



League Links

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters
of the Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect, Buffalo Grove Area
Including Prospect Heights, Wheeling, and Elk Grove Village, Illinois

We are online at: <http://www.lwvah.org/>

November 2011

Volume 57, Issue 5

Celebrating 55 years of community service

Our Mission Statement/Purpose: The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Date	Time	Event
November 16, Wednesday	7:00 PM	Education Consensus Meeting: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, Josetta McLaughlin's home, 1131 N. Dryden Ave., Arlington Heights. <i>(see page 3)</i>
November 17, Thursday	1:00 PM	Education Consensus Meeting: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, Arlington Heights Historical Society, 110 W. Fremont, Arlington Heights. <i>(see page 3)</i>
November 30, Wednesday	7:00 PM	Board Meeting, Pat Lindner's, 2719 E. Bel Aire Drive, Arlington Heights.
January 4, Wednesday	1:00 PM	Board Meeting, Pat Lindner's, 2719 E. Bel Aire Drive, Arlington Heights.
January 16, Monday	TBA	Martin Luther King Program, Arlington Heights Historical Society, 110 W. Fremont, Arlington Heights.
January 28, Saturday	TBA	LWVIL Issues Briefing and Workshops, Chicago. Hold the date.
February 21, Tuesday		Voter registration closes for deputy registrars.

GIFT CARDS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER HOLIDAYS

Holiday shopping and gift giving are great opportunities to use gift cards. The cards are also handy for dining out or for purchasing groceries for holiday baking and special meals preparation. Take a look at the gift card brochure in this newsletter. If you are interested in a store or restaurant that is not on our list, just ask Nancy Duel, at nduel@aol.com or 847-259-3793. There are many more options available. This is a no-cost way to support League of Women Voters



MESSAGE FROM LWVUS President

Carrie Chapman Catt called for League of Women Voters to “make our democracy so safe for the nation that every citizen may feel secure and great men will acknowledge the worthiness of the American Republic to lead.” A major effort to register new women voters and educate them in the political process was prominent on the newly formed League of Women Voters’ agenda.

In the Deep South of the early 20th century, this scheme was doubtless intended to limit qualified voters. Today, early in this 21st century, states are taking steps that will impact the number of qualified voters in the 2012 Presidential Election. Requiring voter ID, limiting third party voter registration drives, eliminating Election Day registration and curtailing early voting are all measures that have been proposed or passed in a disturbing number of states this year. Coupled with dramatic budget cuts which are closing driver’s license offices, democracy is growing increasingly unsafe for the nation.

This week I was a guest on the National Public Radio call-in show, “On Point,” featuring an hour-long program on voter suppression, “A War on Voting.” A number of callers pointed out the disproportionate impact these laws will have on underserved communities. An election official in rural Tennessee noted that she would be required to turn away voters with whom she is personally acquainted, if they lacked the requisite government issued ID.

Cash-strapped agencies can make seemingly innocuous decisions that impact the right of some Americans to vote. For instance, the U.S. Postal Service is proposing to close offices all across the country, including the reservation in South Dakota where Wounded Knee is located. That post office is a lifeline to the community, including vital voter services such as voter registration and requesting and returning absentee ballots. No one can accuse the USPS of deliberately impinging on voting rights, but regardless of the intent, the result is the same.

A complacent public may feel that democracy is safe for the nation because many live comfortable lives and have a wallet full of cards, but the League was founded to remove the “remaining legal discriminations ...in the codes and constitutions of the several states” that offered stumbling blocks to the “feet of coming women” voters.

We owe the nation our best effort to make democracy safe for every eligible voter!

In League,
Elizabeth McNamara

The League of Women Voters gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the Horner Group in providing all the printing, postage and mailing services for our bulletins.



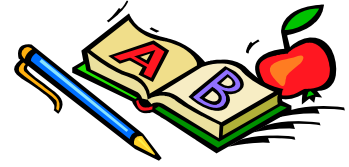
Education Study

Role of Federal Government in Public Education

CONSENSUS MEETINGS

Wednesday, November 16, at 7:00 pm

Thursday, November 17, at 1:00 pm



There have been quite a few opportunities to become informed about the issues involved in the Education Study from LWVUS:

Four “Chats” (discussions) on the background papers prepared by LWVUS
Palatine League’s September 22nd Program
Our League’s October 27th Panel of Educators.

Now it is time for our Consensus Meetings on November 16 and 17 to respond to the Consensus Questions. These questions have been sent to each member by E-Mail or USPS. This is our opportunity to consider the questions and come to consensus on each question for a report to LWVUS. Our report along with reports from all other local Leagues engaged in this study will form the basis for the “Position” to be adopted by LWVUS on The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education.

