



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

THE VOTER

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October 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.

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.



PREPARING FOR ELECTION 2011

By *Glenda Bernstein, Vice President Voter Services*

November 8, 2011 is an “off year” election and generally involves matters of local interest. Of primary concern are races to fill municipal and township offices and seats on local boards of education. In addition, there are city, county and state issues.

At the city and county level, we have a proposed Cincinnati City Charter/Streetcar amendment, a Cincinnati Public Schools tax levy, and two Hamilton County tax levies. At the state level, we have a referendum on Ohio SB 5, and two proposed constitutional amendments: one on the Health Care Freedom Act, and the other on judicial retirement age. Area villages and townships also have issues on the November ballot.

The “buff pages” inserted in this *Voter* contain excellent write-ups on several election topics - thanks to the LWVCA program committees and PDC for their dedicated work producing this valuable information! To learn even more, you are welcome to attend our Discussion Leader’s Briefing/Issues Forum on September 26.

Voter Service Activities:

In late August, letters were mailed to all candidates certified by the Hamilton County Board of Elections, inviting them to participate in our nonpartisan voter guides: *SmartVoter.org* (electronic version) and *Who and What of Elections* (print version). About 400 letters went out! As of *Voter* press time, *SmartVoter.org* is in high gear with candidates entering their information directly on line. In mid-to-late September, the process of producing the printed 2011 *Who and What* intensifies as we review, edit and format information, working to meet our production deadlines.

Once again this year, we have contracted with *CityBeat* to print *Who and What*. 80,000 copies are on order. 10,000 of those will be distributed to the general public as an insert in *CityBeat’s* October 5 issue; remaining copies will be delivered to area libraries and other organizations for public access, with some retained by LWVCA to be provided on an as-requested basis. Through these sources, the League takes pride in continuing to be a respected authority on nonpartisan voter information.

LWVCA is also cosponsoring two upcoming candidate forums. On October 4, we are partnering with the Junior League to host a city council candidate meet-and-greet, immediately followed by a forum on State Issue 2, the repeal of SB 5; this is a small venue so attendance is limited. On October 15, we team up with Woman’s City Club and The Greenwich to cosponsor a city council candidates’ forum at The Greenwich. For details on these and other events, look for announcements in this *Voter*, and also check our website, www.lwvca.org.

Please note: *Volunteers are needed!* You are guaranteed an interesting and stimulating experience if you get involved! Contact **Alice Schneider** or **Glenda Bernstein** if interested.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear League Members,

I am pleased to announce that **Jean Masthay** will temporarily be stepping into a different capacity with the LWVCA. The Board has asked Jean to represent our League as **LWVCA Organizational Consultant**, beginning October 3. She will spend the next several months evaluating our chapter's work, researching best practices of other League chapters and recommending a plan for building our organization to make it ready to move forward and grow.

The duties of the executive director position remain vital to the health of our League for the long term. However, the Board and Jean and I all believe that we need to give ourselves a thorough assessment first, to prepare ourselves for growth in the areas of membership, community relations and fund development.

As League members, you are an integral source of knowledge about our areas of strength, and areas needing improvement. Jean will be connecting with many of you to hear your thoughts.

This journey is an exciting opportunity to refresh and continue our efforts to encourage active involvement in our democracy for many more years to come. Feel free to contact Jean or me if you have any questions.

In League,

Melissa



BOARD BRIEFS – LWVCA Board Meeting September, 2011

By *Lori Bissler, Secretary*

- The September Board meeting featured the new, efficient, 'Flash Report' system from **Kim Thompson**.
- **Paul Maddox, CPA**, reviewed the financial statements for fiscal year ended June 2010 and found them in conformity with accounting principles.
- **Carolyn Miller and Chris Moran** presented the City Government Committee's recommendations that LWVCA oppose the proposed City of Cincinnati Charter Amendment ('Streetcar' issue). **Marjorie Davies** moved to accept the committee's first recommendation: that LWVCA oppose the amendment because it would put the city and region's transportation options on hold for the remainder of the decade and beyond. **Mary Van Ausdall** moved to accept the committee's second recommendation: that LWVCA oppose the amendment because it would limit and restrict City Council's legislative authority and therefore is not an appropriate addition to the Charter. Both motions passed.
- President **Melissa Currence and Jean Masthay**, Executive Director, reviewed a proposed temporary change of the Executive Director role to LWVCA Organizational Consultant. The motion "that the organizational consulting proposal be accepted as written and that Jean Masthay coordinate the project" passed.
- **Marjorie Davies**, VP Fund Development, reported fund development revenues meet overall budget goals. The Friends and Neighbors Kit deadline is extended to September 30th. The Joseph Beth Book Fair benefit for LWVCA is December 3rd. Volunteers are needed for gift-wrap table.
- **Mary Van Ausdall**, Membership, reported membership renewals are currently being mailed out.
- **Glenda Bernstein**, VP Voter Services, reported 80,000 copies of the *Who and What of Elections* will be printed by City Beat as an insert in the Oct. 5 issue. She thanked **Sue Gorman, Pinky Kocoshis, and Bridgett Pincus** for coordinating/completing the *Who and What* order letter mailing. Candidate mailing was completed in August. Joyce Tate, Cincinnati Asst. Health Commissioner, has requested LWVCA **volunteers** to provide voter education materials at City of Cincinnati primary care clinics. Volunteers are needed; schedule is flexible. **Volunteers are needed** to help with the Election 2011 Discussion Leaders Briefing and Issues Forum on 9/26.

REDISTRICTING BASICS: A Primer

By *Rina Saperstein* (Source: *DrawtheLine*, Brennan Center for Justice)

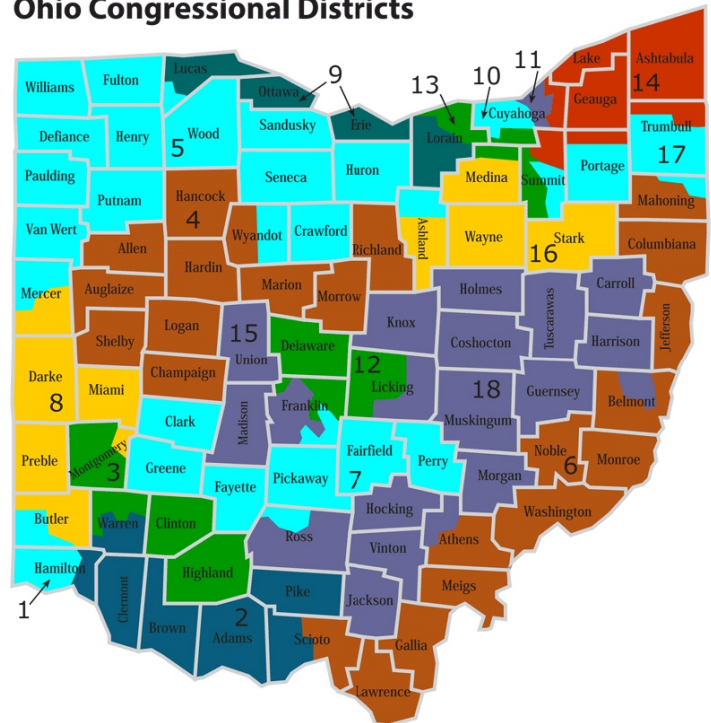
Reapportionment occurs every ten years after the Census is complete; this is the a proportional division of congressional seats among the 50 states according to their relative population, process is determined by the US Constitution, based on simple math without a political process. Based on the 2010 Census, Ohio, which had 18 Congressional seats, is now required to reduce the number to 16.

Redistricting: Following reapportionment, each state legislature must divide up the state into the appropriate number of districts. Each state has its own process and criteria for this division.

Federal redistricting: Congressional districts are drawn by the General Assembly, subject to federal constitutional and statutory limitations. An advisory commission advises the General Assembly in this process. New districts must be determined in advance of the Congressional primary in May 2012; this means districts must be drawn in advance of the February 8 2012 candidate filing deadline.

State redistricting: As provided by the Ohio Constitution, Ohio has 99 state house and 33 state senate districts. The Constitution defines an Ohio Apportionment Board, which has five members: the Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor and two members appointed by party leadership in the House and Senate. The deadline selected by the Governor is October 1, 2011. The Ohio Supreme Court may review adopted plans, but may not issue plans of its own. There are no specific provisions for the public input. Ohio state criteria require that state legislative districts must be contiguous and compact, follow the federal standard of “substantially equal” population (within 5% above or below the mean population) and preserve whole political units — counties, townships, municipalities, and wards — where feasible.

Ohio Congressional Districts



OHIO REDISTRICTING FORUM – Fair Lines Are Possible!

On September 8, 2011, the Ohio League and Common Cause Ohio co-sponsored an OHIO REDISTRICTING FORUM on the campus of Hebrew Union College.

The first hour of the Forum featured an informative panel including Ann Henkener, Legislative Director and Board Member for the League of Women Voters of Ohio; and Greg Rabidoux, Fair Districts Director for Common Cause.

After the panel, Jim Slagle, Manager of the Ohio Campaign for Accountable Redistricting, provided updates on the current redistricting process and ways which the public can become involved.

By October 1, the Ohio legislators will have voted on a new redistricting map. Look at their map and ask, is this a fair redistricting map? Does it keep cities and counties together, or split them to gain partisan advantage? Did our legislators do as good a job as private citizens entering the League’s “Draw the Line” contest? If not, what is stopping them? For more information, go to www.drawthelineohio.org.



Ann Henkener, LWV Ohio, presents League research

STATE GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS SUB-COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

By Alice Schneider, Immediate Past President, League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area

While redistricting is only one part of the electoral system, it is a very important part. The League of Women Voters urges that there be a fair and impartial process of creating voting districts. I would like to express the concern that the League has on the integrity of the election process when officials “gerrymander” districts. Dividing up districts so that they are safe for either party undermines the election system in several ways.

