



## *How Public is the Public-Private Partnership?*

**JAY MILLER, CRAIN'S BUSINESS REPORTER SPEAKS AT MARCH 5TH FIRST THURSDAY FORUM**



The sixth season of the popular dialogue series First Thursday Forums continues with guest speaker Jay Miller, Government and Economic Development reporter, CRAIN'S CLEVELAND BUSINESS, on **Thursday, March 5, 2009, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Trinity Commons**. Titled "Show Us The Money: How Public is the Public-Private Partnership?" Mr. Miller's talk will cover the growing role of government in stimulating economic development

– what is called the public-private partnership -- and what's happening now with that public-private partnership as it

relates to the Medical Mart, the Port Authority, etc.

Completing First Thursday Forum's 2008/09 season, the **April 2** forum will feature a speaker panel including William Currin, Mayor of Hudson; Howard Maier, CEO of NOACA and Shara Davis, Lorain Community College, who will discuss possibilities of community revenue sharing and an overview of the Renaissance of the Northeast Ohio Region.

Funding for the First Thursday Forum project is provided by the LWV Cuyahoga Area Education Fund. The March 5th First Thursday Forum will be held at Trinity Commons (Cathedral Hall) at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Avenue. The public is invited and reservations are not necessary. Cost is \$5/person or \$3/student at the door. There is free parking for attendees behind the Cathedral off Prospect Ave.

## **Seeking New Local Study Ideas**

Each year at our LWV-Cuyahoga Area annual meeting, we discuss and vote on new topics for study. In 2008 we voted to study regionalism. Is there another topic you would like to propose at our 2009 annual meeting? Is there a topic which you feel is missing, or should be updated, in our local Program? Please send your suggestions **by March 1** to Mary Warren at [jlucic@juno.com](mailto:jlucic@juno.com).

## **Ohio Statehouse Day**

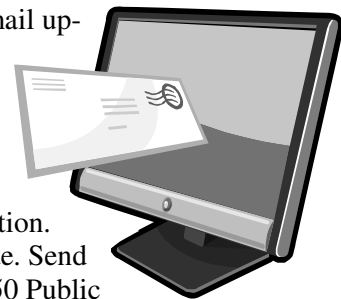
Ohio Statehouse Day is our chance as League to meet with our legislators and our League Lobbyists to discuss State government and provide input. The topic this year is "The Budget Shortfall: We're ALL Going to Feel the Pinch." Morning meetings will be with economist Howard Fleeter and our very own Armond Budish. Interested in car-pooling? Call the League office and let us know (216-781-0555).

A complete agenda and map to the Riffe Center will be emailed to registrants and are posted in the Statehouse Day section on LWVO's website ([www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org)). For questions or to register, call LWVO toll free at 1-877-LWV-OHIO. Fees cover materials and meals: \$35/person; \$20/student. Registration deadline is March 1, 2009.

**Ohio Statehouse Day**  
Tuesday, March 17, 2009  
9:00 AM--3:15 PM  
Riffe Center, Columbus

## **E-MAIL ADDRESSES ARE IMPORTANT!**

If you have NOT been receiving e-mail updates on Cuyahoga Area League activities, that means we do not have a working e-mail address for you. During these cold winter months, the Membership Team is updating everyone's contact information. Make sure what we have is up to date. Send information to the League office at 50 Public Square #938, Cleveland, OH 44113 (216-781-0555), or e-mail the membership chair Carol Gibson at [LWVCuyAreaMembership@gmail.com](mailto:LWVCuyAreaMembership@gmail.com)



You can also begin to receive your national Voter magazine by e-mail. Members can simply update or add your email address to your LWVUS record by logging in to the website: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Click "login" at the top right-hand side of the page and follow the directions to register for new users. You will be asked to provide a password.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Happy New Year! we greet our friends these opening days of January named for Janus — in Roman mythology the god of gates, doors, doorways, beginnings and endings and the janitor/caretaker of doors and halls. He received the gift to see the future and the past and is frequently used to symbolize change and transitions. He was representative of the middle ground between rural country and urban cities, youth and adulthood and even barbarity and civilization (per Wikipedia).

In League, we look back on the success of the Mock Election Project and a wonderfully busy Voter Service season capped by an historic election. Looking ahead, we see a fascinating evening discussion on the conclusion of the Commission on Cuyahoga County Government Reform and no less than two consensus events -- the LWVUS consensus on a National Popular Vote and the Cuyahoga Area consensus on Regionalism-Revenue Tax Sharing. What a splendid way to enter 2009, doing the work of League at it's best.