Be prepared for this meeting by reviewing (or reading for the first time) the background papers prepared by LWVUS. The papers are available at our website, www.lwvah.org. The papers on “Common Core Standards” and “Funding and Equity Issues” are particularly important.

Please note that one meeting will be at 1:00 pm, at the Arlington Heights Historical Society, 110 W. Fremont, A.H. This time change is in response to the survey taken at the Annual Meeting on May 19, 2011. A large majority indicated interest in alternating the time of our monthly meetings between day and evening. This is our first opportunity to schedule a day meeting. **For any member who cannot attend the November 17 meeting at 1:00, there will be a second meeting at 7:00 on November 16, for your convenience. The evening meeting will be at Josetta McLaughlin’s home at 1131 N. Dryden Avenue in Arlington Heights. Contact Cathy Douba at 847-437-6956 for more information.**

League of Women Voters stands for “informed participation”. We owe it to our children and our country to take seriously the challenge of creating the best possible education system to compete in the global economy.

PROPOSED VOTER REGISTRAR TRAINING

Carole Weber, Voter Service Chair for Glenview LWV, is recruiting League members to take the Deputy Voter Registrar training. It will be given by the Cook County Clerk’s Office and it takes about one hour. This allows you to register new voters. This is one of League’s primary services. Any member who is not already a Deputy Registrar is urged to register to take the training, which is free. Please respond to Carole Weber at cbw331@aol.com or 847-998-8123. She will answer your questions. She needs at least 20 people for the training, which may be given in January at the Skokie Public Library. If you commit to take the training please let Judith Royal know since she will need to provide you with a letter of recommendation from our League. Email cjroyal@comcast.net or call 847-259-5838.

Privatization Study Now Online Looking For Study Volunteers

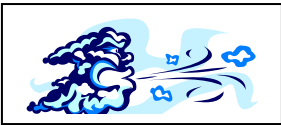
By Cathy Duoba

Getting concerned about past and present efforts to privatize everything from public education to prisons (many already privatized) to...?

**Don't just worry; be pro-active!
Join the privatization study committee!
Yes, I do mean YOU!**

The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

The Privatization Study webpage with materials, including the first background paper, will be available at (www.lwv.org) in the Member section (under Projects and Programs, Privatization Study). Check out the study and join, call Cathy Duoba, 847-437-6956.



League's Clean Air Promise

The LWV, NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) and LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) released the results of a poll by Public Policy Polling. The poll was conducted nationwide with particular emphasis on voters in California, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and was designed to measure support for the EPA. Overwhelmingly, voters, especially women voters, expressed their faith in the EPA and their support for stronger standards to protect the public from toxics in our air.

Opponents of the EPA have relentlessly cited the agency as the prime example of big government interference with business and blamed the agency for job losses and over regulation. Well, what the corporate polluters and their supporters in Congress are selling, the American voter is not buying. There is a clear consensus around the country that protecting the public health through reasonable federal regulation is an important government function and there is no need to choose between jobs and the environment.

Opposing big corporate interests is never easy, and the job never ends, but the League has never shied away from holding officials accountable to the public. We have many tools at our disposal from the Clean Air Promise to the issues we ask candidates for public office to discuss in our forums, debates and voter guides.

Voters who take the time to respond to polls are sending a message to Congress and to the President. That message is no surprise to League members. For over 90 years the League has understood the relationship between public health and well-being and our democracy's health and well-being.

New Laws Could Negatively Impact 5 Million Eligible Voters

from the LWVUS Leaders Update, October 6th



A new study released by the Brennan Center for Justice this week found that up to five million people could be negatively affected by the various new voter suppression laws that were passed in states across the country in 2011. You can find the report in *this NY Times* article that includes a quote from our own LWVFL President Deirdre Macnab.

Excerpts from *The New York Times*

New State Rules Raising Hurdles at Voting Booth

By MICHAEL COOPER

October 2, 2011

Since Republicans won control of many statehouses last November, more than a dozen states have passed laws requiring voters to show photo identification at polls, cutting back early voting periods or imposing new restrictions on voter registration drives.

State officials, political parties and voting experts have all said that the impact could be sizable. Now, a new study by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law has tried to tally just how many voters stand to be affected. The center, which has studied the new laws and opposed some of them in court and other venues, analyzed 19 laws that passed and 2 executive orders that were issued in 14 states this year, and concluded that they “could make it significantly harder for more than five million eligible voters to cast ballots in 2012.”