- **First of all, it undermines the confidence that voters have in the system.** Voters feel that the election is rigged before they even vote.
- **Secondly, the creation of an overwhelming preponderance of “safe seats” has the effect of nullifying politics.** In other words, no matter how the voters feel, about 90 percent of the districts are now preordained to go to a certain party because of sophisticated gerrymandering. The decline of marginal districts has a polarizing effect on House and Senate politics, and, indirectly, on all politics. Safe seats lock in the left-liberal tendencies of the Democratic Party, and the right-wing dominance of the Republican Party. In addition, safe districts result in primary elections that pull the most partisan voters. Because of that, the primary candidates must appeal to those hard-core partisans. This system gives us legislators who are more concerned about party ideology than finding common ground or finding the middle or compromising. As a result we see stalemates in Congress rather than a working toward the common good.
- **Third, there is less accountability from elected officials in “safe districts.”** Candidates should have to worry about the views of their constituents.... If districts were not drawn, as they are, to minimize competition, representatives would be more accountable to the American mainstream. Most incumbents would still win. But they’d have to worry more about explaining themselves in public to nonpartisan voters. And they’d be less free to play to the national right or left and to party leaders.



The League believes that the system should be reformed to require that redistricting be conducted using nonpartisan criteria. In 2009 The League of Women Voters of Ohio conducted a competition to draw districts based on the same information the legislature used to draw the current maps. The League required the following factors in the competition: preserving county boundaries, compactness, competitiveness and representational fairness. Of the fourteen plans submitted, three winning ones were selected. As an example of compactness, one of the winning plans had on seven and eight county splits as compared to 44 county splits in the current districts.

A similar competition is being conducted this year and the public is submitting maps based on the same data that is available to the legislature. More information about the competition is at www.drawthelineohio.org. Congressional maps will be available August 21. I urge you to carefully review those maps and approve districts that are representationally fair, more competitive, compact, and preserves most county and city boundaries.

With these parameters in mind, I turn your attention to our local area. Currently, Hamilton County is divided into 2 districts but it could be one district in and of itself. According to the 2010 census, the county has approximately 802,374 voters. A district comprises 721,000 voters. Therefore, most of voters would fit into a district of Hamilton County. The remaining voters could fit into an adjoining district. It would be a compact district, keep city and towns together, and it would be competitive.

I hope you will keep the voters (and not a particular party) in mind when reconfiguring the congressional districts for the next ten years. It will inspire confidence in the system.

The Voter is the official monthly newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area.
 Editor: **Marty Harrington.**
 Office Staff: **Susan Gorman.**
 Proofer: **Rina Saperstein**
 Layout and design:
Kit Berger.
 Please submit articles to:
newsletter@lwvcincinnati.org

STATE ISSUE 2 – TO RATIFY OR REJECT SB5 (Restrictions on Collective Bargaining)

The League will cosponsor a forum on Issue 2, SB5 at the Museum Center on **October 4** at 7:00pm. The event is free but seating is limited so you must obtain a ticket in advance from Alice Schneider. Only 30 tickets are allocated for League members so do not delay in making your request! You do have the alternative option of watching from the comfort of your home as the event will be streamed live from 7:15–8:30pm on WCPO.com.

Former Hamilton County Commissioner and City Councilman David Pepper will speak against the issue (i.e. against SB5); local attorney Gary Greenberg will speak in favor. The event will be moderated by Maryanne Zeleznik of WVXU. For more information, please visit our website at www.lwvca.org, or see the homepage of our cosponsor, the Junior League of Cincinnati, at jlcincinnati.org.

We need two **timekeepers** for this event; contact **Alice Schneider** or **Glenda Bernstein** if you can volunteer.

“All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.” ~ *Thomas Jefferson*

CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS – Keep Informed!

Keep an eye on the League website, www.lwvca.org, for news about candidate forums. On October 4, the League is partnering with the Junior League to host a city council candidate meet-and-greet at the Museum Center-admission is limited. On October 15 at 7 pm we are cosponsoring a forum at **the Greenwich** in Walnut Hills. This biennial event takes place in an intimate setting that gives it a more personal touch. **The Green Group** is sponsoring a forum focusing on environmental issues in a somewhat similar setting, the **Northside Tavern**, on **Wednesday, October 12** at 7:00pm. Keep watching the website for additional listings as time goes on.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF PROGRAM

Dates: July 30 - December 3, 2011

FREE to Hamilton County Residents Only.

Bring proof of residency, such as a driver’s license or utility bill. Hamilton County covers the cost per car dropping off material, to encourage proper disposal of your household hazardous waste.

This program prohibits the acceptance of hazardous waste from businesses, churches, schools, and non-profit organizations.

NEW Locations and hours:

Environmental Enterprises, Inc.
4600 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45232
(Directly across from Winton Road)
Tuesdays from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm and
Saturdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

10163 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, Sharonville, Ohio 45241
Wednesdays from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Acceptable Items:

- Pesticides/Fertilizers • Solvents/Thinners • Lawn/Pool Chemicals • Cleaners
- Household/Auto Batteries • Fire Extinguishers • Propane Tanks • Oil-based Paint • Mercury • Fluorescent Bulbs • Driveway Sealer • Gasoline/Motor Oil • Antifreeze • Thermostats



JUST MOW IT - NO BAGGING REQUIRED!

By *Nancy Dawley*

Source: *Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services*

If you’re tired of the cost & hassle of bagging your grass clippings and want to cut down on the cost of fertilizing your lawn, then *Just Mow It!* This simple practice of leaving your grass clippings on the lawn is easy, fast and good for your lawn. More information, including mowing height, frequency, techniques and mowers (it is all very easy) is available from the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services at 513.946.7755, or www.HamiltonCountyRecycles.org.

LEAGUE OPPOSES ISSUE 48 - STREETCAR CHARTER AMENDMENT

By *Carolyn Miller, City Government Committee*

The LWVCA Board took action at its September 7, 2011, meeting and voted to **oppose** Issue 48, the City of Cincinnati “Streetcar” Charter Amendment, following a recommendation by the City Government Committee. This amendment would prevent spending to build or operate a streetcar system through the year 2020.

The League’s City Government Committee studied the proposed Charter amendment over a period of several months and reviewed all the arguments and information. In evaluating the proposal, LWV Local and National transportation and economic development positions and LWV Ohio land use and constitution positions were used to arrive at the recommendation to the Board.

The LWVCA seeks to keep open the city’s transportation options as a means of contributing to the City’s economic vitality and development. The proposed Charter Amendment, if passed, would put on hold the city and region’s transportation options for the remainder of the decade and beyond.

In addition, the League opposes the proposed Charter Amendment because the Charter should provide for the flexible operation of government. This proposal does not provide for flexibility. The Charter should not limit or restrict City Council’s legislative authority on particular issues. This proposal would limit Council’s legislative authority as specified in the Charter.

To defeat this issue League members will be working in coalition with *Cincinnatians for Progress* and other civic groups.

About Issue 48: This proposed Ballot Issue, if approved, would amend the Charter of the City of Cincinnati by adding a new Article XVI. The amendment would prevent the City from spending or appropriating any monies (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 commuter rail) and would keep any rail transit from being planned or built in Cincinnati for the next decade.

This proposed Charter amendment was placed on the ballot through an initiative petition process that gathered sufficient qualified signatures requiring City Council to place the issue on the November 2011 ballot.

For more information on Issue 48 see the buff pages in this issue of the *Voter*.

KNOW YOUR BOARD!

President: **Melissa Currence**
 PresidentElect: on Leave of Absence
 VP Fund Development: **Marjorie Davies**
 VP Organization/Members Services: **Pinky Kocoshis**
 VP Program: **Nancy Dawley**
 VP Voter Service: **Glenda Bernstein**
 Secretary: **Lori Bissler**
 Treasurer: **Kim Thompson**
 Director Action: **Gavin DeVore Leonard**
 Director Membership: **Mary Van Ausdall**
 Director Planned Giving: **Dee Shaffer**
 Director Unit Coordinator: **Gail Wick**
 Director Voter Service: **Susan Banoun**

Executive Director: **Jean Masthay**

WATER ISSUES

A Small Preview of our November Discussion Topic

Source: projectgroundwork.org

Problems of flooding and raw sewage during heavy rains.

Stories of recent hurricane flooding do not all involve raw sewage in the runoff. Muddy/debris-laden water is awful enough. But sewage *IS* frequently a problem in Cincinnati where some sewer pipes, which in dry weather take wastes to the treatment plant, cannot handle added rainwater during a storm, and either back up, or empty directly into creeks and rivers without treatment. This is quite a health hazard and odor problem, not only for homes and businesses that receive a sewage backup, but for creeks, rivers, and adjacent recreational areas that receive untreated waste water.

What can you personally do to mitigate this problem?

Residents can provide the most help by keeping storm water out of the sewer system whenever possible, and disposing of certain materials in your trash as opposed to down your drain or toilet. Here's a list of ways to help:

- √ Unless you're on a combined sewer, make sure that your downspouts and sump pumps are NOT connected to the sanitary sewer system. In a neighborhood of several hundred homes, it only takes six to eight sump pumps working full time in wet weather to cause a sewage overflow or backup.
- √ Install a rain garden or rain barrel to help capture storm water runoff;
- √ Reduce impervious surfaces (blacktop, concrete, etc.) on your property where possible.
- √ Reduce your water use, especially during rainy weather;
- √ Avoid planting trees, shrubs and bushes on your property near the sewer line. Roots can enter, block, and damage sewers;
- √ Keep your private sewer line (between your home and the public sewer line) free of cracks, separated joints, tree roots, and other blockages that could result in sewage backups in your home;
- √ Properly dispose of household hazardous waste like cleaning products, motor oil and paints. Please do NOT put them down the drain, flush them, or dump them directly into a sewer;
- √ Collect and dispose of trash and pet waste properly. Please do NOT put them down the drain, flush them, or dump them directly into a sewer;
- √ Properly dispose of disposable wipes in your trash. Please do NOT flush them down the toilet.
- √ Avoid washing grease, oil, and fats down sinks and floor drains. Dispose of them in your trash instead. Fats, oils and greases, known as FOG, can build up in drains and sewers over time and eventually create clogs. Clogged sewers can cause sewer overflows, which release untreated sewage into our neighborhoods, rivers, and streams.



