



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA**

THE VOTER

103 Wm. H. Taft Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45219
513-281-8683 Fax: 513-281-8714
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Visit LWVCA on

November 2011

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership is open to all men and women over 18. For information call 513-281-8683, or write to the LWVCA office at 103 Wm H Taft Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45219, or email at info@lwvcincinnati.org.

NOVEMBER UNIT TOPIC: WATER

*“Water, water, every where,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, every where,
Nor any drop to drink”*

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

We hear discussions about the scarcity of water these days. Is it really something to be concerned about, or is it a myth? The Natural Resources Committee is presenting information for November Unit discussions about the water situation in the Greater Cincinnati area. These pictures will prime your water pump. We hope you will come to a Unit discussion to learn more and share your thoughts.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM



VOTE NOVEMBER 8!

NO on State Issue 3.
YES on the Cincinnati Public School Levy (Issue 32).
NO on Local Issue 46.
NO on Local Issue 48.
See the League endorsements and reasoning on page 4.



LWV DIVERSITY POLICY

The League of Women Voters recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

The LWVCA affirms its commitment to actively seek diversity in its membership, leadership and programs.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear League Friends,

As the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area is wrapping up another season of excellent, nonpartisan voter services for our community, I want to thank the many of you who contributed to your time and efforts to make this happen.

Special thanks to Vice President of Voter Services **Glenda Bernstein** for overseeing our two major vehicles for voter education—*The Who and What of Elections* and SmartVoter.org.

Special thanks also to our *Who and What* sponsors: The Murray & Agnes Seasongood Good Government Foundation, Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati and the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area Education Fund.



(Continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER *(Continued from p.1)*

We first published *the Who and What* in 1921, making this edition the 91st. During that first year of publication, women have had the right to vote for one year and Warren G. Harding was president. In Cincinnati, construction on the later-abandoned Cincinnati Subway was in full swing, and there were 32 members on Cincinnati City Council. A lot has changed over the years, but every year, one could always count on the LWVCA's nonpartisan election information. I am humbled by the thought of the hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours having gone into creating 91 editions of the most well-respected voter guide in our community. It is amazing what we have been able to do, and I hope you are as proud as I am.



Smart Voter is another successful vehicle for educating voters in elections. We have been on the web using *Smart Voter* for Hamilton County since 1998, and we now have 32 elections in our archive. Voters are turning more and more to electronic sources, and, with our longevity, we've been able to be as trustworthy online as we have been in print.

Thanks to Community Relations Director **Alice Schneider** for organizing a speakers bureau and moderator training in September. Having volunteers at the ready to present the issues to community groups and help communities hold debates is a valuable service. Thanks to the many of you who have volunteered in this way.

As another General Election year comes to an end, I am reminded yet again how the mission of the League of Women Voters is as relevant today as it was in our founding in 1920. Thank you.

In League,

Melissa Currence

BOARD BRIEFS – LWVCA Board Meeting October 3, 2011

By *Gavin Leonard* (substituting for *Lori Bissler*)

- **Carolyn Miller** presented an overview on Issue 46, campaign finances. **Gail Wick** moved that the LWVCA recommend a 'no' vote on Issue 46. The motion passed.
- **Nancy Dawley** moved that the LWVCA support the CPS levy. The motion passed.
- **Fred Heyse** provided presentation on the Investment Committee. They meet quarterly. Fred will attend Board meetings in February and August.
- **Marj Davies** moved that we approve the expenditure of \$25/month for an online 3-user QuickBooks subscription. Purchase would be contingent on the LWVCA and Education Fund Treasurers' demo'ing and approving the system. The motion passed.
- The Housing Committee, via **Nancy Dawley**, moved to send a letter to the Board of County Commissioners to renew its cooperation agreement with Cincinnati Metro Housing Authority for scattered site public housing in Hamilton Co. The motion passed.
- **Glenda Bernstein** reported the Speakers' Bureau is coming along. There are many upcoming candidates' forums in Woodlawn, Glendale, etc.
- **Marjorie Davies** is working on plans for the Susan B. Anthony event in February. She welcomes input from membership. The Joseph Beth Booksellers event will be on December 3rd. Volunteers will work two-hour shifts.
- **Gavin Leonard**, Action Committee, announced his resignation, as he is moving. The board thanked him for his service and wishes him the best.

ELECTIONS: NEW LAWS COULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT 5 MILLION ELIGIBLE VOTERS

By *Elisabeth MacNamara, LWVUS President*

A new study released by the **Brennan Center for Justice** this week found that up to five million people could be negatively affected by the various new voter suppression laws that were passed in states across the country in 2011. You can find the report in this NY Times article [note: search for “New State Rules Raising Hurdles at Voting Booth”] that includes a quote from our own LWVFL President Deirdre Macnab. [Ed note – The entire report is now available at www.brennancenter.org.]

ACTION ALERT: COMING SOON TO YOUR COMMUNITY: DIRTY AIR

Extracted from LWVOhio.org

Clean air and public health are under attack in Congress. Very soon the House is expected to vote on two bills which could weaken our environmental public health standards.

The first (H.R. 2681) would reduce regulation of cement plants, which are one of the largest sources of industrial mercury toxics in the country. The second (H.R. 2250) would reduce regulations on incinerators and industrial boilers which dump large amounts of toxic pollution into our air.

Take action now to tell your Representative to vote against H.R. 2681 and H.R.2250 which would harm public health.

OPPOSE OHIO HB136 – SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Extracted from LWVOhio.org 9/23/11

Please contact your representative in the Ohio House and urge him/her to oppose HB136. This bill would create a new voucher program, the Parental Choice and Taxpayer Scholarship Savings Program (PACT).

Currently Ohio has four scholarship (voucher) programs that provide public funds to support eligible students at eligible private schools: the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program, the Autism Scholarship Program, the Educational Choice Scholarship Program, and the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program. The new PACT program would extend the number of tax-supported vouchers for students to attend eligible private schools to students who attend any school district in Ohio (regardless of their report card rating) and to families whose income is less than \$95,000. It would also allow eligible students currently attending private schools to be phased-into the program, which would expand the state’s obligation to educate students who never attended public schools.

The LWVO opposes HB136 based on LWVO positions.