Republicans, who have passed almost all of the new election laws, say they are necessary to prevent voter fraud, and question why photo identification should be routinely required at airports but not at polling sites. Democrats counter that the new laws are a solution in search of a problem, since voter fraud is rare. They worry that the laws will discourage, or even block, eligible voters — especially poor voters, young voters and African-American voters, who tend to vote for Democrats. [Ed Note: Flying is NOT a right of citizenship, voting is.]

The Justice Department must review the new laws in several states to make sure that they do not run afoul of the Voting Rights Act. The Supreme Court upheld Indiana’s voter identification law in 2008, saying that while it found no evidence of the fraud the law was intended to combat, it also found no evidence that the new requirements were a burden on voters.

“This year there’s been a significant wave of new laws in states across the country that have the effect of cracking down on voting rights,” said Michael Waldman, the executive director of the Brennan Center, **who noted that five million votes would have made a difference in both the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections.** “It is the most significant rollback in voting rights in decades.”

Just how much of an impact the new laws will have is a matter of some dispute. Senator Richard J. Durbin, Democrat of Illinois, who held a hearing on the new laws last month, said they “will make it harder for millions of disabled, young, minority, rural, elderly, homeless and low-income Americans to vote.” Republicans note that states like Georgia and Indiana moved to require photo identification from voters and that turnout there improved.

Five states passed laws this year scaling back programs allowing voters to cast their ballots before Election Day, the Brennan Center found. Ohio passed a law eliminating early voting on Sundays, and Florida eliminated it on the Sunday before Election Day — days when some African-American churches organized “souls to the polls” drives for members of their congregations. Maine voted to stop allowing people to register to vote on Election Day — a practice that had been credited with enrolling some 60,000 new voters in 2008. Voters in Maine and Ohio are now seeking to overturn the new laws with referendums.

The biggest impact, the Brennan Center said, will be from laws requiring people to show government-issued photo identification to vote. This year, 34 states introduced legislation to require it — a flurry of activity that Jennie Bowser, a senior fellow at the National Conference of State Legislatures, called “pretty unusual.” Before this year, only two states, Indiana and Georgia, had “strict” photo identification requirements for voters, according to the conference. This year, five more states — Wisconsin, Kansas, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas — passed laws to join their ranks. Under the Texas law, licenses to carry concealed handguns, but not student ID cards, would be an acceptable form of identification to vote.

The Brennan Center estimates that 11 percent of potential voters do not have state-issued photo identification. By that measure, it finds that the new laws would affect 3.2 million voters in the states where the change is scheduled to take effect before the 2012 elections.

Suppressing Voters' Rights: Just One Example

From the LWVUS Leaders Update, October 20th



Elections: 96-year-old Chattanooga Resident Denied Voting ID

Tennessee is one of seven states that recently passed new voter photo ID laws requiring voters to obtain a state issued photo ID as a prerequisite to voting. At 96, Dorothy Cooper remembers only one election that she missed during the years she's been eligible to vote. Despite her stellar voting record, getting a new ID for Dorothy ended up being much more difficult than you might think.

When she learned last month at a community meeting that under a new state law she would need a photo ID to vote next year, she talked with a volunteer about how to get to a state Driver Service Center to get her free ID. But when she got there Monday with an envelope full of documents, a clerk denied her request.

That morning, Cooper slipped a rent receipt, a copy of her lease, her voter registration card and her birth certificate into a Manila envelope. Typewritten on the birth certificate was her maiden name, Dorothy Alexander. "But I didn't have my marriage certificate," Cooper said Tuesday afternoon, and that was the reason the clerk said she was denied a free voter ID at the Cherokee Boulevard Driver Service Center.

Her story illustrates how these new barriers to voting can have an unfair impact on long-time voters, and why the League continues to fight against such barriers across the country.

Additional Thoughts

By Cathy Duoba

The comparison to requiring photo ID for flying or writing checks is a false comparison; flying and writing checks are not constitutionally guaranteed rights of citizenship. Using these examples is also very elitist; millions of Americans never do either.

State ID may be free, but acquiring copies of one's birth certificate (and for married women, her marriage certificate) is not free. Fees are anywhere from \$25 to \$35 (\$50-70 for married women) per copy; this is a sizable obstacle for the poor or unemployed. The NAACP has called these voting requirements the 21st century poll tax.

Texas's clumsy admission of bias: gun license OK, student ID is not.



League Urges Committee Leaders to Post Submissions to Deficit Committee

The League sent a letter to the Chairs and Ranking Members of all House and Senate Standing Committees urging them to post their submissions to the Deficit Committee online as soon as possible for public review in order to fully embrace transparency in the Super-Committee's process.

League Urges Senators to Oppose Voiding of Life-Saving Rule

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to Senators urging them to oppose the Congressional Review Act resolution, sponsored by Senator Rand Paul, which would void the life-saving [Cross-State Air Pollution Rule](#) (CSAPR).

