



# THE VOTER

The Monthly Publication of the League of Women Voters of Toledo Lucas County  
founded 1921

October 2009

## October: LWVTLC Looks at Environmental Issues

### 2009 Calendar

#### October

7 *Candidates Forum: Springfield Twp. Trustees & Village of Holland Council. 11:45 am to 1:15 pm at Holland Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Strawberry Acres Park.*

15 *Candidates Forum: Whitehouse Village Council & Anthony Wayne School Board. 7:00 pm at Anthony Wayne H.S. 5967 Finzel Rd. in Whitehouse.*

*LWVTLC Board Meeting 6pm  
Membership Meeting 7pm  
speaker Dr. Stacy Philpott, Ast. Prof. Ecology UT...see article  
at E. Jay Murphy's house: 2403 Barrington Dr. Toledo.*

20 *Candidates Forum: Toledo Public School Board. 6:30pm DeVeaux Middle School, North auditorium. 2626 W. Sylvania Ave., Toledo.*

21 *Lake Erie Basin Committee 10am to 2pm at Lake Erie Research Center, 6200 Bayshore Rd. Oregon*

22 *Candidates Forum: Springfield Brd of Education, Springfield Twp. Trustees & Village of Holland Council. 6:00 to 7:30pm at Springfield H.S. auditorium*

#### November

3 *General Election*

19 *LWVTLC Board Meeting 7 pm, Bonnie Bishop's house 2676 Algonquin Pkwy. Toledo*

#### December

8 *Noon - Holiday luncheon w/BG & P'burg LWV*

17 *LWV Toledo-Lucas County holiday dinner*

***The Lake Erie Basin Committee comes to town for its October 21 meeting and members to hear ecology professor at October 15 monthly meeting.***

Dr. Stacy Philpott, assistant professor of ecology at the University of Toledo will be the guest speaker at LWVTLC's October membership meeting. Dr. Philpott, who earned her PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Michigan has been at UT in the Environmental Sciences department since 2006. She has been associated with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center as a researcher since 2004. Prof. Philpott's research and teaching interests are agroecology, biodiversity, community ecology, conservation, insects, tropical biology and urban ecology. She has been involved in such diverse projects as investigating sustainable agricultural practices in Mexico and Indonesia, assessing hurricane damage to agricultural systems, and evaluating biodiversity in urban landscapes. Her work is global in scope. She will share her ecological insights and answer our questions. Please come and

bring a friend.

The ***Lake Erie Basin Committee*** will hold its regular meeting at UT's Lake Erie Research Center in Oregon, OH. This is the second time the committee, which is made up of 32 Leagues from the five states located within the lake basin, has chosen to meet in northwest Ohio. Founded in 1963 with guidance from LWVUS its purpose is to study, discuss, and coordinate action on critical issues that impact the lake. The goals of the committee are:

- \*to preserve and restore Lake Erie and its tributaries through pollution control, abatement and prevention.
  - \*to improve planning and management of water and related land resources and
  - \*to achieve the objectives of the 1987 U.S. - Canada Water Quality Agreement.
- All interested leaguers are invited to attend. Remember to bring lunch!

## Presidents' Letter

Dear Leaguers,

We'd like to begin by asking a favor - please help our League succeed this year by committing to participate! That may seem a bit bold, but there is simply so much to do and we need our membership's help. Darcy Yates, chair of our Membership committee has done a wonderful job revising our survey material to ask each member what it is they would like to work on. Setting a personal goal of selecting one or two projects will make us reach our shared goal of serving the voters of Lucas County and Ohio.

Our Voters Services committee will be participating in several forums this month, assisting the voters of Holland, Swanton, Whitehouse and Springfield to educate themselves about the issues and candidates in their respective communities. Thanks to Bonnie Bishop for all her efforts coordinating and staffing these events.

Voters Services is also partnering with the Lucas County Board of Elections to encourage high school seniors to work the polls in November. The League will be reaching out to the schools and helping get the next generation of voters involved in elections.

