



## The League of Women Voters of Nashville

P. O. Box 158369  
Nashville, TN 37215  
(615) 297-7134  
[www.LWVnashville.org](http://www.LWVnashville.org)

THE VOTER Vol. 59 No. 7

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### CALENDAR

<b>Monday</b>	<b>4/16/07</b> Voter Services. Registration Drive, Nashville Mission. Contact: Carrie Hudson
<b>Friday-</b>	<b>5/04/07</b> State League Convention, Scarritt-Bennett Conference Center, Nashville
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5/05/07</b> Check website for details.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>5/07/07</b> Annual Meeting, Nashville League of Women Voters. Bronte Café at Davis Kidd Booksellers, 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Dinner at 6:00. RSVP, <a href="mailto:info@lwvnashville.org">info@lwvnashville.org</a> or 297-7143. Cost \$30.00 per person.

### NASHVILLE LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING

Nashville League of Women Voters Annual Meeting will be held Monday May 7<sup>th</sup> at Davis Kidd Booksellers in Green Hills Mall. We are looking forward to a lively meeting thanks to the addition of the *Vincibles*, a politically correct, and thoroughly non-partisan singing group, including NLWV members, Dikkie and Phil Schoggen. We will review the year, vote on our proposed program for 2007-2008, budget and incoming officers. The Molly Todd award will be presented at the meeting's end. Please join us! The event will begin at 5:30 pm, with dinner and presentations to begin at 6:00. Dinner, prepared by the Bronte Café, will be \$30.00 per person. RSVP to [info@lwvnashville.org](mailto:info@lwvnashville.org) or 297-7143 by April 30, to assure a seat inside the meeting room. You are encouraged to park by Macy's and walk through the Mall.

### STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION

The Tennessee League of Women Voters State Convention will be held in the Scarritt-Bennett Conference Center, 1008 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue South on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, with sessions beginning at 6:30 on Friday and running from 9 am to 6 pm on Saturday. Registration will cost \$35.00. Please watch for details from the State League office.

### IMMIGRATION STUDY

With interest in immigration so high—both nationally and locally—the national League has stepped up the timetable for its Immigration Study. The study is aimed at helping communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state, and federal levels. In this two-year study, League members will explore the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration and current federal immigration policy. Other topics include the impact of immigration on American society and economy as well as global interdependence.

Consensus questions and leaders' guides will be available for local Leagues in September 2007, with a view toward achieving local consensus by January 2008 and LWVUS Board action on a position in March or April 2008. Seven excellent background papers may be accessed at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org); follow the link on the home page. Members who are interested in working on this study please contact Karen Weeks at [KarenHWeeks@comcast.net](mailto:KarenHWeeks@comcast.net) or 373-3551.

## **MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM TAKES SHAPE**

A Mayoral Candidates Forum is planned for June 21<sup>st</sup>, from 8pm to 10pm. Forums Chair, Barbara Deneke, is excited about the two-hour format, and the degree of coverage our media partner has offered: "With live television coverage, On Demand Cable, and streaming video on the internet, it will be hard for voters to miss seeing this forum." In association with the League forum, a Meet and Greet with the candidates will be held to allow the public to talk with the candidates about their own special interests. This event is tentatively scheduled for Monday June 25<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 7pm. Details for both these events will be made public in the next few weeks on the League website and the upcoming *Voter*. To get involved, call or email Barbara at 383-3269 or [barbaradeneke@comcast.net](mailto:barbaradeneke@comcast.net).

## **COUNCIL RESOLUTION CALLS FOR ACTION ON VOTING INTEGRITY STUDY**

Lynn Williams has sponsored a resolution in Metro Council recognizing the recommendations of the Voter Integrity Study Committee and calling for an action plan toward implementation of these recommendations by the Election Commission. In addition, the resolution called for a written response from the Election Commission to be submitted both to the Council and the League Study Committee. The Board has been encouraged by the response of the Council and the Election Commission. The response of Council and the Election Commission brings us closer to the goal of a secure, accurate, re-countable and accessible voting system.

