Don’t wait to vote

The Fair Elections Ohio coalition has met its goal. The campaign to overturn HB 194 collected and submitted more than the required number of signatures to the Secretary of State to repeal the voter suppression bill. This means that HB 194 has been put on hold, and until Tuesday, Oct. 11, you can both register to vote and vote in person at the same time. In-person early voting ends on Monday, Nov. 7.

If you would like to vote absentee, CEA will be mailing absentee ballot applications to your building, along with the addresses of several county boards of elections. You can also directly request an application from your county board of elections.

CEA has endorsed the following candidates and issues in the November General Election:

This area of The Voice has been intentionally left blank because it contains a political endorsement.

Issues

1. State Issue—Proposed Constitutional Amendment to amend Section 6 of Article IV and repeal Sections 19 and 22 of Article IV. NO POSITION
2. State Issue—Referendum—Senate Bill 5: NO (means rescind the law)

School Issues—#14 Canal Winchester Local SD; #15 Dublin City SD; #16 Groveport-Madison Local SD; #17 Hilliard City SD; #20 Westerville City SD: YES on all

#22—Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities—Proposed Tax Levy—Replacement: YES

Help stop this campaign! Vote NO on Issue 2.

When you vote “NO,” you bring down SB 5 which does us all great harm. The law eliminates our right to bargain over class size, restricts our consideration of longevity and use of step increases and limits the amount of sick leave you can accumulate. It prohibits new continuing contracts, requires merit-based pay, eliminates the right to strike and caps severance pay. If parties are unable to reach agreement on a contract, the public employer can choose to implement its own best offer.

Ask everyone who cares about you and public education to take action. Visit www.weareohio.com and look under “events” to find a canvassing activity or rally to take part in. You can search and sort by location and date. The most effective way to answer this attack is with a massive volunteer canvass this weekend to set the record straight.

You also can create your own account on the site and use it to inform your friends and family about the damage being caused by Senate Bill 5. This detrimental law:

● Makes it easier for politicians to continue to cut public school funding, which will lead to larger class sizes and less individual attention for our students.
● Silences the voices of school nurses, teachers, bus drivers, custodians and school employees who help keep our students safe.
● Removes protections against favoritism in layoffs, transfers and other important personnel decisions. If teachers speak up against bad policies, bureaucrats could retaliate by reassigning them to other grades or buildings, thereby punishing educators and hurting students.
● Forces local school districts to base at least 50 percent of teachers’ compensation on student test scores, a method that is rejected by education experts and parents alike because it’s inaccurate, invalid and doesn’t work.
● Forces teachers to do even more standardized testing—taking the focus away from classroom learning, forcing teachers and schools to teach to the test and take a one-size-fits-all approach to student learning.

During his campaign, John Kasich said he wanted to “break the back of teachers unions”; and, as governor, he pushed Senate Bill 5 and Issue #2 to do just that. But Ohio’s educators are coming together to stand up against Issue #2. Together, we can repeal Senate Bill 5!
United Way campaign begins

CEA kicked off our annual United Way campaign Oct. 6 during our Legislative Assembly. With your help, we can improve our community by providing strong building blocks: Education, Income, Health and Home. These are the Bold Goals of United Way of Central Ohio.

Our donations have helped United Way serve more than 29,650 central Ohio youth build the necessary skills to graduate from high school and be successful in life. It's a great start, but more than 30,000 young people still need our support. Here are some ways you already helped:

- Over the past 20 years, Community Care Day has mobilized more than 75,000 volunteers and provided an estimated half a million dollars in equivalent labor costs to United Way member agencies, other nonprofit organizations, neighborhood groups and local schools.
- Over the past three years, the Family Stability Collaborative has helped 525 families with 1,112 children become and remain stable, with 90 percent of the families completing the program finding permanent housing and resolving the issues that led them to a housing crisis.
- Over the last five years, the Neighborhood Partnership Grant program has invested nearly $1.4 million to support local improvement projects that engage residents and advance the common good.