The location of our October 15th meeting has changed. Due to reduced evening hours at the Sanger Branch Library, we will meet at E. Jay Murphy's home, 2403 Barrington Drive, Toledo. We will have our board meeting at 6 pm. Darcy will kick off the 7 pm general meeting with a Member Orientation presentation, followed by our speaker Dr. Stacy Philpott from UT. Dr. Philpott will speak to us about her research on agricultural systems, and will answer our questions. Please don't miss this interesting evening.

Looking ahead, we have confirmed our Holiday dinner at Georgio's on the evening of December 17th, so please save the date.

Thank you as always for being a part of the League.  
Rosemary Alloy and E. Jay Murphy, Co-Presidents

### 2009-10 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## **New (or not so new) Member Orientation**

Have you just recently joined the league? Are you a long time leaguer itching to get more involved but don't know what's going on? Come to the October 15 membership and board meeting. It's the perfect time to hear what's happening, watch the board in action, get a little reorientation and hear a very interesting speaker talk about some issues near and dear to league hearts. (see front page).

The place: Co-President E. Jay Murphy's house, 2403 Barrington Dr. in Toledo.

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## **VOTER SERVICES UPDATE**

The Voter Services committee is busy this pre election season partnering with the **Springfield** and **Whitehouse** Chambers of Commerce to do two candidates forums. The first will be in Springfield township for **township trustees** and **Holland** village **council** seats. The second will be for **Anthony Wayne school board** and **Whitehouse** village **council**. A third forum will be held in Springfield for **Springfield Township trustees, board of education** candidates and village of **Holland council** seats. Springfield high school students will help to promote and work at the forum.

**DeVeaux Middle School** Parent Teacher Network has also asked for our assistance with a forum for **Toledo Public School Board** candidates. Two years ago the PTN, the League and DeVeaux students had a similar forum where the students were very active, working participants who took the task very seriously. The voter services committee is looking forward to the same level of enthusiasm this year. Another group has contacted the league for forum help but those details have not yet been finalized. There are still jobs for leaguers to fill. **Help is needed** for timing and collecting questions among other important forum jobs. **Contact Bonnie Bishop** at [bonnieb@accesstoledo.com](mailto:bonnieb@accesstoledo.com) or 419-474-5030.

The high school student poll worker project resumed with the September 15 primary election.

**Diane Hamilton** hand delivered letters to ten local high schools asking them to encourage seniors to get a hands on view of democracy and volunteer to work the polls. **Darcy Yates** and others will continue the effort for the general election in November. Last year's program resulted in over 300 high school pollworkers.

### *2010 Calendar*

#### *January*

- 7 Voter deadline*
- 21 6 pm Board meeting,*
- 7 pm Membership meeting*
- location TBD ,*

#### *February*

- 7 Voter deadline*
- 18 6 pm Board meeting,*
- 7 pm Membership meeting*
- location TBD,*

#### *March*

- 7 Voter deadline*
- 18 Reception for Elected*
- Officials*

#### *April*

- 7 Voter deadline*
- 15 Signature fundraising*
- Event*

#### *May*

- 7 Voter deadline*
- 20 Annual Meeting*

#### *June*

- 7 Voter deadline*
- 17 Joint Board meeting*

*Thank-you*

To Mary Karazim and Sue Nichols for their contribution to LWVTLC in memory of Rosemary Alloy's mother.

Olive Colton is a founding mother of the Toledo League of Women Voters now known as the League of Women Voters Toledo Lucas County

## ASK OLIVE

Dear Olive,

What do you make of all this talk about health care reform? I work full time and have pretty good insurance but then again I'm not sick so I haven't really had to use it. I know not everybody is in the same boat as I am but things are tough economically and I can't see how we can afford to spend so much money on something that people should do for themselves, you know what I mean?