Your participation in these consensus-building programs enables the League to take a leading role in advocacy on cutting edge issues. It's the "U" in LeagUe that makes this organization the voice for citizens and a force for change. Happy New Year and thank you.

In League,

**—Kathy**

**Ohio's Sunshine Law Commemorated**

The week of March 15, 2009 has been designated as Sunshine Law Week in Ohio.

In an effort to help elected officials and the public to better understand the provisions and requirements of this important legislation, the LWV Cuyahoga Area Education Fund has purchased 250 copies of the new LWV Ohio brochure, THE SUNSHINE LAW: OHIO'S OPEN MEETINGS ACT, to distribute to our 48 community Mayors, Presidents of Councils and other local officials as well as the Cuyahoga County Commissioners and other elected county officials.

In the words of the Ohio Revised Code, "The Open Meetings Act requires public bodies to deliberate, discuss, and conduct official business in open meetings. Government officials must liberally construe the law with these goals in mind. There are only limited situations when a public body may adjourn into executive session to discuss public matters." The reasons justifying an executive session include discussions about personnel matters, the purchase of property, pending or imminent court action, and collective bargaining.

**Honoring Janet Hutchison:  
Cuyahoga Valley National Park Advocate**



**SAVE THE DATE:** Sunday April 26, 2009; 1 pm brunch  
Place: Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

LWV Cuyahoga Area will be honoring Janet Hutchison, who was recently awarded the Presidential Award and the Department of Interior's Citizens Award for Exceptional Service for her advocacy and volunteerism in support of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Her support of the park includes over 22,000 volunteer hours since the park's founding in 1975 and, prior to that, 8,000 hours of advocacy efforts leading to the establishment of the park. In the late 60's and early 70's, she chaired a two-county League study leading both Summit and Cuyahoga County Leagues to adopt positions supporting the Cuyahoga Valley's preservation as an open green area. Former Park Superintendent Lew Albert stated, "We consider Mrs. Hutchison to be one of the park's founders!"

Tickets: \$50 per person. Proceeds from the event will support the operating and advocacy activities of the Cuyahoga Area League.

Reservations: Contact Nikki Salupo (nik1948@msn.com; 440-333-3842) now to make early reservations. All LWV Cuyahoga Area members will receive invitations with more information in the spring.

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**FIFTY YEARS IN THE LEAGUE!**

If you think you have been a member of the League for **50** years or more, please contact Carol Gibson (membership chair) at 216-932-8733. Fifty years of membership is a watershed event that we have lost track of. Help us discover who are our most long-term and loyal members!

**ANNOUNCEMENT** re: LWV Ohio Taxation and Finance Study Consensus Timeframe. The LWVO Board of Directors voted to table the Tax Study Consensus Process for the time being until they can provide materials that address member concerns and comments.

## Think Regional, Act Regional, Be Regional! (Consensus #1)

In May 2008, LWV Cuyahoga Area voted to conduct a study on Regionalism. That decision has placed us firmly in the vanguard of progressive organizations and political entities working to create a synergy for helping fragmented local governments in Northeast Ohio begin to pull together, to coordinate economic development and smart growth for the region as a whole.

Tax-Base Revenue Sharing has been identified as a key to intergovernmental cooperation. Our meetings on **March 16 and 18** will be devoted to a discussion

of this idea. Members should have received the background information in January. The future of this study will then be in your hands. YOU will design the role LWV Cuyahoga Area will play in the next phase of Regionalism in Northeast Ohio.

Read, attend, respond, be part of the future! The 16 counties and 15 other Leagues in Northeast Ohio are watching us! **For meeting details, visit the calendar at [LWVCuyahogaArea.org](http://LWVCuyahogaArea.org) or contact Kathy Woodbridge at [LWVCuyAreaPresident@gmail.com](mailto:LWVCuyAreaPresident@gmail.com).**

## Background for the National Popular Vote Compact (Consensus #2)

The League has a long-standing position in support of the direct election of the president by popular vote. Now League members have the opportunity to consider whether to support the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) as a viable process to achieve that result. The NPV Compact would avoid the need for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College (EC), and would assure that the individual receiving the most votes would become president.

