

- Brookwood Presbyterian Church**
- Columbus Jewish Federation**
- League of Women Voters Metro**
- Columbus Educational Fund**
- National Council of Jewish Women**
- Office for Social Concerns Catholic**
- Diocese of Columbus**
- Broad Street Presbyterian Church
- Congregation Beth Tikvah
- Corpus Christi Catholic Church
- Leo Yassenoff Jewish Community Center
- Northland Community Council
- Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church
- St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
- Temple Beth Shalom
- Temple Israel
- AAUW Worthington Branch
- Agudas Achim
- American Jewish Committee
- Ascension Lutheran
- Berwick Civic Association
- Beth Jacob Synagogue
- Black Catholic Ministries
- Business & Professional Women, Columbus Ch.
- Children's Hunger Alliance
- Christ Lutheran Church
- Columbus Business & Professional Women
- Columbus Metropolitan Area Church Council
- Godman Guild Association
- Goodwill Columbus
- Greater Hilltop Area Commission
- Hadassah
- House of Hope
- Jewish Family Services
- Mid-Ohio District Nurses Association
- National Assoc. of Women Business Owners
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Northland Area Business Association
- Ohio Conference for Fair Trade
- Ohio League of Conservation Voters Ed Fund
- ORT America
- PACE
- Tifereth Israel
- United Way of Central Ohio
- Vaud Villities

Supporters/Co-Sponsors:

- Agudas Achim Sisterhood • Association of New Americans
- Ballet Met Columbus • Common Cause/Ohio
- Congregation Torah Emat • Main Street Synagogue
- JEBBA • Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio

See website www.franklincountyconsortium.com
for list of races covered at forum locations

**THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION EVENTS
OF THE SEASON- FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL (614) 837-1089**

Media
Sponsors:

**NBC 4
WBNS-10TV
WOSU
WSYX-TV Channel 6**

Absentee Ballots

Any qualified Ohio voter may request an absentee ballot without stating a reason. The ballot must be applied for in writing. If you are properly registered to vote, you must submit your written request to the County Board of Elections. Your request must contain your original signature and certain information. You may, but are not required to, use the application form prescribed by the Ohio Secretary of State (Form 11-A).

Your written application for the absentee ballot must contain all of the following information: your name; your signature; the address at which you are registered to vote; your date of birth; one of the following - your drivers license number, or the last four digits of your social security number, or a copy of your current and valid photo identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address; a statement identifying the election for which absentee voter's ballots are requested; a statement that you are a qualified elector; and if you want the ballots to be mailed, the address to which you want them mailed.

To apply by mail, your request for an absentee ballot must be received by the Board of Elections no later than noon on the Saturday before the election.

Your completed ballot must be at the Board of Elections by 7:30 PM on the day of the election. A ballot postmarked by that date but not delivered to the Board of Elections till after that date will not be counted.

Starting 35 days before the General Election on November 6, you may vote in person at the Franklin County Board of Elections, 280 E. Broad Street, Room 100, Columbus 43215.

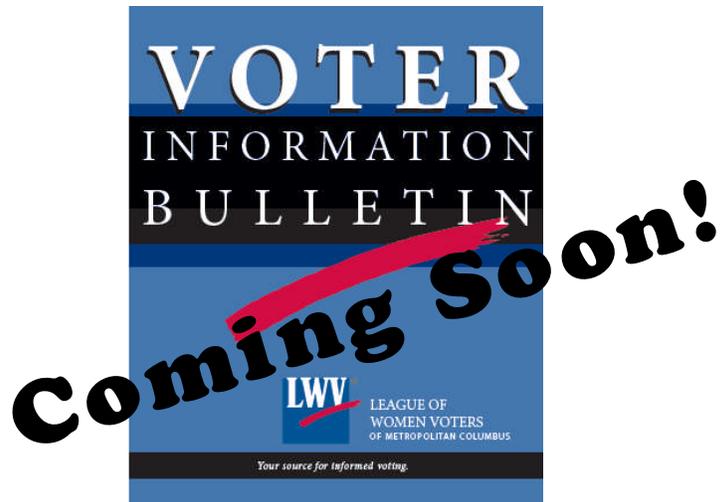
Volunteer for the LWVMC/10-TV Election Day Phone Bank

On Election Day you can have a direct impact not only by casting your ballot, but also by volunteering for the LWVMC Phone Bank at the WBNS-10TV studio.

Please consider being part of this long-standing voter education effort by volunteering a few hours of your time on Election Day. If you haven't participated in this voter service project in the past, you will find it is great fun, very rewarding, and quite simple.



League Member **Mary Helen Hart** is coordinating volunteers to staff phone lines at the TV station throughout the day on November 6, starting at 6:30 AM. Volunteers will work a minimum of two hours. If you are able to help, contact Mary Helen at 614-262-8461; 614-264-6901; or maheha57@gmail.com.



