



The VOTER

VOLUME 47 NUMBERS 9

October 2008

Calendar (League activities in bold)

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
Nov 10	M	6 p.m.	16th Floor Courthouse, Camden	Freeholder caucus meeting
Nov 12	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library	LWVCC Board meeting 2d Wed.
Nov 13	Th	7 p.m.	Camden Conference Center, 601 Cooper St.	Freeholder meeting
Dec 3	W	6 p.m.	Bobbie Porter's house	Program Planning/Holiday Party

At its October 1 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Decided on a combined e-mail, phone call campaign to complete membership renewals.
2. Heard from Winne Rowell-Bullard about our successful voter registration drive last Saturday and the one planned for Oct 4.
3. Made some preliminary plans for the Annual Meeting.
4. Planned other aspects of our program for the upcoming year. We would like to do a natural resources event, a session on pay to play (local focus) and a consensus meeting on voting rights for probationers and parolees (LWVNJ study).

Voter Highlights	
President's message	2
Kickoff summary	3
Kickoff Honoree	4
Ballot questions	4
Fall workshop notes	5

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY

[Back to list](#)

President's Message:

I would like to thank all those who attended and participated in the annual kickoff September 20, 2008. Zack Stalberg, CEO and President of the Committee of 70 was an excellent speaker and shared many stories of “pay to play” in the City of Philadelphia.

I would like to report that the Voter Registration drive in County Camden was very successful. The League registered over 200 new potential voters and I would like to give kudos to Winnefred Rowell-Bullard, liaison for the South Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, for this year's drive.

The Camden County League co-sponsored a book signing and a discussion with the Cherry Hill Reform Committee featuring the NY Times best-selling authors Bob Ingle and Sandy McClure of “The Soprano State”. This best selling book details the “pay to play” politics that has plagued New Jersey government for the past thirty years. The turnout was excellent and the discussion lively and informative. It is the Camden County League of Women Voters intent to co-sponsor more events of this type during this program year.

Ann Saunders

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.**

LWVCC Kickoff 2008[Back to list](#)

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

On Saturday, September 20, 2008, League members and friends gathered in the Camden County Library in Voorhees (Vogelson branch) to meet, greet, have something to eat, and hear Zach Stalberg (pictured) tell us about pay to play and the Committee of 70.

Mr. Stalberg has been a journalist for most of his distinguished career, but in 2005, in the wake of some ethical scandals in Philadelphia, he took on the leadership of the good-government organization, "The Committee of 70". The Committee, obscurely named after a similar organization in New York City formed in the late 1800's, is trying to improve the ethics and the elections process in the city and nearby suburbs. They already work with the LWV of Philadelphia, and the possibility of joint efforts with the LWVCC in the future is very realistic.

Philadelphia has made some significant progress in recent years. It has now become difficult for someone to make campaign contributions truly large enough to have an impact. Before recent reforms, contributions of \$500,000 were common. That buys a lot of influence! Now, \$2,500 is the maximum for an individual (sometimes doubled if one of the other candidates is wealthy).

The group is very interested in voting and poll work. They do a "voter protection program" similar to what the LWVNJ does. Ours includes a phone operation (in conjunction with the ACLU) as well as placing observers/ helpers outside many polling places. The Committee does both, placing observers and helpers near the polling places throughout the city, and even in the nearby suburbs.

They are interested in reforming the process of selecting judges, which are elected in PA, sometimes in spite of terrible ratings! In NJ we have an excellent judiciary, which is merit appointed. Unfortunately, he didn't seem to feel there was much likelihood of progress on this score in Pennsylvania anytime soon.

Like the League, they support public financing of elections.

Before his appointment, the Committee of 70 was moribund. Thanks to him (and the scandals that energized the members) it is growing and rebuilding. In response to a question, he said that one part of that process is outreach to high schools, including working to get seniors to work at the polls. They are legally allowed to, but would need the time off from classes to do so.



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!

Ballot questions

[Back to list](#)

The two statewide ballot questions were described in the last Voter:

- 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.

To see the descriptions and the LWVNJ analysis with pros and cons, go to www.lwvnj.org. The link to the analysis of the ballot questions is right at the top of the News and Upcoming Events Box.

Kickoff Honoree -- Zena Cohen



50-year member, past president, holder of almost every job in this or other Leagues at some point in her life, Zena was honored and given the clock/award she is shown holding. President Ann Saunders and Winne Rowell-Bullard made the presentation.



Winne

Zena

Ann



Fall workshops -- it's all about voting! (Part 1)

[Back to list](#)

On September 14, 2008, over 70 League members and friends attended fall workshops, which we an informative look at voting issues and procedures in this state.



Robert F. Giles,
Director, Division of
Elections

Our first speaker, Robert F. Giles, Director of the Division of Elections, addressed a wide range of topics. He noted that there are about 150,000 voters who will be asked to show ID at the polls this fall. Some of them probably won't have it. Fortunately, he said that provisional ballots are "heavily emphasized" in the training, and he expects to see them used much more frequently. (That's good, since League members have observed people denied the right to vote but not offered a provisional ballot). Poll workers are also being trained to check the proper polling place -- in case the person is just in the wrong one. If the person is in the book, but doesn't have the required ID, he or she will have 2 days to provide it. The election authorities have to do a lot of checking to validate a provisional ballot. This includes things you might not think about -- maybe the person was sent an absentee ballot by mistake or request. Did they use it? You don't get to vote twice!

He said that all provisional ballots are checked, even if there aren't enough of them to change the outcome of the election. Anyone whose provisional ballot is rejected is notified and automatically registered to vote!

Provisional ballots are different from "emergency ballots". The latter are used when the voter is fine, but the voting machine is not! Or when there are long lines and a registered voter simply can't wait.

People are easily confused by some of the tricks in election law. Suppose you move and re-register, 40 days before an election. Even though you are re-registering, you can't change parties more than 50 days before the election! He'd like to see this all synchronized at 21 days.

Did you know that all polling places have to be ADA-compliant? Often, however, that means "just for the election". So election officials have to add ramps, clear pathways, and make sure someone in a wheelchair can get in.

Have you heard about "master poll workers"? These are experienced poll workers who get extra training and can float between sites to help out as needed. Maybe some of you qualify!

Check out their new, more user-friendly, web site at NJElectons.com.

The second panel talked about election security issues. (Continued in next Voter.)