



The League of Women Voters of Nashville

P. O. Box 158369
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THE VOTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Candidate Forum for U.S. Senate Republican Primary July 15, 2006, from 7:00 to 8:00pm.
TSU Performing Arts Center. Moderated by WTVF Anchor Chris Clark; Broadcast by Channel 5 and CBS affiliates across the state.

The School Board Candidates Forum will be broadcast each week on Comcast Channel 19 until the August 3 election: Mon: 1:00pm; Tues: 9:00am, Wed: 9:00am, and Fri: 9:00am and 4:00pm.

As we move toward the election season, the League will need all of its members. Choose the spot that suits you best.

CANDIDATES FORUM: Volunteers are needed to help with the U.S. Senate Republican Primary candidate forum to be held on Saturday July 15 from 7:00 to 8:00pm. If you are interested in participating, please contact the coordinator for the committee related to your interests. Thanks for helping!

Production: Deana Claiborne:
deana@wickerbasket.net, 662-5189

Publicity:
Luvenia Butler, luvbutler@aol.com, 356-7495

Audience Participation and Questions:
Rose Rodriguez: roseandfernando@comcast.net,
383-6587

Hosts & Ushers: Berdelle Campbell:
btccampbell@comcast.net, 244-5198 or
Denise Carr: denisecarr@mac.com

Timekeepers:
Mary McLennan: mary.mclennan@state.tn.us,
646-5290;

Candidate Selection: Marian Ott and Debbie Gould

VOTING INTEGRITY STUDY The Voter Services Committee is conducting a Voting Integrity Study of the election process in Davidson County. This is not as a result of any known problems with our voting process, but to assure that the voting process is as secure, accurate, countable, and accessible as possible. Following the LWVUS best practices publication, *Safeguarding the Vote*, the study will focus on areas such as ensuring the voting machines are operating properly, checking for adequate training of Election Day workers, reviewing the education provided to the public on the use of the new machines, serving as observers for the August 3rd election, and assuring that all machines have been state certified and meet all federal voluntary voting system standards. Ray Barrett, Administrator of Elections, and his are willing to help in any way needed.

If you are willing help with any part of this study: be an observer as machines are tested; research voting issues, or be present for training of Election workers, *the Voter Services Committee needs you.*

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Carrie Hudson, 228-4996 or chudson2@bellsouth.net; or Marian Ott at 356-1752 or marian.ott@comcast.net.

As part of the LWV Nashville's Voting Integrity Study, we need poll observers. Observers will be asked to visit some early voting sites as well as precincts on Election Day. Their assignment will be to observe and make notes about particular aspects of the voting. Some training will be required to become familiar with the rules regarding poll observers as well as the voting procedures under review. Interested? Please contact Carrie Hudson at 228-4996 or chudson2@bellsouth.net. *This is a good assignment for LWV members who are only available for part of Election Day. If you can be available all of Election Day, consider being a poll worker.*

POLL WORKERS: Competent, well-trained poll workers are essential to a well-run election. The Davidson County Election Commission has a very difficult time recruiting qualified poll workers; the new voting machines (see below) have the potential to make the upcoming elections a particular challenge. LWV members who can attend the training and work the polls (from 6 am until the polls close at 7 pm) are encouraged to sign up to be a poll worker. You will be performing an important civic function – and will be paid on top of it! To sign up, visit the Election Commission website: <http://www.nashville.gov/vote> or call Sharon Wood at 862-8804 or Vonnie Van Olst at 862-8947. For more information call marian.ott@comcast.net and home # 356-1752.

NEW VOTING MACHINES FOR NASHVILLE: With the help of Federal HAVA funding The Davidson County

Election Commission has purchased new voting machines, the ESS&S iVotronic touch screen machines; they will be used for the first time in the upcoming August elections. While there are many issues surrounding new voting machines (see related article on the League of Women Voter's of Nashville's Voting Integrity Study), educating voters about these new machines is important to a well-run election this August. This is an area where LWV members can be very helpful. Voters may preview the new machines on the website: <http://www.nashville.gov/vote>. In addition, the Election Commission is interested in demonstrating the new machines to as wide an audience as possible, by providing hands-on demonstrations to community groups. If you are involved in any group that might be interested in such a demonstration, please call the Election Commission warehouse to make the arrangements at 862-8821.

LWVUS PER MEMBER PAYMENT: When local league members pay dues, a portion goes to support the state and national leagues. At the national level, static membership and rising costs forced the decision to raise the per-member-payment by \$2.50. Unfortunately, the announcement came after our LWVN budget was prepared; usually the LWVUS provides a year's notice of increases. Our budget will have to absorb an unanticipated increase in national per member payment of approximately \$350. Members who are in a position to make additional operating contributions are encouraged to do so, to help keep our dues at a reasonable level.

LEAGUE WORKS TO SUPPORT VOTING RIGHTS ACT: League members across the nation are working to ensure adoption of H.R. 9, The Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006. The legislation, originally passed in 1965 and renewed 4 times, is crucial to ensuring the continued protection of the right to vote for all Americans. Specifically, the legislation extends three of the act's key provisions, scheduled to expire in August 2007: Section 5, which requires that certain jurisdictions with a history of discrimination in voting obtain federal approval prior to making any changes affecting voting in order to prevent the implementation of discriminatory practices; Section 203, which requires certain jurisdictions to provide language assistance to citizens who have limited English proficiency; and Sections 6 through 9, which authorize the federal government to send observers to monitor elections for compliance with the act. Evidence gathered by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution found that barriers to equal minority voter participation remain and that these provisions are still needed.

If you have not already done so, please contact your Representative (Jim Cooper or Marsha Blackburn) and remind them how important it is that the bill be passed without weakening amendments.

THANK YOU FROM THE PRESIDENT: I would like to acknowledge all of the League members who helped plan and who attended the School Board Forum on Thursday, June 15, 2006. I especially would like to thank those who planned the forum: Jan Bossing, Debbie Gould, Julie Lamb, Luvenia Butler, and Karen Weeks. Thanks also to Silvine Hudson and Julia Philip for timing; Luvenia Butler and her partners at Luvric and Company for all of their work on production; Jan Bossing for coordinating the planning meetings and refreshments for the forum reception and meetings; Julie Lamb and *Stand for Children* for bringing water for candidates and attendees; Debbie Gould for working so painstakingly on the script; and Angie Watson and Karen Weeks for helping with questions. Good work, all!
Karen Edwards

LWVN Board: Karen Edwards and Margie Parsley, Co-Presidents; Lucy Du 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 Debbie Gould, Education; Joanne Rich, Health Care; Karen Weeks, Action; Lisa Pote, Metro Government, Luvenia Butler, Publicity; Denise Carr, Voter Editor. Office Administrator, Jennifer Williams.

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