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Area Bulletin 2000-2009

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LWV Bulletin, September, 2006

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF HUNTINGTON



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LWVWV website: [www: LWVWV.ORG](http://www.LWVWV.ORG)

LWVUS website: www.LWV.ORG

September 2006 Bulletin

VOTERS SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Our first candidates meeting will be at Woodlands, September 26, 6:30. League member Isabel Spindel has organized the meeting, and her daughter Dr. Donna Spindel will moderate. On October 19, 7 pm at the Junior League Community Center the League of Women Voters, the Junior League, and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women will sponsor another candidates meeting. Those attending the meetings may submit their questions to the moderator who will ask the questions of the candidates.

The Herald-Dispatch will publish candidates' answers to questions on October 23 and online.

VOTE posters were distributed through the libraries.

We have a number of attractive items to distribute to voters, reminding them to vote. Please contact Helen Gibbins, 736-3287, if you would like some of these items for giving to your friends and co-workers.

VOTER REGISTRATION

League members Betty Barrett and Doris Johnson are working with Jamie Baumgardner of the Huntington Housing Authority, in this year's voters' registration efforts. Most events are to be scheduled during National Homeless and Low Income Voter Registration Week, September 24-30. Following are some of the registration events scheduled so far -- The Huntington City Mission, Sept. 26, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm; Goodwill on Virginia Avenue, Sept. 27, 9:45 a.m. along with Goodwill's weekly client meeting; Woodlands, Sept. 28, 1:00 p.m.

Karen Cole, Cabell County Clerk, will send her staff and voting devices to as many of our activities as possible. Posters and literature will be distributed.

Jamie Baumgardner is working through her social workers to reach the residents of the high rises and public housing to promote their awareness of the importance of their vote and to promote registration. League members are encouraged to take a friend to register and, then, to vote!

If any of you wish to volunteer to help with voter registration, contact Doris Johnson, 522-3877.

LWVUS ACTION (Recently the League has taken action on the following issues)

1) **Ethics.** The League joined other groups in reminding Congress that it has enacted no reforms to address the ethics, lobbying, and influence-money scandals that have been a hallmark of the 109th Congress. The League supports H.R.5677, the Shays/Meehan bill. The Shays-Meehan legislation would make the following lobbying and ethics reforms:

- *Prohibit private interests that lobby Congress from paying for trips by Members;
- *Require Members to pay charter rates, rather than reduced fares, for the use of company planes made available by corporations for their travel;
- *Ban gifts to Members;
- *Establish an Office of Public Integrity to help enforce congressional ethics rules and lobbying disclosure laws;
- *Require lobbyists to disclose the campaign funds and financial benefits they provide to assist Members;

- *Require disclosure of the amounts spent by professional lobbying firms and lobbying groups on campaigns to generate lobbying of Congress by the public; and
- *Slow the revolving door.

2) DC Representation. The "DC Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act" would provide voting representation in the House for DC citizens by increasing the size of the House by two seats – one for DC and one for Utah, which is entitled to the next seat by size of population.

3) Voting Rights Act. Passed and signed. The League worked hard for this passage.

4) Barriers to Citizen Participation in Voting. Opposed

5) Public Financing of Presidential Elections. We need updating and reforms.

JUDICIAL FORUM A SUCCESS

On May 18 the League sponsored the Judicial Forum "Sentencing Considerations: State vs. Federal Perspective". Our speakers were Federal Judge Robert C. Chambers and Circuit Judge, O.C. Spaulding, Putnam County. Topics discussed were key differences between federal and state sentencing, guidelines for federal cases and guidelines for state cases, opportunity for judicial interpretation and discretion, and practical aspects of sentencing and relevant information for the Court. There was lively audience participation and audience feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to Judge Chambers and Judge Spaulding.

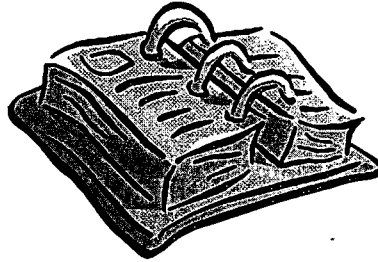
LWV is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$40 individual, \$55 for two in one household and \$24 for students.

To join, send your check to: Ann Spear, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701

LWV Huntington Area
Jane Husted, Editor

CALENDAR



September 26, 6:30, Woodlands – Candidates for county commission, WV Senate, 16th Delegate District

October 17 – Deadline for Voter Registration

October 19, 7 pm, Junior League – Candidates for county commission, WV Senate, 15th and 16th Delegate Districts

October 22, WPBY-TV Debates for seats in the House of Representatives (depends on candidates accepting the invitation)

October 29 – WPBY-TV Debate for US Senate (depends on candidates accepting the invitation)

STATE TAXES

WV's Department of Revenue has been reviewing WV's current tax structure, under the Tax Modernization Project with the aim of presenting a legislative package to the legislature. A Study Group has been assisting in this effort. Anyone from the public may voice opinions online at www.wvtax.gov/tmp. Deadline - October 2. Nancy Novak, state board, presented the League's position at a Wood County hearing. See the upcoming fall VOTER for her statement.

RIDES TO LEAGUE MEETINGS.

If you would like a ride to a League meeting, please contact Mary Anderson, 523-2032.

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