Welcome to LWVO Virtual Statehouse Day. Before we begin...

If you experience any technical difficulties during the conference, please email lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org with a phone number to call you back if necessary. You may also call 614-407-6088. **When you enter the conference:**

- Please keep your video and microphone off.
- For questions or comments to the presenters, use the chat box or email lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org
- So that you can view only the speaker as well as slides that are being shared:
  
  i. At the top center of the screen, click on “View Options”, and then click on “Side by Side Mode”.
  
  ii. At the top right of the screen, click on “show active speaker video”. Alternatively your computer may also just say “speaker view”. (Please note that this is a little counter-intuitive. When you are in speaker view the icon will actually say “gallery view”).
LWVO Statehouse Day
April 16, 2020
Welcome Remarks

Iris Meltzer
League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO) Board President

Help us Make Democracy Work
Text “DONATE” to (380) 207-1920 or www.bit.ly/statehouseday
Tips for Advocating to Lawmakers During a Pandemic

Tracy Sabetta, Initiative Consulting

Jen Miller, LWVO Executive Director (moderator)

Help us advocate for voter rights
Text “DONATE” to (380) 207-1920 or www.bit.ly/statehouseday
Shaking up our Approach to Legislative Advocacy

Changing your methods, preserving your message
Changing your methods

• Where are our legislators right now?

Rep. Casey Weinstein

My office is standing by to assist with questions or concerns about the Coronavirus and can be reached by email at Rep37@ohiolhouse.gov and by phone at (614) 466-1177. Stay healthy everyone!

Matt Dolan

Thanks to all who joined my Tele-town hall. Thanks Dr. Harte from @ClevelandClinic for medical update. Great discussion on Ohio’s legislative response to Coronavirus crisis. Lots of nice comments about @GovMikeDeWine. Look forward to in person town hall soon.
Changing your methods

• How can we reach them?
  • Email to the office

├─ Opportunity to be more thorough
├─ Links to info and data
├─ Bill number and description
├─ Why do you support? Why should they?
├─ Specific call to action
Changing your methods

• How can we reach them?

• By phone and voicemail

  - Be Concise
  - Be Courteous
  - Be Closing
Changing your methods

• How can we reach them?

Video call
Changing your methods

• How can we reach them?

Social media & hashtags
Preserving your message

• Don’t be tone-deaf to the current situation we are facing

• Embrace the framing of unity

• How does your issue fit within the current narrative in Ohio?
Preserving your message

• Be as prepared as possible

• Do not allow them to distract you or monopolize the conversation

• Stay focused on a maximum of 3 message points

• Make the ask
“I want you to have hope. I feel hope -- even now in the thick of the storm -- because I am seeing things that we have long forgotten, and ways of us treating each other in our busy lives that we have forgotten. I have absolute hope that we will emerge from this stronger and better than we’ve ever been.”

Dr. Amy Acton  
Director, Ohio Department of Health
Making Democracy Work in a Changing World

Pooja Chaudhuri, Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights
Mike Brickner, All Voting is Local

Jen Miller, LWVO Executive Director (moderator)

Help us make sure everyone has a chance to cast a ballot
Text “DONATE” to (380) 207-1920 or www.bit.ly/statehouseday
Primary 2020: How did we get here?

- Primary Election was scheduled 3/17
- COVID-19 Crisis hits OH 3/10
- Poll closures, poll workers quit
- In-person voting postponed 3/16
Primary 2020: How did we get here?

• SOS issues directive to set in-person voting 6/2
• Legislature passes law invalidating SOS directive, sets all vote-by-mail election, deadline of 4/28
• Voters are NOT mailed ballots or applications
• LWVO and other plaintiffs file lawsuit, but court declines relief requested
  • Does not extend voter registration deadline
  • Does not make changes that would ease absentee ballot timeline and restrictions
Primary 2020: Where do we go from here?

• Ohioans must look toward the future
  • Vote-by-mail
  • In-person voting
  • Emergency preparedness
Primary 2020: Where do we go from here?

Historical problems/patterns with Vote by Mail that State must address in future

• **Difficulties Requesting Absentee Applications** - multi-step, complex process

• **Overbroad Rejection of Absentee Applications and Absentee Ballots** –
  • reject an application or ballot due to a mistaken conclusion that the signature on the application does not sufficiently match the signature on file, or other immaterial errors
  • Reject an application if DOB does not match the voter’s date of birth provided on their identification envelope with the date of birth on their registration file.