- The League believes that public money should be spent only on public schools that are accountable and responsive to tax payers and comply with standards that ensure a high quality education. Nonpublic schools are not accountable to the taxpayers through elected boards of education; are not required to “open their books” to ensure that the schools are fiscally responsible and that public funds are being spent to serve a public purpose; are not required to serve all students; and are not required to comply with the same operating, teacher licensure, performance, and accountability standards as public schools.
- In addition, Am. Sub. HB136 would divert public funds to private schools (and increase Ohio’s obligation to educate students in private schools) when state funding for public schools will decrease by \$1.8 billion over the biennium (HB 153), and many school districts are cutting programs, laying-off teachers, and preparing to ask voters to increase local taxes to support schools. The League believes that public education is the cornerstone of our democratic government and prepares students to be active and informed citizens in our society. That is why securing and financing a high quality public education system based on meeting standards, accountable to the public, and available for all students, is so important.

How to Contact Your Legislator. Find your State Representative at www.house.state.oh.us.

LWV ENDORSEMENTS ON ISSUES

State Issues – from LWV Ohio

(www.lwvohio.org)

Neutral on Issue 1: Proposed

Constitutional Amendment to change the age at which a person may not be elected or appointed to a judicial office and to eliminate courts of conciliation and the Supreme Court Commission: NEUTRAL.

In taking a stance on proposed constitutional amendments and referendums, the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWV Ohio) considers only those public policy positions which the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and LWV Ohio have adopted after careful study and member consensus.

Passage of Issue 1 would increase the age at which a judge could be elected or appointed from age 70 to age 75. *Neither LWVUS nor LWV Ohio has a position that pertains to Issue 1.*

Accordingly, LWV Ohio is taking a neutral stance on Issue 1

Neutral on Issue 2: Referendum on

legislation relative to government union contracts and other government employment contracts and policies (A referendum on Am. Sub. SB 5):

NEUTRAL. Issue 2 is a referendum on Am. Sub SB 5, which seeks to change laws concerning public employees, in particular teachers, firefighters and police. Major changes affect collective bargaining rights, salary schedules and compensation, layoff procedures and leave.

Neither LWVUS nor LWV Ohio has a position that pertains to Issue 2. Accordingly, LWV Ohio is taking a neutral stance on Issue 2.

No on Issue 3: Proposed Constitutional

Amendment to add a section to Ohio's Bill of Rights exempting Ohioans from a federal requirement that individuals purchase a minimum amount of health insurance coverage: OPPOSE.

Issue 3 seeks to add a section to Ohio's Bill of Rights exempting Ohioans from any requirement that individuals purchase a minimum amount of health insurance. The amendment is directed at a federal law passed in 2010, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), but it also seeks to make ineffective similar state and local laws passed after the PPACA was adopted. LWVUS adopted a position on health care in 1993 which supports a basic level of affordable, accessible quality care for all U.S residents. LWV Ohio believes Issue 3 seeks to undermine efforts to provide a basic level of affordable, accessible quality health care for Ohio's residents. Accordingly, LWV Ohio is opposing Issue 3.

Local Issues – From LWVCA

YES on Issue 32

By *Burton Roehr*, Education Committee Chair

The League of Women Voters supports Issue 32, the Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) levy that will appear on the November 8, 2011 ballot. The Board took this action because the criteria developed by Board members several years ago have been met and, in some cases, surpassed.

- **Proficiency Scores.** For the past two years, CPS has been designated "Effective" on its report card, a designation based on the students' proficiency scores. It is the only urban district to attain this level.
- **Drop-out/Graduation Rates.** Four-year "On-Time" graduation rates for all students in 2009-10 was 80.7%. This is an increase from + 70% in 2003-4.
- **Spending per Student.** According to data from the OH Dept. of Education, total expenditure per pupil in FY 10 for CPS was \$13,448.58. This compares to \$14,026.83 averaged by similar districts and a state-wide average of \$10,564.85.
- **Condition of Physical Facilities.** Because of the 10-year facilities improvement plan, we think that most of the facilities are in good or excellent condition. This program is nearly finished, but there is still some work to be done.
- **The Socioeconomic Background of the Students.** The district report card lists the student groups as follows: Black non-Hispanic – 66.9%; American Indian or Alaska Native – 0.1%; Asian or Pacific Islander – 1.0%; Hispanic – 2.6%; Multi-racial – 5.3%; White, non-Hispanic – 24.2%; Economically Disadvantaged – 69.7%; Limited English Proficient – 3.7%; Students with Disabilities – 21.0%.
- **Programs Offered.** CPS has 56 buildings in which it offers both traditional neighborhood and magnet programs. Additionally, the district supports learning through a hospital/satellite program office, the Juvenile Detention Center, and the STEP/Work Resource Center.
- **Student/Parent Satisfaction Survey Results.** A telephone survey was conducted in April, 2011 of 1,209 parents; they were separated into parents of students in Grade 7-8, Grade K-6, and Grade 9-12. The responses show that while the percentages varied by the grade category, parents are satisfied with the schools and the education their children are receiving. For more information, visit <http://www.yesforcps.com>.

NO on Issue 48

By *Carolyn Miller and Chris Moran*, City Government Committee

The final push to defeat Issue 48, the anti-rail, anti-progress proposal is on track. The Cincinnati Area League has joined with many other organizations in the community to oppose the proposed Charter Amendment. The amendment would prevent the City from spending or appropriating any money (including city, state, federal and private funds) to plan, construct, or operate a streetcar system through the year 2020. Because of the definition of a "Streetcar System," the amendment would include any kind of passenger rail operating on city streets or publicly-owned rights-of-way. The amendment would stop not just the streetcar. It would also block any regional passenger rail system (light rail or

(Continued on page 5)

GREEN UMBRELLA: Regional Sustainability Alliance

By *Chris Moran*

Agenda 360 and Vision 2015, Greater Cincinnati Area and Northern Kentucky regional planning initiatives, are joining forces with Green Umbrella, a regional alliance of environmental organizations, in a Regional Sustainability Alliance. This Alliance comes from the belief that a greater collective impact can be achieved working together on environmental aspects of sustainability in order to improve the economic vitality and quality of life in the tri-state region.

Long term goals include: increasing greenspace; expanding nature education, the local production of renewable energy, and local growing of fruits and vegetables; reducing waste, energy consumption and the use of gasoline and diesel motor fuels; and the development of green jobs.

