



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DARKE COUNTY – OCTOBER 2012

Dues are due by
July 1; do you still
owe yours?

Please remit to:
Marie Boas

102 Stonecress Ct.

Greenville, OH
45331

548-9172

\$55.00 per person



MEETINGS

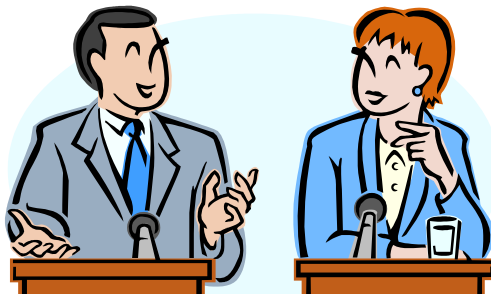
Usually held the
first Tuesday
evening of the
month

at

5:30 p.m. on
the third floor
of the
Greenville
Public Library.

Upcoming:

Nov. 6, 2012



CANDIDATES NIGHT

Monday, October 22nd
7-9 P.M.

American Legion
325 N. Ohio Street
Greenville

Races: State Representative,
Ohio Appellate Court
Judgeships
&
State Issues

Candidates debating will include:

2nd District Court of Appeals Race

Carly Ingram vs. Jeffrey Welbaum

80th House District Race

Richard Adams vs. Dave Fisher

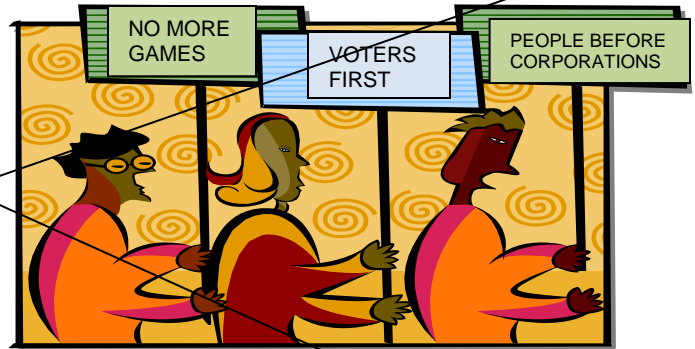
84th House District Race

Jim Buchy vs. Ronald Hammons

For further information log onto:
darkecounty.oh.lwnet.org

PANEL DISCUSSION ON ISSUE TWO

OHIO'S REDISTRICTING AMENDMENT



~~MON. OCT. 29TH - 7:00 PM~~

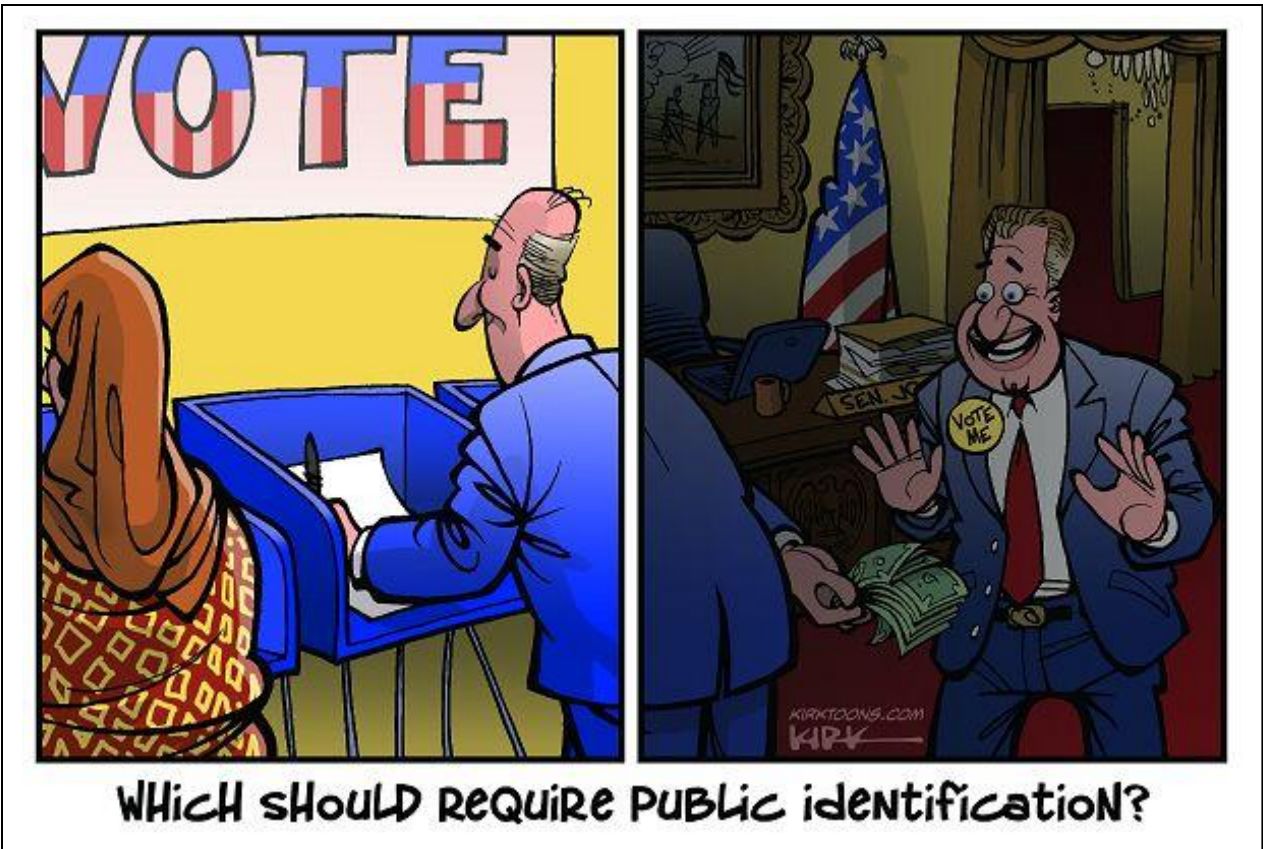
CANCELLED

AMERICAN L

**DUE TO THE LACK OF SOMEONE
FROM THE OPPOSITION AGREEING
TO SPEAK—WE MUST SHOW BOTH
SIDES!**

2011-2012 CALENDAR

<p><u>SEPTEMBER</u> House Tour September 23rd</p> <p>Grossed-\$1,770.00 Netted- \$1,320.00</p>	<p><u>OCTOBER</u> <i>Candidates Night</i> October 22nd</p> <p>State Issue 2 October 29th</p>	<p><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>Democracy in the Balance (Campaign Finance Reform)</p>	<p><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p>Christmas Party Dec. 3, 6 p.m. CJ Highmarks</p>
<p><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p>State Program Planning</p>	<p><u>FEBRUARY</u></p>	<p><u>MARCH</u></p> <p>“To Frack or Not to Frack—That is the Question”</p>	<p><u>APRIL</u></p> <p>Glad Rags & Old Bags Fundraiser</p>
<p><u>MAY</u></p> <p>Annual Meeting</p>	<p><u>JUNE</u></p>	<p><u>JULY</u></p>	<p><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p>Membership Party</p>



Fracking' brine

FYI

Gas-well waste full of radium

Study suggests water trucked to Ohio from Pa. might be radioactive

The Columbus Dispatch Monday September 3, 2012 6:05 AM

Millions of barrels of wastewater trucked into Ohio from shale-gas wells in Pennsylvania might be highly radioactive, according to a government study. Radium in one sample of Marcellus shale wastewater, also called brine, that Pennsylvania officials collected in 2009 was 3,609 times more radioactive than a federal safety limit for drinking water. It was 300 times higher than a Nuclear Regulatory Commission limit for industrial discharges to water.

The December 2011 study, compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey, also found that the median levels of radium in brine from Marcellus shale wells was more than three times higher than brine collected from conventional oil and gas wells. “These are very, very high concentrations of radium compared to other oil and gas brines,” said Mark Engle, a U.S. Geological Survey research geologist and co-author of the report. State law bans radioactive shale-well sand and sludge from Ohio landfills. However, brine can be sent down any of Ohio’s 171 active disposal wells regardless of how much radium it contains. Michael Snee, the Ohio Department of Health’s radiation-protection chief, said that’s the safest place for brine. “Injection wells are almost the perfect solution for that disposal issue,” Snee said.