Don't Forget to Take ID to the Polls



When you vote on November 6, you'll be asked to show identification. State law which requires all voters to show identification at the polling place was first implemented last year.

At the polls when you verify your address, pollworkers are trained to accept several types of identification. Acceptable forms of ID are bank statements; utility bills; paychecks; and any government-issued document showing your current address. In addition, you may also use your Ohio driver's license or Ohio photo ID—even if it shows a previous address.

For more information, visit www.TakeIDOhio.org.

GET INVOLVED

To sign up or for more details about any of these opportunities, contact League Administrator **Amy Pulles** at 614-837-1089 or lwwcols@iwaynet.net.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Present information to various audiences about voting (absentee ballots, how to get information, what to look for on the ballot, etc.)
Dates/times based on need.

PHONE BANK

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 6

6:30 am - 7:00 pm

[two-hour shift minimum, please]

WBNS-10TV Studio

770 Twin Rivers Drive

For details, contact Mary Helen Hart at 614-262-8461; 614-264-6901; or maheha57@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

LWVMC Voter Service

Democracy in Action 2008

ADVOCACY

Become an LWVO Energy Conservation volunteer. Help gather information on energy conservation with a simple survey for local school districts, libraries, city and county governments. Call Al Rosenfield, 614-486-8892, or Jean Byrd, 614-261-0601, for information.

Civic Engagement Crucial for a Healthy Democracy

League Celebrates Anniversary of Constitution Signing

September 17 marked the 220th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. As part of its efforts nationwide to highlight the crucial elements of our democracy, the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) held events with students and other groups across the country.

“Constitution Day marks an important opportunity for us to reflect upon the democratic foundations we still rely on today,” said national League President Mary G. Wilson. “It is essential for Americans to remember key ideals such as responsive government, individual liberties and the separation of powers, especially an independent judicial branch. It is our responsibility to teach those lessons to future generations, and also to ensure our leaders are actively protecting the basic civil liberties we fought to obtain.”

Wilson noted for more than 87 years, League members all over the country have worked hands-on to preserve and strengthen the democratic system. “Constitution Day serves as an important reminder of that work, and inspires us to keep working to build a better democracy,” she said.

This year’s Constitution Day events were part of a joint effort by the League of Women Voters’ national *Safeguarding US Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary* program, the Constitution Project and Justice at Stake. As part of this project, events in nearly 20 states promoted citizen understanding of the importance of separation of powers and checks and balances as provided for by the US Constitution.

State League Offers E-News

If you’re a true policy wonk, you can subscribe to the League of Women Voters of Ohio’s (LWVO) monthly *Legislative Update* consisting of bills that are currently tracked by the League’s Lobby Corps.

Another option, especially if you are interested in education, is the *Education Update* written by LWVO Education Lobbyist **Joan Platz**.

Plus, twice a month on the first and third Wednesdays, you can receive updated information on a key issue the League is currently addressing. Sometimes the topic will be plucked from one of the five imPACT reform issues: accountability, redistricting, elections, judicial, and campaign finance. At other times, another concern is in the spotlight.

To subscribe to the *Legislative Update*, *Education Update*, and/or *Spotlight On*, send an e-mail to lwwinfo@lwwohio.org.



Mark Your Calendar...



- October 2** **LWVMC Beyond the Units**, Tour of the Community Shelter Board
- October 8** **LWVMC Board Meeting**
- October 9** **Registration Deadline** to be eligible to vote in the November 6 General Election
- October 9** **LWVO Lobby Lunch** (*2nd and 4th Tuesdays*) 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, Trinity Episcopal Church, 125 E. Broad Street, downtown Columbus, all invited
- October 18** **LWVMC Morning Unit**, Wesley Glen Retirement Center, 9:00 AM
- October 23** **LWVO Lobby Lunch** (*2nd and 4th Tuesdays*) 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, Trinity Episcopal Church, 125 E. Broad Street, downtown Columbus, all invited
- October 24** **LWVMC Dinner Unit**, Wings Restaurant, Bexley, 5:30 PM
- October 25** **LWVMC Evening Unit**, Grandview Public Library, 7:00 PM
- October 30** **What Women Really Want: How American Women Are Quietly Erasing Political, Racial, Class, and Religious Lines to Change the Way We Live**, 4:00-6:00 PM, Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road, free and open to the public
- November 6** **General Election**, polls are open 6:30 AM-7:30 PM
- November 6** **LWVMC/WBNS -10TV Phone Bank**



No Internet? No Problem

If you are not connected to the Internet and see a link to information that you have interest, please contact **Amy Pulles** at the LWVMC office, 837-1089, and she will mail you copies of any information you want. All League members deserve access to the same materials.