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Area Bulletin

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League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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action packed POLITICS

Huntington Area League of Women Voters

BULLETIN MAY 21, 1985

*** CALENDAR ***

MAY

Tuesday ¹²22 10:00 - 11:00 pm

WPBY-TV (33) production: Huntington City Charter: Pros and Cons. Background and discussion of proposed Charter. The League will be represented on the panel.

Wednesday ^{10:00}23 7:00 pm

Children At Risk. Public meeting, First Huntington National Bank, third floor (use mini-bank entrance).

JUNE

Tuesday 4

ELECTION DAY, Huntington: City Council and Proposed Charter. It's also Election Day in Barboursville. The League will provide a call-in service at WOWK-TV (13).



Speakers and Special Events

The Huntington Area League of Women Voters will present a meeting on Children At Risk Thursday, May 23 at 7:00pm. The meeting will bring together speakers to address factors which cause a child to fall into the "high-risk" category. Representatives of the Prestera Center, the Probation Dept., the Dept. of Human Services, Time-Out and the School System will discuss how and why children come into contact with our Court system. Parents, teachers, students, community leaders, and all interested individuals are urged to attend.

--- Barbara Cienfuegos 522-7503



League Members on TV!!

League members have appeared recently on Channel 13's "Action Newsmakers" program at 6:30am. Subjects discussed included International Relations (Nancy Taylor and Clair Matz); City Charter (Helen Gibbins); and High Risk Youth (Beth Bauserman).

Helen Gibbins was interviewed for Channel 13's news series on the proposed charter, to be broadcast the week before the election.

Linda Rowe will appear on Channel 33, May 22 at 10:00pm on the proposed charter. Betty Barrett will appear on Channel 13, June 2 at 5:30pm, also on the proposed charter.



*Don't forget to vote June 4 in the Barboursville or Huntington election!

*If you will be out of town June 4, be certain to vote absentee.

*Note on Timelines: if the proposed Huntington Charter passes, the June-elected council members will be in office through 1985. In Sept., 1985 there will be primary elections in both parties and in Nov. there will be a general election. New officers will take office in 1986.

Message from the President

June 4, 1985 could be a turning point for Huntington. Voters will be deciding on whether to return Huntington to a strong mayor form of government as well as voting for city council members.

The League of Women Voters of Huntington opposes the charter change. We believe that an administrator, trained and experienced in city management, will be more likely to run the city efficiently, comprehensively, and fairly than an elected mayor. In the present age, city management requires many new skills in addition to the traditional ones, skills such as negotiation, planning and evaluation, labor relations, and grantmanship.

In the 1950's under the strong mayor form of government, Huntington was in debt, several city officials were indicted, and services were intermittent. The League was involved in helping to bring about a charter change. In 1957 Huntington started operating under the council-manager form of government.

Since the 1950's there have been many efforts to change our form of government back to the strong mayor form. These efforts came to fruition last fall when a majority of the elected charter board favored the strong mayor form of government.

In addition to the League's opposition to the strong mayor form, we also oppose the proposed charter because of its return to partisan politics. We believe party labels have nothing to do with providing city services and are more likely to lead to patronage and favoritism.

We also fear that returning to a city council predominantly made up of members elected only by their own district will lead to trade-offs and provincialism rather than looking to the good of the whole city.

We have included with this Bulletin the comparison of the present and proposed charters. (Please make a correction on the one mailed with the last Bulletin: Under the Proposed Charter, Qualifications of the Mayor, "Registered Voter" should read "Qualified Elector." The change was made in this mailing.)

We hope you will share this comparison with friends and neighbors. The League gives duplicating permission to those who wish to reproduce this comparison.

-- Helen Gibbins, 736-3287

Reducing Hazardous Wastes

West Virginians concerned about possible dangers involving hazardous materials can obtain information on them from the League of Women Voters of West Virginia. Use of a "Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste Education Kit" is being offered to the public -- free of charge -- by the League. The kit contains information about hazardous household and industrial materials and wastes, including planning, management, regulation, transportation, and "incident response" information. Also in the kit are a "Leader's Guide" for activities, suggested program formats, a bibliography of information sources and a list of "resource people."