## **NASHVILLE'S AGENDA: YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD**

Get involved in *Nashville's Agenda*. Nashville's Agenda is "a citywide goal setting project" to help citizens participate in setting priorities for the coming decade. The project, underwritten by a grant from the Frist Foundation, is a continuation of work begun in 1993, work that helped create the vibrant city we live in today. You can participate in an online survey at <http://www.nashvillesagenda.org/> and/or attend one or more of these public meetings. The committee hopes for full participation. Take the survey and encourage your friends to do so as well.

Tuesday April 10, 6pm at Glencliff High School, 160 Antioch Pike,

Thursday April 12, 6pm at Temple Church, 3810 Kings Lane

Tuesday April 17, 6pm at St. Henry School Dining Hall, 6401 Harding Pike

Thursday April 19, 6pm at Litton Middle School, 4601 Hedgewood Dr.

Saturday April 21, 10am at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 108 Seventh Ave. South

The results of the meetings and survey will be summarized and presented to the public in June.

### **The LWVN Board, 2006-2007**

Karen Edwards and Margie Parsley, Co-Presidents  
Lucy Chism, 1<sup>st</sup> VP  
Berdelle Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Environmental Chair  
Mary McLennan, Secretary  
Marian Ott, Treasurer  
Carrie Hudson, Voter Services  
Barbara Deneke, Voter Services Forum Chair

Rose Rodriguez, Membership  
Barbara Mann and Debby Gould, Education  
Jen Cole, Human Needs  
Karen Weeks, Action  
Luvenia Butler, Publicity  
Denise Carr, Voter Editor  
Jennifer Williams, Office Administrator

## LWV-NASHVILLE PROPOSED AND CONTINUING OFFICERS

The work of the Nominating Committee is continuing. Please check the LWVN website for updated slate. Contact Brenda Wynn, [brenda.wynn@mail.house.gov](mailto:brenda.wynn@mail.house.gov), with suggestions for board nominees.

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Term: July 1 to June 30</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
<i>Co-President</i>	2007-2009		
Co-President	2006-2008	Margie Parsley	Continuing
1 <sup>st</sup> V P-President Elect	2007-2008	Lucy Du	Nominated
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	2007-2009	Berdelle Campbell	Nominated
Secretary	2006-2008	Mary McLennan	Continuing
Treasurer	2007-2009	Marian Ott	Nominated
Action Chair	2006-2008	Karen Weeks	Continuing
Education	2006-2008	Barbara Mann, Debby Gould	Continuing
<i>Health Care</i>	2007-2009		
<i>Human Needs</i>	2007-2008		
<i>Membership</i>	2007-2009		
<i>Metro-Government</i>	7/01/07 to 6/30/09		
Strategic Planning	2006-2008	Liz Allen Fey	Continuing
Voter Service	2006-2008	Carrie Hudson (Chair)	Continuing
<i>Voter Editor</i>	2007-2009		
Environment	2007-2009	Barbara Deneke	Nominated
Off Board: Publicity Chair	2006-2008	Luvenia Butler	Continuing
<i>Off Board: Nominating Committee</i>	2007-2008		

**PROGRAM OF SERVICE**  
**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NASHVILLE**  
**April 2, 2007**

**I. LOCAL PROGRAM 2007-2008**

The LWV-Nashville provides consistent voter services, including voter education, voter registration and candidate forums. The League also engages in strategic and effective issue advocacy based on positions reached by the membership after careful study and discussion.

**II. STUDY AND ACTION**

The goal of the 2007-2008 study and action program is to promote broader, more diverse citizen participation in decisions affecting public policies in Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County. The program focus will be:

**A. EDUCATION**

- Study and advocate for challenging, high quality education.
- Advocate for equal access to educational opportunities, with special attention to children from diverse backgrounds and with special needs.
- Support expansion of high quality pre-kindergarten programs for children at risk.
- Support resources adequate to meet the standards in the federal No Child Left Behind legislation and the recommendations made by the 2007 Citizen's Panel for a Community Report Card.

