



THE VOTER

Informed Leaguers

The Metropolitan Columbus League of Women Voters hosted a spirited evening of philosophical yet pragmatic discourse on the future of education with Stephanie Groce of the Columbus Board of Education and Charles Wilson of the Worthington School Board. The panel was moderated by LWVMC member Dave Patton.

At the September 22 meeting there was some discussion of HB 136 and its effect on education. Read more about HB 136 and the LWVO Action Alert pertaining to the bill on page 6.



According to the Advocacy Committee, the League will be conducting a consensus meeting on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education for LWWUS on November 15. For information on this meeting see page 3. Consensus information can be found on pages 8 through 12 with more information on the LWWUS consensus meeting coming in the November VOTER.



President's Message

Kitty Burcsu

In August I attended the LWVO Central Regional Meeting. Much of the conversation centered on Voter Service, one of the pillars of League activity. Having been a League member for well over 30



years, I really didn't expect any major "ahas" that morning. I was wrong! As the group ticked off the major voter service activities that fill each Fall League season, *voter protection* was proffered as an important dimension of voter service. Further discussion along with a chart aptly divided our voter service activities into two categories: education and protecting voters' rights. The education component includes the VIB, candidate forums and the WBNS-10 TV Phone Bank. The voter protection component includes lobbying, poll watching and even lawsuits when necessary. It also includes the recent effort to gather signatures in support of the HB 194 Referendum.

While protecting the right of all citizens to vote is a basic national League position and intrinsic to League's mission, we do not often speak of it as voter service or include it in our descriptions of voter service. What could be a more important voter service activity than working to protect every citizen's right to vote? The unexpected "aha" for me that morning! The current political environment requires the League's efforts in both education and voter protection more than ever before.

Kitty Burcsu



November Ballot Issues

League of Women Voters of Ohio: Positions on the 2011 General Election Ballot Issues

Issue 1: Proposed Constitutional Amendment 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: NEUTRAL.

Issue 2: Referendum on legislation relative to government union contracts and other government employment contracts and policies (A referendum on Am. Sub. SB 5): NEUTRAL.

Issue 3: Proposed Constitutional Amendment to add a section to Ohio's Bill of Rights exempting Ohioans from a federal requirement that individuals purchase a minimum amount of health insurance coverage: OPPOSE.

In taking a stance on proposed constitutional amendments and referendums, the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWV Ohio) considers the public policy positions which the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and LWV Ohio have adopted after careful study and member consensus.

Passage of Issue 1 would increase the age at which a judge could be elected or appointed from age 70 to age 75. Neither LWVUS nor LWV Ohio has a position that pertains to Issue 1. Accordingly, LWV Ohio is taking a neutral stance on Issue 1.

Issue 2 is a referendum on Am. Sub SB 5, which seeks to change laws concerning public employees, in particular teachers, firefighters and police. Major changes affect collective bargaining rights, salary schedules and compensation, layoff procedures and leave. Neither LWVUS nor LWV Ohio has a position that pertains to Issue 2. Accordingly, LWV Ohio is taking a neutral stance on Issue 2.

Issue 3 seeks to add a section to Ohio's Bill of Rights exempting Ohioans from any requirement that individuals purchase a minimum amount of health insurance. The amendment is directed at a federal law passed in 2010, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), but it also seeks to make ineffective similar state and local laws passed after the PPACA was adopted. LWVUS adopted a

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MC League Activities

October Activities

Franklin County Consortium of Good Government

Candidate and issue forums are held throughout October.

The LWVMC League is a co-sponsor.

Check out page 7 for a complete list.

Contact Amy, 614-837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org, if you would like to help with any of these forums.

Run Women Run! for Political Office

Annual Public Policy Luncheon Program Event

Thursday, October 13, 2011 12 Noon to 1:30 P.M.

The Fawcett Event Center 2400 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus 43210

Featuring A Panel Presentation

Cost: \$30 per Person

RSVP by October 11, 2011 by calling 614 825-0551 or Toll Free 888 622-9315 or
by e-mailing actionohio@sbcglobal.net.

The LWVO is co-sponsoring the event.

Please contact Action Ohio Coalition for Battered Women, actionoh@ee.net for more information.

