



The League Letter

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette, Indiana

October-November 2007

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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Candidate forum for West Lafayette City Council to be held on Oct 17

The League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette is offering two forums for candidates for the City Councils of Lafayette and West Lafayette. The forum for candidates for the Lafayette City Council was held on October 9 in the Tippecanoe Room of the County Office Building. **The forum for candidates for the West Lafayette City Council will be held on Wednesday, October 17 from 7:00-8:30PM at the Tippecanoe County Public Library in Room B.**

Each candidate will be allowed one minute to present opening remarks. The audience will have an opportunity to present questions for the candidates. All questions will be submitted in writing, sorted for content, and presented to the candidates by the moderator. One minute will be allowed for each answer. At the end of the forum, candidates will be given one minute for closing remarks.

These city council candidate forums give League members and the public the opportunity to learn about the candidates and their proposals for city government. Informed voters are essential for the continued strength of our democratic form of government. Please plan to attend and submit your questions to the candidates.

Vote Center forum on Oct. 25

If you're wondering what a Vote Center is and how it will change the way you cast a ballot, come to the **League Vote Center Forum on Thursday, October 25 at 7PM in the Tippecanoe County Office Building.**

Moderated by Wayne Pratt and broadcast live on WBAA, a panel with Linda Phillips, County Clerk; Dave Williams, chair of the Vote Center Site Selection Committee; Heather Maddox, Board of Election and Registration; and Joanne Evers, poll worker will present a brief overview of Vote Centers and then answer questions from the audience and from WBAA listeners.

Please come and bring friends. It will be a fast paced, informative evening.

Questions? Call Jean Andres.



Learn how you can help with the new Vote Centers! See page 2 →

You can help with Voter Center surveys

Voting Centers are in the spotlight and Tippecanoe County is the focus of interest. The LWVIN's Election Reform Committee is partnering with faculty at Ball State's Bowen Center for Public Affairs to conduct exit polls in the coming election.

We need help in the two weeks prior to Nov. 6—members who have an hour or two and would be willing to staff the exit polling tables which will be inside the satellite vote centers (no standing outdoors). Your job would be to ask voters after they have voted to complete a simple survey.

Survey results will be a valuable addition to our knowledge about voters' experiences during the vote center process as well as voting machine efficiency, use of Voter ID cards, and provisional ballots. Please consider volunteering.

Contact Jean Andres.



Annual Legislative Coffee to be held Dec 6

Members and their guests are warmly invited to the 2007 Legislative Coffee. It will be held on **Thursday, Dec. 6 at 7:00 PM** at the home of Patsy and Scott Hoyer, 3008 Wilshire Ave., West Lafayette.

This is the second year the Hoyers have hosted the Coffee, and we thank them for their hospitality.

The Coffee is a great opportunity for you to interact informally with the state legislators who serve Tippecanoe County. As they begin the legislative session, they appreciate the informed questions and thoughts of League members, and you can learn more about their priorities.

Please join us for light refreshments, fellowship, and stimulating conversation! If you know someone who might be interested in League membership, this event is a great way to introduce them to our mission and activities.

Contact Pat Corey with questions and your attendance plans.

Greater Lafayette League selected for new national membership recruitment initiative

The League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette is one of a small group of local Leagues that has been selected to participate in a new initiative of LWVUS.

The national League has developed, tested, and refined an innovative approach to attracting new members to the League. The program was piloted by five local Leagues in 2006, and within six months, all achieved the goal of 5% net increase in membership.

This year, LWVUS has selected five states for expansion of this initiative, and each of those five states has selected local Leagues to participate. I am excited to tell you that **Indiana was one of the five states selected, and LWVGL is one of the five local Leagues in Indiana selected for the program.**

The strategy includes messages, activities, and outreach tactics to help Leagues succeed in gaining members. Two state coordinators will work with local Leagues to provide training and assistance. They are Gail Pebworth, State Board member from Montgomery County and Kathy Solecki from Southwest Indiana.

Gail Pebworth will be the contact person for us. She and Kathy have already had intense training and, with representatives of LWVUS, will be providing the **first training session for the participating local Leagues on November 3 in Indianapolis.** We have been invited to send representatives to this workshop. We will receive materials and information that will greatly strengthen our membership recruitment efforts and will make our League even stronger than it is now.

It is a great honor to have been selected to be one of the participants in this initiative. If you are interested in being part of this, please let Betty Doversberger know.

"Every Member Workshop" to focus on legislative advocacy

South Bend is the site of this year's Every Member Workshop (EMW) which will take place on **Saturday, October 20 at Indiana University South Bend.** The cost is \$20 and registration is required. The registration form and more complete information is in the current state *Voter* and on the state League's website (www.lwvin.org).

The program spotlights training for the Legislative Action Network (LAN), the League's representatives at the state house, advocating for our positions. This training is for anyone interested in becoming an active LAN participant as well as those who want to learn to be more effective when speaking with government officials at all levels. Our noon speaker will deal with health care in our state. LWVIN is one of five states that are part of national's Membership Recruitment Initiative (see above), and EMW attendees will get a report on the year-long program as well as tips all Leagues can use to increase membership numbers and participation.

RSVP by October 12. If you need a ride contact Betty Doversberger.

The League Letter is published quarterly. The editor is Kaye McSpadden.

