

**The League of Women Voters** is a nonpartisan political organization dedicated to the active and informed participation of citizens in government.

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2008-2009**

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League of Women Voters  
of Greater Lafayette  
PO Box 2085  
West Lafayette IN 47996  
[www.leaguelafayette.org](http://www.leaguelafayette.org)

## Shining the light on sunshine laws— Issues of public access and freedom of information

You've heard about them, but what do you really know about "Sunshine Laws?" What kinds of issues are involved in providing public access to government information? Come and learn more at a public forum on **Thursday, March 12 at 7pm at the County Office Building** (Tippecanoe Room).

A panel discussion from members of public agencies and local media will answer questions and talk about the pros and cons of the laws. We hope to have representatives from WLFI TV-18 and the *Journal and Courier*, Norm Childress (Ivy Tech trustee), Roland Winger (new county council and past West Lafayette school board member), Cindy Murray (Lafayette City Clerk), and others.

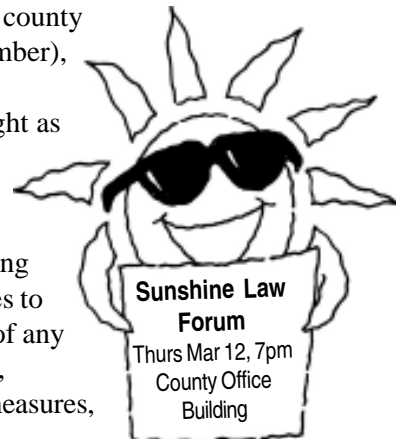
There are two issues that are commonly thought as being part of public access laws, often referred to as Sunshine Laws or "government open in the sunshine."

One is the open door law (IC 5-14-1.5) requiring meetings of government bodies and public agencies to be open to the public and noticed 48 hours ahead of any meeting. There are a few exceptions, for example, discussions involving implementation of security measures, litigation, and some personnel issues.

The second is Access to Public Records (IC 5-14-3) which allows the public access to any public record, again with few exceptions (litigation, social security numbers, juvenile records, etc.). Examples of public agencies are school boards, county commissioners, city councils, library boards, area plan commission.

While we all may agree that government should be open and transparent, there are challenges that decrease government efficiency and challenge timely leadership. What else might be concerns? Come with your questions ready!

—K.D. Benson



### *Save the date...*

- **Our League's annual meeting will be held on Thursday, April 30** at the Celery Bog Nature Center. There will be a light supper at 6pm followed by the program and business meeting. We are planning a special activity, so please put the date on your calendar and plan to attend to help us kick off the next year.
- **The State Convention will be held May 15 -17** in Muncie. A very special guest at the convention this year will be Mary Wilson, President of LWVUS. The convention is always a wonderful way to interact with other Leaguers from around the state and to refresh our ideas and enthusiasm. So save the date and plan to join us at convention in May.

—Betty Doversberger

## Purdue students to propose “pay-as-you-throw” system for West Lafayette

A team of Purdue students has been studying issues relating to trash collection. They will present their findings and propose a new way of charging trash collection fees at the West Lafayette Go Greener Commission public meeting on **April 21 at 7:15pm at West Lafayette City Hall**, 609 Navajo Street.

The students are part of the Purdue EPICS program, which stands for Engineering Projects In Community Service. It is a course offered at Purdue in which teams of undergraduate students from various disciplines work to address the needs of the local community. This helps students gain real world experience while still in college and promotes community service.

One team within EPICS is BGI (Boiler Green Initiative). Within this team is the PAYT (Pay-As-You-Throw) project team. The PAYT team is working on a proposal for a more equitable trash disposal system for the city of West Lafayette.

The main idea of PAYT is that residents are charged according to how much trash they “throw” rather than the current system of a flat fee for all households. A typical structure of a PAYT system is to offer a minimum fee for one can of trash and require stickers to be placed on additional cans or bags to be picked up. Another system is based on billing residents according to the weight of their trash collected. In most systems, recycling is increased because it is picked up without charge.

—Diane Damico and Caroline Early, EPICS student

## Want to contact a government official? The League’s new directory will help!

The *2009 Directory of Government Officials* produced by our League is available for the public. The directory is a handy tool for finding the contact information of our government officials. It lists elected and appointed officials and commissions for Tippecanoe County, Lafayette, West Lafayette, Battle Ground, Clarks Hill, Dayton and Shadeland.

Copies may be picked up at the public libraries, the Chamber of Commerce office, the County Office Building and from Ruth Dowden, 1820 Sheridan Rd., WL. The directory is also posted on our League website [www.leaguelafayette.org](http://www.leaguelafayette.org).

Those who need more than one or two copies may call the League at 765-497-4144. Thank you to Aimee Jacobsen and Nancy Hendricks for producing the directory and to the Chamber of Commerce for part of the funding.

—Winnie Adler

## *The League in action...*

Four members of the League traveled to Indianapolis on December 15, 2008, to witness the Indiana Electors casting their vote for Obama and Biden. Attending this historic event were, from L-R: **Gail Pebworth, Jean Andres, Peg Dunkle, and Joanne Evers.**



## League to offer WALLA class on immigration issues in April

Mida Grover and Cathy Potter (with the help of the LWV committee), will co-coordinate a mini-class on Immigration Issues for the Spring session of the Wabash Area Lifelong Learning Association.

