

# ***The Oxford Voter*** – January 2010

*Making Democracy Work* - League of Women Voters of Oxford, Ohio

## **Happy New Year!**

The Board of Directors wishes you a Happy New Year and hope that you had a joyful holiday.

## **Program Planning**

I hope you saved the date—Saturday, January 23, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Faith Lutheran Church. That's when we will participate in program planning insuring that the League of Women Voters remains a grassroots organization. We will examine national and local positions under the following headings: Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy. Then we will decide if we want to make any changes. These positions are the basis for LWV advocacy.

Please go to [www.oxford.oh.lwvnet.org](http://www.oxford.oh.lwvnet.org) (check the Spotlight section) to download the LWVUS and LWVOx positions. Before the meeting review them so that we can have a lively and informed conversation. For Leaguers who get a hard copy of this Voter, the positions will be included in the mailing to you.

After discussing the existing positions we will recommend **one** of the following for the national positions and **one** for the local positions. Then we will send our recommendations to the national and local boards of directors.

- Review an existing position;
- Conduct a new study or program item;
- Concur with an existing position from another League;
- No change.

Finally, if you think that a position needs review or that a new study should be proposed, consider the resource commitment of money and volunteer time to do that work, and ask: does the issue

- Have widespread member interest?
- Is it timely?
- Is government action the most effective way to address the problem?

If you cannot attend the meeting please email [programvp@oxford.oh.lwvnet.org](mailto:programvp@oxford.oh.lwvnet.org) with your recommendation for the national and local positions.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on the 23<sup>rd</sup> in the fellowship hall at Faith Lutheran Church, 420 S. Campus Ave. Park behind the church or beside the fraternity next door. Parking across the street demands a Miami parking pass. There will be a light breakfast and time for socializing with fellow Leaguers.

See you then.

*Mary Jo Clark*

Program Vice President

## **Making Democracy Work**

*The League of Women Voters of Oxford reaffirms our commitment to diversity and pluralism which means that there are and shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability*

### **Election Lawsuit Monitoring Project**

In June 2009, the State of Ohio settled a four-year-old lawsuit with the League of Women Voters of Ohio, the League of Women Voters of Toledo-Lucas County, and 12 individual plaintiffs. The lawsuit asserted that Ohio's voting system arbitrarily denied its citizens the right to vote or made voting more difficult based on where they lived, and was so unfair as to deny Ohioans' fundamental right to vote. *The settlement agreement outlines a number of terms with which the Secretary and, by extension, county boards of elections must comply during the five-year settlement period.*

*LWVO has asked local Leagues across Ohio to engage their county boards of elections in a cooperative effort to ensure that every eligible voter can vote and that every qualified vote is counted. This process will take the form of multiple interviews and examination of documents over the five-year period.*

*The League of Women Voters of Oxford is taking part in the initial activity of this project. Members Steve Dana and Sue Momeyer will be interviewing the Director of the Butler County Board of Elections in January. The goal of the interviews is to capture snapshots around the state of what new systems county boards implemented in the most recent election and is essential if we are to achieve full compliance within the next year.*

*We will update you on the project as it evolves.*

*Steve Dana, Chair  
Government*

### **Keep Up to Date**

**Go to our website: <http://oxford.oh.lwvnet.org>**

- Get updates of LWVOx events
- Check out "In the Spotlight"
- Read current and back issues of *The Oxford Voter*
- Consider LWVOx Positions and Studies
- View the online Government Services Directory and Voter Information Guide
- Get up to date election information

*Helen Gorman, webmaster*