



## The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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### CALENDAR

Monday 12/04/06 LWVN Board Meeting

Thursday 12/07/06 LWVN Holiday Gathering, 5:30 to 7:30 at the home of Marian Ott,  
408 West Hillwood Drive, Nashville. RSVP to 297-7134 or [lwvnashville.org](http://lwvnashville.org).

Monday 1/08/07 LWVN Board Meeting. Check Website for location

### League Health Care Study: Members Invited to Participate

The Nashville League of Women Voter's study group on Health Care has been working to develop a position statement that will update the current LWV of Tennessee position. Consistent with the position of the LWV of the United States, the Nashville draft sets forth goals and defines a basic level of quality care. It also outlines the state role in promoting and providing care in partnership with federal and local governments and other public and private agencies, discusses financing and cost containment, and addresses issues related to equity.

The draft position is enclosed. Please consider the proposed changes and provide us with your comments and suggestions no later than **December 21, 2006**. In early January, the Board will review your comments and incorporate suggestions before forwarding the Nashville League's position to the state League. Based on input from local Leagues, the state League will adopt a revised position at the 2007 Spring Council. The state League will use the new position statement when advocating for health care changes.

Members of the Nashville study group include Pat Post, Carol Westlake, Wanda Willis, Mary Anne Queen, Karen Edwards and Karen Weeks. For additional information contact Karen Weeks at 373-3551 or [KarenHWeeks@comcast.net](mailto:KarenHWeeks@comcast.net).

### Voter Services: Poll Watchers Report On November 7<sup>th</sup> Election

Poll watching's primary goal is to monitor the conduct of an election to ensure that voters encounter no obstacles to casting their ballots. Of particular interest in the November 7<sup>th</sup> election was the iVotronic DRE paperless voting equipment. This election marked the second time the new equipment had been used.

Poll watchers observed how well the Election Commission teams and voters adapted to the new equipment and how quickly voting proceeded given the number of machines provided. The watchers reported wide variability across the 23 precincts observed. Five were characterized as "well run, efficient, courteous and responsive to voter needs", regardless of wait times experienced; most were viewed as running adequately well; a few were characterized as inefficient, with poorly functioning teams. In the precincts sampled, wait times ranged from zero to 3 hours, with an average of 90 minutes. One in 13 of the machines observed presented problems for the precinct for anywhere from 2 hours to the entire day, increasing the likelihood of delays. The most serious problem observed was not related to the new machines but in verifying the status of voters who had moved or were listed as inactive, a process referred to as "failsafe". While precincts comprised entirely of owner occupied houses were largely unaffected by the failsafe process, most precincts reported difficulty reaching the central office in order to clear the voter. Many voters were required to go to Howard School or a satellite office for

clearance. As a result, waits for failsafe voters were substantially longer than for others. Given the number of voters and the new equipment, voting went reasonably well, with no reports of major problems such as occurred in other parts of the country. The failsafe procedures need to be changed or phone lines added, prior to the next election.

The Nashville League hopes to increase the number of precincts observed in coming elections. Poll watching is a great way to learn about voting procedure, to learn more about your city and to participate in improving the voting process. Be ready to volunteer at the next election.

The League would like to thank Lynn Williams for beginning this work at the August election and Deborah Narrigan for ably continuing the project through the November election.

### **LWVUS Launches Immigration Study**

At the National League convention in June 2006, delegates voted to begin a three-year study of immigration. The goal is to develop consensus of the members during the final year. The scope of the study, adopted by the LWVUS Board at its October meeting, will include:

- Underlying values and principles;
- Reasons for migration from other countries;
- Current federal immigration policy, including effectiveness and human rights concerns; and
- Impact of immigration, such as economic effects, diversity, and inclusion of immigrants in American society.

This is an opportunity to study a very complicated issue. Nashville League members interested in working on a local study of the impact of immigration in Nashville, please contact Karen Edwards at 385-3555 or [Karenedwards@comcast.net](mailto:Karenedwards@comcast.net).

### **New Member to Head 2007 Candidate Forums**

League Co-president Karen Edwards is pleased to announce that Barbara Deneke will be coordinating league Forums for the coming year. A new member, Barbara assisted in coordinating the judicial candidate forum last year and was instrumental in the work of the recently completed Voter Integrity Study. Barbara's own words well describe her evolving interest and goals:

"I joined the League of Women Voters a year or so ago after making a decision to "retire" early from my career. My first interest and goal for my energy was to focus on environmental concerns and that remains a big part of my life. However, I also have a deeply held commitment to women's rights and concerns and to issues involving justice. So, when Marian Ott and Carrie Hudson tapped me to help with some of the voter education and protection activities I quickly found that it was interesting and rewarding to me - and a place where I felt I could be of some help. I am looking forward to organizing candidate forums in 2007 because I feel that it is important for people to know their choices. The polished presentation available through media can sometimes be misleading and I believe having candidate forums allows for a more candid exchange."

Having one member who can familiarize herself with the entire process of running a successful forum will make it easier for volunteers, Board members and candidates. Welcome Barbara!

### **Important Update on Email Addresses and Access**

Members with AOL email addresses who have been receiving the Voter and other League messages on line must identify both of the following League addresses as acceptable: [lwtvn@bellsouth.net](mailto:lwtvn@bellsouth.net) and [lwnash@bellsouth.net](mailto:lwnash@bellsouth.net). Without such acceptance League mail will be returned. This does not appear to be a problem at this time for people with other service providers, but we anticipate it could become one in the future. To avoid problems we encourage all members to add our address to their address book, or to otherwise ensure that our mail will continue to be seen as acceptable.

**LWVN Board:** 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; Joanne Rich, Health Care; Karen Weeks, Action; Luvenia Butler, Publicity; Denise Carr, Voter Editor. Jennifer Williams, Office Administrator.

