



The VOTER

VOLUME 47 NUMBERS 8

September 2008

Calendar (League activities in bold)

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
Sept 16	Tu	6 p.m.	16th floor, Courthouse	Freeholder caucus meeting
Sept 18	Th	7 p.m.	Voorhees Middle School	Freeholder public meeting
Sept 20	Sa	12:30 - 3	Vogelson Library	LWVCC Fall Kickoff See article p 3
Oct 1	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library	LWVCC Board meeting
Oct 4	Sa	1 p.m.	Cherry Hill Library	The Soprano State. See article , p 4

At its September 6 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Voted to co-sponsor a session on the Soprano State, a book about corruption in New Jersey. The original co-sponsor is the Cherry Hill Reform Committee. See [page 4](#).
2. Voted approval of a statement favoring transparency in government, and in particular with respect to memberships and terms for people serving on municipal committees.
3. Discussed the status of membership renewals and made plans to contact non-respondents.
4. Completed plans and an agenda for the fall Kickoff meeting, Sept 13. See [page 3](#).

LWVNJ Fall Workshops

"It's all about voting"

This was a very interesting pair of sessions. We heard about aspects of registration and voting, as well as issues in how to secure the election process. I'll do a report in the October Voter.

About 70 people came. Unfortunately, the only attendees from Camden County were our two state board members. The rest of you missed a great session. You joined the League to educate yourself, right? Please plan to attend future workshops. They're for *you*.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY



President's Message:

As we prepare for our annual kickoff on September 20, at the Voorhees library, we are encouraging those of you who are not League members to join us on that day for a get to know you “chat and chew”. Each year we have this kickoff to introduce potential members to the activities of the league.

We are a hands-on organization that works to safeguard democracy in ways that lead to civic improvement. We have over 150,000 League members and supporters across the country who are helping to make democracy work. “Change” is a word and a political theme that we are hearing often before this presidential election. The League, a proponent of positive “change” and enlightenment has acted to:

- Create positive and lasting change in many of our communities,
- Empower millions of voters to protect the right to vote,
- Promote clean elections,
- Educate citizens and foster dialogue on issues – from health care to climate change to openness in government,
- Ensure that ALL votes are counted and All voices are heard, and
- Preserve our constitutional rights.

We believe that with a strong membership, that you can serve as leaders in your community to help shape the important issues that impact us all.

Join the League of Women Voters and make a difference.

Ann Saunders, President

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization of men and women, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters of Camden County, LWVCC Voice Mail Line: (856) 795-7878

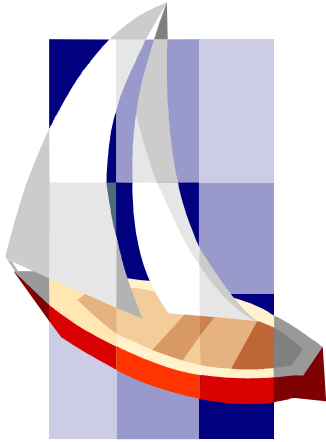
President: Ann Saunders (856) 232-1041 Voter Editor: Ed Gracely (856) 629-2869
1st Vice President: Lisa Castellani (609) 239-4947 Voter Distributor: Barbara Sielaff
2nd Vice President: Phyllis Black (856) 428-1247

e-mail: lwvcc@hotmail.com



Visit our web site: <http://www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty>

The VOTER is published ten times a year to keep the membership and public informed of the activities of the League of Women Voters of Camden County. For subscription or membership information call (856) 795-7878.



League of Women Voters of Camden County

2008 Annual Kickoff
GUEST SPEAKER

Saturday 20, 2008

12:30 – 3:00

“Chat and Chew”

**M. Allan Vogelson Regional
Branch Library
Conference Room A
203 Laurel Rd
Voorhees NJ 08043**



Zack Stalberg

**President and CEO of The Committee of 70
Former Editor of the Philadelphia Daily News
“Pay to Play” and the Political Environment
“Clean and Effective Government**



Getting there - Directions!

Camden County Courthouse: Take 676 north to Mickle Blvd. Flow right at the fork (don't go on Campbell Place), then turn right onto 5th street in a few blocks. The courthouse is at 5th and Federal, a block up from Mickle.

