



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.

The Oxford Voter

September, 2014

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Save the Dates

- **Wednesday September 24th**, 7:00 pm at the Lebanon National Bank Community Room: Public program on the “Local Option for Municipal Aggregation to be on November Ballot”
- **Saturday October 4th** at Kroger: Voter Registration Drive
- **Wednesday October 8th**, 7:00 pm -9:00 pm at the Knolls: Candidates Forum
- **October 12th-14th** at Miami University: Freedom Summer Conference
- **Tuesday November 4th**: Election Day
- **Wednesday January 21st**: Program on Social Policy
- **Saturday February 7th**: Program Planning Meeting
- **Wednesday March 18th**: Program on Local Government Finance



Fall Kick-off Meeting for the Oxford League of Women Voters September 24

The meeting will be a double-feature.

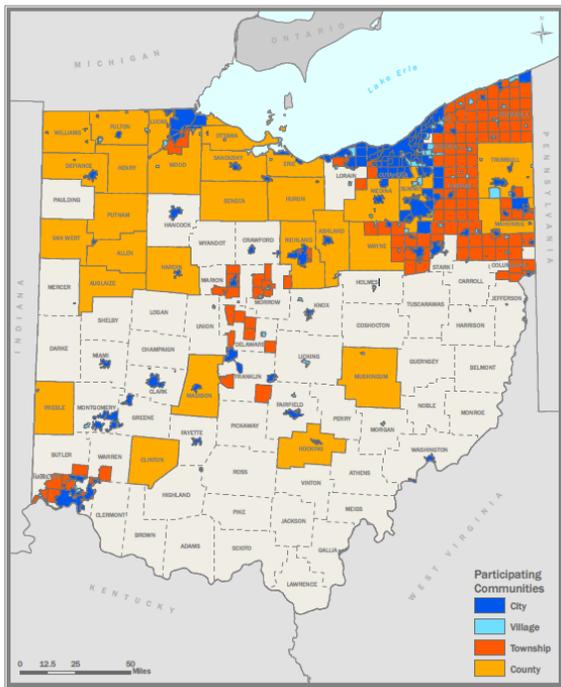
1. Starting at 7:00 pm we will have a presentation of the Freedom Summer “Roadshow”. A member of the Freedom Summer Conference planning committee will be giving the Roadshow.
2. Then at 7:30 we will have a panel discussion focusing on “Municipal Aggregation of Electricity on the November Ballot! “

After our two years of study, our request to City Council has been successful. Our most recent study and position, adopted in 2013, supported "locally initiated community-based collaborative projects for energy conservation." Thus, we are excited about and support the city's ballot initiative to aggregate the purchase of electricity for our community. Municipal aggregation means the joining together of many residents of a municipality to form a buying group. Residents of the City of Oxford will have the opportunity to vote in November on a proposal that the city aggregate the purchase electricity for residents that would both save us money and support energy conservation.

How would that work? The City would negotiate a contract with a Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) certified electric provider to achieve the most economical rates for City of Oxford customers. By aggregating demand, we--the City--have more buying power and can negotiate contract details that not only stress a good price, but also support environmentally-sound suppliers who use renewable energy sources.

This method of purchasing electrical power for a municipality began in Northeast Ohio in 2001. It is now being adopted throughout our State (see the map) because aggregation saves residents money as well as protects the

Electric Government Aggregators in Ohio 



environment. In the 2012 aggregation plan for Cincinnati, according to *The Columbus Dispatch* (15 May 2014), residents saved an estimated \$50.00 a year per family with 100% of their energy sources being renewable.

The citizens of the City of Oxford will be asked in November to approve the adoption of an opt-out program for the aggregated purchase of electricity in our community. That means that all residents would be automatically enrolled unless they individually opt-out (choose not to be included) in the program. If a majority of voters say "yes" in November to the aggregated purchase of electricity for Oxford, the City must follow with a proposed plan and hold two public meetings where citizens can voice questions and concerns about the plan. When the final plan is adopted, the City must notify all residents that they will be included unless they opt-out.

The September 24 program will feature City Manager Doug Elliot along with a representative from Eagle Energy LLC, the consultant chosen by the City. They will explain the expected benefits for the residents of the City of Oxford, the process of

adoption, and the details of the program. After their presentation there will be a question and answer time.

Sandi Woy Hazelton, Natural Resources



Voter Services in Full Swing

VIG News

Thanks to the hard work of Prue Dana, Helen Gorman, Rhonda Jackson and Deborah Gross from the *Oxford Press*, the 2014 Voter Information Guide is underway. We anticipate a release date in early October in preparation for the November 6, 2014 election. Again this year we will distribute copies throughout the Oxford community, 2500 copies will go to the Talawanda School district for "Kids Voting" and we will have 500 copies available at Miami's *Freedom Summer Conference*, October 11-14, 2014. We are still gathering information from the candidates but plan on wrapping up the data collection this up by September 12, 2014. Be

looking for the 2014 Voter Information Guide in early October and please share the guide with friends, family and those you know who are politically engaged and looking for information on the candidates and their positions.

