



The Oxford Voter – March 2010

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

Save the Date

The 57th Annual Convention of the League of Women Voters of Oxford will be held Tuesday, April 27 at 7 p.m. in the LCNB Community Room. Please save the date and plan to attend. We will discuss a proposed new study and changes to our local program positions, in addition to electing new board members and approving next year's budget.

The convention packet will be sent to you electronically a month before the meeting. Hard copies of the packet will be mailed to members without computer access.

Proposed New Local Study

The group which reviewed LWVOx local positions on Natural Resources at the annual Program Planning meeting January 23, 2010 noted a conspicuous lack of a position on energy. Given the critical and urgent need for our nation to reduce its energy consumption and emission of greenhouse gases, this group proposed that LWVOx conduct a study of residential energy use in Oxford. (Energy use by Miami University and by the City of Oxford municipal buildings and services has been investigated recently by students in the Institute of Environmental Sciences at Miami University.)

Our group was interested in determining:

What is the carbon footprint of Oxford residences?

What are the relative contributions (e.g. heating? cooling?) to residential energy consumption in Oxford?

What are the original sources of energy provided to Oxford? Coal? Natural gas? Nuclear?

How might the community benefit from knowing the sources of our energy?

Are there alternative sources of energy (e.g. wind, solar, geothermal) for Oxford?

How can Oxford residences reduce energy consumption?

Can residences such as houses which have been converted to apartments be retrofitted to take advantage of new energy technologies?

How does energy use impact lower income families? Is the community helping people with low-income pay for their utilities?

This study could include:

Partnering with other groups in the community such as the Interfaith Global Warming group.

Asking Glenwood Energy and/or Duke Energy to give a presentation on residential energy conservation.

Requesting the involvement of students from the Institute of Environmental Sciences at Miami University in investigating the carbon footprint of Oxford residences.

New Technology Coming to LWVOx

LWVOx will be having a FaceBook page and a members' only site on the local League website. The FaceBook page will be online by the Annual Convention, April 27. It will be a public page that will include information about upcoming events, an opportunity for visitors to the page to discuss issues important to League and it will also be an opportunity for potential members to learn about League. In order to make comments on the page you will have to be a member of FaceBook. Arianne Hartsell-Gundy has offered to administer it.

Helen Gorman, our Web Master, has explored the possibility of having a members-only site on our webpage with our website service provider. It is up and running. To access the page type <http://oxford-members.oh.lwvnet.org> in your web browser. On the members-only site you will soon find copies of the board and executive committee minutes, the Annual Convention packet and any other items that we decide are important to share with members.

PHONATHON: A WIN-WIN FOR LWVO AND LWVOx

Last month we received letters from LWV of Ohio asking us to support them financially. Your Board of Directors decided to encourage you to donate directly to LWVO, but not to call you, as the name Phonathon implies. The Board also decided to make a \$100 donation to the campaign in the name of the League of Women Voters of Oxford.

Reasons to support LWVO are numerous. This year, our state League was widely recognized in news articles that 1) identified League as a major force in keeping the issue of redistricting reform alive in the legislature and 2) acknowledged the role that the League's lawsuit had in forcing vital election administration reforms. The general public doesn't differentiate among the three levels of League and so every time the Ohio League is praised in an editorial, our own credibility as a force for good government is enhanced.

There are other mutual benefits from a strong state League. They offer training opportunities and membership recruitment help to make us both stronger. They give us advice and information about topics like government accountability or regionalism that we can turn into relevant programs. Perhaps most importantly, they provide all of our Voter Guide materials on statewide issues and candidates.

Finally, in addition, to the benefits LWVO gets from your donation, the League of Women Voters of Oxford also benefits from your gift. By supporting LWVO our League will receive 15% of all Phonathon donations received by May 1, 2010.

In short, each level of League deserves whatever support we can give. Please consider this when you respond to the LWVO Phonathon appeal.

Mary Jo Clark
Program Vice President

Rescheduled: Redistricting Forum---Creating a Level Playing Field For All

On Wednesday, March 17, the League will present the forum, originally slated for February 16, on the redistricting of legislative boundaries in Ohio. Joan Lawrence, former member of the General Assembly and contributing author of a joint resolution to establish a legislative commission to redraw the state's legislative boundaries, will conduct a discussion about the need for redistricting and the status of efforts to accomplish it.

We are honored to have Ms. Lawrence conduct this forum. She served in the State Legislature for 16 years. She was the chief sponsor of a bill on welfare reform, a bill that Newsweek cited as one of the best in the nation. She was elected to her ninth term when Governor Taft asked her to direct the Ohio Department of Aging.

We emphasize that this forum will be conducted as a discussion rather than a lecture. Bring your questions!

The forum will take place at the LCNB Community Room at 7:30 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Steve Dana, Government

League Supports Lane Library Tax Levy

By now, you have no doubt heard that public libraries in Ohio have suffered large budget cuts. Under normal circumstances, public libraries receive adequate financial support from the State of Ohio. But due to the economic slowdown, Ohio tax collections have suffered. For the first time, Lane Public Library is seeking the support of local citizens through a tax levy. When you visit Lane in Oxford, please look for a levy information sheet located at the circulation desk.

The League in Oxford has had a local program position about libraries since a local study was completed in 1970. As a member of the library study committee, I remember well that we came to understand how necessary it was to support improved facilities, funding, and programs in Oxford. On February 17 of this year, our League Board discussed the tax levy, which will appear on the May primary ballot. The Board unanimously endorsed support for the levy. There is a community-wide campaign committee working for passage of the issue. If any member would like to volunteer to help, please contact Prue and Steve Dana, who are local campaign leaders. Other communities in the Lane Library district are also working on this campaign.

Please plan to vote in the May primary election and support the Lane Library tax levy.

Sondra Engel, Member and Library supporter

No New GSD in 2010

Since there were so few changes to the Government Services Directory this year, the board decided to save on printing costs, and members' energies, by not printing a 2010 GSD. Here is a 2010 update which you can cutout and attach to your 2009 GSD. For those with grey hair and good memories, you may recall that this is what we regularly used to do in the even years when there were no new national elected representatives to add to the directory.

Karen DeLue, Voter Service Chair

2010 UPDATES for the Oxford Area Government Service Directory

City Council

Richard Keebler - Mayor
Bob Blackburn 11/2013
Kenneth Bogard 11/2013
John Harmon 11/2013
Kevin McKeehan 11/2013

Talawanda School Board

Mary Jane Roberts 12/2013
Lois Vollmer 12/2013

Township Trustees

(All incumbents reelected except in Milford Twp)
Milford - Brad Mills 12/2013

City of Oxford Boards and Commissions

Find updates at www.cityofoxford.org

2010 ELECTIONS

PRIMARY: Tuesday, May 4th

GENERAL: Tuesday, Nov. 2nd

Polls open 6:30am-7:30pm