November Activities

Channel 10 Phone Bank - Volunteer Opportunity

Tuesday, November 8

6:00 am - 7:00 pm

Even though this November is host to an off-year election, there are statewide ballot issues that will generate voter interest. The Chanel 10 Phone Bank will be busy. The Phone Bank is the place to be on election day. Contact Amy, 614-837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org, and let her know if you want to work the phones. Please sign up for AT LEAST 2 hours or longer. Volunteers will get instructions ahead of time.

The **Advocacy Committee** has announced a consensus meeting on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education to help craft a National position on Education.

Consensus Meeting for LWWUS on Education

Tuesday, November 15 6:30 p.m.

Wesley Glen, Ravine Room

Pizza and drinks will be available for those who RSVP to Amy, 614-837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org.

A worksheet on the consensus questions is on page 8.

A background article can be found page 10. Other background articles will be included in the next VOTER and can be found on the LWWUS and LWVMC webpages.

If you would like a hardcopy please contact Amy, 614-837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org.



December Activities



Save the Date! – December 4

Come to the League Holiday Party to Have Fun and Renew Friendships!

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus will host its annual Holiday Brunch, featuring “Raffle Mania” along with a “Silent” and “Live” fund-raising auction on **Sunday, December 4, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.** Join your League friends and invite a non-League friend to support the League, have some fun and enjoy a tasty brunch. This is just one of the nicest events of the year, because it is wonderful to see old friends and make new friends. As always, there is lively conversation, terrific food and treasures to be had.

What is **Raffle Mania**? Each person will receive \$10 worth of raffle tickets. More raffle tickets can be purchased at the event (and we encourage you to do just that!). There will be many items to be raffled. You can choose to put your raffle tickets towards one item or mix it up and put tickets towards more than one item. The more tickets you put towards any item, the better your chances of getting that item.

There will also be a “**Silent**” auction going on at the same time as the Raffle Mania, and then the ever popular “Live” auction returns in what has become a much-anticipated event. It features our talented auctioneer extraordinaire, Brent Taggart, who will no doubt have timely and humorous comments regarding government and our elected officials.

The Holiday Brunch will be held at the home of League Members, **Nancy and Bob Brown at Miranova, One Miranova Place, Columbus 43215.** Parking is available at the adjacent garage, other nearby surface lots, and on the street.

Tickets are \$20 per person, which includes \$10 worth of raffle tickets. To purchase a ticket, simply contact the League office at 614-837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org.

Lucy Hadley Buzzee

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering in any of these roles or would like more information, please contact me at 614-837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org. I look forward to working more with members throughout the year. We can all work together and make this year a success.

Thanks, Amy Pulles

- ◆ Holiday Party Committee Member
- ◆ Democracy In Action Program Book Editor
- ◆ Democracy In Action Honorary Selection Committee Member
- ◆ Democracy In Action Corporate Sponsorship Committee Member
- ◆ Democracy In Action Hospitality
- ◆ Democracy In Action Coordinating Committee



VIB Proof Reading Fun at Ann Henkener's.

There are always great ways to volunteer with the MC League.



Committee Report Regional Planning and Land Use Committee

THERE IS A PLAN!

In our study of Regional Planning and Land Use, we had gradually come to the mistaken conclusion that there is no regional planning being done in this area. As it turns out, HUD requires (as it should) that local units of government show how they plan to use funding from HUD programs. The programs involved are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). HUD encourages cooperation between adjacent units of government.

So in the year 2000, the City of Columbus, United Way of Central Ohio, The Ohio State University, and the Franklin County Commissioners joined together to form Community Research Partners, a nonprofit research center. The center has produced a number of interesting reports including 6 different versions of the 2010-2014 Columbus and Franklin County Consolidated Plan: a city version, a county version, a city and county version, and executive summaries of each. In fact, on HUD's website under "Intergovernmental Coordination", Columbus and Franklin County's Consolidated Plan is mentioned as an example of a regional planning effort.

Since the statistics in these reports represent the essence of who we are as a community, it is unfortunate that they are so inaccessible. The city version is available (for now) via Google through Charleta Tavares's information on the City of Columbus' website, but when you go directly to the City of Columbus website, her information has been deleted. The county has been a little more forthcoming with the information on its website. The best way to access the 6 reports is to go to <http://communityresearchpartners.org/14651.cfm> and ask for the keyword "consolidated".