Candidates Forum

We are excited to announce our 2014 Candidates Forum. We look forward to many of the candidates participating in our Candidates Forum on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, 7 to 9 pm at the Knolls of Oxford, 6727 Contreras Road, Oxford, Ohio. We hope many League members will attend and listen to and participate in this open forum. Candidates for Judges positions, County Commissioner, County Auditor, Federal and State Representatives will attend to introduce themselves and answer questions from the audience. The Forum will be recorded and rebroadcast on public television channel 19.

Please email if you have questions or would like to help out at the Candidates Forum on October 8, 2014 (lwvoxford@gmail.com)

Voter Registration

The League will have participated in four voter registration events by the October 6th deadline for registration. The League's first event was held on August 26, 2014 during Miami's Welcome Week. We were thrilled to register 52 voters in the new Armstrong Center on Miami's campus. Our second event was held on August 28th during the annual Oxford Police Department's "Pig Roast". We are pleased to host a voter registration tables at the upcoming UniDiversity Festival on September 12th and at Kroger's in Oxford on Saturday, October 4th. All of these events would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of so many League members. Thank you to everyone who helped out with registering voters this year.

Rhonda Jackson, Voter Service Vice President



Registration during Women's Equality Day, August 26 in Armstrong Center on Miami's campus.



Freedom Summer Conference

Many of you may know that Miami University is hosting a Freedom Summer Conference from October from October 11th-14th. Here is a description of the conference: “The year 2014 will inspire celebration and reflection as the nation recognizes the 50th year of the Mississippi Summer Project. In 1964, participants gathered at Western College for Women (now part of Miami University) to train before working in Mississippi. Miami University will host a reunion of leaders and volunteers who participated in these historic events and a national conference of scholars and activists. Linking the past to current student activism, we will explore the continual significance of Freedom Summer as a model for change, progress and uplift.”

There are a variety of community events and lectures that people can attend. You can find a list of events here: <http://westernarchives.lib.miamioh.edu/freedomsummer/conference/schedule> (note that our “Remarkable Stantons” exhibit is listed as an option for participants on Sunday evening).

Our League has also supported the conference with a donation, and we are acknowledged on their website: <http://westernarchives.lib.miamioh.edu/freedomsummer/conference/about/>

During our September 24th meeting we will have a “roadshow” about Freedom Summer, and we will get more details about this conference.

Arianne Hartsell-Gundy, Organization Vice President



Housing Survey Reported Out

The Oxford Housing Advisory Commission meeting will feature a presentation of the results of the recent senior housing survey. The meeting will take place on September 23, 2014 in the LCNB Community Room at 7 pm. This is a joint-effort between the Oxford Housing Advisory Commission and Scripps Gerontology Center to look at the preference of housing choices by the seniors. Ms. Sherry Lind, a graduate student from the Gerontology Department and the author of the survey, will provide a detailed analysis of the result of the survey.

Ms. Lind will also make her presentation before the Council meeting on September 16, 2014 to give an overview and some key points of the survey.

Prue Dana



Welcome Sibyl Harris-Miller

Former social worker and past executive director of the YWCA of Hamilton, Sibyl Harris-Miller has recently joined the Oxford League of Women Voters. Currently Sibyl and her husband Bill raise organic grass fed beef cattle on their farm in Morning Sun, Ohio.

Community involvement as past president of Oxford United Way, social justice issues, organic farming and creating an ecologically sustainable environment are her passions in which she invests a lot of energy and time.



In 1963 Sibyl attended the original March on Washington. Bill and Sibyl went to North Carolina in 1964 and 1965 to register voters. The Millers were present at Miami in Oxford during the training of the Summer Freedom volunteers. They enthusiastically supported the mission and socialized with the participants, enjoying the camaraderie, believing in the cause.

Among her many responsibilities in community activities, Sibyl has been busy working on the Freedom Summer National Conference Planning Committee. In October Miami will host a 3-day conference entitled, "50 Years After Freedom Summer: Understanding the Past, Building the Future". She took time out of her busy schedule to answer a few questions for "The Voter".

When did you join the League? Less than a year ago.

Why did you join the Oxford League of Women Voters and what is your current role with the League? I was asked to serve on the research group looking at GMO's and other agricultural issues. I realized in order to be a credible panelist, I needed to become a member. I had always intended to join.

What issues would you like to see the League focusing on? Voter rights and voter suppression that is back in vogue.

What do you find most rewarding about being a League member? The camaraderie with others who take seriously their responsibilities and opportunities as citizens of this country.

What do you think is the biggest issues voters face? Encroaching threats to Democracy, such as Citizens United and growing corporate influence on the electoral process.

Are you involved in any other community organizations? NAACP, OEFFA and MOON, Ohio Farmers Union, OCPJ, Humane Society of the US, Strippel Continuing Dialogue on Social Justice, Freedom Summer National Conference Planning Committee, St. Mathew Lutheran Church in Darrrtown, Board member of the United Way of Oxford, Ohio and vicinity.

What interests do you have outside of the League? Organic farming, a wide range of social justice issues, children and grandchildren, and swimming.

Linda Simmons and Sally Southard, Membership