



The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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THE VOTER Vol. 59 No. 3

November 2006

CALENDAR

Monday 11/06 LWVN Board meeting, 5:15 pm. RSVP at info@LWVNashville.org or 297-7134

Tuesday 11/07 Election Day!

Thursday 12/07 *Mark your calendars!* LWVN Holiday Gathering, 5:30 to 7:30 at the home of Marian Ott, 408 West Hillwood Drive, Nashville. RSVP to 297-7134 or lwnashville.org.

HEALTH CARE POLICIES IN TENNESSEE

Nashville will join other local Leagues in the Health Care Study of the LWV of Tennessee. The Nashville LWV has been analyzing the current health care crisis for several years, sponsoring a public forum on TennCare in 2005 and on the Nashville Health Care Safety Net in 2006. The new study aims to identify key issues for Tennessee and to update the state League's position statement on health care. For a copy of the current state position, go to www.LWVTN.org and click on "Issues," then "Position Statement". The Nashville League has enlisted several members to help with this review: Pat Post, Carol Westlake, Wanda Willis, Mary Anne Queen, and Maryda Colowick with Karen Weeks and Karen Edwards coordinating two meetings. To participate contact Karen Weeks at 373-3551 or KarenHWeeks@comcast.net.

LEAGUE POSITION ON METRO CHARTER AMENDMENT

As reported in the October VOTER, the League is working to oppose Metro Charter Amendment No.1 that would require any property tax rate increase approved by Metro Council to be submitted to the voters for approval. In an op-ed article in the *Tennessean* on October 24, President Karen Edwards noted that while we all prefer lower taxes, we also want safe neighborhoods, accessible health care, community parks and libraries, and good schools. Metro Council has acted with restraint--Metro's property taxes are lower than the three other large cities in Tennessee. Voters are advised to reject the amendment November 7. To read the full column go to www.lwvnashville.org.

REPORT ON CANDIDATE FORUMS

In a refreshing change from the political ads saturating the airways, the LWVTN forums for Gubernatorial Candidates October 14 and Senate Candidates October 28 focused on the issues. Held at TSU and Vanderbilt, the forums played to capacity audiences. Audience members questioned candidates on ethics, health care, job creation, immigration, the war in Iraq, and civil liberties. Moderated by Chris Clark, the forums were broadcast live by Channel 5 statewide and were rebroadcast by Channel 50 the following day. C-SPAN also carried the Senate forum. Thanks to Channel 5, TSU, Vanderbilt, LWVTN President Deana Claiborne, and the host of League members and others who organized the forums and volunteered their time to make them successful.

Our thanks to: Jennifer Williams, who went well beyond her responsibilities as Office Assistant and into the realm of super volunteer, Carrie Hudson, Karen Weeks, Auston Deville, Reba Holmes, Amber Hoolihan, Tommie Morton-Young, Sue Bredensteiner, Denise Carr, Barbara Deneke, Fernando Rodriguez, Rose Rodriguez, Jan Bossing, Phyllis Williams, Suzie Tolme, Jackie Crumley, Debby Gould, Julie Lamb, Marian Ott, Silvine Hudson, Tim McDonald, Savannah Harris, Jessica Lindsey, Anna Page, Kent Weeks, Judy Filson, Tom Carr, Glen Phillips, Ted Spangler, Krissa Barclay, Ed Dodds, Claudia Medlin, Kathryn Levene, Alison Musto, Sara Tabor, Karen Davis, Dale Farran and Mary Taylor.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, VOTER INTEGRITY STUDY, DRAFT REPORT

Committee: Carrie S. Hudson and Marian Ott, Co-Chairs.

Participants: Barbara Deneke, Deborah Narrigan,

Alma Sanford, Dikki Schoggen, Phil Schoggen and, Lynn Williams

The LWV Nashville has conducted a Voting Integrity Study of the Nashville-Davidson County election system using the League of Women Voters of the United States' publication, "Helping America Vote: Safe Guarding the Vote," as the study guide. The major findings and recommendations of the study are:

- The Nashville-Davidson County Election Commission is generally making a good faith effort to follow federal and state election laws. *The LWVN particularly commends the Davidson County Election Commission for mailing a sample ballot to every registered voter and strongly encourages that this become standard practice.*
- There is a lack of adequate procedures and protocols to ensure that the new electronic voting machines are functioning properly. *The LWVN strongly recommends that the state adopt and Metro Election Commission follow the practices set forth in the Voting Systems Performance and test Standards developed by the federal Election Commission. In addition, the Metro Election Commission should more fully develop staff capabilities to include staff with background in statistical analysis and polling/survey procedures to ensure adequate capability to develop effective and formalized testing procedures.*
- The physical protection of the voting machines could be enhanced. *The LWVN recommends enhancing security for the voting machines by at least adding video surveillance at the warehouse and a more formal check in/out process for the machines so that missing machines can be more quickly identified.*
- The LWVN is trying to understand if the dual state and Davidson County voter registration databases operate efficiently and effectively. It seems that there may be inherent issues in maintaining dual databases. For example, which one prevails when there is a discrepancy?

Training of poll workers is a continually improving process. Deficiencies were noted in machine operator training, especially as related to accommodating voters with disabilities. The report contains many suggestions for enhancing the training.

This report remains in draft form and has not yet been approved by the Board. The complete report will be finalized after the upcoming election and will be available through the LWV office.

MEET A MEMBER: PEGGY MAGUIRE

How long have you been a member of the Nashville LWV?

"I've been a member since the mid-1970s. In fact, I was a volunteer for the LWV before I became a member. At the time, I was the Middle Tennessee Director of the American Lung Association and the League was conducting a study on the effect of car emissions and air pollution. I was one of the volunteers that had my car tested at Hillsboro High School. I decided to join and have been a member ever since. I became President of the Nashville LWV in 1980."

What is one piece of advice that you would give to a new Nashville LWV member?

"To get involved immediately. The LWV has multiple goals, so they should join a committee and bring issues that they feel strongly about to the meetings. There are so many sources of information like reading, listening to the news, and looking on the Internet where they can find information on candidates or see what bills are coming up locally and nationally."

LWVN Board: Karen Edwards and Margie Parsley, Co-Presidents; Lucy Chism, 1st VP; Berdelle Campbell, 2nd VP and Environmental Chair; Mary McLennan, Sec'y; Marian Ott, Treasurer; Carrie Hudson, Voter Services; Rose Rodriguez, Membership; Barbara Mann and Debby Gould, Education; Joanne Rich, Health Care; Karen Weeks, Action; Luvenia Butler, Publicity; Denise Carr, Voter Editor; Jennifer Williams, Office Administrator.