There is a wealth of information included in these plans. The plans concentrate on the housing and

community development needs of low- and moderate-income households since that is the population eligible for the grants. They analyze their needs, identify resources available to help, and establish the goals and strategies to address those needs, including a plan of how the HUD funds will be spent over the next five years.

The needs are divided into 4 categories:

- Affordable Housing Opportunity
- Neighborhood and Target Area Revitalization
- Economic Development and Economic Opportunity
- Supportive Services

Just to give you an example of the information given, the most significant housing problem in Columbus and Franklin County is housing affordability, with over 44,000 renter households and nearly 22,000 owner households paying more than 50% of their income for housing. There is a deficit of about 31,000 affordable rental units for extremely low-income renter households (<\$15,000) in Franklin County. They are disproportionately in Older Columbus, accounting for 22.4% of older city households, 8.7% of newer city households, and 6.7% of suburban Franklin county households.

The lead agencies assigned to implement the plan are the Columbus Dept. of Development and the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Dept.

In addition to collaborating for the Consolidated Plan, the city and county have jointly developed and are now implementing green and universal design standards for new residential projects they fund. The AWARE Manual was completed in summer 2009. AWARE stands for Accessible, Water Conservation, Air Quality, Resource Conscious, and Energy Efficient.

Ellen Haider
Co-Chair, Regional Planning
and Land Use Committee

Committee Report Membership

The Membership Committee would like to welcome new members since the Annual Meeting: Erin Michael, Marcy Austin-Palmer, Judith Oppenheimer, Amanda and Daeron Wilson Stevens, Katherine Skopin, Lisa Freeman Williamson, and Marilyn Minter.

Franklin County Consortium for Good Government

At a reception and celebration September 15, the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government marked 20 years of organizing candidate forums in central Ohio. Five organizations representing the Christian and Jewish faiths and civic groups staged the first nonpartisan forum in 1991 at Brookwood Presbyterian Church on the East Side. The Consortium now includes more than 40 members and supporters, and annually hosts a dozen candidate forums across central Ohio. The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus joined the Consortium about a decade into its operations and has been a key supporter ever since. At the celebration, the League received a certificate of gratitude and was recognized for providing significant staff support -- thanks to Amy Pulles! -- over the years. A list of this year's candidate forums is available on page 7 and can be found at www.lwvcols.org and at www.franklincountyconsortium.com.

Ballot issues

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position on health care in 1993 which supports a basic level of affordable, accessible quality care for all U.S. residents. LWV Ohio believes Issue 3 seeks to undermine efforts to provide a basic level of affordable, accessible quality health care for Ohio's residents. Accordingly, LWV Ohio is opposing Issue 3.

Go to www.lwvohio.org to access the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund November 2011 Ballot Issue Explanations.

Education Alert Am. Sub. HB 136

An Action Alert pertaining to Am. Sub. HB 136 went out by The League of Women Voters of Ohio on September 23, 2011.

This is the bill that would create a new voucher program, the Parental Choice and Taxpayer Scholarship Savings Program (PACT) and would revise the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program.

The Action Alert listed the following talking points:

- Am. Sub. HB 136 would divert limited state funds to participating private schools at a time when school districts are struggling to balance budgets and save education programs after losing \$1.8 billion in state funds as a result of HB153 the biennial budget.
- Private schools are not responsive or accountable to elected boards of education. They are not required to "open their books" to ensure that the private schools are fiscally responsible and that public funds are being spent to serve a public purpose.
- Eligible students currently enrolled in eligible private schools could opt to be phased-into PACT, thus expanding the state's obligation to educate students who never attended public schools, at a time when overall state funding for school districts has decreased, and school districts are struggling to maintain the quality of their education programs.
- Am. Sub. HB 136 does not require private schools that accept public funds to participate in Ohio's accountability system for schools and be ranked along with other schools, or comply with all state education standards including academic, performance, and operating standards, or meet the requirements outlined in Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Education of Children with Disabilities.

For more information about the Action Alert go to www.lwvo.org. If you want to see Am. Sub. HB136 in its entirety, its sponsor and co-sponsors, status report, or bill analysis go to www.house.state.oh.us.

Franklin County Consortium for Good Government



The *Meet the Candidates* events offer another chance for Leaguers to do their part in the education the electorate.

