



THE VOTER

President's Podium

Hello,

The 2009–2010 year is off to a great start for the League of Women Voters of Tallmadge. We had a good turn-out for our annual membership meeting in which we hosted the Mayor and the Fire Chief. It was a great success! I want to extend a special thanks to Kim Marfy, our membership chair, for her efforts on our behalf. If you have not yet joined our organization I invite you to join the League.

“The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy” (<http://www.lwvohio.org/>). In support of our mission and in preparation for the upcoming election, our League will hold a **Candidate's Night** in October. A note of special thanks goes out to the event's Co-Chairs, Tammy Shomo and Carmen Thompson, for their hard working organizing the upcoming program. I invite you to attend our next meeting and feel free to bring a friend or two!

Best wishes,
Julia Spiker

VOTE!
Tuesday,
November 3

VOTER AWARENESS NIGHT

Thursday, October 15, 2009

7:00 pm

Bennett Center at

Tallmadge Middle School



We are currently finalizing our plans for **“Voter Awareness Night” 2009**, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, **October 15** in the Les Bennett Center at Tallmadge Middle School. Candidates and spokespersons will be available afterward for informal discussion.

The Tallmadge Chamber of Commerce has once again graciously agreed to co-sponsor this event and will be volunteering two representatives to screen questions. We still need another one of our members to screen questions. We also need several “runners” to take the question cards to the screeners.

As mentioned last month, we have invited candidates for the **Council-at-Large, Stow Municipal Court Clerk and Tallmadge City School Board**. In addition, we have sent invitations to the candidates for **Stow Municipal Court Judge and representatives of Issues 3, 4 and 51**. Although several of the races are uncontested, the court races and issues should make for an interesting evening.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with VAN, please let us know.

Co-chairs
Tammy Shomo
Carmen Thompson



Update from City Hall

By Linda Poinar,
Tallmadge City Council

As the year winds down, City Council looks back and forward. This year has been challenging as the city has endured the economic recession with the rest of the state and country. While the city remains fiscally stable due to good financial policies and budgetary adjustments, Council will approach the **2010 budget ordinance** anticipating a slow turn around in the economy as well as increasing costs. The budget ordinance will receive three readings and have a public hearing before the end of the year, as Council meets in November work sessions to discuss it.

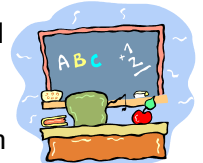
Council adopted an ordinance last month levying an **annual motor vehicle license tax of five dollars per vehicle** for all vehicles registered in Tallmadge. This new tax will not go into effect until **January 2011**. All income generated will go toward road paving. In 2009 all re-paving was cut from the budget due to decreased revenues and budget cuts.

Council also adopted Ordinance 120-2009 that **freezes salaries and wages for all elected officials in the city as well as non-bargaining employees for next year**. An ordinance to create a voluntary retirement incentive program for eligible employees was also adopted, thus further decreasing the city payroll.

Despite streamlining the number of employees in the city, Council and the city administration intend to maintain the quality of services to the citizens of Tallmadge. Along that line, the **leaf pick up program will begin near the end of October**. Our streets will be plowed and salted, although the **free driveway plow for seniors will be suspended**. Joining dispatching services with Stow and Mogadore have continued to serve the city well, while providing savings to the city. Of course, the **annual street dance** outside the Rec Center, including hotdogs, donuts and cider will be **Thursday, October 29**, after trick or treating. See you there.

Board of Education Update

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



At the September 16th Board of Education Meeting, an **independent review panel** presented its report to the Board regarding the need for the levy which will be on the November 3rd ballot. In part, the panel's review *"found the school system to be good financial managers of the taxpayer's funds. They have reduced expenses in a declining revenue environment while increasing student performance to the highest standard set by the State of Ohio. They have done this without any additional funds from the citizens for 9 years. There is truly a need for the requested 6.9 mill levy and we urge the citizens to support their excellent schools."* The panel's full report can be accessed on the school district website at: <http://www.tallmadge.k12.oh.us/>

Also on the ballot this November, will be **three Board of Education seats**. Current Board President, Thom Craig, will not be running for re-election this November. Craig, a member of the Board for the past decade and President for the last 8 years, will end his tenure at the end of this current term (12-31-09). Vice President, **Valorie Prulhiere** will be seeking re-election as will board member **Rick Kellar**. Newly seeking a seat on the board is **Brad Croskey**, the district's former director of technology, who retired from the district August 1st of this year.

Sponsored by LOWV OF TALLMADGE

2010 CENSUS: A TOWN HALL MEETING

On **Thursday, November 19th** the Tallmadge League, with grant support from the **Tallmadge Education and Community Enrichment Foundation**, is sponsoring an event – **A Town Hall Meeting and the 2010 Census** at the **Tallmadge Community Center from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** It is open to all Tallmadge residents.

We are helping to coordinate actions to increase awareness in Tallmadge, stress the importance of the U.S. Census and its relationship to the *redistricting* process, which determines the number of U.S. House seats allotted for Ohio and the federal monies directed to our area.

The Tallmadge League is teaming with **impACT** – an organization from Columbus – it is an initiative of the LWV of Ohio Education Fund with grants from the Joyce Foundation, the Kettering Fund, and the League of Women Voters of the United States Educational Fund.

Please mark your calendar for November 19th and we'll see you there.