**Challenges Associated with Late-Mailed Absentee Ballots** –

• Submitting a timely absentee ballot application does not guarantee that a voter will receive their ballot in time to be able to cast it and have it count

• **Challenges Voters Face in Returning Absentee Ballots** –
  • Must be to the BOE (rural counties – some voters live far away from BOE)
  • Limited number of agents can pick up or return absentee ballot
Primary 2020: Where do we go from here?

• Vote-by-mail fixes
  • Online absentee request form (SB 191)
  • Every voter should get a ballot/application
  • Consider a process that contemplates automatic ballot mailing
  • Postage paid on all election mail
  • End rigid technical violations on applications and ballot forms
  • Accept ballots that arrive late, but were mailed timely
Primary 2020: Where do we go from here?

Statistics – in-person voting. Major educational shifts required for predominantly VBM

- 2004 primary - 2,365,969 voted in person
- 2008 primary - 3,603,523 voted in person
- 2012 primary - 1,970,753 voted in person
- 2016 primary - 3,302,832 voted in person

Primary 2020: Where do we go from here?

- In-person voting
  - Allow more than one early voting site
  - Make permanent evening and weekend voting hours
Primary 2020: Where do we go from here?

• Emergency preparedness
  • Create a transparent and just process for how officials handle elections in an emergency
  • Require Election Administration Plans
  • Ensure all counties have adequate equipment, such as print-on-demand ballot machines
The case for women is not that they are inherently better or more moral. It is that they are half of humanity and should have the same opportunities— and be judged by the same standards— as the other half.”

Chinamanda Ngozi Adichie
Author

#LWVOStatehouseDay
Action & Stretch Break!

Join us back at 11:30 AM for our session on Modernizing Voter Registration!
TIME FOR ACTION!

Ohio is not ready for future elections, especially during emergencies. State Legislators need to hear from you!

Text: ProtectOHVote to 72572
-OR-
Go to: https://bit.ly/PROTECTmyOHvote

Follow the prompts to send an email to your lawmakers.

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Special Event Invitation:
The Complicated Struggle for the Vote

LWVO presents a virtual presentation about women’s suffrage, challenges faced by early women leaders, the interplay between movements for gender and racial justice, and why suffrage still matters today.

Featuring: Dr. Carol Lasser of Oberlin College & Dr. Treva Lindsey of the Ohio State University.

When: Tuesday, April 28 at 4 pm.

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Modernizing Ohio’s Voter Registration System

Neal Ubriani, Center for Secure and Modern Elections
Camille Wimbish, Ohio Voter Rights Coalition

Jen Miller, LWVO Executive Director (moderator)

#LWVOStatehouseDay

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Modernizing Ohio’s Voter Registration System

Automated Voter Registration (AVR) in Ohio
What is AVR?

• Government agencies (especially DMVs) already have the information they need to register voters.

• With AVR, every time an eligible unregistered citizen interacts with a DMV he/she is registered to vote, unless he/she takes action to decline.

• Every time a registered voter indicates he/she has moved, his/her address for registration is also updated.

• AVR builds on the National Voter Registration Act, which mandates an opportunity to register at state agencies.
How Does AVR Work?

• Customers provide the necessary information for voter registration to motor vehicle or other agency officials.

• The necessary data is electronically, seamlessly, and securely transferred to the Secretary of State.

• The Secretary of State and local election officials add the individual to the voter rolls or update the person’s registration, unless he/she declines.
Why Does AVR Matter?

• Current processes are:
  • Prone to mistakes
  • Antiquated
  • Expensive

• AVR solves these problems by making the registration process:
  • More Accurate
  • Efficient
  • Secure
  • Cost-Effective
AVR History

• 1993: National Voter Registration Act passed
  Mandated voter registration opportunities at DMVs and other state agencies

• 2016: Oregon becomes first state to adopt AVR
  Transforms voter registration opportunity at DMV from opt-in to opt-out

• 2020: 22 states + Washington, DC have adopted AVR
  Virginia is the most recent state
Types of AVR

• Timing of Declination
  Mail (Oregon, Colorado)
  During Transaction (Georgia, Michigan, Maryland)
  Receipt (Nevada)