“FUN FACTS” ABOUT WATER USAGE

From the Greater Cincinnati Water Works website, “What We Do”, “Fun Facts”

How Most Families Use Water

The typical family uses 70% of their water in the bathroom. This is partly because we use water at a faster “flow rate” in the bathroom than in other parts of the home. Toilets and showers have a flow rate of 5-7 gallons per minute; dishwashers and clothes washers use less than 3 gallons per minute.

Things You Might Like to Know

1. Only 3% of the water on Earth is fresh water; only 1% is available for human use.
2. Bottled water may cost up to 1,000 times more than municipal drinking water.
3. A leaking faucet can waste up to 100 gallons of water a day.
4. You can help prevent pollution of drinking water sources by carefully disposing of chemical products.

LEAGUE FUNDRAISERS – PARTICIPATE EARLY AND OFTEN!

By Marjorie Davies



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. Start your shopping list now! Plan a relaxing lunch with friends in the adjoining Bronte Bistro. League volunteers will be staffing the gift wrap table all day, distributing LWV membership information and collecting tips. Twenty percent of bookstore purchases (and ten percent at Bronte Bistro) accompanied by a special League coupon will be rebated to the LWVCA Education Fund. Coupons will be inserted in the November and December Voter newsletters, and will be available at the League office, on our website, and at your unit meetings. Share extra coupons 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 year, 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.

Susan B Anthony Luncheon. Plans are underway for our annual festive celebration of women's suffrage in February. In consideration of our difficult economy, event costs will be kept to a minimum so that more can attend. The silent auction and other fund raising components will feature a wide range of items in all price ranges. The planning team welcomes your involvement and suggestions – call Marj Davies.



Kroger Cards. Did you know that the LWVCA receives hundreds of dollars a year from Kroger rebating a percentage of our members' purchases on League-affiliated gift cards? This is a no-cost way for you to benefit the League, and you can continue to use your Kroger Plus Card for discounts. Call League member Sherrie Heyse to get a free League-affiliated gift card. Load it at your local Kroger's Customer Service Desk via cash or credit card before shopping, then use it to make payment at checkout. Your card can be used over and over – just keep it loaded for expected purchase amounts. Cards also make wonderful gifts for loved ones – you choose the gift amount when you load it at your local store.

DWTL BEGINS FOR 2011 - 2012

The “Dinner with the League” series of monthly dinner meetings is designed to attract and inform both League members and perspective new members.

On October 24 Pamela Matson, Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), will discuss “Human Trafficking: A Hidden Abuse” - describing the reality of human trafficking in our community and what we as individuals and as a community can do about it.

This promises to be a very interesting program. The public is encouraged to attend and members to invite friends to accompany them. See page 9 for times, place, menu choice and how to register.



Join Us for ***DINNER WITH THE LEAGUE***

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area

Monday, October 24, 2011

Speaker: Pamela Matson
Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Topic: "Human Trafficking: A Hidden Abuse"

5:30 Social Time; 6:00 Dinner; 6:45 Speaker
At the 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 to slight rt. on Jefferson; 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 Oct. 21st by sending the following form and check or registering and paying online at www.lwvcincinnati.org.

Please reserve ___ seat(s) for *Dinner with the League* at the Marriott Kingsgate Conference Center on Monday, Oct. 24, 2011 at 5:30 PM.

Name(s) _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

Dinner preference is (Check one for each person attending. *You will be responsible for the \$28 charge.*):

- Chicken Picatta with Lemon Caper Sauce
- Pesto Crusted Cape Capensis (mild fish with a sweet flavor)
- Vegetarian Lasagna

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 Oct. 21st deadline to: LWVCA, 103 Wm. H. Taft Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45219.

PRIVATIZATION STUDY TO BEGIN IN JAN. '12

Join Us!

By *Nancy Dawley*

Are you interested in the issue of privatizing government work and jobs? Here is an opportunity to learn first-hand from the LWV study committee.

At the last National Convention, delegates voted to study the trend of contracting out government work to private companies at all levels of government. The committee will share its findings by the end of 2011, and will provide background and questions for local leagues to discuss.

We are looking for folks to learn together and then educate our membership on privatization. They will take the study documents and consensus questions and create LWVCA Buff Pages during January, 2012. In February they will create training materials for the Unit Discussion Leaders briefing held the end of February. After all the Units have had their March meetings, the committee will reconvene to consolidate Unit Consensus into LWVCA Consensus. They will present this to the Program Development Committee for approval the 4th week in March. Their job is then complete, with thanks, as our local Board reviews and sends our consensus input to the national committee.

The result of this effort may be a new League position on Privatization, announced at the June National Convention – with our local input an important part of the decision.

A mixture of both experienced and new members is ideal for this project as the League continues its important “grass roots” decision making. Call the office (281-8683) or **Nancy Dawley** for more information, or to volunteer.

GET OUT THE WORD!

VOTER EDUCATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

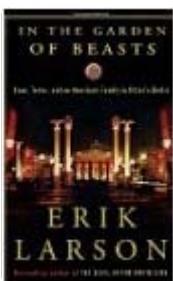
Your chance to get involved this fall!

By *Glenda Bernstein, VP Voter Service*

LWVCA has been offered a unique opportunity to distribute voter education materials at five City of Cincinnati **Primary Care Health Clinics** during this election season. I am attempting to organize a small group of interested League members who would like to participate. The time commitment is minimal and very flexible. The setting is very informal and does not involve speaking in front of a group. This is a daytime activity. No experience necessary! Volunteers will receive coaching, support and guidelines to make you comfortable in the role. The clinics are: Braxton Cann, Elm Street, Millvale at Hopple, North Side and Price Hill. If interested in learning more, contact **Glenda Bernstein**. I hope to hear from you!

A SUGGESTED READ ...

By *Kit Berger*



As Thomas Jefferson said so many years ago “All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent,” Erich Larsen’s newest book *In the Garden of Beasts* is about the gathering horror of the Third Reich. Germany on the surface seemed like a modern, civilized country. At other times the darkness and ruthlessness of Nazism manifested itself. William Dodd was chosen to be the American Ambassador to Berlin in 1933, and saw at first hand the brutal assaults on the population and Germany’s increased militarism. He wrote and warned the leaders in Washington. However, his superiors did not want to hear the reality and many were outright anti-Semitic. Atrocities against Jews, Americans and many, many Germans were disregarded and/or ignored. After reading this non-fiction historical account, one has to ponder, “Could this ever happen in the United States?” Substitute anti-Semitic to anti-immigrant or anti-black or anti-Muslim or anti-Hispanic or anti-gay, etc. Andrew Jackson said in his 1837 Farewell Address said, “Eternal vigilance by the people is the price of liberty.”

CALENDAR: OCTOBER UNIT MEETINGS

Discussion Topic: **Issues on the November ballot**
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 Monday 10/10/11

Hilltop: 2:00 pm Home of Donna Dansker
Northeast Evening: 7:00 pm Madeira Public Library, Euclid and Miami Ave

2nd Tuesday 10/11/11

North Central: 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 10/12/11

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

2nd Thursday 10/13/11

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

3rd Wednesday, 10/19/11

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

HOUSING COMMITTEE LOOKS AT SUBSIDIZED HOUSING

By *Helen Rhoad, Chair*



The LWVCA Housing Committee determined that during the 2011-2012 year the committee will be studying local jurisdictions that have been successful in incorporating subsidized housing in their communities.

Interested Leaguers are invited meet with the current members of the committee. The committee will meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the League office. It will not meet in December.

SEPTEMBER – RENEWAL MONTH

By *Mary VanAusdall, Director Membership*

There are plenty of obviously good reasons to be members of the League, especially as LWVCA's Voter Services is gearing up to provide information about candidates and issues through the Who and What.

This year's **Membership Renewal Form and Interest sheet** has been sent by post mail to all 361 current members. The LWVCA continues to grow our membership slowly but surely. This says a lot about members' needs to stay informed, to understand other people's positions and to take action.

When you receive your renewal form, think about the reasons that you value the League. Renew by mail or on-line. Invite a friend, your children, other relatives and your colleagues to consider joining so that we will continue to grow in our ability to meet our mission. Thank you.

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: _____

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



League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area
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 info@lwvcincinnati www.lwvcincinnati.org

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

All meetings are open to the public and are held at the League Office, address above, unless otherwise noted. Bring a friend!

Monday	Oct 3	6:30pm	Board Meeting
Tuesday	Oct 4	7:00pm	Senate Bill 5 Issue Forum
			Cincinnati Museum Center; reservation required
Tuesday	Oct 4	7:15pm	Senate Bill 5 Issue Forum
			Live Stream on WCPO.com from the Museum Center
Friday	Oct 7		Voter copy due to editor (newsletter@lwvcincinnati.org)
Tuesday	Oct 11		Voter Registration deadline
Thursday	Oct 13	7:00pm	Natural Resources Committee
Saturday	Oct 15	6:15pm	Cincinnati City Council Candidate Forum
			at The Greenwich, 2442 Gilbert Avenue
Monday	Oct 17	6:00pm	Health Care Committee
Monday	Oct 17	7:00pm	County Government Committee
Wednesday	Oct 19		Dinner With the League (DWTL) reservation deadline
Thursday	Oct 20	10:00am	Voter Collating – Central North Unit
Monday	Oct 24	5:30pm	Dinner With the League (DWTL)
			Kingsgate Marriott, 151 Goodman Drive
			\$28 - see page 9 for the details
Tuesday	Oct 25	6:30pm	Investment Committee
Tuesday	Oct 25	7:00pm	Housing Committee
Wednesday	Oct 26	5:30pm	Program Development Committee (PDC)
Wednesday	Oct 26	7:00pm	Nov Discussion Leaders’ Briefing
Saturday	Oct 29	1:00pm	Nov Discussion Leaders’ Briefing
Saturday	Nov 5		Absentee Ballot request deadline

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

ISSUES FILED FOR THE NOVEMBER 8, 2011 GENERAL ELECTION

The *Who and What of Elections*, with candidate and issue information, will be available at all branches of the Hamilton County Public Library by mid-October. A copy is mailed to League members. Candidate information is also available online at: www.lwvcincinnati.org. Enter required information in Smart Voter box located on the home page.