Keep learning on Capital Day

Capital Day is coming. Join us at the Hyatt Regency on Friday, Oct. 21, for a professional learning experience you don't want to miss. You will hear from two stellar educators and motivational speakers, Michael Wright, an assessment and training expert, and of Extraordinary Teachers: Teaching for Success; and Crystal Kuykendall, former Executive Director of the National Alliance of Black School Educators and author of From Rage to Hope: Reclaiming Black and Hispanic Students.

Check in and enjoy a continental breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m. Sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. Register in PD Planner by Tuesday, Oct. 18. Do a PD Search in the PD Planner for Capital Day 2011. Scroll down to “Capital Day 2011: A Main Event at The Hyatt Regency.” Click on the name to open it, and then under “Scheduled Sections,” click on the “Register” button.

Need legal assistance?

CEA membership provides a pioneering benefit: a legal services plan. The concept has been so popular that it has become a model for other associations.

The Basic Plan (now known as the OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program) is provided for every active member. When you become a CEA member, you automatically receive, at a reduced rate, legal assistance with matters in real estate, wills and estates, domestic relations, consumer protection and traffic violations. You automatically receive four free half-hour meetings to discuss any legal matter, except income tax preparation.

For a fee, the Comprehensive Plan provides more extensive coverage. Included here are matters such as personal injury and document review. Your entire, immediate family is eligible.

Legal services, such as help with business dealings, bankruptcy or taxes and defense in criminal matters, do not qualify for the discounted rate.

Call Copplett, Sauter, Latanick and Washburn at 461-4455 and ask for a consultation. Contact Judy Nelson at CEA (253-4731) to sign up for the Comprehensive Plan.

I Know I Can: Did you know?

I Know I Can’s mission is to inspire, enable and support Columbus City Schools students in the pursuit and completion of a college degree.

- Did you know...I Know I Can assists over 500 families with submitting their FAFSA each year?
- Did you know...I Know I Can awards over 1,000 students with its $1,200 grant annually?
- Did you know...I Know I Can put over 200 students through an Algebra 1 readiness camp this summer?
- Did you know...I Know I Can serviced over 600 CCS middle school families through its Blueprint: College parent engagement workshops in 2010–11?
- Did you know...I Know I Can hosted over 1,200 8th graders on college campus tours last year?
- Did you know...every dollar you donate to I Know I Can directly benefits the students of Columbus City Schools?
- I Know I Can appreciates your continued support of its programs and services, and asks you to consider I Know I Can in your 2011 charitable giving.

Special notes

- Gain new skills and see the world through the Fulbright Classroom Teacher Exchange Program and Awards in Teaching Program. Teachers must have five years of experience, a B.A. degree and be currently employed in a full-time teaching position. The application deadline is Oct. 15. Awards in Teaching applicants must have a Master’s degree, five years of teaching experience and be currently employed in a teaching or education-related position at the K–12 level. The application deadline is Dec. 15. Learn more at www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org.
- The CEA Members Scholarship Fund provides monetary assistance to the dependent children of CEA or CEA-R members. Dependent children must be seniors pursuing a college or university degree. The deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 18. Applications are available at www.ceaohio.org under “Member Benefits” or from the CEA office (253-4731). Send the completed application to Cora Miller at CEA.
- Join CEA for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, Sunday, Oct. 23. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the walk starting at 10 a.m. at COSI, 333 W. Broad Street. To register in advance and to learn about the walk and the pledge process, go to http://bit.ly/3QY7iE. List Columbus Education Association as your team company. Call Ezetta Murray for more information at 253-4731.
- Ever wondered how you could obtain the NookColor to use as a teaching tool in the classroom? If so, attend a free grant-writing workshop at the Barnes & Noble Lennox located at 1739 Olentangy River Rd. on Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m. The workshop will discuss grant-writing basics, new grant opportunities and more. Coffee and scones will be served. RSVP at crm2860@bn.com to reserve your spot.
- The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, Oct. 11. Make changes in person or by U.S. mail using the form at http://1.usa.gov/neNJie.
- CEA needs your contact information. Don’t be the last to know about an important matter affecting your job. Fill out the card we sent you with your phone number and personal email address.