⇒ Notice Changes from September VOTER ⇐

All *Meet the Candidate* events begin at 6:30pm with a reception followed by the program at 7:00pm, except October 28 which begins with a 9:00 am reception and 10:00 am program.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Other Co-Hosts</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Weds., Oct. 5	All Saints Academy 2855 East Livingston Columbus, OH 43209 (Next to Christ the King)	Catholic Diocese of Columbus Office of Social Concerns Black Catholic Ministry	Columbus Races
Thurs., Oct 6.	First Unitarian Universalist 93 West Westheimer Columbus, OH 43214	Moderator: Ann Fisher, WOSU Public Media	State Issues
Mon., Oct. 10	Congregation Beth Shalom 5089 Johnstown Road New Albany, OH 43054	Moderator: Danielle Elias, WBNS 10 TV News	New Albany Races
Tues., Oct. 11	Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church 1636 Graham Road Reynoldsburg OH 43068	Temple Israel	Reynoldsburg Races
Tues., Oct. 18	McConnell Art Center 777 Evening Street Worthington, OH 43085	ORT American Congregation Beth Tikvah American Association of University Women	Worthington Races
Mon., Oct. 24	Congregation Tifereth Israel 1354 East Broad Street Columbus, OH 43205	Broad Street Presbyterian Church Columbus Chapter of Hadassah	Issue Forum
Wed., Oct.26	Peace Lutheran Church Gahanna		Meet the Candidates
Thurs., Oct. 27	Torat Emet 2375 East Main Street Bexley, OH 43209	Bexley Chamber of Commerce	Bexley Races
Fri., Oct. 28 9:00 am	Columbus Jewish Community Center 1125 College Avenue Columbus, OH 43209	National Council of Jewish Women	Columbus/Bexley Races

www.franklincountyconsortium.com



www.lwvcols.org

PUBLIC EDUCATION STUDY CONSENSUS QUESTION

6. National standards should lead to: (choose one)
 - a. A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.
 - b. A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.
 - c. A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
 - d. No national curriculum.

7. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (Rank order)
 - a. Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
 - b. Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
 - c. Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
 - d. Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.
 - e. Provide diagnostic information on each child.

8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (choose one)
 - a. Data should be "norm referenced" (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.
 - b. Data should be "criterion referenced" and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.
 - c. Data should be used to determine "cut" scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.

9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one):
 - a. Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
 - b. Reward schools that achieve high scores
 - c. Rank teachers based on student test score data
 - d. Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
 - e. Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.

Please share any comments your League has concerning the topics covered in the Common Core Standards Questions. (250 word maximum)

FUNDING AND EQUITY

10. In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need. All/Any Schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive grants are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain federal requirements, such as Race to the Top. Which would be appropriate: (choose one)
 - a. Non-competitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements
 - b. A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants
 - c. Competitive grants only
 - d. No federal funding

11. If the federal government's role is the concern of the "common good" then: (choose one)
 - a. Mandates only should be sanctioned.
 - b. Mandates and funding should both be provided.
 - c. Funding should be provided through grants only.
 - d. A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.
 - e. No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available.

12. Equity in public education means equitable access to: (Rank order)
 - a. high quality teaching/learning
 - b. adequate and current learning materials
 - c. clean and well maintained physical facilities
 - d. food and health care
 - e. safe and secure neighborhoods
 - f. secure housing

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PUBLIC EDUCATION STUDY CONSENSUS QUESTION

13. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered “categorical” rather than for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs.
Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree
14. The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children?
Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree
15. Federal support for early childhood education programs (e.g. Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health as needed.
- a. Strongly Agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly Disagree
- b. This funding should be extended to :
All children only those with special needs special needs first

Please share any comments your League has concerning the topics covered in the Funding and Equity Questions. (250 word maximum)



Voice of Leaguers

The following article is one of five presented by LWVUS as background information for the upcoming consensus meeting on a national position on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education on November 15. Watch for more information in the next VOTER. All articles can also be found on the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org. Information concerning this meeting is on page 3.

THE HISTORY OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION: WHERE HAVE WE BEEN AND HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Where Have We Been?