STATE ISSUE 1 - Proposed Constitutional Amendment - Judicial Retirement Age 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

(Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly)
To amend Section 6 of Article IV and to repeal Sections 19 and 22
of Article IV of the Ohio Constitution

On the November ballot, State Issue 1 will ask: Shall the amendment be approved?

Voting YES means approval of the amendment. Voting NO means disapproval of the amendment. A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

If approved, the proposed amendment will take effect immediately after the election.

LWVO Explanation of Issue 1: Currently a candidate for judge is not eligible to run or be appointed if the candidate will be 70 years old or older when assuming the office. The proposed change would prohibit a candidate for judge from being elected or appointed if that candidate exceeds the age of 75 years. This would allow a judge to assume office at age 75 and serve out a six year term, meaning that a judge could potentially serve until age 81. Currently Ohio is one of 20 states with an age of retirement of 70 years. Eighteen states have no age limit. Four have a retirement age of 72, seven have a retirement age of 75, and one has a retirement age of 90.

The amendment would eliminate the Supreme Court Commission (established in 1875) and Courts of Conciliation (established in 1851). Neither has ever been utilized.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. In 2011 people live longer and are mentally sound longer than was the case in 1968, when the current age limit was adopted.
2. Experienced, knowledgeable judges should be permitted to run for office. Voters should determine if a candidate for judge is able to serve.
3. If a judge is unable to perform judicial duties because of age or any other reason, the Ohio Supreme Court can discipline or remove the judge. In addition, judges are subject to impeachment proceedings in the Ohio General Assembly.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. Having a higher age limit effectively creates a more entrenched judiciary.
2. The current system works and there is no compelling reason to change it.
3. Extending the retirement age will burden the courts with some judges whose best years are behind them.

STATE ISSUE 2 - REFERENDUM ON LEGISLATION RELATIVE TO GOVERNMENT UNION CONTRACTS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS AND POLICIES

(A referendum on Am. Sub. SB 5)

On the November ballot, State Issue 2 will ask: Shall the law be approved?

Voting YES means approval of SB 5. Voting NO means disapproval of SB 5.

A majority YES vote is required for SB. 5 to be effective.

If approved, the provisions of SB 5 will take effect immediately after the election.

LWVO Explanation of Issue 2: Approval of SB 5 changes laws concerning public employees, in particular teachers, firefighters and police. Major changes affect collective bargaining rights, salary schedules and compensation, layoff procedures, and leave. For example, approval would:

- prohibit public employees from striking;
- eliminate binding arbitration as a way to settle contract disputes for safety forces;
- require performance-based pay for teachers;
- provide a minimum that public employees must pay for pensions and health insurance;
- allow the governing body (public employer) to impose its own last offer to settle a contract dispute.

Proponents of SB 5 argue that:

1. Schools and local governments need to reduce costs to balance their budgets. They must have the right to reject unaffordable government employment contracts.
2. Government employees should pay a larger portion of the cost of health insurance and retirement plans in an amount closer to that paid by private sector employees.
3. Seniority-based layoffs for teachers often force the best teachers to be laid off first.

Opponents of SB 5 argue that:

1. Public employees should have rights to protect themselves in the workplace. For example, police and firefighters should be able to negotiate for critical safety equipment. Nurses should be able to demand reasonable staffing levels in hospitals.
2. The budget shouldn't be balanced by requiring additional sacrifices by Ohio's public employees who have already made over \$350 million in concessions. Corporations should give up their tax breaks.
3. Teachers, nurses and firefighters did not cause Ohio's budget problems.

Websites:

In support of SB 5: Building A Better Ohio <http://betterohio.org>

In opposition to SB 5: We Are Ohio <http://weareohio.com>

STATE ISSUE 3 - PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

(Proposed by Initiative Petition)

To add a new Section 21 to Article I of the Ohio Constitution

On the November ballot, State Issue 3 will ask: Shall the amendment be approved?

Voting YES means approval of the amendment. Voting NO means disapproval of the amendment. A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

If approved, the proposed amendment will take effect 30 days after the election.

LWVO Explanation of Issue 3: The amendment would add a section to Ohio's Bill of Rights exempting Ohioans from the requirement that individuals purchase a minimum amount of health insurance coverage (individual mandate). The requirement is found in The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), a federal law passed March 19, 2010. The amendment would also apply to any similar federal, state or local law requiring participation in health insurance or a health care system. It would not apply to any law or rule in effect as of March 19, 2010. This would include health insurance coverage such as Medicare, Medicaid, workers' compensation, Social Security Disability, veterans' programs as of that date.

Generally, a state law, or a state constitutional provision, cannot overrule a federal law. The PPACA is currently being challenged in federal court as violating federal law. The provision exempting Ohioans from PPACA would likely have little or no effect on that challenge. However, if passed, the amendment could have a direct impact on any Ohio law (state or local) with an effective date after March 19, 2010. Ohioans would be exempted from any requirement imposed by the Ohio legislature, or by any of Ohio's counties or cities, which would require individuals to purchase health insurance. It is unclear how far that might extend and what the impact would be on such issues as workers' compensation, Medicaid, or health services operated by the state such as clinics at state universities.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. The freedom from being forced to purchase government-defined private health insurance is a fundamental right that should be embodied in the Ohio Bill of Rights.
2. Government must be prohibited from passing laws requiring purchase of health insurance coverage.
3. Ohioans should be able to vote on whether they want to be covered by government-defined health insurance.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. Without required participation the entirety of the PPACA might be declared to be unconstitutional. Some consequences would be that insurance companies could continue to exclude people, including children, with preexisting medical conditions from getting health insurance coverage, and continue to impose annual and lifetime caps on health care coverage.
2. Exempting Ohioans from requirements of a federal law violates the U.S. Constitution and should be struck down by the Courts.
3. Changes the Ohio legislature has made to health insurance coverage since March 19, 2010 as well as future changes would be invalid. This would include needed changes to Medicaid, workers' compensation, and student health insurance.

Websites:

In support of the proposed amendment: Ohioans for Healthcare Freedom
www.ohioansforhealthcarefreedom.org
In opposition to the proposed amendment: Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage
<http://ohioconsumersforhealth.org>

HAMILTON COUNTY ISSUES

ISSUE 37 HAMILTON COUNTY TAX LEVY - Health & Hospitalization Services

(Renewal and Decrease 4.07 mills for 3yrs) A majority YES vote is necessary for passage.

Explanation: A proposed 4.07 mills property tax levy for three years to raise about \$40 million annually over the three year levy cycle for care of medically indigent Hamilton County residents at University Hospital (UH) and Children's Hospital. The levy also provides for numerous county department services for indigent care, the largest being the Juvenile Court and Sheriff's inmate medical programs. This levy adds support for St. Vincent dePaul Charitable Pharmacy (SVDP) and funds for the Continuum of Care Homeless Medical Services.

This is a renewal of part of an existing Health and Hospitalization levy due to expire in December 2011 and a decrease of 0.42 mills. If approved, the owner of a \$100,000 home would pay about \$46 a year, 6% less than currently paid.

The levy was placed on the ballot by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) after it was reviewed by the Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC).

What the levy will do: This levy would provide annually \$20.9 million to UH for adult indigent care, and \$5.2 million to Children's Hospital for pediatric indigent care. Subsidies to UH would be reduced 19.6% a \$5.1 million annual reduction and Children's Hospital by 13.3% an \$800,000 annual reduction.

It would provide \$100,000 annually for St. Vincent dePaul Charitable Pharmacy for free pharmacy services for qualified clients. It would provide \$600,000 total in the third year of the levy for the Continuum of Care for new facilities based medical services for homeless clients. Continuum of Care is a process of coordinated planning and management of programs which serve homeless persons in Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

This levy phases out the Sheriff's staffing for inmate medical care over 2013 and 2014. This staffing will be picked up by the general fund or other funding sources. Non-hospital programs would be eliminated or reprogrammed by 17.2% or \$6.54 million.

Currently the Health & Hospitalization levy (Indigent Care Levy) provides funds for medically indigent county residents at UH and Children's Hospital and certain indigent care programs. This levy proposal aims to focus on prevention of illness and disease and coordination of medical care. As rec-

ommended by the Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC), the County Commissioners will establish a committee to assess progress of providers in meeting specific goals and performance benchmarks re: prevention, coordination and cost-efficiency criteria.

Background: First approved in 1966 to reimburse the then University of Cincinnati Hospital for care of medically indigent patients and adding Children's Hospital in 1976, the levy has been renewed for consecutive five year periods. A three year duration for this levy would allow an assessment of the local impact of federal health care reform on indigent health care. This levy would lapse concurrently with the Family Services and Treatment levy allowing for better coordination within each levy.

The proposed levy amount represents a 14.2% reduction from the last levy cycle. The reduction results from property devaluation due to the current economic downturn and reduced millage. Between 2008 and 2011 there was a 7% decrease in real property values in Hamilton County. There has been an increase in the number of people needing public assistance.

Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC) Recommendations: The TLRC recommended the levy be placed on the November 2011 ballot for a three year term. The TLRC recommended levy dollars be focused on preventative care vs. emergency care services and that reporting requirements for levy funded providers be altered to enhance measurement of provider performance. Future Indigent Care Levies primarily should fund health care provided by hospitals or clinics to indigent patients. All dollars raised by the levy should be for legal county residents who have exhausted all other means of assistance, be temporary and promote self-sufficiency.

TLRC recommended an amount of funding between \$5.75 million and \$6 million per year to Children's Hospital in support of pediatric indigent care. The hospital was commended for emphasis on primary care through clinics and jointly operating a clinic with Cincinnati Health Department (CHD). The TLRC did not recommend funding for CHD.

The TLRC recommended levy funds between \$15.5 million and \$20 million per year to UH in support of non-pediatric indigent care for county residents with the expectation UH further emphasize primary care including devoting resources necessary to enhance access to that care and pursue administrative cost reductions. The TLRC recommended that levy providers be held responsible in their contracts with Hamilton County for achieving specific goals in implementing the levy's new initiatives.

