



<b>Saturday 10/14</b>	Gubernatorial Candidates Forum, 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the Tennessee State University Performing Arts Center, Cox-Lewis Theatre. For more information go to: <a href="mailto:info@LWVNashville.org">info@LWVNashville.org</a> , or call the League office, (615) 297-7134 . <b>Please note:</b> No reserved seats remain for the forum. League members who wish to attend are encouraged to volunteer to help at the event. Experienced volunteers are especially needed.
<b>Saturday 10/14</b>	Women in Numbers Campaign Workshop, 8:30 am to 2:15 pm. at the office of Waller, Lansden Dortch & Davis, 511 Union St, Suite 2700. To register go to <a href="http://www.wintennessee.com">www.wintennessee.com</a> , email <a href="mailto:info@wintennessee.com">info@wintennessee.com</a> or call 662-4946. Cost is 25.00.
<b>Wednesday 10/18</b>	Women's Get Out The Vote Reception, 4:30 to 7:30 pm at Nashville Childers Theatre, 724 Second Ave. So. behind Howard School.
<b>Friday 10/28</b>	Candidates for US Senate Forum. 7:00 pm at Vanderbilt University, Ingram Hall in Blair School of Music, off Blakemore. Parking is the Vanderbilt Hospital lot on Children's Way. <b>Please note:</b> no reserved seats remain for the Forum. League members who wish to attend are encouraged to volunteer to help at the event. Experienced volunteers are especially needed. See below.
<b>Monday 11/06</b>	LWVN Board meeting. RSVP at <a href="mailto:info@LWVNashville.org">info@LWVNashville.org</a> or call 297-7134 and check for location.
<b>Tuesday 11/07</b>	Election Day!
<b>Thursday 12/07</b>	LWVN Holiday Gathering, 5:30 to 7:30 at the home of Marian Ott. <i>Mark your calendars!</i>

### Candidate Forums

LWVTN is hosting the Senate and Gubernatorial forums to be televised by WTVF, Channel 5 and CBS affiliates statewide on October 14<sup>th</sup> and October 28<sup>th</sup>. All duly registered candidates for the senate and gubernatorial elections have been sent notification of and selection criteria for the events. Names of the candidates meeting State League criteria are posted on the LWVTN website. Both forums will be conducted in a traditional "town hall" format, with questions submitted and posed by members of the audience. Community response has been very strong.

**How can you help?** The Nashville League is committed to providing support for this event. To make the event run smoothly we will need approximately **20** volunteers for each Forum to guide people from the parking area, check in guests, time speakers, and guide attendees to their places. Volunteers should arrive at 5:00 pm on the day of the event for instructions. Attendees will begin arriving at 6:00. **If you can help in any way, before or during the event, please contact State League Office Administrator at [info@LWVNashville.org](mailto:info@LWVNashville.org) or call**

**the League office at 297-7134.** We are excited about these events—join us in making them happen!

### Preparing to Run for Office

Women in Numbers, in cooperation with CABLE, NWPC, the Nashville LWV and others is hosting a workshop to help women prepare to run for local office, particularly Metro Council. Registration information and location are noted above in the Calendar section,

### Voter Service Committee

The League provided voter registration at the ACLU's Forum for Ex-Felons on Thursday, August 31, at the Jefferson Street Baptist Church. Attendance was good and the panelists provided much needed "how-to" information on getting registered. Michelle Flynn expressed deep appreciation to the League for helping with this very worthwhile event.

At the All About Women Conference September 22-23, League members provided voter registration and demonstration of the new voting machine Approximately 60 people registered to vote and many observed the

voting machine demonstration. Those interested in the League were referred to our website and will be sent additional information. A sincere thank you to the volunteers who made this event possible: Lynn Williams, Liz Allen Fey, Miriam McFadden, Berdelle Campbell, Karen Edwards, Burkley Allen, Tommie Morton-Young, Jan Bossing, Tish Womack, Suzie Tolmie, Danielle Mezera, and Jane Norris and friend. A very special thanks you to Silvine Hudson who, in addition to working a shift with a friend, also called the membership to recruit volunteers for this event.

## **League Opposes Property Tax Amendment**

**Proposed Charter Amendment:** On November 7, 2006 the voters of Nashville will be asked to approve an amendment to the Metro Charter that would require any property tax increase approved by the Metro Council to be subsequently submitted to the voters for approval.

The Nashville LWV Board has voted to work with other groups to oppose the charter amendment. "The amendment runs counter to our system of representative democracy. Voters should have the power to elect representatives and give them the authority and responsibility to make sound decisions about funding essential services," stated Karen Edwards, League Co-President. If the proposal is successful, it will likely face a challenge in the courts as being in conflict with the Tennessee constitution.

**League Positions:** The action by the Board is supported by previously adopted state and local League positions. The LWV of Tennessee "supports a balanced system of taxation that considers the ability of the taxpayer to pay and which produces sufficient revenues to fund essential services. Constitutional taxation provisions should be broad and sufficiently flexible to meet future revenue needs". Further, a balanced system includes the property tax, sales tax, and a broad based income tax. The LWV of Nashville supports adequate resources for education, health care, human needs and environmental stewardship

**LWVN Board:** Karen Edwards and Margie Parsley, Co-Presidents; Lucy (Du) Chism, 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Berdelle Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Environmental Chair; Mary McLennan, Sec'y; Marian Ott, Treasurer; Carrie Hudson, Voter Services; 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.

**Rationale for Opposing the Amendment:** The amendment is not needed since Metro Council has shown considerable restraint in enacting property tax increases. Nashville's property taxes are currently lower and have historically been lower than the three other large cities in Tennessee. Our current tax structure does not provide sufficient revenue growth to adequately fund increased costs faced by schools and essential city services. Limiting the options of future mayors and council members will hamper the ability of policymakers to make sound fiscal decisions and provide the services that make Nashville vibrant and pleasant place to live.

**Board Action:** The Board approved the following action: "The League of Women Voters of Nashville opposes the proposed charter amendment that would require any property tax increase approved by Metro Council to be submitted to the voters for approval. The Metro charter should be broad and sufficiently flexible to meet future revenue needs. The League will work with others to inform the public about the proposed amendment."

## **Meet a Member                      *Silvine Hudson***

### ***How long have you been a member of the League?***

I became a member...at the age of 18. My Mother introduced me to the League and I became a new member of the LWV in Macon, Georgia.

### ***What is your most memorable League experience?***

One of my fondest memories was when the candidate forums first started being televised. We really got into the business then and it was great. I also like being part of the impact of the voter services work and growing with the changing times.

### ***What advice would you give to new members?***

I would urge them to look at what the LWV is doing and to find their niche in the League. There is such a wide range of interests, like Voter Services and different issue studies. I really hope that we can show new members how they can be an influence on the community.