Healthy, happy and covered in Toledo

*Dear H.H.C. in T, or should I just call you Lucky?*

*I do know what you mean, dear. It does seem rather irresponsible to not take care of the basics for ourselves, but sometimes no matter what we do there are forces that thwart us. Institutions or practices that keep us from simply doing what would be best. For example, what would happen if you lost your job? In these tough economic times, as you yourself point out, it may be very hard to find another or to find one with health insurance as a benefit. You might be able to buy the insurance, if you could afford it but then again maybe not. I am old enough dear to remember when medical science was much simpler (and much less beneficial ...but we won't go into that) when doctors were sometimes paid in produce or promises. When a tonsillectomy cost less than \$50 total and now well that amount might pay for a few minutes of anesthesia. You are right medical care does cost a lot of money, just like education, and clean water, and safe streets, but we don't shy away from supplying these necessities because we know that they are important for, dare I say it?, the common good. Access to health care for all is necessary if we are to be a strong equitable nation. You should give this some thought and while you do read the information below, from someone much more articulate than I. Olive*

September 17, 2009

**To: Members of the U.S. Senate**

**From: Mary G. Wilson, President League of Women Voters United States**

**Re: Comprehensive Health Care Reform Legislation**

The League of Women believes that the current state of health care in this country is unsustainable. It is critical that Congress pass comprehensive health care reform to send to the President for his signature.

The health care bill passed by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will provide access and coverage for most Americans who are presently without coverage, while working to contain health care costs. We support that approach. In addition, we are encouraged that the Senate Finance Committee will be taking up a bill soon, though we are concerned about many of its provisions.

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million Americans living day-to-day without coverage. The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health.

Health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents. It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system, and a public option will make that possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through the traditional employer-sponsored plans.

But coverage is not enough. We need to provide for quality and safety as well. Health care legislation must establish a system-wide program to coordinate information, establish best practices and provide consumers the information they need to protect themselves and their families. It is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions and so costs can be controlled.

The federal government needs to take additional strong action to reduce costs for individuals, businesses and communities. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Over the last three decades, increases in the amount spent on health care have consistently risen faster than wages and inflation. If nothing is done, we could be spending \$3 trillion for health care by 2011 and \$4.2 trillion by 2016.

**continued on pg. 7**

## The League of Women Voters of Toledo-Lucas County State Wide Ballot Issues Explained

**ISSUE 1:** Proposed Amendment to authorize the state to issue bonds to provide compensations to veterans of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. If approved, the proposed amendment shall take effect immediately.

**League Explanation of Issue 1:** This ballot issue proposes a constitutional amendment that would provide compensation to veterans serving during the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq conflicts. The amendment is similar to the bond issues passed by the voters to compensate veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam conflict.

It will provide the state with the authority to issue up to \$200 million of bonds. The Ohio treasurer has estimated that only \$106 million of the bond proceeds might actually be needed. All bonds must be issued by December 31, 2013. Repayment of these bonds would be a general obligation of the state backed by the taxing power of the state. Revenue from these bonds would be used to provide additional compensation as follows:

Payment may be made to Ohio residents who have served on active duty in the United States armed forces between August 2, 1990 and March 3, 1991, which was the duration of the Persian Gulf conflict; between October 7, 2001 and the end of the United States involvement in Afghanistan; and between March 19, 2003 and the end of the United States involvement in Iraq.

Veterans who served domestically or in foreign service in locations other than the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, or Iraq may receive \$50 for each month served up to a maximum of \$500.

Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, or Iraq may receive \$100 for each month served up to a maximum of \$1000, or may receive \$1000 if medically discharged due to combat related disabilities.

If a person died as a result of injuries sustained in Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, or Iraq service, that person's family may receive \$5000.

If a person is missing in action or held in enemy captivity, that person's family may receive \$5000.

The Legislative Services Commission estimates that issuing \$200 million of obligations could increase the state's annual debt service expense by up to \$18 million. The voters must approve this bonding authority because the Ohio constitution does not permit an appropriation being made for a period longer than two years.

**Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:**

1. Passing the amendment by vote of the people shows that Ohioans appreciate Ohio veterans.
2. The payments will ease veterans' transition back into civilian life.

**Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:**

1. Tax monies will be diverted to paying principle and interest, and this may limit the availability of state revenue for other state programs during a period of financial crisis.
2. Future taxpayers will be responsible for the debt incurred for these payments. The payments should be paid for by revenues available in the current biennium.

