

LWVAA October, 2015

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**LWVAA Upcoming Events**

October 1
LWVAA Board Meeting
380 Mineola
6:00 - 7:30

October 6
Akron School Board Debate
Red Cross Building
501 W. Market St.
5:30 pm

October 13
Akron Mayoral Debate
Quaker Square
11:00 am

President's Message

Dear Members,

With the primary elections complete and independent candidates certified, the stage is set for the 2015 general election. Much attention is on the city of Akron since for the first time in almost 30 years, Akron will have a new mayor. Another first is that all 13 Akron City Council seats are up for election, so the makeup of the Council could change significantly.

Three State Issues are generating discussion and debate in many venues. Fair Districts for Ohio is a redistricting reform proposal that will appear as Issue 1 on the November 2015 ballot. The Ohio General Assembly came together to approve a bipartisan measure to improve state legislative district lines are drawn. The League of Women Voters of Ohio is a strong supporter of the need for redistricting reform in Ohio and supports adoption of Issue 1.

The LWVO also has recommended a Support position for Issue 2 as it is consistent with League policy that states that the constitution should be a document of general principles.

October 14
Richfield Forum

October 15
Copley/Fairlawn
School Board Forum

October 21
Lake Erie Basin
Meeting
Lake Shore Park
Ashtabula
10:00 - 2:30

November 3
Election Day

November 5
LWVAA Board
Meeting
380 Mineola
6:00 - 7:30

December 5
Holiday Brunch
Portage Country Club

Finally, The LWVO has adopted an Oppose position on Issue 3 because it is inconsistent with the position that the constitution should be a document of general principles. However, LWVO is Neutral on the aspect of Issue 3 pertaining to marijuana as there is no applicable League position.

The LWVAA Voters Guide will be online within days at lwvaa@lwvaa.org and the printed guide will be distributed by the third week of October. The printed guide will be available in locations including libraries and community centers, at City Hall and other government offices and Acme stores.

We are co-hosting several candidate forums this year including the Akron School Board candidates at the American Red Cross building on October 6, the Akron Mayoral debate on October 13 at the University of Akron's Quaker Square Center, a Richfield forum on October 14 and the Copley Trustee and Copley/Fairlawn School Board on October 15. See the [calendar on the home page for details](#).

Even if you haven't done so in the past, please consider voting by mail. You can avoid the polls and have time to refer to the Voters Guide. An absentee ballot request form can be obtained by calling the Board of Elections at 330.643.5200 or you can download a form at www.summitcountyboe.com. If you do vote by mail, your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day, November 3. No matter where or how you vote, be sure to vote!

Barbara Hunsicker
President, League of Women Voters of the Akron Area



HB 8 Threatens Metro Parks

The Ohio State House of Representatives has passed HB 8 to the existing regulations for oil and gas drilling.

This bill would give the Ohio Division of Natural Resources the authority to force all subdivisions of the state, including local parks, to join a drilling unit in order to assemble the number of acreage required. HB 8 exempts state parks and state nature preserves but not metro parks, county or city parks. Metro parks, county and city parks could be added to a drilling unit without consent and without any process.

In the past, Summit Metro Parks has a history of these requests, but has successfully been able to deny them. Friends of Metro Parks opposes this legislation because it forces the park district to sell oil, gas, and other minerals in violation of their mission to conserve the natural resources of Summit County for the citizens of Summit County. The bill further threatens parkland from nearby drilling impacts and horizontal drilling under parks and it takes the authority to protect parklands out of the hands of the officials who are elected or appointed through due process. Citizens pay for these lands and direct operations for their use and protection and do not wish to abdicate authority to interests who may threaten the conservation and recreational values of our parks.

HB 8 is directly opposed to the public's interest in

protecting its established parks. The League of Women Voters of the Akron Area is opposed to HB8 based on our Regional Program supporting public land use.

Summit Metro Parks

Acme Cash Back Update

by Janice Jacobs

Hello from your Acme Cash Back Coordinator. As you know, League has participated for several years in this program provided by the generous folks at Acme Fresh Market for local non-profit organizations. We receive 5% on selected brands such as Acme, Food Club, Full Circle, Paws, Top Care & others. These items are highlighted in the store and then appear at the end of your register tapes as "Community Cashback", with the amount.

The dates for participation in the program for 2015-2016 are: 08-20-15 through 01-06-16. Tapes need to reach me by or before, 01-20-16. The cutoff date for turn in is 02-06-16, and I usually try to be a day early. I need the time to sort, tabulate, and neatly bundle the tapes. Please send to me at:

Janice Jacobs
P.O. Box 26
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222

As you may have noticed, the program period is much shorter this year. Also, it seems more and more non-profit groups are participating. However, this is one of the easiest fundraisers we have found. The amount we earn is small but consistent. Thanks to all for helping.



Ohio Issues 1, 2, & 3

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO) announced the following positions on state Issues 1, 2, and 3 for the November 3, 2015 ballot.

Issue 1: Support

LWVO's board voted earlier this year to formally endorse the Fair Districts for Ohio redistricting reform proposal that will appear as Issue 1 on the November 2015 ballot. We have been a staunch supporter of the need for redistricting reform in Ohio and have been advocating for such reform for the last forty years. We are pleased that the Ohio General Assembly came together to approve a bipartisan measure to improve how we draw state legislative districts, and we wholeheartedly support its approval by the voters.

Issue 2: Support Issue 2 because it protects the constitution as a document of general principles.

Issue 3: Oppose Issue 3 because the constitution should be a document of general principles.
Neutral on the issue of legalized marijuana.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio has a position, adopted in May 1968, on the Ohio Constitution:

"LWVO believes a constitution should be a clearly stated body of fundamental principles. It should provide for the flexible operation of government and be logically organized and internally consistent."

Based on this position, LWVO opposed the 2009 initiative to write casinos into the Ohio Constitution. However, LWVO is neutral on the aspect of Issue 3 pertaining to marijuana legalization as we have no applicable League position.



Akron Mayoral Debate

The Democratic and Republican Akron mayoral candidates facing off in the November election will participate in a debate to be presented by the Akron Press Club on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, at the University of Akron's Quaker Station.

The debate is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area and the University of Akron's Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics. The two candidates – Summit County Clerk of Courts Dan Horrigan and Akron attorney Eddie Sipplen – have agreed to the debate format. Each candidate will have 90 seconds to answer questions posed by a panel of journalists selected by the Akron Press Club. The other candidates will have 45 seconds each for rebuttal. The order of the questions will be determined by a coin toss. Each candidate will be asked the same number of questions.

Members of the audience are asked to reserve their applause until the end of the debate. No campaigning will be allowed in the debate room, including but not limited to buttons, stickers, T-shirts or other printed material. The Press Club reserves the right to refuse anyone displaying such material admission to the debate room.

Time: Doors open at 11 a.m., Tuesday, October 13. The program will begin at 11:55 a.m.

Place: Quaker Station, 135 South Broadway (free parking behind the building).

Cost: \$20 for Press Club members, \$25 for non-members. \$25 for all reservations made after Thursday, October 8 (members and non-members).

Reservations requested: Contact Lianne Fowler, Press Club administrator, at 330-552-8860 or

akronpressclub@gmail.com. Cash or check only accepted day of luncheon. Reservation deadline: Noon, Thursday, October 8.

Cancellations: Cancellation requests must be received no later than 48 hours before the event. After that time, there will be no refunds and an invoice will be issued for payment.



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