The TLRC recommended phasing out county department services for indigent care with the goal that they be fully phased out by the next levy cycle. The TLRC did not recommend funding for the SVDP. The Continuum of Care request was presented after the deadline for consideration. No recommendations were made. TLRC recommendations are advisory to the Board of County Commissioners.

Consultant reports and Final Reports from the TLRC can be found at: www.hamilton-co.org
Enter TLRC in the search box; select Read TLRC Reports - Hamilton County, Ohio

ISSUE 38 HAMILTON COUNTY TAX LEVY – Children's Services

(Renewal 2.77 mills for 5 years) A majority YES vote is necessary for passage

Explanation: This proposed five-year levy is a renewal of the Children's Services levy, a property tax levy of 2.77 mills passed in November, 2001. The Children's Services levy was approved for a flat millage amount. Due to reductions in state reimbursements, this levy will bring in roughly \$2 million less in 2012 – 2016 than it did during the current levy cycle (even though millage is unchanged). If approved, the owner of \$100,000 home would pay about \$51 a year, about the same as currently being paid. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) placed the levy on the ballot after a review by the Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC).

What the levy will do: This levy will provide approximately \$39 million annually for Federal and State mandated services to children through Hamilton County Children's Services (HCCS), a division of Hamilton County Job and Family Services (HCJFS). The HCCS is the local organization legally responsible for taking reports of child abuse, neglect, and dependency. Following investigation of those reports, the agency acts to protect children.

Key services of the HCCS include: operation of 241-KIDS, Hamilton County's 24-hour tele-

phone line for reporting suspected abuse and neglect and investigation of allegations and transfer of cases to Family Services. Family Services involves families in making decisions affecting their children with support of community partners and provides services to help support families including emergency housing and parenting training and referrals to other community partners for services such as mental health counseling or substance abuse treatment. Children who cannot be safe in their homes are placed in temporary care with relatives, foster parents or institutional settings. HCCS seeks protective, temporary or permanent custody of children through Juvenile Court and promotes recruitment of foster and adoptive families. Children are prepared for adoption and arrangements are made for post-adoption services to families. Training in independent living skills is provided for older teens.

In addition, the levy will also finance the County's state mandated funding for the Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh). BCMh is a tax-supported health care program in the Ohio Department of Health. BCMh serves children with special health care needs and their families by coordinating systems to obtain comprehensive care and services that are family-centered, community-based, and culturally competent. Eligibility for the program is based on a percentage of Federal poverty guidelines.

By state law (ORC 3701.024), BCMh can draw 0.1 mills of a county's real estate taxes to pay for treatment services provided to children residing in Hamilton County. This means that Hamilton County is billed for the cost of services provided to children residing in the County up to a maximum of 0.1 mill of the County's real estate tax value. This amount is based on the Ohio Revised Code and has a maximum annual reimbursement of around \$2 million. The BCMh payment was in the Children's Services levy in the past, but moved to Indigent Care during the last levy cycle. It is being returned to Children's Services in the next levy cycle.

Background: Ohio law requires the county to provide services to children and families who are affected by abuse, neglect, or dependency. HCCS is a division of HCJFS. The Children's Services Levy was first established in 1986 by a 1.42 mill levy with subsequent approvals by voters for consecutive five-year periods. If the funds needed to meet these obligations are not provided by the Children's Services Levy, they must come from the County's General Fund. The local funds generated by the Children's Services Levy are matched with state and federal dollars and also used to pay third parties to provide contract services in the care of children in Hamilton County.

Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC) Recommendations: The funding provided by the Children's Services Levy has been held level for many years. The budgeted levy revenue for 2011 was \$40,851,322. Based on its review, the TLRC recommended the amount of the levy funds be held at that same amount over the coming levy cycle.

The TLRC recommended that HCCS spend up to \$750,000 to deploy technology to increase the productivity of HCCS, to consider co-locating the Family Law Division of the Prosecutor's Office within HCCS, and to assess 241-Kids for Use of Best Practice and Potential Improvements. The HCCS should maintain an appropriate reserve of levy funds to address an unresolved State of Ohio audit and then adjust the levy as appropriate in mid-cycle once the audit is resolved. The TLRC also recommended that HCCS create a pool of five to ten million dollars in levy funds to allow HCCS and its contract partners to provide wrap around services that prevent abuse and neglect that leads to more costly custody of these children.

CINCINNATI CITY ISSUES

ISSUE 44. PROPOSED ORDINANCE - Electric Aggregation Program

A majority YES vote is necessary for passage

Explanation: Issue 44 asks if the City of Cincinnati shall have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located within the incorporated areas of Cincinnati thereby instituting an opt out electric service aggregation program and enter into service agreements for the sale and purchase of electricity.

Residential, small businesses and other eligible electric consumers in the City would be automatically included in the program except where any person chooses to opt out.

An opt-out aggregation program requires voter approval at an election.

This issue was placed on the ballot by an ordinance passed by City Council.

What the issue would do: If voters approve an aggregation program, the City of Cincinnati would be authorized to aggregate retail electric service loads located within the incorporated area of the City. The City Manager on behalf of City Council would be authorized to enter into service agreements to facilitate the sale and purchase of service for retail electric loads and may exercise that authority jointly with any other political subdivision of the State of Ohio in order to establish an Electric Service Aggregation Program.

If voters approve an aggregation program, the City Manager on behalf of City Council would be authorized to individually or jointly with any other political subdivision of the State of Ohio, develop a plan of operation and governance for the Electric Service Aggregation Program. At least two public meetings would be held on the plan prior to a vote by Council on its adoption. No plan adopted by Council shall aggregate any retail electric customer in the City unless it in advance clearly discloses to the person whose retail electric service is to be aggregated that the person will be enrolled automatically in the Electric Service Aggregation Program and will remain enrolled unless the person elects by a stated procedure not to be enrolled. The disclosure shall state prominently the rates, charges, and other terms and conditions of enrollment. The stated procedure shall allow any person enrolled in the Electric Service Aggregation Program the opportunity to opt out of the program once every three years, without paying a switching fee. Any person that opts out of the Electric Service Aggregation Program following the procedure shall default to the electric distribution utility providing distribution service for the person's retail electric service load, until the person chooses an alternative supplier.

Background: Beginning in 2001, Ohio's electric deregulation law gave local governments a way to secure savings for residential and small commercial customers through a process known as opt-out electric aggregation. Energy aggregation has allowed local governments to give constituents additional electric choices.

Under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 4928.20 the City of Cincinnati, by and through City Council is authorized to establish an opt-out electric service aggregation program for the benefit of electric service consumers living in the City. Municipal aggregation is the process in which energy is sold to consumers who have joined together in a buying group through their local government. Aggregated groups may reduce a supplier's marketing and administrative costs and may be able to negotiate discounts on electric energy prices. The aggregated group would remain customers of the electric utility company. The new electric energy supplier and rate would appear on the utility bill. The local utility still provides power delivery, maintains and reads meters, and restores power during outages. Customers receive only one bill from their local utility that includes the discounted electric generation charges.

The electric service aggregation program does not apply to a customer who has opted out, or is in contract with a certified electric service company, or has a special contract with an electric distribution utility, or is not located within the governmental aggregator's governmental boundaries among other criteria.

In Hamilton County several municipalities and townships have approved electric opt-out aggregation ballot measures.

Proponents Say: Governmental aggregation provides an opportunity for electric service consumers collectively to participate in potential benefits of electric service deregulation through lower electric rates which they would not otherwise be able to have individually.

Opponents Say: In Ohio electric choice enables the consumer to take advantage of the competitive market and selectively shop for their own electric service supplier for the best price or other incentives; therefore, local government does not need to be involved.

ISSUE 45. PROPOSED ORDINANCE - Gas Aggregation Program

A majority YES vote is necessary for passage

Explanation: Issue 45 asks if the City of Cincinnati shall have the authority to aggregate the retail natural gas loads located within the incorporated areas of Cincinnati thereby instituting an opt out natural gas service aggregation program and enter into service agreements for the sale and purchase of natural gas.

Eligible residential, small businesses and other natural gas consumers in the city would be automatically included in the program except where any person chooses to opt out.

An opt-out aggregation program requires voter approval at an election.

This issue was placed on the ballot by an ordinance passed by City Council.

What the issue would do: If voters approve an aggregation program, the City of Cincinnati would be authorized to aggregate retail natural gas service loads located within the incorporated area of the City. The City Manager on behalf of City Council would be authorized to enter into service agreements to facilitate the sale and purchase of service for natural gas loads and may exercise that authority jointly with any other political subdivision of the State of Ohio in order to establish a Natural Gas Service Aggregation Program.

If voters approve an aggregation program, the City Manager on behalf of City Council would be authorized to individually or jointly with any other political subdivision of the State of Ohio, develop a plan of operation and governance for the Natural Gas Service Aggregation Program. At least two public meetings would be held on the plan prior to a vote by Council on its adoption. No plan adopted by Council shall aggregate any retail natural gas customer in the City unless it in advance clearly discloses to the person whose retail natural gas service is to be aggregated that the person will be enrolled automatically in the Natural Gas Service Aggregation Program and will remain enrolled unless the person elects by a stated procedure not to be enrolled. The disclosure shall state prominently the rates, charges, and other terms and conditions of enrollment. The stated procedure shall allow any person enrolled in the Natural Gas Service Aggregation Program the opportunity to opt out of the program once every two years, without paying a switching fee. Any person that opts out of the Natural Gas Service Aggregation Program following the procedure shall default to the natural gas company providing distribution service for the person's retail natural gas service load, until the person chooses an alternative supplier.

Background: Beginning in 2001, an Ohio law required natural gas suppliers to be certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and also gave local governments the opportunity to aggregate customers in a manner similar to the electric choice model. Energy aggregation has allowed local governments to give constituents additional natural gas choices.

Under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 4929.26 the City of Cincinnati, by and through City Council is authorized to establish an opt-out a natural gas service aggregation program for the benefit of natural gas consumers living in the City. Municipal aggregation is the process in which energy is sold to consumers who have joined together in a buying group through their local government. Aggregated groups may reduce a supplier's marketing and administrative costs and may be able to negotiate discounts on natural gas prices. The aggregated group would remain customers of the natural gas company. The local gas utility company would deliver gas to homes and would continue to read meters, assist with billing and respond to emergencies. If a customer remains with the local gas company that company would continue to supply the customer's natural gas.