**ISSUE 2:** Proposed amendment to create the Ohio Livestock Care and Standards Board

**League Explanation of Issue 2:**

This proposed constitutional amendment would create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board for the purpose of establishing standards governing the care and well-being of livestock and poultry in Ohio.

The bipartisan board would consist of thirteen members: The director of the state department that regulates agriculture, Ten members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, including:

One member representing family farms

One member knowledgeable about food safety

Two members representing statewide organizations that represent farmers

One member who is a veterinarian

The State Veterinarian in the state department that regulates agriculture

The dean of the agriculture department of a college or university in Ohio

Two members of the public representing Ohio consumers

One member representing a county humane society

One member appointed by the Speaker of the House who shall be a family farmer,

One member appointed by the President of the Senate who shall be a family farmer.

The Board would have authority to establish standards governing the care and well-being of livestock and poultry in Ohio, subject only to the authority of the General Assembly.

## The League of Women Voters of Toledo-Lucas County Statewide Ballot Issue Explanations continued...

### *Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:*

1. The board represents a balance of interests.
2. The board would establish standards governing the care and well being of livestock and poultry in Ohio.
3. Ohioans can have greater confidence in the safety of locally produced food.

### *Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:*

1. The board should be created by statute rather than by amendment to the Ohio Constitution.
2. Creating another regulatory board utilizes revenues best spent on basic services to Ohioans.
3. The amendment could prevent certain animal care reform proposed by national animal rights organizations.

**ISSUE 3:** To add a new Section 6a to Article XV of the Ohio Constitution to authorize a casino in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Toledo. If approved, the proposed amendment will take effect 30 days after the election.

**League Explanation of Issue 3:** This amendment would authorize four casinos, one each in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo, located on particular parcels of land owned by private individuals.

1. The operator would be required to pay a tax of 33% annually on gross casino receipts. "Gross casino receipts" excludes payments to winners. The tax revenue would be allocated in the following ways:

51% to the 88 counties on a pro rata basis, with 50% of the county's distribution going to the county's most populated city if it had a population of greater than 80,000 as of the 2000 United States census.

34% to public school districts in proportion to their public school district populations.

5% to the host city where the casino that generated the revenue is located.

3% to fund the Ohio Casino Control Commission.

3% to a fund supporting purses, breeding programs and operations at existing horse racetracks.

2% to fund a state law enforcement training program.

2% to fund treatment of problem gambling and substance abuse.

2. The Ohio Casino Control Commission would license and regulate casino operators, management companies, key employees and all gaming. The commission would have 7 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

3. Each casino operator must make a minimum initial investment of \$250 million.

4. The initial license fee of \$50 million for each casino will fund state economic development programs.
5. Each casino could operate 24 hours a day. Each casino may have a maximum of 5000 slot machines. Each casino may conduct any type of card or table games, slot machines or electronic gaming devices permitted by states adjacent to Ohio, except bingo, and horse racing where the pari-mutuel system of wagering is conducted.

### *Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:*

1. Thirty-eight states including Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania have casino gambling.
2. By authorizing casinos in Ohio, the profits could benefit our state rather than other states.
3. Counties, public school districts, and many cities will receive tax revenue generated by the casinos, and each can decide how to best spend its money.
4. The casinos will create 34,000 new jobs in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo.
5. The casinos will stimulate the economy by adding restaurants, hotels and ancillary businesses.

### *Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:*

1. The Ohio general revenue fund, which supports basic services for Ohioans, will get \$0 from the gross casino receipts tax.
2. Ohio lottery profits, currently dedicated to education, may decrease because people will gamble at the casinos instead of playing the lottery.
3. Ohioans may spend money at the casinos they would have spent at other existing Ohio businesses such as restaurants, movies, or sports events, adversely impacting those businesses.
4. The number of gambling addicts in Ohio would increase, and the tax receipts dedicated to providing treatment for addicts could be insufficient.
5. The proposed amendment could be construed to mean that all games allowed at the casinos can be played only at the casinos, eliminating church-festival poker games and casino nights sponsored by charitable groups.