• New Registrations v. Registration Updates

• Covered Agencies
  Motor Vehicle Offices
  Other Agencies?
VVR in Ohio (Voter Verification & Registration)

House Bill 540: Would adopt VVR in Ohio

• Creates an Ohio-specific system

• Relies on three pathways for BMV customers
  • New Registrants
  • Updates for Existing Registrants
  • Updates to Voter Activity Date
VVR in Ohio

Pathway 1: New Registrants

• Ohio BMVs rely on demonstrated citizenship or non-citizenship documents for licenses
• During the BMV transaction, unregistered adult citizens who establish citizenship are identified
• The BMV screen informs these individuals that they will be registered to vote, unless they decline on the screen
• Information is securely and electronically transmitted to Secretary of State and local Boards of Election.
VVR in Ohio

Pathway 2: Updates for Existing Registrants

• Registered voters who interact with the BMV have name/address checked against registration records

• Any change is securely and electronically transmitted to the Secretary of State and local Boards of Election

• Voter is mailed a notice informing them of the update and providing an opportunity to decline the change
VVR in Ohio

Pathway 3: Updates to Voter Activity Date

• Every registered voter who interacts with the BMV has their voter activity date updated to the transaction date

• Applies even if the voter has not changed name/address

• Complements the Supplemental Process by ensuring that voters who interact with the BMV are not removed due to failure to vote
VVR in Ohio

Benefits

• Security and Accuracy
  • Relies on BMV citizenship verification to register new voters
  • Non-citizens are screened out of registration, preventing erroneous registrations
  • Accurate, verified information is securely transmitted to the Secretary of State and local BOEs.
• Reduced human error
VVR in Ohio

Benefits

• Efficiency and Cost-Savings
  • No paper forms, all electronic transmissions
  • Seamlessly captures all possible address and name updates, rather than making voters actively update
  • Reduces provisional ballots for out of date registrations
  • Ensures voters aren’t removed just for inactivity
VVR in Ohio

Measuring Success of VVR

• New verified citizen registrations
• Updated registrations
• Reduced provisional ballots
• Cost-savings for election officials
• Reduced removals for voter inactivity
VVR in Ohio

Call your legislators and ask them to vote Yes on HB 540

• Making Ohio’s Voter Registration System
  • Secure
  • Accurate
  • Modern
  • Efficient
Questions?

Neal Ubriani
Policy and Research Director
Center for Secure and Modern Elections
neal@modernelections.org
Modernizing Ohio’s Voter Registration Systems

Increasing Security Protocols

Camille Wimbish
Election Administration Director, Ohio Voice
LaRose issues Directive for Security Upgrades

**County Board of Elections Security Report Card**

- 100% Physical Security Assessments and Improvements
- 100% Background Checks of Personnel
- 100% Secure Website and E-mail Domains
- 99% Cyber-Attack Detection, System Hardening and Network Defense
- 100% Security Training
SB 52 – Ohio Civilian Cyber Reserve

- Volunteer civilian cybersecurity experts who will assess cyber-threats and respond when state and local governments are digitally attached.

- A civilian component of the Ohio National Guard.

- Passed unanimously in both chambers this past fall.
SB 52 Beef up Auditing Requirements

• Requires local boards of elections to conduct post-election audits by hand-counting ballots or reviewing paper trails of electronic voting machines.

• A minimum of (3) local Races to be included each year.

• Previously, post-election audits were only required in even years. This law specifies audits must be performed for every general election and every even-year primary election.
The Purge

• All 88 counties maintain voter registration data in different ways

• Inconsistent record keeping and inaccurate voter-registration software make it difficult to check whether purges were conducted correctly

Ohio Was Set to Purge 235,000 Voters. It Was Wrong About 20%.

When Ohio released a list of people it planned to strike from its voting rolls, around 40,000 people shouldn’t have been on it. The state only found out because of volunteer sleuthing.
“The system we have in place right now is prone to error — human error, vendor error. It’s unacceptably messy.”

*Ohio Secretary of State, Frank LaRose*
Take Action: Urge House to Pass SB 194

• Requires each county Board of Election to select vendors for registration systems from an approved list.

• Requires the Board or the Secretary periodically to examine, test, and inspect certified voter registration systems to determine their continued compliance.

• Passed the Senate unanimously fall 2019.