The Natural Gas Service Aggregation Program does not apply to a person who is both a distribution service customer and a mercantile customer or has an existing commodity sales service contract with a retail natural gas supplier or has commodity sales service as part of a retail natural gas aggregation program under rules of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio or other persons not eligible under PUCO rules.

In Hamilton County several municipalities and townships have approved gas opt-out aggregation ballot measures.

Proponents Say:

Governmental aggregation provides an opportunity for natural gas consumers collectively to participate in potential benefits of natural gas service deregulation through lower natural gas rates which they would not otherwise be able to have individually.

Opponents Say:

In Ohio gas choice enables the consumer to take advantage of the competitive market and selectively shop for a natural gas supplier on their own for the best price or other incentives; therefore, local government does not need to be involved.

ISSUE 46 PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT CITY OF CINCINNATI - Campaign Finance Filing Deadlines

A majority YES vote is necessary for passage.

Ballot language: Shall the Charter of the City of Cincinnati be amended to align the dates of the campaign finance report filings for City Council and mayoral candidates with the dates City Council and mayoral candidates must file campaign finance reports with the Hamilton County Board of Elections, by amending Section 2 of Article XIII?

YES NO

(This amendment was placed on the ballot by an ordinance passed by City Council.)

Explanation: This proposed Ballot Issue would amend the Charter of the City of Cincinnati by changing Section 2 of Article XIII (the Campaign Finance Article) which covers how and when candidates for City Council and Mayor must file reports of contributions and expenditures. These reports are required to be filed before and after the election with the Cincinnati Elections Commission according to certain specified deadlines.

If passed, this amendment would eliminate in the Charter two currently specified campaign finance reporting deadlines which occur before the election and which are different from, and in addition to, State of Ohio deadlines. The new Charter specified filing dates before and after the election would coincide with required State of Ohio filing dates for campaign finance reports. This amendment would also add a filing date between a mayoral primary, if held, and the general election.

This proposed Charter Amendment would continue to state that any candidate, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, or political party that made or received a contribution or expenditure supporting a candidate for city council or mayor is required to file with the Cincinnati Elections Commission and the Hamilton County Board of Elections itemized reports of contributions or expenditures in the manner and form required by the commission.

What the amendment would do: Currently, candidates for City Council and Mayor must file a report of contributions and expenditures sixty days before the general election under Article XIII, Section 2, of the City Charter. Also, if during the 20-day period before the election, a candidate receives a contribution that causes the total contributions from the contributor to exceed \$500, there is currently a requirement in the Charter that the candidate file a report of the contribution within 5 days with the Cincinnati Elections Commission and the Hamilton County Board of Elections. These filing deadlines are in addition to and do not coincide with those campaign finance reports and deadlines required by state law.

If this amendment passes, candidates for City Council and Mayor would no longer be required to do the sixty day filing or the conditional 20-day filing before the general election. Both of these deadlines would be omitted from the Charter. Candidates would only have to abide by a filing deadline at the end of July of the election year, a deadline which coincides with a State of Ohio filing deadline. This campaign finance report would reflect contributions and expenditures made from the last filing to the last day of June of the election year.

This amendment also specifies a deadline for reporting contributions and expenditures after the election which would be the thirty-eighth day after the municipal election to reflect contributions and expenditures since the last filing.

This amendment would also add a filing date between a mayoral primary, if held, and the gen-

eral election. The two successful mayoral primary candidates would be required to file a report of contributions and/or expenditures on the seventh day after the mayoral primary election.

All of these campaign finance reports are filed simultaneously with the Cincinnati Elections Commission and the Hamilton County Board of Elections.

Background: This Charter amendment is on the November 2011 ballot because City Council voted to submit the amendment to the Campaign Finance Article to the voters of Cincinnati.

The current Section 2 of Article XIII, detailing additional campaign finance report filing dates, was part of a more comprehensive campaign finance reform package added to the City Charter by voters in November 2001. The purpose of Section 2 was to assure fuller and more timely disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures than was then or now required by state or local law. More frequent and more timely disclosure was considered an essential component of any meaningful comprehensive campaign finance reform. It was argued that greater transparency in the process and more timely information to the voters on which to make a more informed decision about the candidates would be provided by this section.

Proponents Say:

- The public's right to campaign finance information for Council and Mayoral candidates can be met by having candidates file campaign finance reports with the Cincinnati Elections Commission on the same schedule as required by the State of Ohio.
- Varying deadlines for city and state campaign finance reports are confusing and time consuming for candidates and others who are required to file reports.

Opponents Say:

- Filing dates closer to the election lead to greater transparency and help voters know in a timely manner where a candidate's money is coming from and how it is being spent.
- Eliminating the 60-day reporting requirement and the conditional 20-day reporting requirement would create too large a gap in reporting for the time period when much of the relevant campaign finance contributions and expenditures occur.

ISSUE 47 PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT CITY OF CINCINNATI - Trash Collection Fee

A majority YES vote is necessary for passage.

Ballot language: Shall the Charter of the City of Cincinnati be amended to prohibit the City, its various boards, agencies and departments from assessing, levying, or collecting any tax or general assessment on real properties, or against the owners or occupants thereof, for the collection, transportation or disposal of trash, garbage, waste, rubbish or refuse by enacting new Article XVII?

YES NO

Explanation: This proposed Ballot Issue would amend the Charter of the City of Cincinnati by adding a new Article XVII. The amendment would prohibit the City from assessing, levying or collecting any tax or assessment for the collection, transportation or disposal of garbage or other waste.

This proposed Charter amendment was placed on the ballot through an initiative petition process that gathered sufficient qualified signatures requiring City Council to place the issue on the November 2011 ballot.

What the amendment would do: The new Charter article would prohibit the City from assessing, levying, or collecting any tax or general assessment on real properties, or against the owners or occupants thereof, for the collection, transportation or disposal of trash, garbage, waste, rubbish or refuse.

For purposes of the Amendment the term "City" includes the City's various boards, agencies, departments and commissions. For purposes of this summary, "garbage" includes trash, garbage, waste, rubbish, and refuse.

Currently all single-family households and small multi-unit complexes receive curbside garbage/yard waste collection and curbside recycling service from the City. Garbage collection and recycling services are currently paid for by the City's general operating fund supported mainly by city earnings and property taxes. Most businesses and commercial establishments in the City contract for private garbage collection.

Background: This Charter amendment is on the November 2011 ballot because sufficient signatures were collected in a petition effort in response to proposals over the past three budget years by the City Manager to include a monthly garbage collection fee in the City budget. No garbage collection taxes or assessments have been passed by City Council to date.

Proponents Say:

- A Charter Amendment is a good way to stop a city garbage fee from ever being implemented.
- Residents should not have to pay a separate garbage levy or assessment; garbage collection should be covered by the taxes residents already pay.

Opponents Say:

- City Council needs to maintain flexibility in its budget and may have to resort to considering fees in order to maintain the current level of garbage collection in the City.
- A growing number of other cities are charging for garbage collection, especially volume or weight based charges, to encourage residents to throw less away.

ISSUE 48 PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT CITY OF CINCINNATI - Streetcar System

A majority YES vote is necessary for passage.

Ballot Language: Shall the Charter of the City of Cincinnati be amended to prohibit the City, the City Manager, the Mayor, the Council and the City's various boards, commissions, agencies and departments from spending or appropriating any monies or incurring any indebtedness or contractual obligations for the purpose of financing, designing, engineering, constructing, building or operating a streetcar system which means a system of passenger vehicles operated on rails constructed primarily in existing public rights of way through the year 2020, by enacting new Article XVI?

YES NO

Explanation: This proposed Ballot Issue would amend the Charter of the City of Cincinnati by adding a new Article XVI. The amendment would prohibit the City from spending or appropriating any money to plan, construct, or operate a Streetcar System or any passenger rail transit in the City in existing public rights of way through the year 2020.

This proposed Charter amendment was placed on the ballot through an initiative petition process that gathered sufficient qualified signatures requiring City Council to place the issue on the November 2011 ballot.

What the amendment would do: The new Charter article would prohibit the City from the spending or appropriation of any money or any indebtedness or contractual obligations for purposes of financing the design, engineering, construction or operation of any portion of a Streetcar System through December 31, 2020.

For purposes of the Amendment the term "City" includes the City, the City Manager, the Mayor, the Council, and the City's various boards, commissions, agencies and departments. The term "money" means any money from any source whatsoever and would include city, state, federal and private funds.

Because of the definition of a "Streetcar System," the amendment would include any system of passenger vehicles operated on rails constructed primarily in existing public rights of way.

The amendment would stop not just the streetcar project. It would also block any regional passenger rail system (light rail or commuter rail) which would need to transit through the city of Cincinnati on public rights of way. It would keep any rail transit from being planned or built in Cincinnati for the next decade.

Background: This proposed amendment to the City of Cincinnati Charter is similar to a proposed Charter amendment that appeared on the November 2009 ballot. That amendment would have prevented the expenditure of monies by the City for right-of-way acquisition or construction of improvements for passenger rail transportation without an affirmative vote of the electorate. The amendment in November 2009 was defeated by the voters.

This Charter amendment is on the November 2011 ballot because sufficient signatures were collected in a petition effort in response to the expected start of construction of the Cincinnati Streetcar Project. The Streetcar Project has been approved by the City Council. Funding to build the Streetcar has been identified and secured.

Proponents Say:

- Prohibiting passenger rail projects would allow the City to spend those capital dollars on other permanent infrastructure projects.
- The proposed streetcar plan, including its route, is the wrong plan and should be stopped.
- Passenger rail transportation projects should be prohibited in the Charter because these projects cost too much and will have to be subsidized.
- Voters should have a say about passenger rail projects which are usually expensive and long-term investments.