**The four class sessions are scheduled for April 7, 9, 14 and 16, from 9–10:15AM.**

Following are descriptions of the four classes:

1. The first session will be an overview of immigration, presented by Cathy and Mida.
2. Next, we will hear a 25-year Farm Labor Specialist talk about migrant farm workers and enforcement of immigration laws.
3. Purdue Latino Cultural Center staff and students who will have just returned from Humanigration, a weeklong study trip to learn about conditions at the US/Mexico border, will present the third class.
4. Finally, a panel representing local business, health, education, and social services will share some local immigrant stories.

This class will help move the dialogue about immigration into the community, and certainly should generate good discussion.

If you would like more information about the classes, please contact Mida or Cathy.

—Mida Grover



*The League Letter* is published bi-monthly. The editor is Kaye McSpadden. Please send your articles to [kaye7m@aol.com](mailto:kaye7m@aol.com).

## Local League studies positions, considers changes

Last May at the annual meeting our League readopted the five local positions that had been agreed upon in past years and recommended that the Land Use position be reviewed. At the Program Planning meeting in November, members again looked at the positions including the revised Land Use position prepared by a committee headed by Liz Solberg and John Corey. The members participating at the meeting agreed to the following:

- Rewrite (not restudy) **Solid Waste Management**;
- Retain **Juvenile Services in Tippecanoe County** with a minor editorial change;
- Retain **Local Government Structure in Tippecanoe County** and do a study of the elimination of township government, a single emergency response department, and a single public library system (if the legislature does not act on these items);
- Review **Problems of Women and Women with Children Who Are Victims of Domestic Violence** because it needs a general update and the "Second-Phase Housing" section is not current.

The members also supported the proposed revisions of our **Land Use** position with suggested minor changes. The Land Use review committee incorporated the suggested changes in the position and submitted it to the board. The board will look at the changes at its March meeting. If the revisions are adopted at the annual meeting, Land Use will be divided into two positions,

### **Comprehensive Planning and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space.**

The League thanks the Land Use committee members John Corey, Liz Solberg, Lillian Cote, Jane Frankenberger, and Diane Damico for their hard work and also KD Benson and Sally Fahey for their input.

In mid-April members will receive a complete copy of all proposed local positions in the annual meeting materials. Our current positions can be found on the website [www.leaguelfayette.org](http://www.leaguelfayette.org). —Winnie Adler



## Which niche is for you?

The nominating committee is starting to put together the list of board members and committee chairs and coordinators for the 2009-10 year. There are many opportunities to be an active participant in League activities. **Whether you would like to have on-going involvement throughout the year or prefer to help with a single project, there is a niche just for you.**

To let you know some of the positions that serve the League, we have printed a list of positions we had this year on page 4. We had a successful fund drive this year, and will repeat it next year if we have a volunteer to help organize it. We would like to add a historian to help us add to materials in our archives, as well.

As you can see, our League is very active and many people contribute to its success. We are in the process of planning our activities for the coming year, and hope to have many wonderful volunteers again. We need to know what you would like to be involved in, so please contact me with your questions or to let me know your interests. You can reach me at [edoversberger@comcast.net](mailto:edoversberger@comcast.net), or by phone at 448-6880.

—Betty Doversberger, President

## Many Thanks to Our Generous Donors

The generous donors who made contributions to our fund drive this year have made the work of the League possible. Many thanks to these generous individuals.

Anonymous (5)  
Tom and Winnie Adler  
Jo Brooks  
John and Pat Corey  
Lillian Cote  
Emma Dalsimer  
Betty Doversberger  
Ruth Dowden  
Verna Emery  
Joanne Evers  
Don and Ruth Ann Ferris  
Mary Ann Foley  
Nola Gentry  
Donna Giroux  
Joan Goldstein  
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Barbara Post  
Cathy Potter  
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Sue Scholer  
Deborah Schwarte  
Cynthia Scruggs  
Patricia Skifstad  
Liz Solberg  
Randy Studt  
Judy and Leo Weitzman  
John Wilms

*Thank You!*



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### Which niche is for you? (cont'd from page 3)

Here are some of the leadership, program, and project positions from 2008-2009:

President	Parks, Recreation, Open Space Chair	Domestic violence Officials Directory Preparation
Vice President, Programs	Budget Preparation	Water Quality Program
Vice President, Organization	Membership Recruitment Initiative	Legislative Liaison
Secretary	County Fair Booth	Open Door Laws Program
Treasurer	Being an Informed Voter Program	Wildcat Solid Waste District Representative
Voter Service	Calendar Preparation	Wabash River Corridor
Immigration Reform	Calendar Sales	Judicial Independence Program
Webmaster	Making Democracy Work Award	Nominating Committee
Land Use Restudy	Public Relations/Publicity	Local Government Reform Program
Juvenile Justice Chair	Voter Service Support	
Newsletter Editor	Legislative Coffee/Legislative Breakfast	
Newsletter Support		

### Join the League

**YES, I want to be a member of the League of Women Voters!**

- \$50 1-year individual membership
- \$75 1-year household membership
- \$25 student membership
- I'm enclosing an additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable and mail to:

LWVGL  
 PO Box 2085  
 West Lafayette IN 47996-2085

Membership in the local league includes membership in the state and national League of Women Voters.

Thank you!



- **Mar 12**—Forum on Sunshine Laws, 7:00 PM, County Office Building (Tippecanoe Room)
- **April 7, 9, 14, 16**—WALLA classes on immigration, 9-10:15 AM
- **Apr 21**—Pay as You Throw presentation, WL Go Greener Commission, WL City Hall, 7:15 PM
- **Apr 30**—Annual League Meeting, Celery Bog Nature Center, light supper at 6PM
- **May 15-17**—State Convention, Muncie