However, environmental advocates say the Geological Survey’s report intensifies their fears of surface spills and leaks to groundwater. “It’s an alarm bell in the night that we better get serious about testing the material in the Utica shale right here in Ohio,” said Jack Shaner, an Ohio Environmental Council lobbyist. Shaner and others said the study shows that state officials should look at what’s bubbling out of Ohio’s shale wells. Radiation is yet another wrinkle in the ongoing debate over “fracking,” a process that sends millions of gallons of water, sand and chemicals down wells to shatter shale and free trapped oil and gas. Thousands of Marcellus shale wells have been drilled in Pennsylvania. Of the 12.2 million barrels of brine injected into Ohio disposal wells last year, 53 percent came from Pennsylvania and West Virginia. A similar drilling and fracking boom is expected in Ohio’s Utica shale. Engle said the Marcellus shale absorbs uranium from ancient saltwater trapped within the rock layer. The decaying uranium then leaks radium into the water. As the wells continue to produce oil and gas, Engle said the brine becomes saltier and more radioactive.

For its study, the Geological Survey examined 52 samples of Marcellus shale brine collected from wells in New York and Pennsylvania from 2009 through 2011. In 37 of the samples, radioactivity from radium-226 and radium-228 was at least 242 times higher than the drinking-water standard and at least 20 times higher than the industrial standard. That included a sample collected Dec. 21, 2009, in Tioga County, Pa., that was 3,609 times higher than the drinking water standard and 300 times higher than the industrial.

The U.S. Geological Survey’s Ohio office wants to study radium and other contents of Utica brine. “We want to understand these natural formation fluids, what’s in the ground before any drilling occurred,” said Ralph Haefner, the survey’s groundwater-studies chief. Snee said there’s no need for the state to test Utica brine because disposal wells are safe. He said shale wastes trucked to landfills pose a bigger threat to groundwater. In May, the health department told American Landfill in Stark County that two truckloads of waste sand from two Greene County, Pa., wells must instead go to a hazardous-waste landfill.

Required lab tests showed radium at levels 36 times higher than the state’s safety standard. Some critics say they worry that Ohio municipalities will spray shale brine on roadways in winter to combat ice. There are no restrictions against using shale-well brine on Ohio roadways. Cities, townships and others now spray brine from conventional oil and gas wells. However, state officials say they routinely tell drilling companies to take shale wastewater to disposal wells.

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