Opponents Say:

- This amendment would prohibit the City from planning or building any passenger rail transit projects for the next decade and beyond. The City will lose jobs and development opportunities both of which can increase the City's tax base.
- This amendment should not be in the Charter because it is an issue which should be decided by City Council as the Charter authorized legislative body of City government.
- Prohibiting the City from spending money on passenger rail transit would result in excessive delays in the development and implementation of an adequate transportation system for our city and limit transportation options that are part of local, state and national long range plans.
- The expiration date of the amendment - December 31, 2020 - is arbitrary and would force any planning for passenger rail transportation to start all over again after that date.

SCHOOL ISSUES

ISSUE 32. CINCINNATI SCHOOL - TAX LEVY - Additional 7.95ml CPT - Permanent Improvements

The Cincinnati Board of Education voted in August to place a permanent improvement levy of 7.95 mills on the November 8 ballot. If passed, the levy will generate approximately \$49.5 million for the Cincinnati Public Schools and will last for a "continuing period of time." The Board president said that these additional funds are to be used for "technology, software, textbooks and other improvements with a life of at least five years." Levy proceeds will not be used for personnel costs.

The levy would mean an increase of \$243 annually for the owner of a home valued at \$100,000.

Issue 33. Madeira School - Tax Levy - Additional 6.9ml CPT - CE

Issue 34. Mt Healthy School - Tax Levy - Additional 7.65ml CPT - CE

Issue 35. Northwest School - Bond Issue & Tax Levy - 1.57ml 37yr & 3.5ml CPT-Improvements & COE

Issue 36. Three Rivers School - Tax Levy - Renewal 4.95ml 3yr - CE

VILLAGE/TOWNSHIP ISSUES

Issue 4. Vill of Addyston - Tax Levy - Renewal - 1ml 5yr-Water

Issue 5. Vill of Addyston - Tax Levy - Renewal - 0.5 ml 5yr-Sewage Disposal

Issue 6. Vill of Addyston - Income Tax Increase. - 0.5% - General Operations

Issue 7. Vill of Amberley- Proposed Electric Aggregation

Issue 8. Vill of Amberley - Proposed Gas Aggregation

- Issue 9. Vill of Arlington Hgts - Tax Levy - Replacement 2ml CPT - Police
- Issue 10. Vill of Evendale B - Loc Opt - Sunday Sales at Speedway - Wine and Mixed Beverages 10am - Midnight.
- Issue 11. Vill of Golf Manor - Tax Levy - Renewal - 2ml 5yr - COE
- Issue 12. Vill of Greenhills - Tax Levy - Renewal 3.28ml 5yr - CE
- Issue 13. Vill of Greenhills - Proposed Charter Amendment - Nonpartisan Elections & Term Limits
- Issue 14. Vill of Greenhills - Proposed Charter Amendment - Open Meetings
- Issue 15. Vill of Greenhills - Proposed Charter Amendment - Signature Requirements for Recall
- Issue 16. Vill of Lincoln Hgts - Proposed Gas Aggregation
- Issue 17. Vill of Lincoln Hgts - Tax Levy - Renewal & Increase - 5.9ml 5yr - Garbage Collection
- Issue 18. Vill of Lockland - Tax Levy - Renewal 4ml 5yr - Fire
- Issue 19. Vill of Mariemont - Tax Levy - Renewal 3ml 5yr - Permanent Improvements
- Issue 20. Vill of North Bend - Tax Levy - Renewal 5ml 5yr - CE
- Issue 21. Vill of Silverton - Proposed Charter Amendment
- Issue 22. Vill of Terrace Park - Tax Levy - Renewal 5.58ml 5yr - CE
- Issue 23. Anderson Twp B - Loc Opt - Sunday Sales at Country Fresh - Beer, Wine and Mixed Beverages 10am - Midnight.
- Issue 24. Colerain Twp I - Loc Opt - Sunday Sales at SuperAmerica - Wine and Mixed Beverages 10am - Midnight.
- Issue 25. Columbia Twp - Proposed Electric Aggregation
- Issue 26. Columbia Twp - Silverton Fire Dist - Tax Levy - Additional - 3.5ml CPT - Fire & EMS
- Issue 27. Green Twp - Tax Levy - Renewal 0.5ml 5yr - Police & EMS
- Issue 28. Green Twp - Tax Levy - Renewal 0.5ml 5yr - Roads
- Issue 29. Miami Twp - Tax Levy - Renewal .46ml 5yr - COE
- Issue 30. Springfield Twp U - Loc Opt - Sunday Sales at Sundry's Pub - Beer, Wine and Mixed Beverages 10am - Midnight.
- Issue 31. Springfield Twp W - Loc Opt - Sunday Sales at Buffalo Wings & Rings - Beer, Wine and Mixed Beverages 10am - Midnight

CITY ISSUES

- Issue 39. Blue Ash 4-A - Local Option - Local Option For Particular Use at Speedway
- Issue 40. Blue Ash 4-A - Local Option - Sunday Sales at Speedway - Wine and Mixed Beverages 10am - Midnight.
- Issue 41. Cheviot - Tax Levy - Renewal 3ml 5yr - CE
- Issue 42. Cheviot - Tax Levy - Renewal 1.5ml 5yr - Roads
- Issue 43. Cincinnati 3-A - Local Option Sale of Beer & Intoxicating liquor at Perkins Lounge
- Issue 49. Madeira - Charter Amendment - Article IV. Manager
- Issue 50. Madeira - Charter Amendment - Article VII. Planning Commission
- Issue 51. Madeira - Charter Amendment - Article XII Initiative, Referendum, And Recall
- Issue 52. Madeira - Charter Amendment - Article XIV. General Provisions
- Issue 53. Milford - Tax Levy - Add 10.5ml 3yr - Fire & EMS
- Issue 54. Mt. Healthy - Tax Levy - Renewal 1.54ml 5yr - CE
- Issue 55. Mt. Healthy - Proposed Charter Commission
- Issue 56. North College Hill - Tax Levy - Renewal 4.8ml 5yr - Roads
- Issue 57. Sharonville 3-A - Local Option - Local Option For Particular Use at Speedway.
- Issue 58. Sharonville 3-A - Local Option - Sunday Sales at Speedway - Wine and Mixed Beverages 10am - Midnight.
- Issue 59. Springdale - Proposed Electric Aggregation
- Issue 60. Springdale - Proposed Gas Aggregation
- Issue 61. of Springdale E - Local Option - Sunday Sales at Costco - Wine and Mixed Beverages 10am - Midnight.
- Issue 62. Wyoming - Charter Revision

CE - Current Expenses

COE - Current Operating Expenses

CPT - Continuing Period of Time

DEFINITIONS OF BALLOT TERMS

Initiative - An initiative is the right the Ohio Constitution reserves for Ohioans to PROPOSE LEGISLATION OR AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

1. Constitutional Amendments may be initiated directly by the people, bypassing the legislature.

Procedure - A summary of the proposed amendment must be certified by the attorney general. The full text of the amendment and the summary are then filed with the secretary of state. The citizens who initiated the amendment must circulate petitions to collect enough signatures to equal ten percent of the electors voting for governor in the last gubernatorial election. Signatures must come from at least half of Ohio's 88 counties and represent five percent of the total vote cast for governor in that county in the last gubernatorial election. Signatures must be received by the secretary of state no later than 90 days prior to the general election, so that the secretary of state, with the assistance of the local boards of elections, can verify the validity of the signatures. The ballot wording, prepared by the Ohio Ballot Board, along with arguments for the amendment prepared by the initiating committee and arguments against it by persons named by the legislature, is published once a week for three weeks in a newspaper or general circulation in each county. If a majority of the voters approve the amendment it becomes part of the constitution.

(Reference: LWVO Education Fund. *Know Your Ohio Government, 9th Edition*. pg. 142. 2004)

Mill - The property tax is measured in mills; a mill is one tenth of a penny. A mill produces \$1 in tax revenue for every \$1,000 of taxable value of the property. The taxable value is 35% of the fair market value, which is determined by the County Auditor's Office. By state law, counties must revalue all real property every three years. A reappraisal was done in 2011.

Renewal Levy - A renewal levy is the CONTINUANCE OF AN EXISTING LEVY with the collection rate at the same dollar amount as when the levy was originally approved.

Replacement Levy - A replacement levy is a NEW LEVY FOR THE SAME PURPOSE AS THE EXISTING LEVY but with a different collection rate than the levy it replaces. The collection rate uses the assessed value of the property at the time of the replacement.

Electric/Gas Aggregation - Aggregation is the process in which energy is sold to consumers who have joined together as a group to buy a product, electric or natural gas. Local governments may aggregate the energy used by their residents and arrange for the purchase of electricity or natural gas as "governmental aggregators." Ohio law gives local governments the option to choose either an opt-in or opt-out form of aggregation. The "Opt-in" form requires that each consumer agrees to participate in the program before being included in the aggregation pool. It does not require voter approval at an election. The "Opt-out" form automatically includes each consumer in the aggregated pool unless the individual affirmatively decides not to participate. It requires approval by a majority of the voters at an election.

Gas aggregation issues typically read: "Shall the (name of local government) have the authority to aggregate the retail natural gas loads located in the (name of local government), and enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of natural gas, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?"

HAMILTON COUNTY TAX LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The County appointed, 9 member, Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC) serves in an advisory capacity to the Hamilton County Commissioners. Prior to the placement of each levy on the ballot, the TLRC hears agency requests for funding, engages a consultant to review agency financial and spending practices and considers the mid-term review of agency budget targets and contractual requirements. After studying all the information gathered, the Committee works to balance the public need for services with the ability of Hamilton County citizens to bear the tax burden to fund these services. At the completion of their review, the TLRC sends a written report of findings and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. The Commissioners make the final decision regarding the levy that is placed before the voters.

BALLOT ISSUES

Following is the official ballot language for selected issues as posted online by the Hamilton County Board of Elections 9/20/11.

1 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM AGE AT WHICH A PERSON MAY BE ELECTED OR APPOINTED JUDGE, TO ELIMINATE THE AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ESTABLISH COURTS OF CONCILIATION, AND TO ELIMINATE THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT A SUPREME COURT COMMISSION PROPOSED BY JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND SECTION 6 OF ARTICLE IV AND TO REPEAL SECTIONS 19 AND 22 OF ARTICLE IV OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF OHIO

A majority yes vote is required for the amendment to Section 6 and the repeal of Sections 19 and 22 to pass.