Why not join in? With the assistance of Cincinnati's Office of Environmental Quality, a new interactive web site has been established. You can enter your data and track how well you are doing to live in a sustainable way. Visit www.GreenUmbrella.org.

LETTER FROM LWVCA ORGANIZATIONAL CONSULTANT

By **Jean Masthay**

Dear League Friends,

I am very excited to share with you that I have begun my new work as LWVCA Organizational Consultant. My responsibilities involve a full assessment of LWVCA programs and practices. I will also lead a research project targeting other Leagues' practices to learn from their successes and solutions to common challenges. At the end of the evaluation and research phase I will prepare and present a substantial document of recommendations for the Board to consider for moving forward.

Although my individual work is important to the completion of this project, your thoughts and ideas as League members are critical for a successful evaluation and roadmap for our League's future. I will be contacting many of you requesting to hear about your specific experiences as a vital contributor to our League. I hope you will be pleased to help LWVCA in this way. If at any time you wish to share information that you consider valuable please feel free to send me an email at jeanm@lwvcincinnati.org, or call my cell phone (513-850-5772).

I am looking forward to this great adventure - together we can work to ensure LWVCA celebrates **100 years** as a growing, positive and vital force for our Greater Cincinnati communities!

Thank you for your League service,

Jean



LOCAL ISSUES *(Continued from page 4)*

commuter rail) and would keep any rail transit from being planned or built in Cincinnati for the next decade. The proposal would limit the development of transportation options in the City and region and is not an appropriate addition to the Charter.

To help with the campaign to defeat Issue 48, go to www.CincinnatiansforProgress.com.

Volunteer for literature drops, phone bank, &/or make a donation to get out the message.

NO on Issue 46

By *Carolyn Miller and Jane Anderson, City Government Committee*

The League of Women Voters opposes Issue 46, the proposed City of Cincinnati Charter amendment to alter campaign finance reporting requirements. The LWVCA Board at its regular October meeting took this action because the amendment would limit the timely disclosure of campaign finance information for Council and Mayoral candidates prior to the election. Transparency and timely disclosure of campaign finance information are necessary ingredients to promoting "the public's right to know".

Issue 46 would eliminate a 60 day reporting requirement (early September) and a conditional 20 day reporting requirement contained in the current Article XIII, sec. 2 of the Charter of the City of Cincinnati. Remaining would be the State of Ohio report due at the end of July covering all contributions and expenditures up to the end of June and the state required report due 38 days after the election to cover everything contributed and spent since the July report to 30 days after the election. The gap between the July reporting requirement and the 38 days after the election reporting requirement is too great. Relevant campaign contributions and expenditures come in this period, information which loses its primary value when it can be known only after the election.

The League of Women Voters took the lead in promoting campaign finance reform legislation in the late 1990's. In coalition with other local groups, a Charter Amendment which became known as the Fair Elections Amendment, was developed and promoted. The Amendment passed in November 2001 and is now Article XIII. In an important sense, Issue 46 whittles away at a significant package of reforms the LWV and others worked to achieve.

FUND RAISING NEEDS YOUR INPUT!

By Marjorie Davies

Susan B Anthony Silent Auction. We're making our plans for a terrific Silent Auction for February's Susan B. Anthony Luncheon and **we need your ideas!** To make our annual celebration of women's suffrage affordable so that all can attend, we keep meal prices low and raise funds through sponsorships and a silent auction. It's important to offer a tempting mix of items, so your SBA Committee is now seeking donations and would like your recommendations and/or assistance.

- ◆ What local businesses do you patronize where we (or you) could ask for a donation? (Restaurants, entertainment, spas/salons, home and car repair, travel, etc.)
- ◆ Do you have skills and talents you could donate in a gift certificate? What hobbies are you passionate about? Teach someone to use Facebook or photo software, cook a dinner party, or offer dance, music, bridge, tennis, golf, painting, knitting, or cooking lessons.
- ◆ What other sorts of goods or services would members like to bid on? Remember, even though seniors may not want more "stuff," we all need services, consumables, and gift items.
- ◆ Do you have re-giftable articles in pristine condition that would make attractive auction items? We can arrange pick up from your home.
- ◆ Do you or a family member own a vacation home which you could donate for a week or week-end?

Please share your thoughts by phone or email with Marjorie Davies. We appreciate your help!

Book Fair at Joseph Beth December 3. Just in time for your holiday shopping: Saturday, December 3 is our second annual book fair at Joseph Beth Booksellers at Rookwood Pavilion, 2692 Madison Rd. in Hyde Park/Norwood. **Coupons are enclosed in this issue of the Voter newsletter.** Start your shopping list now! You might even plan a relaxing lunch with friends in Joseph Beth's Bronte Bistro. League volunteers will be staffing the gift wrap table all day, distributing LWV membership information and collecting tips. (Volunteers are still needed – call Marjorie Davies to schedule a two-hour shift.) Twenty percent of bookstore purchases (and ten percent at Bronte Bistro) accompanied by our coupon will be rebated to the LWVCA Education Fund. Additional coupons are available at the League office, on our website, and at your unit meetings. Share extras with your book-loving friends!

Annual Campaign. Forty percent of LWVCA fund raising comes through Annual Campaign gifts by individuals like you. Goals for 2011-12 are \$35,000 for our tax-deductible Education Fund and \$7,000 to support our advocacy work. If you haven't yet donated this fiscal year (July 1-June 30), please consider a generous contribution to our Fall Fund Drive. A pledge card and return envelope are included in your *Who & What of Elections* mailing, or you can contribute by credit card online at lwvcincinnati.org – click on "Donate." Thank you for your generous support, which enables the nonpartisan work that our community depends on.

Congress Extends Charitable IRA Distribution Provision through 12/31/11.

By Marjorie Davies, Fund Development

Donors age 70½ may make tax-free gifts directly to charitable organizations from their IRAs. Payouts count towards Required Minimum Distributions and are not included in income. Such payouts are not deducted as charitable contributions subject to Schedule A limitations. Contact your tax professional for details. Transfers must be made directly from an IRA to the charity on special forms available from IRA custodians. The LWVCA Education Fund is a qualified 501(c)(3) charity, Federal Tax ID 31-6030294.

