



THE VOTER

President's Podium

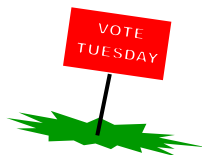
Hello,
Thanks to all of the Tallmadge citizens who participated in this election. A democracy remains strong as long as its citizens stay engaged. With the election behind us now, we are looking forward to our next meeting focusing on the topic of the U.S. Census. I want to thank Diane Grimm for her leadership in organizing this upcoming Town Hall meeting. I also want to thank the Tallmadge City Council for permitting us to use the Community Center for this event and the Tallmadge Community Foundation for their generous support. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Best regards,
Julia Spiker

Thanks so much to all the members who helped with the "Vote Tuesday" signs. A special thank you to two Tallmadge high school students, **Taylor Carter** and **Kurt Fire**, who helped to distribute the signs throughout the community.

The signs may be returned to me at the November meeting, or you may keep them until the next election, and display them again.

Marlene Fire



THE 2010 U.S. CENSUS A TOWN HALL MEETING

November 19, 2009

Tallmadge Community Center
80 Community Drive
6:30 p.m.

PRESENTED BY
Tallmadge League of Women Voters
Ohio LWV - imPACT
Tallmadge Foundation

Town Hall Purpose and Goal:

- **Educate** and **inform** residents on the 2010 U.S. Census
- When and why '**redistricting**' happens
- How will redistricting affect Tallmadge and surrounding communities
- Share the Census **history**
- Share reasons why this process is **vital** to our areas (Tallmadge & Summit Co.)
- Encourage all residents are **counted** and **participate** with needed information

Answer questions:

- **What happens with the Census information** that is gathered?
- What happens if we lose **representation** within our senate & legislative boundaries?
- What happens if we **lose federal and state money**?

Follow-up

Voter Awareness Night

We had another successful Voter Awareness Night this year thanks to our many volunteers. Despite the small number of issues and contested races, we had a respectable turnout and worthwhile program.

Once again the teachers at Tallmadge High School promoted the event. Thanks to government teachers **Sue Langford** and **Jon Shomo** for encouraging their students to attend. Thanks to **Lisa Wilson** for promoting the event in her Criminal Justice class.

Special thanks to League, Chamber, and other volunteers: **Julia Spiker**, moderator; screeners – **Keith Lucas**, **Nick Dadich** and **Sue Yatsu**; runners – **Helen Fire**, **Carol Law**, **Diane Grimm** and **Nancy Wack**; timekeepers – **Susan Schunk** and **Rose Ann Crawford**; refreshments – **Leslie Zaynor**, **Peggy Manson** and **Marlene Fire**; and **Megan Raber** and others who helped set up and clean-up.

Tammy Shomo and Carmen Thompson, Co-chairpersons

LWV–Ohio Works for Full Census Count

Because the 2010 census will likely result in decreased congressional representation for Ohio, the state league is involved on two fronts to ensure that every Ohio resident is counted.

First, the League is a member of the statewide Ohio Complete Count Committee (CCC) Complete Count Committees at the state and local levels and the U.S. Census Bureau will work to 1) Ensure a complete count through education and promotion; 2) Increase counts in hard-to-count areas; and 3) Increase mail-back rates of census materials.

Second, the League is participating on the statewide Ohio Census Initiative – You Can Count on Me, a nonprofit committee working to increase participation by focusing on 300 of the most difficult census tracts for intensive efforts to get an accurate count.

For more information on census, go to

www.census.ohio.gov or www.nonprofitscount.org

Veterans Day 2009

*Honoring Our Military Men and Women
Who Preserve, Protect and Defend Our Freedoms*



The year was 1918 and at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the Great War, as World War I was known, came to an end when the Allied Nations and Germany signed an armistice, agreeing to end hostilities. One year later, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11th as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of the “war to end all wars.” Then in 1954, the November 11th date was changed to Veterans Day to honor all who have served in the military.

On November 11th of this year, we will pause to honor nearly 24 million American veterans, including 1.9 million females, who have served our country as a member of the U.S. military in battle and in peacetime. One third of today’s veterans served during the Vietnam era, 1964–1975). In Canada and the U.K., November 11th is known as Remembrance Day and citizens show their support by purchasing red paper poppies to support veterans’ efforts in their countries.

Points to Ponder – An Editorial View

Ballot Shortages Lead to Question of “Cost”

By Nancy Wack, VOTER Editor

“Disenfranchise: to deprive a person of a privilege, immunity, or legal right, especially the right to vote.”

We have a constitutional right to vote and when we show up at the polls we have the right to expect that there will be a ballot there for us to cast in a timely manner. To what extent, then, should we consider those voters to have been disenfranchised who could not vote on November 3rd because they were unable to stay and wait for ballots to be printed nor could they return when additional ballots were available at their polling places?

Summit County Board of Elections officials underestimated the turnout, particularly in Tallmadge where 58% of the registered voters showed up at the polls. Three polling places in Tallmadge were short 251 ballots. If figures in a recent Beacon Journal article are correct, the cost to print one ballot is 37 cents. An additional \$1950 spent on printing **one ballot per registered voter** in Tallmadge would have insured that everyone who wanted to could have voted.