There are pros and cons to this plan, which are discussed in full in papers found on the LWVUS Web site ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) by the LWVUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee. Summaries of these papers and consensus questions are also available. League members can learn more about the plan from these sources and, locally, from two consensus meetings:

- **April 7 (6:45 pm, Fairview Park Library)**
- **April 14 (6:45 pm, Cleveland Heights Library)**

LWV Cuyahoga Area members who are unable to attend a consensus meeting may also download and complete the consensus questions and mail them **by April 17** to:

LWV Cuyahoga Area  
50 Public Square, Rm. 938  
Cleveland, OH 44113

Be sure to participate! Who better than the League to be ready to speak to this good-government issue? To prepare for the April consensus meeting, please read the complete version of this paper (available at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) by the LWVUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee. If you would like to participate in the *presentation of the study*, contact Program Chairperson, Mary Warren: 216-221-2975.

**LWV Legislative Interviews:** At the beginning of each new session of the General Assembly (odd-numbered yrs.), local Leagues conduct face-to-face interviews with representatives and senators. This allows Leagues to establish a relationship with newly elected officials and solidify connections with returning legislators. LWV Ohio's lobby corps and state board devised a short list of questions for each League to use when interviewing legislators. Topic areas were chosen based on this year's legislative priorities. LWV Cuyahoga Area members have already begun the interviews and will complete them by the end of February.

## LWV CUYAHOGA AREA Board of Directors 2008-2009

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS CALLING FOR ALL NOMINATIONS!

The **Nominating Committee** is meeting. Recommendations for president, two vice presidents and secretary should be sent to Susan Jankite at [susan99@earthlink.net](mailto:susan99@earthlink.net). Please don't overlook those League members who are working quietly on the sidelines. Also please don't hesitate to put your own name in the ring. You don't have to wait to be asked.

# Calendar of Events

- Feb 26 **What is Regionalism? (3<sup>rd</sup> in a series)**  
Hudson Library, 96 Library Street, Hudson  
Thursday, 7:00-9:00 PM  
Co-sponsored by LWV Hudson and LWV  
Cuyahoga Area. [www.lwvhudsonohio.org](http://www.lwvhudsonohio.org)
- Mar 5 **First Thursday Forum**  
**Show us the Money: How Public is the  
Public-Private Partnership?**  
Jay Miller, Crain's Business Reporter  
Thursday, 7:00-9:00 PM  
Trinity Commons, 2230 Euclid Avenue
- Mar 7 **LWV Cuyahoga Area Board Meeting**
- Mar 15 **Sunshine Week (through March 20)**  
Celebrating your right to know.  
Link: <http://sunshineweek.org/>
- Mar 16 **LWV Consensus Mtg on Regionalism**  
Lakewood, visit website calendar for  
meeting location information  
6:30-8:30 PM
- Mar 18 **LWV Consensus Mtg on Regionalism**  
Cleveland Hts., visit website calendar  
for meeting location information  
6:30-8:30 PM

- Mar 29 **BOOK CLUB**  
Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin  
Visit website calendar for meeting location
- Apr 2 **First Thursday Forum**  
Thursday, 7:00-9:00 PM  
Trinity Commons, 2230 Euclid Avenue
- Apr 4 **LWV Cuyahoga Area Board Meeting**
- Apr 7 **LWV Consensus Mtg on NPV Compact**  
Fairview Park Library  
6:45 PM
- Apr 14 **LWV Consensus Mtg on NPV Compact**  
Cleveland Heights Library  
6:45 PM
- May 1-3 **LWV Ohio Convention**
- May 9 **LWV Cuyahoga Area Board Meeting**
- May 16 **LWV Cuyahoga Area Annual Meeting**  
Ohio CanalWay Center, 4524 E. 49th St.  
Saturday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
- Jun 6 **LWV Cuyahoga Area Board Meeting**

- Bay Village
- Beachwood
- Bedford
- Bedford Heights
- Benleyville
- Brecksville
- Broadview Heights
- Brooklyn
- Brooklyn Heights
- Chagrin Falls Township
- Chagrin Falls Village
- East Cleveland
- Cleveland Heights
- Cuyahoga Heights
- Fairview Park
- Garfield Heights
- Gates Mills
- Glenwillow
- Highland Heights
- Hunting Valley
- Lakewood
- Lyndhurst
- Maple Heights
- Mayfield Heights
- Mayfield Village
- Moreland Hills Village
- Newburg Heights Village
- North Olmsted
- North Randall
- North Royalton
- Oakwood
- Orange
- Parma
- Parma Heights
- Pepper Pike
- Richmond Heights
- Rocky River
- Seven Hills
- Solon
- South Euclid
- University Heights
- Valley View
- Walton Hills
- Warrensville Heights
- Westlake
- Woodmere

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-  
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