Immigration Reform meeting to be held November 14

Please **mark your calendar** and plan to attend the Immigration Reform Study meeting on **Wed. November 14 at 7PM at the Tippecanoe County Public Library** (downtown).

Here is another chance to get in on the “ground floor” of a nationwide League study. We will concentrate on immigration and economics, enforcement issues and global interdependence. After the presentation, there will be time for discussion of this emotional and complex issue. **You don’t want to miss it.** Guests are welcome, so it is a good time to bring a friend who may be interested in the League.

At our September meeting, we talked about government policy and proposed reforms, motivations for immigration, family reunification and diversity and inclusion. Values on which we feel any new laws should be based include:

- intact families
- balanced U.S. economy (practical and emotional)
- fairness, sustainability, and effect on wages
- environmental quality (control growth)
- flexibility, corporate responsibility and respect for cultural differences.

Please check your October *National Voter* and read *Briefs #3&4* on pages 11-12. If you can find them, also read *Briefs 1&2* in the June *Voter*. We will have copies of these at the meeting. You can go to lwv.org, and click on the Immigration Study, to find a wealth of information for download.

Our Consensus Meeting will be Jan. 8, 2008. We need to be ready to respond to consensus questions, along with Leagues all over the U.S., to play our part in creating our national League position. Our grassroots organization will then be able to take action on proposed immigration reform legislation.

Wabash River Corridor— *Update and discussion on Oct. 24*

You are cordially invited to an update and discussion about exciting initiatives that are under way for the Wabash River Corridor.....

**Wednesday, October 24
11:45AM - 1:00PM
Big Four Depot
200 N. 2nd St., Lafayette**



Contact John Corey or Liz Solberg if you would like an Arni’s Junior Salad for \$4.00, or bring your own brownbag lunch. Drinks will be provided.

Community leaders, including a number of League members, heard last month that the Wabash River Corridor can be a critical key to success for our community’s economic development efforts according to John Crompton, the Texas A&M economist who was the keynote speaker at the symposium on “Greening the Region, Economic Prospects of the Wabash River.” When smaller high tech companies are considering where to locate, “quality of place” trumps all other factors. And smaller firms disproportionately contribute to vibrant economic growth.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette has long encouraged “greening” the Wabash River Corridor. For the last three decades we have worked to improve water quality, promote sustainable growth, and conserve this magnificent river that runs through our community and drains two thirds of the state. The League and League members have been involved with:

- early efforts to create the Wabash Heritage Trail in the 1970’s
- contentious community discussions about reservoirs and state scenic stream designations for tributaries
- formation of both county and statewide Wabash River corridor citizen commissions, and
- overwhelming community interest in the Wabash River that emerged from the Vision 2020 process.

Our local units of government are to be commended for excellent individual initiatives through the years. All three, in coordination with Purdue, have recently achieved a momentous milestone. In 2004 the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation was formed to bring about more comprehensive collaboration for both planning and implementation. This effort is unique in that Tippecanoe County Board of Commissioners President KD Benson is the president of the organization; Mayor Tony Roswarski is the vice president; Mayor Jan Mills is the treasurer; and John Collier, Purdue’s representative, is the secretary. With a key assist on funding from North Central Health Services, all work closely with Executive Director Stan Lambert to intensify the community’s efforts to create a world class riverfront in the urban area and to reach out to surrounding counties to be good stewards of this predominant natural feature of our state.

Both KD and Stan will be with us on Oct. 24 to provide the update. We hope that you can come and bring a friend!

—John Corey and Liz Solberg
Wabash River Corridor Co-chairs for the League



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Announcing: new League web site!




The League has a new web site at www.leaguelafayette.org. This web site should help our visibility and make it easy for people in the community to find out about the League and events that we are

hosting. The Board selected the name "leaguelafayette" rather than one with "LWV" because we felt the initials would not be meaningful to many in the community. We hope that this simple web address will make it easy to tell everyone where to find us. If you know of any web sites that should link to the League, please inform them of this new web address.

Our new web site contains a calendar of events, information on voting in Tippecanoe County, background on the League, our "Officials Directory" in .pdf format, and forms for joining or donating to the League. An easy way to contact League officers by email is available on the "Contact us" page. We will also be posting a slightly-modified version of the *League Letter*.

Thanks to K.D. Benson for years of service as League webmaster. I am now serving in that role, and you can send any comments or suggestions for the web site to me by clicking on the link for "Webmaster" (webmaster@leaguelafayette.org) at the bottom of each web page.

—Jane Frankenberger



Keep track of upcoming events!

- **Wed Oct 17—W. Lafayette City Council Forum**, Tipp. Co. Public Library, 7-8:30PM
- **Sat Oct. 20—Every Member Workshop** IU-South Bend
- **Wed Oct. 24—Wabash River Corridor Update & Discussion**, Big Four Depot, 11:45AM-1PM
- **Thurs Oct 25—Vote Center Forum** Tipp. Co. Office Building, 7PM
- **Sat Nov 3—Member Outreach Training** Indianapolis
- **Wed Nov 14—Immigration Reform Meeting**, Tipp. Co. Public Library, 7PM
- **Thurs Dec 6—2007 Legislative Coffee** Hoyers' home, 3008 Wilshire Ave, WL, 7PM
- **Tues Jan. 8, 2008—Consensus Meeting** Location and time TBA