### **Websites**

In support of the proposed amendment, Cops for Casinos, <http://copsforcasinos.com/>;

In opposition to the proposed amendment, Vote NO Casinos Committee, TruthPAC [www.truthpac.org/](http://www.truthpac.org/)

Note: The information in this document was provided by the League of Women Voters of Ohio.

## **HEADS UP!!!    *LWVO 2011 STATE CONVENTION SITE IS NORTHWEST OHIO***

Yes, it's official the next state league convention will be hosted right here in northwest Ohio by LWV Bowling Green, Perrysburg, Tiffin and Toledo. Not only do we get to easily attend the convention, very little travel will be involved for us, we get to decide much of what happens and where. The joint leagues committee has come up with the general theme: Sustainability, to highlight league's environmental positions and the local burgeoning green industry and academic research in this area. It's an opportunity to showcase this part of the state. Lots of help is needed now as the ground work is being laid and at convention to keep it running smoothly. E. Jay is our representative so if you want to join in the fun, there's plenty to be had, contact her or any board member. Let's show the rest of the state what a great convention looks like!

### **OP ED / LETTER TO EDITOR: JUDICIAL REFORM**

*The following letter appeared in the August 21, 2009 Toledo Blade Letters to the Editor section*

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in *Caperton et al. v. A. T. Massey Coal, Inc.* made clear judges must step aside/recuse themselves in cases involving supporters who have made large campaign contributions to them. It is likely many courts will consider adopting stricter recusal standards following this decision. Although this may be a good first step, we do not believe this alone will solve the fundamental underlying problem: the huge amounts of money spent on judicial races. This phenomenon is undermining Americans' confidence in the fairness, impartiality and integrity of those courts.

Ohio has long experienced bitter judicial races involving massive sums of money. In fact, more money was spent on judicial campaigns in Ohio in 2000, 2002 and 2004 than in any other state, and a 2006 New York Times study found that Ohio Supreme Court Justices voted in favor of their contributors over 70 % of the time

A USA Today poll in Feb., 2009, found that 9 out of 10 people believe campaign contributions to judges are a problem, and more than half deemed it a major problem. When a judge is, or appears to be, beholden to a contributor or contributors, his or her ability to render impartial justice is undermined in appearance, if not in fact.

The Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of **Toledo-Lucas County, Perrysburg and Bowling Green** believes good solutions to this problem have been adopted in other states. One solution is to move to the appointment of judges, followed after a reasonable amount of time on the bench with a retention election. This approach gives voters the opportunity to evaluate the judge's performance and remove judges who are not doing a good job. Another approach is to provide public financing for campaigns, which reduces the need for judicial candidates to raise large sums of money.

The League urges Ohioans to educate themselves on this issue—and learn just how much money has been spent on Ohio Supreme Court races over the past decade—by visiting the website, <http://www.ohioimpact.org/>.

Sincerely,

Presidents

League of Women Voters of Toledo-Lucas County, Perrysburg and Bowling Green Education Fund

#### **CONTINUED FROM PG. 4**

#### **Letter to US Senate**

The League believes that cost containment measures must take place in the context of overall health care reform. We must reduce or eliminate the cost-shifting that currently exists in health care financing and work to streamline the system. Legislation must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans will be key.

Congress needs to demonstrate real leadership and move forward with true health care reform. The League of Women Voters is ready to work with you to reach this goal.



## ***TheVoter***

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Rosemary Alloy, Co-President  
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deadline for submission: 7th of each month

### **HELP WANTED:**

**Make a difference in your League. Openings on several committees also great opportunity for someone interested in Public Relations. Short term and long term commitments available. Choose from Fund Raising, Voter Services, Observer Corps, Special Events. No experience necessary. Qualifications: open mind. Remuneration: unlimited. Contact League line: 419-474-5030 (Bonnie will answer)**

The League of Women Voters of  
Toledo-Lucas County  
is a member of  
Northwest Ohio Community Shares



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