Join the League of Women Voters

Making Democracy Work

All citizens, male and female, 18 years and older, are welcome. Take the opportunity now to support our work promoting democracy and civic engagement. Dues include Cincinnati, Ohio, and National membership, including newsletters from each.

Individual - \$60.00

Household - \$80.00

Student - \$25.00

Dues pose a hardship. I can pay _____

Optional deductible contribution to LWVCA: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to LWVCA, 103 Wm. H. Taft,
Cincinnati, OH 45219

CALENDAR: NOVEMBER UNIT MEETINGS

Discussion Topic: **Water, the Local Picture**

Unit meetings are our grassroots discussions, located at different places and times so that there's always one convenient for YOU! This is your chance to get involved. All meetings are open. Come, and bring a friend!

2nd Tuesday 11/8/11

Central North: 12:00 noon, Friendship United Methodist Church, Springfield Pike & Fleming Rd
Warren County: 7:30 pm Mason United Methodist Church, 773 Mason-Montgomery Rd

2nd Wednesday 11/9/11

Anderson: 7:00 pm Anderson Government Center, 7850 Five Mile Road (note time change!)
Central Evening: 7:15 pm League Office, 103 Wm H Taft

2nd Thursday 11/10/11

Eastern Day: 12:00 noon. Brown bag or order lunch in MPL Dining Room. Free valet parking.
 Marjorie P Lee Home, 3550 Shaw Ave

2nd Monday 11/14/11

Hilltop: 1:00 pm Home of Donna Dansker
Northeast Evening: 7:00 pm Madeira Public Library, Euclid and Miami Ave

3rd Wednesday, 11/16/11

Metro Day: 12:00 noon League Office, 103 Wm H Taft

Revised Schedule! LWVCA DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR 2011-201

By Nancy Dawley, Program Chair

Our local program for the 2012 winter has been rearranged a bit to meet the schedule of the National League program availability and deadlines. If you volunteered to lead one of these programs, please note the changed dates for Discussion Leader briefings.

- ◆ **November: Water** – unchanged.
- ◆ **December: Unit Choice** - unchanged.
- ◆ **January, 2012: LWVUS Program Planning.** Discussion Leader briefing meetings Wed. January 4, 7 pm; Sat. January 7, 1 pm.
- ◆ **February, 2012: LWVCA Program Planning.** Discussion Leader briefing meetings, Wed. January 25, 7 pm; Sat. January 28, 1 pm. Also programmed in February: Susan B. Anthony Luncheon – unchanged.
- ◆ **March, 2012: Government Outsourcing and Privatization,** National Consensus topic. Discussion Leader briefing meetings. Wed. February 22, 7 pm; Sat. February 25, 1 pm.
- ◆ **April, 2012: League Action** –unchanged. Discussion Leader briefing meetings. Wed. March 28, 7 pm; Sat. March 31, 1 pm.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 3

7:00 – 8:30 pm

LWVCA office in the Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
 103 William Howard Taft Road

Guest Speaker: *Ted Bergh, Executive Director, Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority*

Learn the facts about subsidized housing in Hamilton County. Where is it located? What is the public housing scattered site program? Are there local examples where public housing has been successfully integrated in the community? Why is Hamilton County being asked to sign a Cooperation Agreement with the Housing Authority?

This special meeting of the League of Women Voters, Housing Committee is open to other League members and to the public.

The Voter is the official monthly newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA).
 Editor: Marty Harrington.
 Office Staff: Susan Gorman.
 Proofers: Rina Saperstein, Melissa Currence
 Layout and design: Kit Berger.

Please submit articles to:
 newsletter@lwcincinnati.org.
Next deadline: Friday 11/18/11
 for the December-January issue



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

All meetings are open to the public and are held at the League Office, 103 Wm. Howard Taft unless otherwise noted. Bring a friend!

Thursday	Nov 3	7:00pm	Housing Meeting with speaker Ted Bergh, CMHA
Saturday	Nov 5		Absentee Ballot request deadline
Monday	Nov 7	6:30pm	Board Meeting
Tuesday	Nov 8		GENERAL ELECTION
Thursday	Nov 10	7:00pm	Natural Resources Committee
Friday	Nov 18		VOTER SUBMISSIONS due to editor
Monday	Nov 21	6:00pm	Health Care Committee
Monday	Nov 21	7:00pm	County Government Committee
Tuesday	Nov 22		DWTL reservation deadline
Tuesday	Nov 22	7:00pm	Housing Committee
Wednesday	Nov 23		Office closed - Thanksgiving
Thursday	Nov 24		Office closed - Thanksgiving
Friday	Nov 25		Office closed - Thanksgiving
Monday	Nov 28	5:30pm	Dinner With the League (DWTL)
Wednesday	Nov 30	5:30pm	Program Development Committee (PDC)
Thursday	Dec 1	10:00am	Voter Collating – Hilltop Unit
Saturday	Dec 3	all day	JOSEPH BETH BOOKFAIR FUNDRAISER

As always, see our website (www.lwvca.org) for more information on upcoming events.



JOSEPH-BETH BOOKSELLERS

IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

**20% of your bookstore purchase
and 10% in Bronte Bistro**
will be donated back to LWVCA Education Fund

Valid on December 3, 2011

(Excludes giftcards, newspapers, and items discounted 20% or more)

Joseph-Beth Booksellers—Rookwood Pavilion—2692 Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH
513-396-8960—www.josephbeth.com



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Join Us for
DINNER WITH THE LEAGUE

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area

Monday, November 28, 2011

***“2012 World Choir Games:
A Celebration of Diversity”***

**Presentation by C-Change
The Chamber’s Leadership Development Program for Emerging Young Leaders**

5:30 Social Time; 6:00 Dinner; 6:45 Speaker

**Marriott Kingsgate Conference Center at UC
151 Goodman Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45219**

(Complimentary Garage Parking or Valet Parking Available)

Directions to Kingsgate: West on Wm H Taft Rd to slight rt. on Jefferson Ave; slight left on Vine St to rt. on Goodman Dr. Signs direct you to Conference Center and valet parking or parking garage.

For additional information, call 513-281-8683

Make your reservation by November 23 by sending the following form and check or registering and paying online at lwvcincinnati.org.