As taxpayers, we applaud the efforts of the Board of Elections to reduce expenses. **However, as voters, we have to ask if disenfranchisement is not too high a price to pay. Should the Board of Elections adopt a “one ballot per registered voter” practice?** In a small community like Tallmadge, spending an additional \$2000 doesn’t seem like much. It does add up on a county-wide basis when one considers the very large communities which typically experience lower voter turnout.

So, how to please taxpayers without disenfranchising any one single voter? The answer probably lies in giving poll workers the tools to print ballots on demand at the polling place, rather than waiting on headquarters. This

From LWVUS...

Health Care Tops List of Priorities

By the time this issue of the Tallmadge VOTER reaches you, the U.S. House of Representatives, in a historic Saturday evening vote on November 7th, will have determined the fate of HR 3962, considered by some to offer the most sweeping changes to US health care since the creation of Medicare in 1965. Bolstered by recent endorsements from AARP and the American Medical Association, pundits believed that passage, albeit not certain, is very likely.

LWVUS President Mary Wilson, in a letter dated November 5th to U.S. House Representatives, urged passage, underscoring the importance of an affordable public option that will increase the likelihood of universal health care coverage and offer consumer choice, thus lowering overall health care costs. LWVUS is lobbying members and has launched ad campaigns in key states.

option requires an investment in training and equipment. Is there an even simpler answer? In desperation, near the end of a long day, election workers asked and were granted permission from the Secretary of State to photocopy ballots. Why not grant them advance permission to do this?

This kind of snafu should not be allowed to happen again. What if the school issue had been decided one way or the other by the number of people who left not voting? School issues rarely have the margin that this one did. The same could be said for contests where two persons of highly conflicting political philosophies are on the ballot for the same elected position.

If we disenfranchise one voter in the interest of saving money, have we not compromised the greater interests of democracy and the right to choose for our community, our county and our country at the ballot box?

Tallmadge
 League of Women Voters
 PO Box 435
 Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

Officers

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 Treasurer Barb Mattern
 Secretary Leslie Zaynor

Elected Board

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 Carmen Thompson
 Nancy Wack

Appointed Board

Marlene Fire
 Susan Schunk
 Sue Yatsu

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Kim Marfy –Membership Chair
 Tammy Shomo – Past President

LWV of Ohio Liaison

Ardith Keck

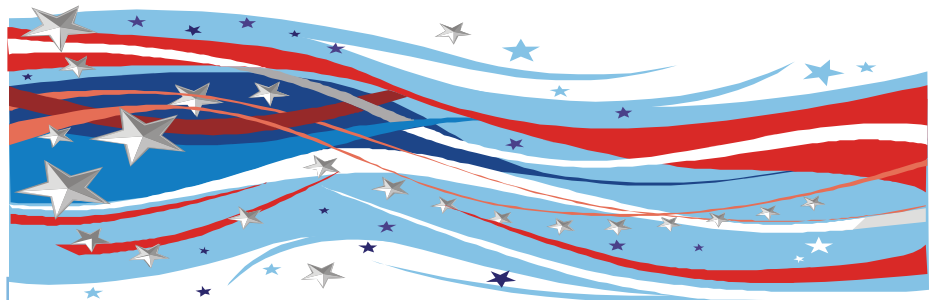
The Board of the Tallmadge League of Women Voters meets on the first Saturday of the month. General membership meetings are on the third Thursday of the month September thru November and February thru April. December and May meetings are held on Saturday. No meetings are scheduled in June, July, August or January.

THE VOTER

Published monthly by the Tallmadge League of Women Voters

Contributions to our local THE VOTER are always welcome. Please e-mail articles by the 30th of each month to Nancy Wack @ nitpw@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!!
 For more information, visit www.lwvtallmadge.org



Did you know that...

- ... the **first census** was taken in 1790 by U.S. marshals on horseback and counted 3.9 million people.
- ... in 1930 the official U.S. Census date became **April 1**
- ... in 2000 the Census Bureau counted more than **281 million people**
- ... the Tallmadge count in 2000 was **17,178 people**
- ... on Jan. 1, 2008 the **estimated** count in the U.S. was 303,146,284 people
- ... the local Census office has started **recruiting**

LEARN HOW & WHY BEING COUNTED COUNTS!

**CENSUS 2010
 TOWN HALL MEETING
 November 19
 6:30 p.m.**

Hope to See You There!

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Dates

November 14*	Board Meeting	9:00 a.m.	Tallmadge Library
<i>*Please note date change</i>			
November 19	TOWN HALL 2010 Census	6:30 p.m.	Community Center*
December 5	Board Meeting	9:00 a.m.	Erie Station– Rose Car
December 5	Holiday Brunch & Trivial Pursuit Game	9:30 a.m.	“ “ “ “

*Happy New Year
 Meetings Resume in February*