• Ask for House to pass SB 194 with an amendment to clarify that signing petitions is an electoral activity that prevents voters from being purged (counties treat this differently).
Questions?

Contact:
Camille Wimbish
Ohio Voice

Camille@ohvoice.org
Action & Stretch Break!

Join us back at 12:30 AM for our session on Ending Partisan Gerrymandering!
TIME FOR ACTION!
Ohio’s voter registration system needs an upgrade!

Call your State Lawmakers. Text: OHREPS to 72572
OR
Go to: https://bit.ly/OHlegislators

#LWVOStatehouseDay

Ask them to:
1. **Vote YES on HB 540** for Voter Verification and Registration; and

2. **Vote YES on SB 194** to certify registration systems with an amendment to count signing a petition as voter activity.

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Special Event Invitation: The Complicated Struggle for the Vote

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Next Steps in Slaying the Gerrymander!

Catherine Turcer, Common Cause Ohio
Ann Henkener, LWVO

Jen Miller, LWVO Executive Director (moderator)

Help us ensure the new district maps are drawn fairly
Text “DONATE” to (380) 207-1920 or www.bit.ly/statehouseday
Slaying the Gerrymander

We have come so far...

But there’s more to do!

Ann Henkener and Catherine Turcer

League of Women Voters of Ohio; Common Cause Ohio
What do we mean when we say fair maps?

Shared values:

● Compactness
● Competitiveness
● Representational fairness
● Honoring existing political subdivisions
### Constitutional Amendments

#### 2015 State legislative mapmaking

The new Ohio Redistricting Commission comprised of the Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State and two representatives from both chambers of the state legislature was created. Criteria focus on keeping communities together, increasing transparency, keeping political subdivisions whole, and on representational fairness.

#### 2018 Congressional mapmaking

The Congressional redistricting reform focuses on reining in the worst excesses of gerrymandering through bipartisan mapmaking, greater transparency, and giving Ohioans tools to make their own maps and participate more fully.
How do these changes to the Ohio Constitution uphold our values?

- **Strict rules** on keeping counties, municipalities, and townships together will lessen the ability to draw hyper-partisan maps.
- **Strong incentives** to create maps that are acceptable to both political parties will lessen unfair advantages of one party.
- **Transparent mapmaking** will help reduce shenanigans.

Mapmaking in 2021
What’s the timeline for mapmaking?

**December 31, 2020** Deadline for the Census Bureau to send apportionment results to the states

**March 31, 2021** Deadline for the Census Bureau to send summary files to the states

**Summer of 2021** Creation of possible district lines and maps for consideration

**September 1, 2021** Final deadline for the Ohio Redistricting Commission to finalize and approve new Ohio House & Ohio Senate districts

**November 30, 2021** Final deadline for the state legislature to finalize and approve congressional districts
We’ve come so far! What’s next?
How do we demand a transparent process and fair maps?

**Current Congressional Map**

Ohio Secretary of State

**Un-Gerrymandered**

Rich Exner, Cleveland.com
“I pledge to support and advance fair redistricting that is transparent, nondiscriminatory, and politically impartial.”
endgerrymanderingpledge.org
Help get the word out!

Sign Up Today:

- Fair Districts 2021 Speakers Bureau
- Ohio Redistricting Competition Planning Committees
- Fair Districts 2021 Social Media Team
- Virtual Event Planning
Why does public pressure matter during 2021?
Contact Information

Catherine Turcer, Common Cause Ohio

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Common Cause Ohio

Ann Henkener, League of Women Voters of Ohio

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@lwvohio

League of Women Voters of Ohio

endgerrymanderingpledge.org
fairdistrictsohio.org
TIME FOR ACTION!

We need Ohio leaders to implement 2015 & 2018 Fair Districts ballot initiatives.

Call your State Lawmakers. Text: OHREPS to 72572
OR
Go to: https://bit.ly/OHlegislators

#LWVOStatehouseDay

Ask them for:
Fair Legislative Maps in 2021

You can also, take the End Gerrymandering Pledge &
Sign up to Volunteer at:
Closing Remarks

Jocelyn Travis
League of Women Voters of Ohio Board Member
and LWVO Voter Services Chair

Remember to join us on April 28:
The Complicated Struggle for the Vote!

Help us Make Democracy Work for the next 100 years
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Thank You!

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