**Please reserve ___ seat(s) for *Dinner with the League* at the
Marriott Kingsgate Conference Center, Monday, November 28, 2011 at 5:30 PM**

Name(s) _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

Dinner preference is (Indicate number for each person attending. *You are responsible for the \$28 charges.*):

- Roast Turkey with Roasted Sweet Potatoes and a Port Wine Cranberry Glaze**
- Pot Roast of Beef with Mashed Potatoes and Natural Gravy**
- Cheese Manicotti with Marinara Sauce and Sautéed Spinach**

All above entrees include salad, vegetable, rolls, coffee or tea, and dessert.

_____ Amount enclosed (\$28.00 per meal, gratuities included)

**Send reservation, meal choice, and check for \$28.00 per person (payable to “LWVCA”) by
November 23 deadline to: LWVCA, 103 Wm H Taft Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45219**



***** WATER *****

Discussion for League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, November 2011

Astronauts have told us we live on a beautiful blue water-covered planet. That water allows us to exist; and its plentitude has allowed us to take of its gifts for drink, food, beauty, cleanliness, transport, and play. That abundance has also led us to take it for granted, becoming careless of how we use and abuse it. This study considers the issues confronting us as we consider how to balance our sometimes conflicting needs.

How much water do we really have on Earth?

http://www.ruralurbanresources.org/all_water_on_earth.htm

Only 3% of Earth's water is fresh water.
97% of the water on Earth is salt water.

The water found at the Earth's surface in lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and swamps makes up only 0.3% of the world's fresh water.

68.7% of the fresh water on Earth is trapped in glaciers.

30% of fresh water is in the ground.

1.7% of the world's water is frozen and therefore unusable.

http://water.epa.gov/learn/kids/drinkingwater/water_trivia_facts.cfm

Who uses this fresh water? According to the Climate Institute water was used as follows in 2005.

<http://www.climate.org/topics/water.html>

- 67% Agriculture
- 9% Households
- 8% Water Supply
- 7% Electricity and Gas
- 4% Manufacturing
- 2% Mining
- 3% Other

There are 4 main factors aggravating water scarcity: Population growth in the last century has tripled; increased urbanization focuses demand among a more concentrated population; high level of consumption as the world becomes more developed; and climate change will shrink the resources of fresh water.

***** **Hydrologists and agronomists warn that Peak Water is fast approaching, when the**

already limited availability of water from underground aquifers (a body of permeable rock that can contain or transmit groundwater) for crop irrigation exponentially decreases. Others say we reached it 30 years ago.

<http://arstechnica.com/science/news/2010/05/not-just-oil-us-hit-peak-water-in-1970-and-nobody-noticed.ars>

Water in the Greater Cincinnati area. Greater Cincinnati is richly endowed with water. The Ohio River lies at its southern doorstep. Lake Erie lies on the northern boundary of the State. The Great and Little Miami River Aquifers contain trillions of gallons of water. The Mill Creek aquifer is a much smaller but important source of water for communities located in the Mill Creek Valley.

These abundant waters provide resources for drinking water, industry, waste removal, recreation, transportation and aesthetic appeal. They also share a common vulnerability to pollution and mismanagement, and measures taken to protect them are frequently challenged.

The average faucet flows at a rate of 2 gallons per minute. You can save up to 4 gallons of water every morning by turning off the faucet while you brush your teeth.

Taking a bath requires up to 70 gallons of water. A five-minute shower uses only 10 to 25 gallons.

A running toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day.

Every gallon you don't use is 1 gallon that doesn't have to be purified and pumped to your house, and 1 gallon that remains in the aquifer or river.

Drinking Water. Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) has been a municipally owned and operated utility since it was purchased by the City of

Cincinnati in 1839. Its mission is to provide its customers with a plentiful supply of the highest quality water and outstanding services in a financially responsible manner.

<http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/pages/-3028/>

******* In 1900, 25,000 Americans died of typhoid. By 1960, thanks to the use of chlorine in water treatment, that number dropped to 20.**

http://water.epa.gov/learn/kids/drinkingwater/water_trivia_facts.cfm

Water is tested more than 600 times a day from the source through treatment, and in the distribution system. GCWW supplies more than 48 billion gallons of water a year (131 million gallons each day) through 3,000 miles of water mains to about 1.2 million people. GCWW's service area has grown to include the entire City of Cincinnati, most of Hamilton County, and parts of Butler and Warren Counties in Ohio. In 2003, GCWW started selling water to Boone County and Florence, KY via a pipeline installed under the Ohio River.

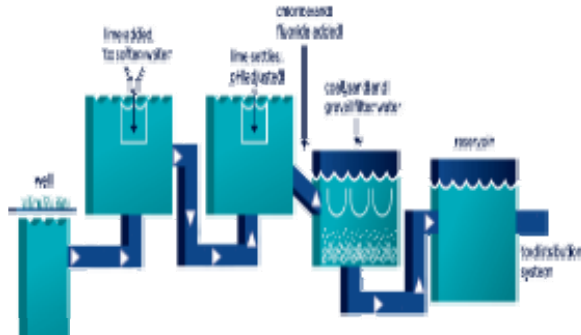
******* American residents use about 100 gallons of water per day. At 50 gallons per day, residential Europeans use about half of the water that residential Americans use. Residents of sub-Saharan Africa use only 2-5 gallons of water per day.**

http://water.epa.gov/learn/kids/drinkingwater/water_trivia_facts.cfm

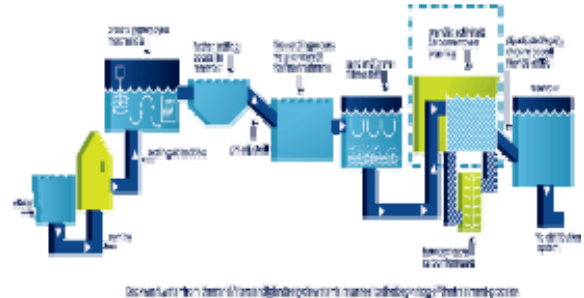
Sources of Greater Cincinnati Water.

<http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/pages/-3283/>

The Bolton Treatment Plant in southern Butler County treats groundwater from ten wells in the **Great Miami Aquifer**. The aquifer (buried sand and gravel filled with water) is 150-200 feet deep and two miles wide. Bolton Plant supplies about 12% of GCWW water.