Camden, Federal Courthouse: 4th and Cooper, but we generally car pool. Call 856-795-7878 if you're interested. *About 3-4 blocks from the City Hall PATCO station.*

Cherry Hill Library: On King's Highway, coming from Haddonfield, cross Route 70. The library is a half mile or so ahead, on your left. Before Chapel Ave.

Lindenwold High School: 801 Egg Harbor Rd. Take Route 30 (WHP) south past the Echelon Mall area to Gibbsboro Road. Turn left at that intersection (with traffic light). In a bit less than a mile, cross Egg Harbor Road and see the school on your right.

Voorhees: Vogelson Regional Library: Driving south on 30, turn left onto Somerdale Road, just above the Echelon Mall. Go under the train bridge in about a half mile, then turn right onto Burnt Mill. Soon turn left onto Laurel Road. The library is on your right. Burnt Mill Road also crosses 544 (Evesham Road) north of the library and White Horse Road (an extension of Springdale) south of it. If you know where the Echelon Mall is, you're home!

The Soprano State!

Meet the "NY Times" Best Selling Authors OF "The Soprano State"

Bob Ingle

Trenton Bureau Chief
Gannett Newspapers

Sandy McClure

Multiple Award Winning
Writer for the
Trentonian
and the Gannett
Trenton Bureau

What: Lecture, Q & A, and book signing

When: Saturday, October 4, 1 p.m. sharp

Where: Cherry Hill Public Library

110 Kings Highway N, Cherry Hill

RSVP: Your name, address,, phone or e-mail
to sopranostate@comcast.net

Or Barbara Davis at (856) 424-1463
Theresa Mohrfeld at (856) 795-7233

Free admission, but limited seating. First come, first serve! Deadline is Sept 29. Reserve your seats now!

The Soprano state describes with "details you couldn't make up" the true story of the corruption that has pervaded New Jersey's government, politics, and business for the past thirty years.

Note: If you don't already have the book... Don't worry!!!! Plenty of books will be available at the Library for sale courtesy of Barnes & Noble. If you already have a copy, bring it with you! Get your copy of the NY Times Bestseller "The Soprano State" autographed by authors Bob Ingle and Sandy McClure!



From the LWVNJ

UPDATE ON CLEAN ELECTIONS

LWVNJ Lobbyist, Sandy Matsen

Speaker Roberts, a leading proponent for New Jersey's Clean Elections model of public financing and the person in a leadership position to make it happen in the legislature, has called "a time-out." Advocates are disappointed since this means there will be no public financing in the 2009 legislative races. The first bump in the road was when the bill (A.100) was pulled in June from the Assembly voting list. Although well organized opponents take credit for that, there was concern voiced by legislative supporters about several provisions. Over the summer the League and other advocates met with sponsors of A.100 and members of the ad-hoc committee charged with drafting the 2009 Clean Elections program.

The second bump was a mid July ruling by the US Supreme Court that found the relaxing of contributions limits for federal candidates facing a self-financed millionaire candidate to be unconstitutional. Although this was not a public financing case, it was used by opponents to question the rescue money provisions of Clean Elections. Rescue money is additional funding (capped at a set amount) given to a publicly financed candidate who faces spending in excess of the Clean Election grant by an opponent or third party.

The third bump was late August when a U.S. District Judge in Arizona singled out Arizona's rescue funds for review. Arizona has had a Clean Election model for all statewide offices for four election cycles.

The opponents of public financing are well financed nationally and providing support to opponents at the state level. They would particularly like to see NJ and CT fail as both were enacted by law rather than citizen initiative.

Ballot questions

There will be two statewide ballot questions this fall.

- One requires that voters approve "new laws that allow the State to borrow money by issuing bonds through any State agency or independent authority backed by a pledge of an annual appropriation to pay the principal and interest on the bonds." Currently most state authorities can issue bonds without voter approval.
- The other removes the appointment process for certain judges from the constitution, thus allowing the legislature to determine how they should be appointed.

Watch for an analysis in the NJ Voter. Both are complicated, and the LWVNJ will not be taking a pro or con position on either of them (at least at this time).