**B. ENVIRONMENT**

- Support a comprehensive coordinated approach to land use, growth and development, and transportation, with focus on encouraging efforts to expand efficient and accessible mass transit, continued improvement of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, and support for the commuter rail project.
- Support implementation of Metro's Waste Management Plan, which includes refuse pick-up and disposal, recycling, and hazardous waste disposal.
- Inform the community about state and federal issues that impact the local environment, including air and water quality, public lands protection, and protection of state parks and state forests.
- Support action on state and federal environmental issues, consistent with national and local League positions.

**C. ELECTORAL PROCESS**

- Work with the Davidson County Election Commission to ensure that voting systems are consistent with LWVUS best practices so that they are secure, accurate, re-countable and accessible and include voter-verified paper ballots.
- Support adequate resources for the election process including acquisition, testing, and security of voting machines and equipment; training for election officials; and improvements to the failsafe process.
- Promote the equitable distribution of federal allocations for and all aspects of implementation of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 in Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County

#### D. HEALTH CARE

- Promote a health care financing and delivery system that assures an appropriate level of high-quality health care for all residents of Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson county, including the following services:
  - Health/wellness education and promotion;
  - Primary care: prevention and treatment of illness, reproductive health care, maternal and child health care;
  - Behavioral health care: mental health care and substance use treatment;
  - Acute, urgent and emergency care; and
  - Long-term care: home and community-based care.
- Provide information about the impact of Tenn Care on Metropolitan Government and on access to appropriate health care affecting residents of the county.
- Support efforts to contain costs by using evidence-based medicine whenever possible, using best practices in care management, and promoting continuity and coordination of care.

#### E. HUMAN NEEDS

- Support equal access to education, employment and housing.
- Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families in Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County, including those newly immigrated and individuals with disabilities.
- Provide voter education activities with newly naturalized citizens.
- Study the impact of immigration on society at the local, state and federal levels.

#### F. METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

- Educate citizens about their elected and appointed officials and about how Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County Government works.
- Educate citizens about the budget process and finances for Metropolitan Government and support policies that provide adequate resources for public services, consistent with state and national League positions.
- Provide information to the Metropolitan Council and its committees regarding issues supported by the League.
- Support ethical standards in Metro Government.

**LWV OF NASHVILLE PROPOSED 07-08 BUDGET**

	06-07Budget YTD March 19	Projected 06-07	Proposed 07-08	
<b>INCOME</b>				
Annual Meeting	450	0	450	400
Ed Fund Contributions	4,995	3,425	4,065	4,500
In Kind Donations	200	0	25	200
Interest & Dividends	100	7	10	10
Lobbyist Fund Contributions	1,750	1,545	1,750	1,800
Membership	8,500	5,360	7,630	7,000
Misc Income	5	733	733	200
Operating Contributions	6,557	4,275	5,090	5,558
State Reimbursement	<u>5,307</u>	<u>4,093</u>	<u>5,493</u>	<u>4,275</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>27,864</b>	<b>19,437</b>	<b>24,641</b>	<b>23,943</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Community Services				
ATHENA Awards	50	0	50	50
Forums	900	332	750	750
Publications	<u>200</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>200</u>
<u>TOTAL Community Services</u>	1,150	380	875	1,000
Fund Raising Expenses				
<u>TOTAL Fund Raising Expenses</u>	220	452	452	250
General & Administrative				
Insurance	590	510	510	525
Office Administrator	10,296	7,500	9,999	10,499
Office Supplies	125	47	75	125
Phone	480	321	480	480
Post Box Rental	75	72	72	75
Postage	465	190	300	320
Rent	4,200	3,150	3,600	1,200
Taxes	25	15	15	15
Web site Hosting (67%EF)	112	107	107	120
Website & email registration	<u>58</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>TOTAL General &amp; Administrative</u>	16,426	11,965	15,211	13,419
Member Services				
Annual Meetings	550	0	550	600
Board & President Expense	150	0	50	150
Brochures & Handouts	150	50	50	150
Committee Activities	50	0	50	50
Delegate expense	1,200	0	1,200	1,200
Directory	250	0	50	125
Membership Meetings	150	60	150	150
Restricted Scholarship Fund	300	0	0	300
VOTER	<u>500</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>150</u>
<u>TOTAL Member Services</u>	3,300	133	2,200	2,875
State and National Expenses				
Lobbyist Fund contributions to state	1,750	1,545	1,750	1,800
PMP-National	2,927	2,321	3,095	2,814
PMP-State	<u>2,091</u>	<u>2,091</u>	<u>2,091</u>	<u>1,785</u>
<u>TOTAL State and National Expenses</u>	6,768	5,957	6,936	6,399