The Miller Treatment Plant in the California suburb of Cincinnati treats surface water from the **Ohio River** and supplies 88% of drinking water to GCWW's customers, including most of the City of Cincinnati.



The quality of drinking water is continuously monitored as the Greater Cincinnati Water Works uses the latest treatment techniques in its state-of-the-art facilities to remove harmful contaminants. Cincinnati has been recognized nationally for its excellent drinking water. GCWW has always met or exceeded all state and federal health standards for drinking water.

******* Fluoride is added to the water to protect teeth, as required by state law passed in 1969. According to the American Dental Association, persons who drink fluoridated water have a 20% to 40% reduction in the number of cavities that would have occurred without fluoride. Some home filtration devices remove fluoride. Bottled water may not contain fluoride.**

<http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/pages/-3312-/#q7> **Addition of fluoride to Cincinnati's drinking water was disputed at the time**
<http://fluidlaw.org/caselaw/crotty-v-city-cincinnati> **and continues to be controversial with some today.**

Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) is one step in the GCWW water treatment process. It is considered the best way to remove organic materials from water. After settling and filtration, water at the Miller Plant is filtered through beds of GAC.

Millions of pores in GAC capture (or "adsorb") the organic substances, removing them from the water. Most spills in the Ohio River are organics. GCWW "reactivates" carbon by burning off contaminants in two giant 1500-degree Fahrenheit furnaces.

***** **One cup of GAC has the adsorptive surface area of about 25 football fields (approximately 1,300,000 square feet). Since water treated by GAC needs about 2/3 less chlorine than without GAC, it tastes better to many.**

An ultraviolet (UV) disinfection treatment facility is under construction now at the Miller Plant and slated to be operational at the end of 2013 (due to a rainy 2011 which delayed construction). UV disinfection uses low doses of ultraviolet light to inactivate disease carrying organisms such as Cryptosporidium. This extra step following the GAC process is being added since some organisms are resistant to chlorine. <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/pages/-36456/>

***** **In an effort to reduce GCWW's carbon footprint, the new UV facility will include 160 solar panels. When coupled with a second solar installation on an existing GCWW facility, significant environmental impacts and costs will be achieved annually by saving \$151,000 of electricity.**

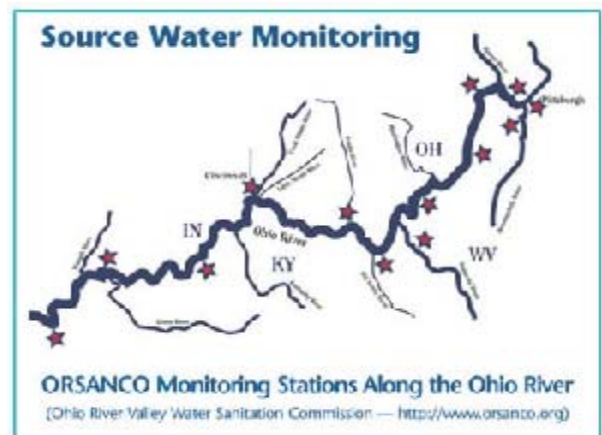
Protecting Cincinnati water. The first step in providing the highest quality water in Cincinnati is to protect our source waters.

Potential Sources of Water Contamination.
<http://www.gwconsortium.org/potential-pollution.php>

- Improper storage or disposal of petroleum, chemicals, and hazardous waste
- Improperly managed landfills
- Improperly maintained septic tanks
- Improperly maintained private wells
- Underground storage tanks
- Abandoned gravel pits
- Excessive use of fertilizers or pesticides
- Improper dumping of hazardous household waste, toxic substance, or pharmaceuticals
- Radioactive contamination from uranium enrichment
- Abandoned cars
- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations runoff
- Hydraulic Fracturing for Natural Gas (definition later in paper)

Ohio River. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) has classified the Ohio River as highly susceptible to contamination, as with all surface waters. This is because it is open to the environment and pollution may spread quickly with the flow of the river. To address this, GCWW has several barriers between potential pollution and your tap water.

The first barrier, a source water protection program, is designed to prevent and monitor organic contamination in the Ohio River. This is a coordinated effort by water utilities along the Ohio River in conjunction with ORSANCO (Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission), the first of its type in the U.S. Thirteen monitoring stations test the water as it flows by. <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/pages/-3269/>



If a problem is detected, GCWW has several options to protect the drinking water, ranging from turning off the intake and using stored water until pollution passes, to altering a treatment process to remove contamination.

Great Miami Aquifer. Ohio EPA has classified Bolton Treatment Plant water as having a high susceptibility to contamination because the Great Miami Aquifer does not have a protective clay layer, the water is shallow, there are potential contaminant sources nearby, and there are low levels of nitrates in the aquifer. This classification in itself does not mean that the aquifer is contaminated - only that it is vulnerable to contamination. Gravel is mined from the aquifer, opening it to contamination from multiple sources. <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/pages/-3269/>

The Safe Water Act, as amended in 1986, mandates that each state develop a wellhead protection program to protect public water supplies that use a groundwater source. The State of Ohio's Wellhead Protection Program, approved by U.S. EPA in May 1992, requires local drinking water suppliers to develop and implement wellhead protection plans to prevent contamination of public water supplies, primarily by managing land use activities on or near the well field to avoid such contaminants as mentioned above as sources of pollution. Cincinnati recognized the vulnerability of the aquifer over a decade ago and has worked hard as a member of the Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium (www.gwconsortium.org) to develop an award-winning source water protection program to protect the aquifer. The Consortium's program has been recognized by the American Water Works Association as one of the best in the country.

******* At one time, the Mill Creek aquifer was depleted by over pumping, threatening municipal and industrial water supplies. Private companies cooperated to pipe well water from the Great Miami aquifer to supply their needs, and the Mill Creek Aquifer has since recovered and is near capacity at present.**
<http://oh.water.usgs.gov/reports/Abstracts/wrir02-4167.html>

Surface and Groundwater Pollution

Water pollution impairs the utility of surface waters, making them unsafe for drinking, recreational uses such as fishing and swimming, and many other uses. Control of pollution is mandated by the Clean Water Act through a permit system for discharges from industrial, municipal, and other facilities where the discharges go directly into surface waters. Individual homes connected to a municipal system, septic system, or that do not have a surface discharge do not need a permit.