This proposed amendment would:

1. Increase the maximum age for assuming elected or appointed judicial office from seventy to seventy-five.
2. Eliminate the General Assembly's authority to establish courts of conciliation.
3. Eliminate the Governor's authority to appoint members to a Supreme Court Commission.

If approved, the amendment shall take effect immediately.

A "YES" vote means approval of the amendment to Section 6 and the repeal of Sections 19 and 22.

A "NO" vote means disapproval of the amendment to Section 6 and the repeal of Sections 19 and 22.

SHALL THE AMENDMENT BE APPROVED?

YES

NO

2 REFERENDUM ON NEW LAW RELATIVE TO GOVERNMENT UNION CONTRACTS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS AND POLICIES

A majority yes vote is necessary for Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 5 to be approved.

Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 5 is a new law relative to government union contracts and other government employment contracts and policies.

A "YES" vote means you approve the law.

A "NO" vote means you reject the law.

SHALL THE LAW BE APPROVED?

YES (To approve the law)

NO (To reject the law)

3 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PRESERVE THE FREEDOM OF OHIO-ANS TO CHOOSE THEIR HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH CARE COVERAGE PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION TO ADOPT SECTION 21 OF ARTICLE I OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF OHIO

A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

The proposed amendment would provide that:

1. In Ohio, no law or rule shall compel, directly or indirectly, any person, employer, or health care provider to participate in a health care system.
2. In Ohio, no law or rule shall prohibit the purchase or sale of health care or health insurance.
3. In Ohio, no law or rule shall impose a penalty or fine for the sale or purchase of health care or health insurance.

The proposed amendment would not:

1. Affect laws or rules in effect as of March 19, 2010.
2. Affect which services a health care provider or hospital is required to perform or provide.
3. Affect terms and conditions of government employment.
4. Affect any laws calculated to deter fraud or punish wrongdoing in the health care industry.

If approved, the amendment will be effective thirty days after the election.

SHALL THE AMENDMENT BE APPROVED?

YES

NO

32 PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL) CINCINNATI CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of the Cincinnati City School District, County of Hamilton, Ohio, for the purpose of **GENERAL PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS** at a rate not exceeding seven and ninety-five hundredths (7.95) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to seventy-nine and five tenths cents (\$0.795) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2011, first due in calendar year 2012.

FOR THE TAX LEVY

AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

37 PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL AND DECREASE) HAMILTON COUNTY

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a part of an existing levy, being a reduction of forty-two hundredths (0.42) mill to constitute a tax for the benefit of the County of Hamilton, Ohio, for the purpose of **SUPPLEMENTING THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE HEALTH AND HOSPITALIZATION SERVICES, INCLUDING UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL** at a rate not exceeding four and seven hundredths (4.07) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to forty and seven-tenths cents (\$0.407) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for three (3) years, commencing in 2011, first due in calendar year 2012.

FOR THE TAX LEVY

AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

38 PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL) HAMILTON COUNTY

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the County of Hamilton, Ohio, for the purpose of **SUPPLEMENTING THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN SERVICES AND THE CARE AND PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN** at a rate not exceeding two and seventy-seven hundredths (2.77) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to twentyseven and seven tenths cents (\$0.277) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five (5) years, commencing in 2011, first due in calendar year 2012.

FOR THE TAX LEVY

AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

44 PROPOSED ORDINANCE ELECTRIC AGGREGATION CITY OF CINCINNATI

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the City of Cincinnati have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the City of Cincinnati, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of electricity, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?

YES

NO

45 PROPOSED ORDINANCE GAS AGGREGATION CITY OF CINCINNATI

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the City of Cincinnati have the authority to aggregate the retail natural gas loads located in the City of Cincinnati, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of natural gas, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?

YES

NO

46 PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT (ORDINANCE NO. 252-2011) CITY OF CINCINNATI

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Charter of the City of Cincinnati be amended to align the dates of the campaign finance report filings for City Council and mayoral candidates with the dates City Council and mayoral candidates must file campaign finance reports with the Hamilton County Board of Elections, by amending Section 2 of Article XIII?

YES

NO

47 PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT CITY OF CINCINNATI

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Charter of the City of Cincinnati be amended to prohibit the City, its various boards, agencies and departments, from assessing, levying, or collecting any tax or general assessment on real properties, or against the owners or occupants thereof, for the collection, transportation or disposal of trash, garbage, waste, rubbish or refuse by enacting new Article XVII?

YES

NO

48 PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT CITY OF CINCINNATI

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Charter of the City of Cincinnati be amended to prohibit the City, the City Manager, the Mayor, the Council and the City's various boards, commissions, agencies and departments from spending or appropriating any monies or incurring any indebtedness or contractual obligations for the purpose of financing, designing, engineering, constructing, building or operating a streetcar system which means a system of passenger vehicles operated on rails constructed primarily in existing public right of ways through the year 2020, by enacting new Article XVI?

YES

NO

BALLOT ISSUES

1 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM AGE AT WHICH A PERSON MAY BE ELECTED OR APPOINTED JUDGE, TO ELIMINATE THE AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ESTABLISH COURTS OF CONCILIATION, AND TO ELIMINATE THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT A SUPREME COURT COMMISSION PROPOSED BY JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND SECTION 6 OF ARTICLE IV AND TO REPEAL SECTIONS 19 AND 22 OF ARTICLE IV OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF OHIO

A majority yes vote is required for the amendment to Section 6 and the repeal of Sections 19 and 22 to pass.

This proposed amendment would:

1. Increase the maximum age for assuming elected or appointed judicial office from seventy to seventy-five.
2. Eliminate the General Assembly's authority to establish courts of conciliation.
3. Eliminate the Governor's authority to appoint members to a Supreme Court Commission.

If approved, the amendment shall take effect immediately.

A "YES" vote means approval of the amendment to Section 6 and the repeal of Sections 19 and 22.

A "NO" vote means disapproval of the amendment to Section 6 and the repeal of Sections 19 and 22.

SHALL THE AMENDMENT BE APPROVED?

YES

NO

2 REFERENDUM

REFERENDUM ON NEW LAW RELATIVE TO GOVERNMENT UNION CONTRACTS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS AND POLICIES

A majority yes vote is necessary for Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 5 to be approved.

Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 5 is a new law relative to government union contracts and other government employment contracts and policies.

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SHALL THE LAW BE APPROVED?

YES (To approve the law)

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A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

The proposed amendment would provide that:

1. In Ohio, no law or rule shall compel, directly or indirectly, any person, employer, or health care provider to participate in a health care system.
2. In Ohio, no law or rule shall prohibit the purchase or sale of health care or health insurance.
3. In Ohio, no law or rule shall impose a penalty or fine for the sale or purchase of health care or health insurance.

The proposed amendment would not:

1. Affect laws or rules in effect as of March 19, 2010.
 2. Affect which services a health care provider or hospital is required to perform or provide.
 3. Affect terms and conditions of government employment.
 4. Affect any laws calculated to deter fraud or punish wrongdoing in the health care industry.
- If approved, the amendment will be effective thirty days after the election.

SHALL THE AMENDMENT BE APPROVED?

YES

NO

32 PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL) CINCINNATI CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of the Cincinnati City School District, County of Hamilton, Ohio, for the purpose of **GENERAL PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS** at a rate not exceeding seven and ninety-five hundredths (7.95) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to seventy-nine and five tenths cents (\$.795) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2011, first due in calendar year 2012.

FOR THE TAX LEVY

AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

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A renewal of a part of an existing levy, being a reduction of forty-two hundredths (0.42) mill to constitute a tax for the benefit of the County of Hamilton, Ohio, for the purpose of **SUPPLEMENTING THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE HEALTH AND HOSPITALIZATION SERVICES, INCLUDING UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL** at a rate not exceeding four and sevenhundredths (4.07) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to forty and seven-tenths cents (\$0.407) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for three (3) years, commencing in 2011, first due in calendar year 2012.

FOR THE TAX LEVY

AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

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A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the County of Hamilton, Ohio, for the purpose of **SUPPLEMENTING THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN SERVICES AND THE CARE AND PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN** at a rate not exceeding two and seventy-seven hundredths (2.77) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to twentyseven and seven tenths cents (\$0.277) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five (5) years, commencing in 2011, first due in calendar year 2012.

FOR THE TAX LEVY

AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

44 PROPOSED ORDINANCE ELECTRIC AGGREGATION CITY OF CINCINNATI

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the City of Cincinnati have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the City of Cincinnati, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of electricity, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?

YES

NO

45 PROPOSED ORDINANCE GAS AGGREGATION CITY OF CINCINNATI

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the City of Cincinnati have the authority to

aggregate the retail natural gas loads located in the City of Cincinnati, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of natural gas, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?

YES

NO

46 PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT (ORDINANCE NO. 252-2011) CITY OF CINCINNATI

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Charter of the City of Cincinnati be amended to align the dates of the campaign finance report filings for City Council and mayoral candidates with the dates City Council and mayoral candidates must file campaign finance reports with the Hamilton County Board of Elections, by amending Section 2 of Article XIII?

YES

NO

47 PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT CITY OF CINCINNATI

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Charter of the City of Cincinnati be amended to prohibit the City, its various boards, agencies and departments, from assessing, levying, or collecting any tax or general assessment on real properties, or against the owners or occupants thereof, for the collection, transportation or disposal of trash, garbage, waste, rubbish or refuse by enacting new Article XVII?

YES

NO

48 PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT CITY OF CINCINNATI

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Charter of the City of Cincinnati be amended to prohibit the City, the City Manager, the Mayor, the Council and the City's various boards, commissions, agencies and departments from spending or appropriating any monies or incurring any indebtedness or contractual obligations for the purpose of financing, designing, engineering, constructing, building or operating a streetcar system which means a system of passenger vehicles operated on rails constructed primarily in existing public right of ways through the year 2020, by enacting new Article XVI?

YES

NO