League Urges House to Oppose Cantor Agenda Bills

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to the House of Representatives urging members to oppose the suite of bills contained in Majority Leader Cantor's legislative agenda including two that are expected to be considered this week, [H.R. 2681](#) and [H.R. 2250](#). H.R. 2681 would reduce regulation of cement plants, which are one of the largest sources of industrial mercury toxics in the country; and H.R. 2250 would reduce regulations on incinerators and industrial boilers, which dump large amounts of toxic pollution into our air.

League Thanks Representatives Who Voted to Protect Public Health

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to members of the House of Representatives, who voted to oppose [the TRAIN Act](#), which could block two long overdue standards that would reduce pollution and protect public health.

League Urges President to Deny Permit for Keystone XL Pipeline

League President Elisabeth MacNamara sent a letter to President Obama expressing opposition to the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline and urging him to deny the permit for the pipeline's construction. The League believes that the President should deny the permit for the pipeline's construction for three key reasons: the pipeline would be inconsistent with meaningful action on climate change, the route of the pipeline poses an unacceptable risk to a critically important water source, and reducing demand is the best way to improve America's energy security.

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- **Purchase cards to donate to food pantries or homeless shelters**
- **Purchase cards for your favorite restaurants.**

No matter what cards you purchase you will be assisting League of Women Voters in its fundraising.

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Lands End \$25	14			Crate and Barrel \$25	6		
LL Bean \$25	18			Crate and Barrel \$100	6		
Old Navy \$25	9			Yankee Candle \$25	9		
Talbot's \$25	9			Home Improvement	%	Qty	Total
Books	%	Qty	Total	Ace Hardware \$25	4		
Barnes and Noble \$10	9			Home Depot \$25	4		
Barnes and Noble \$25	9			Lowes \$25	4		
Department Stores	%	Qty	Total	Menards \$25	3		
Carson Pirie Scott \$25	9			Restaurants & Fast Food	%	Qty	Total
Carson Pirie Scott \$100	9			Applebee's \$25	8		
JC Penney \$25	5			Baja Fresh \$10	7		
JC Penney \$100	5			California Pizza \$25	4		
Kohl's \$25	4			Chili's \$25	11		
Kohl's \$100	4			Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10	11		
Macy's \$25	10			Domino's Pizza \$10	8		
Macy's \$100	10			Egg Harbor \$15	4		
Sears \$25	4			Lettuce Entertain \$100	13		
Sears \$250	4			Oberweis \$10	9		
Electronics and Office	%	Qty	Total	Olive Garden \$25	8		
Best Buy \$25	3			Panera \$10	8		
Best Buy \$100	3			Pizza Hut \$10	8		
Office Depot \$25	4			Starbucks \$10	7		
Office Max \$25	4			Steak and Shake \$10	8		
Office Max \$100	4			Subway \$10	3		
Staples \$25	5			TGI Fridays \$25	8		
Staples \$100	5			Specialty Retailer	%	Qty	Total
Entertainment	%	Qty	Total	Bath and Body Works \$10	14		
AMC \$6.50 single admit	4			Bath and Body Works \$25	14		
AMC \$25 Gift Card	8			JoAnn Fabric \$20	6		
Gasoline	%	Qty	Total	Petsmart \$25	4		
Marathon \$25	3			Sporting Goods	%	Qty	Total
Marathon \$100	3			Dick's Sporting Goods \$25	6		
Shell \$50	3			Eddie Bauer \$25	9		
Shell \$100	3			Sports Authority \$25	8		
Speedway \$25	4			Miscellaneous	%	Qty	Total
Speedway \$100	4			Amazon.com \$100	4		
Groceries	%	Qty	Total	Fannie May \$20	24		
Dominick's \$25	4			Honey Baked Ham \$20	9		
Dominick's \$100	4			Jiffy Lube \$25	9		
Jewel \$25	4			Walgreens \$25	6		
Jewel \$100	4			Walgreens \$100	6		
Mariano's \$25	4			Other Requests			
Mariano's \$100	4						
Sara Lee \$10	13			TOTAL DUE			\$



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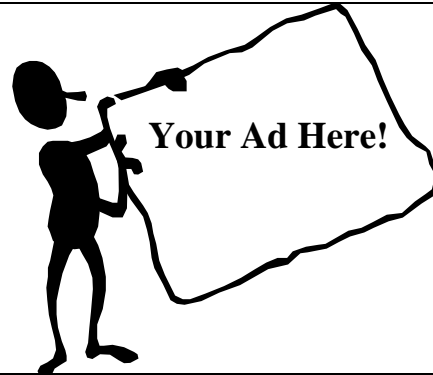
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