Untreated Sewage:

******* The Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio created the sewer district in 1968. They fund and set policy for the district's operations. On April 10, 1968, they established a 50-year contractual arrangement with the City of Cincinnati, for the management of MSD's daily operations and sustainability.**
<http://msdgc.org/aboutmsd/>

Cincinnati's raw sewage is carried primarily in two types of sewer systems: sanitary, carrying only waste products, and combined, carrying both waste and storm runoff. Historically, the sanitary sewers received storm water from connected roof and foundation drains and infiltration through aging pipes and joints. The storm water overtaxed the system and caused sewer backups into basements. In response, the County created about 100 sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) into streams and tributaries to release the stress and prevent basement flooding. Eventually, the SSOs were pouring about 75 million gallons per year of raw sewage into surface waters. In the 1860s, combined sewers were constructed to carry sewage to treatment plants during dry weather and to carry both storm water and sewage during storms with overflows (CSOs) designed into the system. These resulted in approximately 6 billion gallons of sewage-contaminated water being discharged without treatment annually.

In 1972, the Clean Water Act was passed which prohibited the discharge of pollutants including raw sewage into waters unless authorized by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. The Act gave responsibility for enforcement to states, federal government, and private citizens; the latter to serve to ensure that governments are diligent in prosecuting violations. The discharges of raw sewage from Cincinnati and Hamilton County's SSOs and CSOs were and are in violation of the Clean Water Act. After 20 years, in 1992, Ohio EPA issued an order compelling the city and county to remedy its illegal SSOs. In the next 10 years, Hamilton County and Cincinnati spent \$174 million and eliminated 63 SSOs. but other SSOs remained and violations continued. On December 18, 2001 the Sierra Club filed a citizen suit notice of its intent "...to enforce and seek elimination of all SSOs into the Mill Creek and Little Miami River..." After two years of negotiations and further legal actions, a *Final Consent Decree* was agreed to by the State and Federal agencies and the County and City (for MSD) to provide a comprehensive program to bring all raw sewage overflows and waste treatment violations into compliance by no later than 2022. On June 9, 2004, the U.S. District Court issued a Final Order accepting the Consent Decree as "in compliance with the Clean Water Act" and subject to enforcement by the Court (Ref.: No. 05-4437 Sierra Club and Marilyn Wall V. Hamilton County Board of Commissioners and City of Cincinnati US

Court of Appeals for the 6th District).

<http://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-6th-circuit/1244672.html>

In 2009, MSD submitted a revised plan to federal authorities that included a giant tunnel 300 feet under the lower Mill Creek which would hold overflow for processing through the Gest Street treatment plant. Since 3/4 of CSO volume is storm water, MSD proposed the consideration of a lower cost alternative called Project Groundwork using a watershed retention approach to reduce and eliminate sewer overflows into creeks and rivers. MSD received conditional approval for both proposals from federal agencies and in August 2010 the Federal Court approved MSD's proposal.

******* *Runoff from impermeable surfaces such as roofs, parking lots, streets and even lawns is much of what goes into CSO's. Keeping or restoring natural streams means that huge quantities of water are not contaminated with sewage and do not require treatment. It also refills our aquifers and provides pleasant recreation locations for citizens.***

Project Groundwork: The 2004 agreement requiring MSD to fix SSO and CSO problems required revenue from industrial and residential users to support expenditures of up to \$1.5 billion by 2022. Details are available at www.msdcg.org. MSD has sought to reduce costs in order to avoid prohibitive rate increases for customers. The average user pays 90 % more today than in 2004, and rates will go up another 8% next year. Savings of over \$10 million per year in operating costs have been achieved through reduced labor costs, but major capital savings in addressing the inadequacies of the ancient infrastructure is of critical importance. The deep tunnel would cost \$244 million (in 2006 dollars) to build and an extra \$1.7 million a year just to pump the sewage through the tunnel and enhanced treatment plant. Running rainwater and runoff through streams would cost only one-tenth the operating cost, in part because there are no pumping or treatment costs for the diverted storm water.

******* *Default Solution -- The U.S. EPA is requiring MSD to design a deep storage tunnel and enhanced high rate treatment (EHRT) facility to eliminate 1.6 billion gallons of annual overflows within the Lower Mill Creek***

watershed. This solution will cost more than \$244 million to construct and additional funds to operate and maintain.

Evaluation Project in South Fairmont -- The Project Groundwork approach is being evaluated in the 2700-acre Lick Run watershed on Cincinnati's west side. Each year, 1.6 billion gallons of raw sewage and storm water from communities in that watershed flow from a huge CSO into Mill Creek. 75% of the overflow is from storm water that used to flow via natural streams but was diverted into underground pipes when combined sewers were constructed. Project Groundwork proposes to let rain water flow through a newly constructed stream while the sewage is conducted only through underground pipes to the treatment facility. MSD's plan is to recreate the historic Lick Run in South Fairmont as a green oasis in a blighted, neglected, and declining historic neighborhood. This change could catalyze economic and residential revitalization while eliminating raw sewage discharges, and at less than half the capital cost of the deep tunnel option. Five options are being considered, ranging from traditional underground storm water with little improvement in water quality to an aboveground natural stream with water quality features linked to the Mill Creek. Community input is being solicited as the study proceeds. For further information about the options being considered, go to <http://projectgroundwork.org/lickrun/>

******* *Years ago, Lick Run between Queen City and Westwood Avenues was put underground as a sewer. In dry weather, wastes go to a sewage plant. When it rains, the sewer is beyond capacity and is diverted directly to the Mill Creek, where it discharges a mixture of runoff and sewage.***

Pending and Future Water Issues:

Pharmaceuticals can enter our waterways through several different pathways:

Pets and livestock feedlots

Human waste

Improper disposal of medicine

Waste from people and animals contains residues of medications. Some are being found in the water.

While some are removed by current practices, it is an area of increasing concern in water purification.

<http://www.gwconsortium.org/Pharmaceuticals-water.php>

You can do your part to reduce this problem by following The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy for disposing of pharmaceuticals.

Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers and throw them in the trash.

Mix prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter, and put them in impermeable, non-descript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags.