Diane Grimm, Chairperson

VOTE TUESDAY SIGNS

By Marlene Fire, Chairperson

The "Vote Tuesday" signs will be available to pick up, at the LWV Voter Awareness Night, on October 15, at the Les Bennett Center, at the Tallmadge Middle School. If you need signs and cannot pick them up that evening, please contact me by email or phone, 330 633-3829, and we will be happy to deliver them to your home.

**VOTE
TUESDAY**

We are hoping for 100% participation in this very worthwhile project.

REMEMBER: Yard signs are to go up on Wednesday, October 28 and come down on Wednesday, November 4th.

Town Hall Purpose and Goal:

- To *educate* and *inform* residents on the 2010 U. S. Census
- 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?
- When and why '*redistricting*' happens?
- How will redistricting affect **Tallmadge** and surrounding communities?
- What happens if we lose *representation* within our senate & legislative boundaries?
- What happens if we lose federal and state **money**?

DID YOU KNOW?

The census is mandated by Article II of the U.S. Constitution to provide fair and equitable representation and apportionment of resources. The first census was taken in 1790 by U.S. marshals on horseback and counted 3.9 million people. Census 2000 counted more than 281 million people.

ISSUE 4: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SUMMIT COUNTY CHARTER

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Charter of the county of Summit be amended to, effective January 1, 2013, consolidate and transfer the powers and duties of the County engineer to the County executive, who shall be required to employ a supervising engineer and a sufficient number of registered professional engineers and registered professional surveyors and to eliminate the office of County engineer in 2013 and the election for that office in 2012?

LEAGUE EXPLANATION: This amendment, if approved, would change the office of County Engineer from an elected office to a position appointed by the County Executive, effective January 1, 2013.

Arguments in favor of the amendment:

1. Those who are responsible for setting policy should be elected; those who are responsible for implementing policy should be appointed.
2. The consolidation of the two offices saves money and provides a more efficient and streamlined government.
3. Ohio is the only state in the United States that elects County Engineers.

Arguments opposed to the amendment:

1. Election of the County engineer ensures accountability to the voters
2. Townships need an elected engineer and the move would consolidate too much power in the hands of the County Executive.
3. If voters defeated this issue in 1006 and 2001, why bring it to the voters again?

League of Women Voters of Ohio Take Positions on 2009 State Ballot Issues

In analyzing proposed constitutional amendments, the League of Women Voters of Ohio begins with consideration of **whether** the proposed constitutional amendments properly belong in the Ohio Constitution or more properly should be legislated by the General Assembly. LWV-Ohio does not believe the Constitution should be littered with post-it notes[®]. Rather, LWV-Ohio's position on the Constitution, adopted in 1968, is that *"a constitution should be a clearly stated body of fundamental principles. It should provide for the flexible operation of government and be logically organized and internally consistent."*

Passage of Issue 1 would amend the Ohio Constitution to provide additional compensation to veterans of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. Bonding authority that lasts longer than 2 years as in the proposed amendment must be set forth in the Constitution. However, the LWV-Ohio has no position under which to take action on the issue of providing additional compensation to veterans. **Therefore, the Board voted to take a NEUTRAL stance.**

Passage of Issue 2 would amend the Ohio Constitution to create the Ohio Livestock Standards Board. The amendment contains too much specificity to be in the Ohio Constitution and therefore, the **League's opposition is based on its state position that the Ohio Constitution should be a clearly stated body of fundamental principles.**

Passage of Issue 3 would authorize a casino in Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, and Toledo. The LWV-Ohio board voted to **OPPOSE passage of Issue 3** for the same reason it opposes Issue 2; the proposed casino amendment contains too much specificity to be included in the Ohio Constitution. In addition, Issue 3 violates the state League's position that the legislature should have flexibility in financing state programs, because the amendment directs how the tax revenues will be allocated.

By going to www.lwvohio.org you can access the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund November 2009 Ballot Issue Explanations.

**Tallmadge
League of Women Voters**

PO Box 435
Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

Officers

President Julia Spiker
Vice President Nancy Treichler
Treasurer Barb Mattern
Secretary Leslie Zaynor

Elected Board

Sue Ellen Hughes
Viona Smith
Carmen Thompson
Nancy Wack

Appointed Board

Marlene Fire
Susan Schunk
Sue Yatsu

Ex Officio Members

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

Highlights from October Board Meeting

Your officers and board members voted to **endorse Issue 51**, the Tallmadge Schools operating levy and further authorized that a letter of support be written to the editor of the Tallmadge Express.

Rather than taking a position at this time, the Board opted to **present the arguments** in favor of and opposed to Issue 4, the proposed Summit County Charter amendment as it relates to the county engineer position. The arguments (as published elsewhere in this newsletter) were developed collaboratively by representatives of the Akron, Hudson and Tallmadge Leagues.

Note: If you wish to **receive minutes** of TLWV Board meetings, please let **Leslie Zaynor** know via e-mail: zaynl@cgfs.org

Dues are DUE!



Thanks to everyone who has already paid their dues. It makes the job of the membership chair so much easier!

If you have not yet paid your dues, they are **\$50** this year. Please mail your check to Kim Marfy 1063 Amy Trail Tallmadge, oh 44278.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Dates

October 15	Voter Awareness Night	7:00 p.m.	Bennett Center @TMS
November 3	Election Day	6 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.	
November 7	Board Meeting	9:00 a.m.	Tallmadge Library
November 19	Informational Meeting on 2010 Census	6:30 p.m.	Community Center* <i>* Location to be confirmed</i>
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*