



CALENDAR

Date	Time	Place	Description
<b>Thursday, June 21, 2007</b>	8 – 10 p.m.	Nashville Public Tel, 161 Rains Av. 37203	<b>Mayoral Forum</b> cosponsored by the LWV Nashville and WNPT will be broadcast live on WNPT Channel 8, rebroadcast on WNPT 2 (Comcast Cable channels 241 or 176), and available later on the WNPT web site.
<b>Monday, June 25, 2007</b>	5 – 7 p.m.	Nova Copy, 15 Lindsley Ave. 37210	<b>Candidate Meet and Great Event</b> co-hosted by LWVN and Nova Copy. Come to meet candidates running for Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council at Large.

**LEAGUE MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM TO BE TELEVISED**

The League and WNPT will cosponsor a Mayoral Candidates Forum at the Channel 8 Studio on Thursday, June 21, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. In the two-hour format, moderator Jacqueline Fellows will pose questions submitted by the public in advance to WNPT. Forums Chair, Barbara Deneke, noted that “With live television coverage, On Demand Cable, and streaming video on the internet, it will be hard for voters to miss seeing this forum.” The questions will focus broadly on issues of concern to the League and to the general public. Afterwards, those unable to see the live forum will be able to view the program through On Demand Cable or at [www.wnpt.net](http://www.wnpt.net). For information, contact Barbara Deneke, 383-3269 or [barbaradeneke@comcast.net](mailto:barbaradeneke@comcast.net).

**MEET AND GREET THE CANDIDATES**

League members, come on out for a Meet and Greet event on Monday June 25 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The League and Nova Copy will co-host an event at which the public can talk with candidates for Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council at Large. This is your chance to ask any of the candidates that “burning question” that has been on your mind! The event will be held at the Nova Copy facility at 15 Lindsley Ave., near the Howard School Building. For information, contact Barbara Deneke.

**LEAGUE ISSUES RECEIVE FAVORABLE ACTION BY LEGISLATURE**

The General Assembly was still deliberating at the time of this writing, but on balance it appears that we are headed for a productive session on many key League issues. There will be significant **budget improvements** for early **childhood education**, **at-risk students** in K-12, **English Language Learners**, and a comprehensive overhaul of the **BEP** (Basic Education Program funding formula) which will address imbalances that had negatively affected urban school systems. Increases in **child care funding** for families receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families are still undecided.

## LEAGUE ISSUES, CONTINUED

An increase in the **cigarette tax** and growth in revenues will fund the education programs and other items. The idea of a **tax swap**—a partial (half cent) reduction in the state sales tax on food balanced by an increase in the cigarette tax—is still alive as we go to press.

In **environmental legislation**, a bill requiring the governor and several departments to develop a **Comprehensive State Energy Plan** has passed and is now Public Chapter 33. Although there was substantial bipartisan support for **Container Deposit** legislation, with 20 House and Senate sponsors, there was not enough support to move it out of committee this year. We have our work cut out for us next year.

Regarding **elections**, a bill that would have required voters to present a government issued **photo ID** passed the Senate, but was referred to a study committee in the House. The League opposed this bill because of its adverse impact on low income and elderly voters. The need for **Voter-Verified Paper Ballots (VVPB)** was incorporated in several bills but none were considered. The Tennessee Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) produced an excellent report on this topic for the committees, which you can access at [www.tennessee.gov/tacir](http://www.tennessee.gov/tacir); click on publications. The recommendations appear on pages 15 and 16, and are consistent with the LWVUS position on VVPB. We are hopeful that we can pass state legislation on VVPB next year. At the federal level, the Congress may address the issue by acting on the HR 811 (Holt), S 1487 (Feinstein) in the current session.

Proposed **constitutional amendments** that would have capped state expenditures by enacting a so-called **Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR)** and that would have infringed on the **constitutional right of privacy** of the individual to make reproductive choices did not move during the current session. The League will continue to oppose such changes should they arise next session.

We appreciate the work of the League Issues Committee, whose members worked hard to analyze bills, develop positions, and contact legislators and to other members who contacted their legislators. The support of the League's lobbyist, Stewart Clifton, was invaluable throughout the session.

---

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



The League of Women Voters of Nashville  
P.O. Box 158369  
Nashville, TN 37215