

MEETING NOTES

Purpose of LWVO: Give us pros and cons of State issues and candidates
Know that the State organization has our back on issues

Who does State League serve: Areas that have no local League chapter
Lobbyist at State level and lets local LWVC know what's going on.

The LWV must be concerned most with what is best for the voter.

HB 224 goes into effect immediately. HB 194 will go into effect Sept. 30, 2011.

The LWV tried to get parts of HB 194 repealed but were told that they could not do that. It was either accept or reject the entire bill as it has been written.

There is now an initiative-petition effort by Fair Elections Ohio to repeal HB 194. The deadline for submitting the requisite petition signatures on HB 194 is Sept. 29, 2011 -- and the Secretary of State will not know what set of election rules will guide the 2011 general election until that date. This confusion makes voter registration efforts (for those chapters that actually do actively work on voter registration) very complicated.

If the Fair Elections Ohio group gets the over 219,000 needed signatures, then the 2010 election laws will govern the 2011 election in November as it will stop HB 194 from being enacted. This initiative will then become a referendum ballot issue in the 2012 election. If, however, the signatures are not collected by Sept. 29, 2011, then HB 194 goes into effect on Sept. 30th and those new laws will govern the November 2011 elections.

With the passage of these bills, the LWVO/EF is most concerned that:

The severely reduced budget for the Ohio Secretary of State will hinder proper voter education and election administration.

There will be increased crowding at the polls due to larger precinct sizes and reduced opportunities to vote absentee (both in-person and by mail) early.

The potential for voter confusion as to precinct location and requirements of voting is heightened without mandated poll-worker assistance.