



### Calendar of Events

The League sponsors meetings and events for the public as well as for League members.

Date	Time	Place	Description
<b>Tuesday, September 11</b>			<b>Metro Runoff Election.</b> Election of Mayor, 4 Council-at-Large members, and 8 District Council members.
<b>Monday, October 1</b>	5:15 p.m.	Looby Library, 2301 Metro Center Blvd. Nashville, TN 37228	<b>LWV Nashville Board Meeting.</b>
<b>Saturday, October 6</b>		Hendersonville TBA	<b>LWVTN Fall Conference.</b> Immigration Panel in the Morning
<b>Saturday, December 1</b>			<b>Health Care Consensus Report Deadline.</b> Local Leagues submit suggested changes.

#### RUNOFF ELECTION SEPTEMBER 11

Celebrate the 87<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment (August 13, 1920) by exercising your right to vote! Contested races include the Mayor, 4 Council-at-Large members, and 8 District Council members.

#### IMMIGRATION STUDY AND CONSENSUS AHEAD

The Nashville League will participate in the immigration study and consensus process this fall. We will hold several small meetings in late October and early November in locations across Nashville, so that members can discuss the issues and contribute their views. The local consensus will help the LWVUS create an immigration position in time to help shape national policy.

The **consensus questions** focus on issues of key importance:

- What criteria should be used to determine who receives priority status for legal entry—family reunification, employment needs, humanitarian crises?
- How should unauthorized immigrants be treated?
- What enforcement measures should be emphasized?
- How should the law balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by state and local governments?

In the meantime, you can prepare for the consensus meetings by checking out the **National League’s web site** at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org); follow the link on the home page to access copies of *National Voter* articles and 8 excellent background papers. You can learn more about **Immigration Issues in Tennessee** by reading the report issued August 1 by the Tennessee Comptroller’s office, [www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/RA\\_NR/NRreports.asp](http://www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/RA_NR/NRreports.asp). This insightful report includes a 2-page executive summary.

Finally, you can attend the **LWV Tennessee Fall Conference** in Hendersonville October 6; the morning panel on Immigration will include presentations by Susan Mattson, lead author of the TN Comptroller's report, and Stephen Fotopolos, policy director of the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition.

The Nashville Immigration Committee includes Karen Edwards, Dale Farran, Debby Gould, Reba Holmes, Tana McDonald, Rose Rodriguez, and Karen Weeks. For more information, contact Karen Weeks, [KarenHWeeks@comcast.net](mailto:KarenHWeeks@comcast.net) or 373-3551.

### **CLEAN WATERS RESTORATION ACT OF 2007, H. R. 2421**

Many of our streams in Nashville and the surrounding area are dry during some parts of most years but still play an important role in public ecosystem health and community life. During dry years such as 2007 even more streams are dry. These streams and wetlands provide a vital role in keeping our larger rivers unpolluted and providing specialized habitat for wildlife.

In the last legislative session in Tennessee, a bill was considered to remove environmental protections from "ditches and wet weather streams." This bill would allow unregulated changes to streams and would allow for the unregulated dumping of waste into the stream bed. Members of LWVN spoke to all Environment Committee members and to the bill sponsor expressing concern. The bill was sent to a summer study committee.

At the federal level, a similar effort is underway to remove wet weather streams, wetlands, or other waters that are not navigable from protection under the Clean Water Act. Such action at the federal level would endanger intermittent streams and wetlands in all states, including Tennessee. Tennessee's Representatives Jim Cooper, Bart Gordon, and Steve Cohen are co-sponsoring a bill that would ensure that the Clean Water Act continues to protect these important waters. This bill would also help to eliminate the threat that local legislative action could result in more pollution for our community.

Please contact your Congressperson to express your support for this bill. You can easily send an e-mail at <http://capwiz.com/lwv/officials/congress>. Additional contact information follows. A suggested message is:

Much progress has been made, through the Clean Water Act, toward cleaning up the nations' rivers and streams. I encourage you to support the system of monitoring, permitting and mitigation of impacts to bodies of water provided in the Act and which is incorporated in our water quality law in Tennessee. The Clean Water Act must continue to protect public health, health of aquatic creatures and recreational and other uses of water in small and seasonal streams, wetlands, and large streams.

It is good to see that the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007, H.R. 2421 in the House of Representatives would assure this continued protection for all our waters. [If to Cooper, or Gordon] Thank you for being a co-sponsor of H.R. 2421; I hope it will soon pass and be enacted. [If to another Member] I hope you will support and co-sponsor this important legislation, as almost one in four of our Tennessee bodies of water still need clean-up and future users depend on protective action we take now.

When calling, ask to speak to the Congress member's legislative aide for the environment:  
Jim Cooper – 5th District – 202-225-4311; Bart Gordon – 6th District – 202-225-4231; and  
Marsha Blackburn – 7th District – 202-225-2811.

For additional information, please contact LWVN Environment Chair, Barbara Deneke, 615-383-3269, [barbaradeneke@comcast.net](mailto:barbaradeneke@comcast.net).

---

#### **The LWVN Board, 2007-2008:**

Margie Parsley, President; Lucy Chism, 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Berdelle Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Mary McLennan, Secretary; Marian Ott, Treasurer; Carrie Hudson, Voter Services; Barbara Deneke, Voter Services Forums and Environment; Debby Gould and Barbara Mann, Education; Reba Holmes, Metro Government; Karen Weeks, Action; Jan Bossing, Voter Editor; Jennifer Williams, Office Administrator.