From the very beginning of our Republic, a well-educated citizenry was thought to be essential to protect liberty and the general welfare of the people. Even before the Constitution was established, the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 included responsibilities of the nation for an education system. Education has long been considered a national concern by the federal government. Through federal action, education has been encouraged and financially supported from the first Northwest Ordinance in 1785 to the present. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution granted Congress the power to lay and collect taxes to provide for the general welfare of the United States. It is under this “general welfare” clause that the federal government has assumed the power to initiate educational activity in its own right and to participate jointly with states, agencies and individuals in educational activities. During the first century of our new nation, Congress granted more than 77 million acres of the public domain as an endowment for the support of public schools through tracts ceded to the states. In 1841, Congress passed an act that granted 500,000 acres to eight states and later increased land grants to a total of 19 states. The federal government also granted money, such as distributions of surplus federal revenue and

reimbursements for war expenses, to states. Though Congress rarely prescribed that such funds be used only for schools, education continued to be one of the largest expenses of state and local governments so the states used federal funds whenever possible for education.

Two of our constitutional amendments played an important role in public education. In 1791, the 10th Amendment stated, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” Public education was not mentioned as one of those federal powers, and so historically has been delegated to the local and state governments.

In 1868, the 14th Amendment guaranteed rights to all citizens by stating, “all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens in the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.”

Included below is a brief historical overview of federal involvement in public education.

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HISTORY OF THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION: TIMELINE

Land Ordinance & Northwest Ordinance 1785/1787

Requirement of a system of public education to be established in each township formed under a specified formula. Regulated monies raised via taxes and selling or renting land.

Land Grants 1841/1848

Congress granted 77+ million acres of land in the public domain as endowments for support of schools. Federal government also granted surplus money to states for public education.

Early philosophy – first six presidents

Discussion of a national university and urging of federal involvement in public education. Seen as critical to preparation for citizenship in a republican form of government.

First Morrill Act otherwise known as the Land Grant Act 1862

Donated public lands to states to be used for the endowment to support and maintain at least one college with specific purpose of teaching branches of agriculture, mechanic arts and industrial education.

The original Department (Office) of Education established 1867

Began to collect data – information on schools and teaching that would help states establish effective school systems.

Second Morrill Act 1890

Gave the Office of Education responsibility for administering support for the original system of land- grant colleges.

Smith-Hughes Act 1917

Promoted vocational schools

Lanham Act Impact Aid laws 1941 1950

Eased the burden on communities affected by presence of military and federal installations: payments to school districts.

GI Bill 1944

Provided post secondary education assistance to GIs returning from World War II

George-Barden Act 1946

Provided funding for agricultural, industrial and home economics training for high school students

National Defense Education Act 1958

In response to Soviet Sputnik. NDEA included support for loans to college students in science, mathematics and foreign languages.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act 1965

Established comprehensive set of programs including Title I of federal aid to disadvantaged.

Title IX 1972

Prohibited discrimination in education based on gender.

Section 504 Rehabilitation Act 1973

Prohibited discrimination based on disability.

Department of Education cabinet level agency 1980

Recognized the important role of public education in our country.

Educational Testing Service (ETS) and NAEP 1983

Federal government transferred responsibility for administering the National Assessment of Educational

Progress (NAEP) to ETS: the nation's report card. Nation at Risk 1983

Report indicating that the USA was falling behind in education achievement.

President G.H. Bush 1989- 1992

"Indian Education Bill of Rights", K-12 Drug awareness model, Advisory committee on Hispanic education, America 2000 education reform program, Work began on national standards.

President W. Clinton 1993- 1999

Academics 2000 offered grant to states / local school districts for innovation, Teach for America.

President G.W. Bush 2001- 2008

Reauthorization of ESEA –No Child Left Behind.

President Barack Obama 2009 -

President Obama's Blueprint for Reform – Reauthorization of ESEA, Race to the Top: Grants awarded to states with innovative ideas that accepted the Common Core Standards.

Produced by the LWVUS The Education Study: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education © 2011 by the League of Women Voters of the United States

League Activities

Lobby Lunch	Tuesday, Oct. 11	12:00 noon	MetroColumbus Library
Public Policy Luncheon	Thursday, Oct. 13	12:00 pm	OSU Fawcett Center
Evening Unit	Tuesday, Oct. 18	5:30 pm	Spaghetti Warehouse
Morning Unit	Thursday, Oct. 20	9:30 AM	Wesley Glen
Lobby Lunch	Tuesday, Oct. 25	12:00 noon	MetroColumbus Library

Please go to page 7 for the list of candidate and issue forums co-sponsored by the League.

Any website information that was referred to can be sent out as a hard copy.
Contact Amy, 614-837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org

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The VIB are now on our website, www.lwvcols.org