SPECIAL ALERT:

Let Congressman Rahall and Senators Byrd and Rockefeller know of your support for the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1985. (See the National VOTER, Spring 1985 or call Beth Bauserman or Barbara Cienfuegos.) Both Sen. Rockefeller and Congressman Rahall are cosponsors, but they need to be thanked and to know that there is constituent support for this important bill.

The "Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste Education Kit" is available on loan through every county WVU Extension Office, Regional Planning and Development Council Office, and Dept. of Natural Resources District Office -- as well as through the state or local League of Women Voters.

*****Call Betty Barrett, 525-5911, if you can help with the Election Day Call-In.*****

HUNTINGTON ELECTION

JUNE 4, 1985



Election of 7 council members and a "yes" or "no" vote on the proposed strong-mayor charter

	<u>Present Charter</u>	<u>Proposed Charter</u>
<u>Elections</u>	Non-partisan	Partisan
<u>Chief Administrator</u>	Manager	Mayor
<u>Chosen by</u>	Council	Voters
<u>Term</u>	Will and pleasure of council	4 years; limited to 3 consecutive terms
<u>Qualifications</u>	Experience as a city manager or asst. city manager, under a council-manager form of government. Resident of city, during tenure.	25 years of age Qualified elector resident of the city.
<u>Compensation</u>	\$36,000 (1985-86 budget)	\$55,600 (charter) By ordinance council may change the salary for the next term.
<u>Duties and Powers</u>	Appoints and removes employees Prepares and administers budget Makes recommendations to Council Administers personnel policies.	Same, except that the council approves appointment of city attorney. Same Same Same
<u>Veto Power</u>	None	May veto ordinances and budget line items. Takes 2/3 vote of council to override.
<u>Appointments to Boards, Agencies, and Commissions</u>	Council appoints (but this power is not stated in the charter)	Except as otherwise provided by general law, the mayor appoints with approval of council.
<u>Council</u>	7 members, one from each district, but elected at large	11 members, 2 at large and 1 elected from each of 9 districts only by the voters within the district.
<u>Term</u>	4 years	4 years, limited to 3 consecutive terms
<u>Compensation</u>	\$100 per month. The mayor receives an additional \$100 per month. Salary changes are made by the voters	\$250 per meeting, not to exceed \$6,000 per year. Salary changes, same as for mayor.
<u>Duties and Powers</u>	Appoints and removes manager Appoints city clerk Passes ordinances and adopts budget Creates, changes, and abolishes offices, depts. and agencies	Same Same Same May veto mayor's appointments, by 2/3 vote.

(Information prepared by the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area)

RECREATION



"Summer Fun", the League's annual recreation flyer for children, will be ready for distribution to schools the last week of May. Copies will also be available in the libraries and at the Chamber of Commerce.

We hope this publication will help create a better summer for the youth of Cabell County. We also hope it will be useful in proving to ourselves and outside businesses that this is a good area in which to raise a family.

This is my last year as editor of "Summer Fun." I look forward to helping next year's editor. If you're interested in working on next year's publication, please call Helen Gibbins (736-3287).

A BIG THANK-YOU to everyone who helped on this project and to the local businesses who supported it through their contributions.

-- Marcia Daoust 529-4406



The League of Women Voters is a non-profit, non-partisan organization open to all men and women of voting age. Annual dues are \$25 individual and \$37.50 household, payable to LWV of Huntington (send to treasurer).



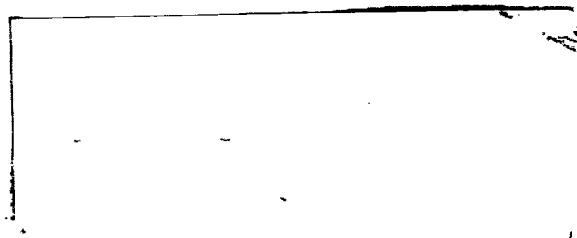
Helen Gibbins, President
6128 Gideon Rd.
Huntington, WV 25705
736-3287

Linda Rowe, Editor
1007 Chesapeake Ct.
Huntington, WV 25701
523-4475

Lila Thompson, Treasurer
2738 Washington Blvd.
Huntington, WV 25701
522-3792

League of Women Voters of Huntington Area
2738 Washington Blvd.
Huntington, WV 25705

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VOTE JUNE 4, 1985 IN HUNTINGTON AND BARBOURSVILLE

MAKE YOUR MARK ON POLITICS