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>27,864</b>	<b>18,887</b>	<b>25,674</b>	<b>23,943</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>- 428</b>	<b>0</b>

### **KEY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES 2007-2008**

The League has been following and advocating on behalf of a number of issues consistent with national, state and local League priorities. For additional information, see the weekly legislative reports you receive from our lobbyist. In order to be successful, we need you to contact your state Senators and Representatives (see contact information below).

The **League supports** the following issues before the 105th General Assembly:

- **Early Childhood Education:** Pre-Kindergarten early childhood education for at-risk children: \$25 million proposed funding expansion in the Governor’s budget. High quality early learning programs for at-risk children pay dividends in improved reading skills, improved academic achievement, higher graduation rates and reduced delinquency.
- **Education:** Adequate funding for at-risk students, as proposed in Governor’s budget. The enhancements to the funding formula recognize the additional investments required to ensure good outcomes for students in grades K-12.
- **Environment:** Container Deposit Bill: SB 1408 Kilby/HB 1829 Turner M. This legislation, improved over last year, establishes a deposit and recycling program for beverage containers. Also, Development of State Energy Conservation Plan: SB 266 Haynes/HB 224 Moore.
- **Elections:** Paper ballots verified by the voter and available for recounts and audits. A legislative committee is working to craft a bill that we hope will support the LWVUS position in favor of voting systems that are secure, accurate, re-countable and accessible and include voter-verified paper ballots.
- **Families First:** Temporary Assistance to Needy Families: SB 2233 Kyle/HB 2318 DeBerry L, with amendment 1 providing for 18 month transitional childcare.
- **Child Care for Low Income Families:** Additional \$11.5 million beyond funding proposed in Governor’s budget.
- **Food Tax/Cigarette Tax Swap:** SB 93 Jackson/HB114 Shepard. The bill lowers the sales tax on food (6 to 3 cents) and increases the cigarette tax 44 cents, thus improving tax fairness and maintaining revenues needed for services.

The **League opposes** the following issues:

- **Elections:** Photo ID Required to Vote. SB 227 Ketron/HB 938 Maggart. The bill will adversely impact low income and elderly voters.
- **Taxpayer Bill of Rights:** Constitutional Amendment SB 177 Stanley/ HB 168 Casada. TABOR provisions capping expenditures have been unworkable in states such as Colorado, having devastating effects on education and leading to eventual roll back of TABOR provisions.
- **Right of Privacy:** Constitutional Amendment SJR127 Black. The proposed amendment would add new language to the Tennessee Constitution: “Nothing in this Constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires funding of an abortion.” The LWVUS has a long-standing position affirming the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

**Contact your representatives:** It is crucially important for members to respond to action alerts in the League’s weekly Legislative Report prepared by our lobbyist, Stewart Clifton, and to respond to other action alerts from the League.

*For contact information, go to [www.legislature.state.tn.us](http://www.legislature.state.tn.us) and click on Senate or House. Click on “members,” then “your county,” then the portion of the map that corresponds to your neighborhood. Committee members are listed under Senate or House committee*



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