Don't flush prescription drugs down the toilet unless the label or accompanying patient information so specifies.

Take advantage of community pharmaceutical take-back programs that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal.

http://www.cincinnati.gov/water/downloads/water_pdf34872.pdf

Gas Exploration and Fracturing. Eastern Ohio is underlain with an enormous bed of oil-containing Utica Shale. Leasing of private lands is underway with a high likelihood that hydraulic fracturing – or “fracking” – will be used to economically recover oil and gas. This type of oil and gas recovery involves injection of millions of gallons water, sand and chemicals into the shale under high pressure to open cracks through which gas and oil flow into the well. Part of the water returns to the surface laden with drilling chemicals, heavy metals, and radioactive materials from the shale, and must be cleaned and recycled or pumped into deep wells. Chemical wastes removed from the water must be disposed of safely.

******* *The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania has taken a strong position of public protection on fracking. The League supports (in part): "... the maximum protection of public health and the environment in all aspects of Marcellus Shale natural gas production, site restoration, and delivery to the customer, by requiring the use of best practices, and promoting comprehensive regulation, communication, and adequate staffing across government agencies."* See entire position at <http://palwv.org/issues/MarcellusShale/Position%20Statement%20Marcellus%20Shale.pdf>**

Reports of household well water contamination by the drilling industry and the inability of some municipal waste water treatment facilities to remove all the chemicals in drilling waste water have raised

issues of concern. The Ohio EPA will soon take comments on standards for pollution limits.

<http://www.tribune-chronicle.com/page/content.detail/id/145516/Ohio-EPA-proposes-pollution-limits-for-drilling-.html?isap=1&nav=5031>

The Great Lakes Basin Compact. There has been recent concern about over-usage of water from the Great Lakes. State legislation is required as part of the 2008 eight-state Great Lakes Compact, created as the lakes' border states sought measures to protect their abundant fresh waters. The compact requires each state to decide by 2013 how the waters are to be used. The Ohio Legislature passed legislation this summer that was vetoed by Governor Kasich. "Lake Erie is an incredible resource that demands our vigilant stewardship to maximize its environmental, recreational and commercial potential for Ohioans," Kasich said in a statement. "Ohio's legislation lacks clear standards for conservation and withdrawals and does not allow for sufficient evaluation and monitoring of withdrawals or usage."

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2011/07/p_ost_28.html

******* *More than 25% of bottled water comes from a municipal water supply, the same place that tap water comes from. If you drink your daily recommended 8 glasses of water per day from the tap, it will cost you about 50 cents per year. If you choose to drink it from water bottles, it can cost you up to \$1,400.***

http://water.epa.gov/learn/kids/drinkingwater/water_trivia_facts.cfm

Climate Change Impacts on Water. There are numerous articles about the effects of climate change on water. This excerpt points to the region which includes Cincinnati as an example of what scientists are predicting.

http://www.isse.ucar.edu/water_climate/html_map.html#9

Region 6: Midwest USA and Canadian Prairies



Regional Characteristics: *Agricultural heartland – mostly rainfed, with some areas relying heavily on irrigation.*

Annual streamflow decreasing/increasing; possible large declines in summer streamflow.

Increasing likelihood of severe droughts.

Possible increasing aridity in semiarid zones.

Increases or decreases in irrigation demand and water availability – uncertain impacts on farm sector income, groundwater levels, streamflows, and water quality.

Two other links to climate/water information:

<http://www.choicesmagazine.org/2008-1/theme/2008-1-04.htm>;

<http://www.climate.org/topics/water.html>

Flooding: Greater Cincinnati has experienced catastrophic flooding on both large and smaller localized scales. Administration of flood control programs is divided among municipalities, county, state, and federal agencies. Construction of large-scale structures have helped to prevent recurrence of the historic 1937 flood, but economic damage and occasional loss of life still happen in local communities. Issues remain over coordination, flood warnings, financing and approach (built barriers vs. improved storm water retention).

Cincinnati barge transport: Bulk commodity transport by barge on the Ohio River is efficient, low cost and climate and energy friendly. It remains economically important to the city and region, and there is interest in expanding docking infrastructure to facilitate cargo handling and transfer to connecting land transport. Recent interest in locating a dock near the junction of the Mill Creek with the Ohio has encountered local community opposition over a competing plan for the site as a riverside park.

Industrial waste: Industrial waste disposal is regulated under the Clean Water Act. However, chemical spills occur and must be captured and cleaned up, subject to effective regulatory oversight. This is not an easy task in moving water, where booms and other equipment must be acquired and put in place promptly to minimize dispersion.

LWVUS ACTION HISTORY ON THE WATER RESOURCES ISSUE

http://www.lwv.org/am/template.cfm?section=natural_resources&contentid=14223&template=/cm/contentdisplay.cfm

The League actively supported passage of an expanded Safe Drinking Water Act in 1986 and the Clean Water Act of 1987. The LWVEF supported educational forums across the country under the Safe Drinking Water Project. In 1994 and 1995, the League opposed amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act that would have required EPA to conduct formal cost-benefit analysis for every regulatory action.

Groundwater, the source of half of the nation's drinking water, was largely unprotected at the national level until the Clean Water Act was renewed in 1994. Prior to that time, state and local leagues undertook local educational efforts to promote awareness of risks and corrective action. The league published and distributed *Strategies for Effective Involvement in Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection*, a handbook designed to facilitate public involvement required by the Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1996.

The League also supported protection of wetlands through education and conferences. It supports a watershed approach to protect streams from pollution and degradation and to restore and protect wetlands. Related to this, the League submitted comments to the Army Corps of Engineers urging revocation of nationwide Permit 26 (NWP 26), which sanctions the loss of thousands of acres of wetlands every year.

Locally, LWVCA has a position in support of the classification of the Little Miami River as a State and National Wild and Scenic River. The Natural Resources Committee participates on the Board of the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities.

In 2010 the League of Women Voters unanimously resolved to call for “stronger regulation and enforcement of rules about mining for energy resources”. Several studies are underway to establish responsible drilling practices.

Believing that it is prudent to wait until these studies are available, the League of Women Voters of Ohio has called for a one-year moratorium on new well permits.

[http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/06_14_11%20SubHB133test\(1\).pdf](http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/06_14_11%20SubHB133test(1).pdf)