

## **League Recognized in National Government Transparency Handbook**

### ***Observing Your Government in Action: Protecting Your Right to Know***

Dayton, OH – The League of Women Voters of Greater Dayton Area is featured in a new national publication about government transparency, *Observing Your Government In Action: Protecting your Right to Know*. This comprehensive resource guide, part of the national League’s Citizen Transparency Initiative, provides useful best practices and tips for observing government activities and promoting transparency.

One of only a handful of the organization’s 850 local and state affiliates to be spotlighted in the guide, local president Penny Wolff commented that they were glad to have their efforts recognized in this way. “League members volunteer to observe government meetings to help strengthen our community, and we hope that our experiences can now inspire other civic leaders.”

From tips on observing government agencies to ideas on promoting public vigilance, the handbook is a “how to” guide for citizens to organize an observer corps to monitor local government activities.

“Now, more than ever, citizens need to be vigilant in monitoring the activities of their governments at all levels,” said national League president Mary G. Wilson. “We live in an age in which government openness has often been sacrificed in the name of homeland security. The League believes that a fair and open democratic process, and *not* secretive government action, is what keeps us strong.”

In Dayton, the League has created an observer corps that enlists volunteers to attend local governmental meetings and observe governmental activities.

“We are a unique organization because we are volunteers who do the hands-on work to safeguard the democratic process. We invite anyone who wants to affect change and promote government transparency in Dayton to join us at [www.lwvdayton.com](http://www.lwvdayton.com)” added Wolff.

*Observing your Government in Action* was made possible by the support of The Herb Block Foundation. To obtain a copy of the guidebook, visit [www.lwv.org/store](http://www.lwv.org/store), or download an electronic copy in the “Openness in Government” section at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

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*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With 87 years of experience and 850 local and state affiliates, the League is one of America’s most trusted organizations.*