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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

League of Women Voters
- Cuyahoga Area Education Fund
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BALLOT ISSUE 2 REFERENDUM IS FOCUS OF 2011 LWV CUYAHOGA AREA HIGH SCHOOL MOCK ELECTIONS HELD IN FOUR AREA SCHOOLS

For the fourth year, the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area project, **Engaging a New Generation of Voters: Mock Elections for High School Students**, will be held for some 1,400 eleventh and twelfth grade students in four Cuyahoga County high schools during October: Brecksville High, Fairview High, Parma Senior High, and Brush High.

The 2011 Mock Election activities will focus on the citizen referendum safeguards available to citizens in the Ohio Constitution. As a current example, student discussion and activities will center on the November 8 , 2011 Ohio ballot Issue 2 Referendum on Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 5 in which Ohio voters will choose to approve or reject a new Ohio law related to government union contracts and other government contracts and policies.

The three day simulated election experience at each school includes: A student voter registration day; a published, nonpartisan LWV Voters Guide for each student; a LWV moderated Issue Forum Assembly presenting Ballot Issue 2 Pro and Con speakers and answering students' questions; and culminating with a precinct ballot election conducted by volunteer precinct workers overseen by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

The Mock Election project is designed to de-mystify the election process for the young, soon-to-be voters and to develop a lifelong commitment to citizen involvement in the democratic process. The Millennial Generation, which includes these high school students, could constitute a third of the electorate within the next few years and will certainly impact the 2012 Presidential Election, **if they vote**.

(MORE)

Participating High Schools:

- **Brecksville High School**
6380 Mill Rd., Broadview Hts, OH 44147
October 5, 2011 – 9 a.m. – Issues Forum
October 6, 2011 – 9 a.m. – 12 noon – Voting Day

- **Fairview High School**
4507 W. 213th St., Fairview Park, OH 44126
October 12, 2011 – 9 a.m. – Issues Forum
October 13, 2011 – 9 a.m. – 12 noon – Voting Day

- **Parma Senior High School**
6285 W. 54th St., Parma, OH 44129
October 19, 2011 – 9 a.m. – Issues Forum
October 20, 2011 – 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Voting Day

- **Brush High School (South Euclid/Lyndhurst)**
4875 Glenlyn Rd., Lyndhurst, OH 44124
October 26, 2011 – 9 a.m. – Issues Forum
October 27, 2011 – 9 a.m. – 12 noon – Voting Day

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

For additional information, please contact the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area, Mary Lou Jones, executive director at 440.331.0344 mljones5@sbcglobal.net.

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