



THE VOTER

President's Podium

Hello,
As we wrap up 2009, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone Happy Holidays and best wishes for a wonderful New Year! I look forward to your participation in our upcoming programs as we resume in February. I send my sincere thanks to everyone for your continued support for the League of Women Voters of Tallmadge.

Best regards,
Julia Spiker

Thank You

to

Tallmadge Foundation

Senator Tom Sawyer

Local Office of Census

Ohio LWV-Project imPACT

City of Tallmadge (for use of

Community Center)

and our own

Diane Grimm & her committee

for their efforts in providing us with

an interesting and informative

Town Hall Meeting

Topic of February Meeting

Regionalism to Improve Northeast Ohio



Attend the February League meeting to hear how Northeast Ohio organizations and political entities are **working together to create a synergy for helping fragmented local governments begin to pull together to coordinate economic development and smart growth for the region as a whole.**

Lynda Mayer will discuss how regional tax-base revenue sharing and intergovernmental collaborative agreements **reduce costs, foster transparency and accountability, improve efficiencies and maintain service standards.**

This presentation will provide an update on the much-anticipated **Regional Prosperity Initiative**, the unprecedented effort coordinated by Northeast Ohio Mayors and Managers toward government reform at the municipal, county and regional levels.

Further information on the NEO Regional Prosperity Initiative can be found at: <http://neo-rpi.org/>

February 18, 2010
6:30 p.m.
Tallmadge Library

League of Women Voters Will Celebrate 90th “Birthday” in 2010

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea – **that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy.** The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

Board of Education Update

By Valorie Prulhiere &
Amy Goodson-Beal
Tallmadge School Board Members



As you all know by now, the emergency school levy passed on November 3rd. The schools will begin to collect monies from this levy several months into 2010. The schools remain committed to stretching these dollars as our past practice has demonstrated. During comments made at the Board's last business meeting, Superintendent Jeff Ferguson briefly commented on how the schools will address the return, if any, of programs, services and staffing that has been cut over the past several school years: *"Anything put back will take place over time in a balanced, thoughtful manner that will benefit our students and continue to maintain efficiencies."*

Ohio House Bill , will change the number of core classes required to receive a high school diploma. Tallmadge already requires the proposed 26 credits. Students will be required to take 4 math courses (instead of 3), which must include Algebra II. Science courses must be inquiry based and include laboratory experience. Courses in Financial Literacy and Fine Arts are also required.

Hundreds of **grandparents visited Munroe School** recently to celebrate "Grandparents' Day."

The schools have much to be grateful for. On behalf of the schools, we wish you a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

In her address to the National American Woman Suffrage Association's (NAWSA) 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1919, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a league of women voters to "finish the fight" and aid in the reconstruction of the nation. And so a League of Women Voters was formed within NAWSA, composed of the organizations in the states where woman suffrage had already been attained.

The next year, on **February 14, 1920**, six months before the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters.

Maud Wood Park became the first national president of the League and thus the first League leader to rise to that challenge. She had steered the women's suffrage amendment through Congress in the last two years before ratification and liked nothing better than legislative work. From the beginning, however, it was apparent that the legislative goals of the League would not be exclusively focused on women's issues and that education aimed at all of the electorate was in order.

For almost 90 years, the League has helped millions of women and men become informed participants in government. And it has tackled a diverse range of public policy issues.

From LWWUS website

*Postscript on November Town Hall Meeting***Census 2010: Important, Safe, Simple and the Same for Everyone**

Those who attended the League's November 19th Town Hall Meeting on the U.S. Census 2010 walked away from an interesting and informative meeting, knowing more about the census and its importance. First and foremost, a complete and accurate count determines how the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are apportioned. (Ohio will lose one seat for certain and possibly two depending on the census count). More than \$400 billion in federal funds are disbursed based on census data. According to **State Senator Tom Sawyer**, one of the presenters, *"The census reflects who we are and how are changing."* Statistics derived from the census impact housing, health, education and other key governmental decisions.

Federal law requires every household to complete and return the form. Most of the census manpower is focused on those who do not respond. Census workers will go door-to-door to obtain the information. All census workers will carry appropriate identification and will NOT ask questions beyond those which are on the printed form. None of the information is released to the IRS, FBI, INS or law enforcement agencies. In fact, census data is protected for 72 years and then is only released for archival purposes.

On average 65% of the census surveys are returned. However, as DeShon pointed out, 35% of hundreds of thousands of people in any given area is still a lot of people. Some barriers the

"The Census is the largest peacetime undertaking of the U.S. government."

State Senator Tom Sawyer

"Ten questions – ten minutes," said **David DeShon** the local census office manager and another presenter. The same census form will be mailed mid-March to every address in the U.S. Even non-citizens must complete the form as their living here impacts governmental services. **The census consists of 10 questions and should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.** The questions ask basic information: name, gender, age, date of birth, race, ethnicity, relationship and housing. Those having difficulty completing the form can obtain phone assistance. Centers will be set up in low response areas. The census form is available in six languages: English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese. The form is to be completed as of April 1st.

Census Bureau anticipates in non-compliance are the increasing mistrust of government, immigration apprehension, language barriers, homelessness and fluid households.

The local census office is looking to recruit 6000 people in the tri-county area for working in the office and in the field as census-takers. For more information on employment opportunities, contact Leigh Mihalic at 330-776-3010. Applicants must take a general knowledge test and have a background check. Although the jobs are temporary and part-time, they pay a minimum of \$13.50 an hour in this area.

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

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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

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

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

LOWV Ohio Project impACT

**Redistricting Reform Needed
 to Insure Representative Government**

In Ohio, an Apportionment Board, consisting of the Governor, the Secretary of State, the State Auditor and one Democrat and one Republican, is directed to make compact, contiguous and not intersected districts with essentially equal populations and efforts not to divide counties. Reapportionment may only be done after the Census.

The existing system encourages partisan gerrymandering. Ohio's elected representatives do not reflect the 50-50 (D-R) political make up of the citizens. Nearly two-thirds of state assembly and congressional seats are held by Republicans, because they had the majority on the Apportionment Board when districts were redrawn in 200. Gerrymandering makes it difficult for opponents to unseat incumbents and discourages voter turnout.

The League believes that the three winning proposals submitted to the Redistricting Competition sponsored by the Ohio Secretary of State and LWVO are superior to Senator John Husted's redistricting reform plan which has passed the Senate. The winning proposals do more than just change the name and the composition of the board, but rather demonstrate how objective and measurable criteria could be used to draw legislative and congressional districts.

Let your senator and house member know that a LWVO supported proposal on redistricting reform is something you would like to see on the May ballot. It is imperative to get a reform measure on the May ballot, since by the November election, it might be too late, as the majorities may have been determined by then, thus reducing the incentive of whichever party holds the lead to agree to reform the process.

For further reading, please go to the [LWVO EF Ohio impACT website](http://www.lwvoef.org).

Mark Your Calendar for Remainder of League Year

January	NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED		
February 6	Board Meeting	9:00 a.m.	Tallmadge Library
February 18	Regionalism in NE Ohio	6:30 p.m.	Tallmadge Library
March 6	Board Meeting	9:00 a.m.	Tallmadge Library
March 18	Cuy.Valley Ntl. Park	6:30 p.m.	TBA
April 3	Board Meeting	9:30 a.m.	Tallmadge Library
April 15	"Iron Jawed Angels"	6:30 p.m.	Tallmadge H.S.
May 8	Board Meeting & Annual Lunch/Meeting	11:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	River Brasserie (formerly LeFever's)