



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

League of Women Voters of New Jersey

STATE BOARD REPORT

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Upcoming Dates to Remember

- September 8 (Sat.) LWVNJ Workshops
- September 20 (Thurs.) Gwen Ifill at Eagleton (rescheduled from March)
- October 12 (Sat.) ANJEC Congress
- October 20 (Sat.) LWVNJ Immigration Program

Upcoming Election Dates

- October 16 Last day to register or change voting address for general election
- October 30 Deadline for mailed application for absentee ballot to County Clerk
- November 5 3 pm deadline to apply in person to County Clerk for absentee ballot
- November 6 General Election Day (polls open 6 am – 8 pm)

Useful Forms Available on the Members Section of the Website or from the LWVNJ State Office:

- ◆ Request for Proof of Insurance
- ◆ Local League Annual Report Form
- ◆ Local League Sales and Use Tax Form

204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608
 609-394-3303 * 800-792-VOTE * Fax: 609-599-3993
 Email: contact@lwvnj.org Web site: www.lwvnj.org

Dear SBR Readers,

We have been really busy planning events, promoting the Clean Elections Pilot, and revising some procedures. The Board recently voted to mail the SBR at no charge to those who request it. In order to conserve funds, though, we will keep it short and will not publish board and local leader contact information monthly. If there is a change, we will include it in the next SBR. Also, we have put the proof of insurance request form online in the "For Members" section.

We have multiple opportunities to educate ourselves about issues this fall: On Saturday, September 8th, at our Fall Workshops, we'll be able to hear experts on "Voting Rights of Those in Conflict with the Law," (a LWVNJ study topic) and "Global Climate Change" (one of our LWVUS priority issues). Then we can choose between sessions on advocacy, voters service and advice for presidents and membership chairs. See the flyer on page 8.

At the Immigration Forum on Saturday, October 20, at the Livingston Campus, we can prepare for our local League's consensus process in January. Deborah Macmillan, our past president and a member of the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee, is inviting a panel of experts to offer various views on this complex issue. More details will be forthcoming—save the date!

ANJEC's 34th Annual Environmental Congress, Friday, October 12, at the Conference Center at West Windsor, will offer suggestions on ways communities can reduce production of greenhouse gases and prepare for changes in climate. Since LWVNJ is a co-sponsor, you can attend for \$50 instead of \$60. For additional information and a registration form, go to <http://www.anjec.org/html/workshops.htm#congress>.

We are also a co-sponsor of a free speech by Gwen Ifil, Thursday, September 20, 7 p.m. at the Busch Campus Center. Her topic: "Politics, Policy and Reality: What's Really Going on in Washington." For more information: <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/Programs/Lipman.html>

Our promotion of the Clean Elections Pilot has gotten a big boost from a grant from the Fund for New Jersey. It has allowed us to design and distribute brochures in the districts involved (14, 24 and 37), which explains public funding of campaigns and how voters can participate in the pilot project. The grant also allows LWVNJ to offer "pass-through" grants to local Leagues in those districts so they can help educate their communities and hold the kind of debates the candidates are required to participate in. See p.6 for a progress report on the Pilot itself.

Although only these three districts are affected directly, we all can rejoice if it succeeds. It is an important step in the right direction—toward opening up campaigns in NJ to a wider variety of candidates and reducing the influence of money on who gets elected, something we've promoted for many, many years.

One more thing—the **NJ Child Care Advisory Council needs a rep from the League**, someone with an interest, but not necessarily expertise, in how child care centers are run and financed, and more importantly, knowledge of the legislative process. The Council meets once a month in Trenton. Please call me if you want to know more about this important position.

See you Sept. 8th!
Anne Maiese, President

Important New IRS Information for all Leagues

Beginning in 2008, ALL Leagues and League Education Funds must file an annual Form 990-N, also called the e-postcard. This short and simple electronic notice will cover activities from January 1, 2007 onward. *The only exceptions are Leagues and education funds that file a Form 990 or 990-EZ with the IRS.* Prior to 2008, Leagues and education funds that grossed less than \$25,000 per year did not need to file with the IRS. However, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 added the requirement that every nonprofit file at least the Form 990-N **each year**.

All Leagues and education funds must provide the following information on their Form 990-N:

- The organization's name;
- Any other names the organization uses;
- The organization's mailing address;
- The organization's website address, if applicable;
- The organization's employer identification number, if applicable;
- The name and address of a principal officer of the organization;
- The organization's fiscal year; and
- A statement that the organization's gross receipts are normally less than \$25,000.

The IRS is in the process of mailing letters to nonprofits explaining the new requirements. For more information, download copies of the [IRS letter](#) and [FAQ](#). The IRS requires that organizations file Form 990-N electronically, and there is no paper form. You must be able to access the Internet, but no special software is required. Leagues without a computer will be able to fill out Form 990-N using a computer at a public library. Leagues must file by the *15th day of the fifth month after their fiscal year ends*. The law provides that nonprofits that fail to submit a Form 990-N for three consecutive years will lose their nonprofit status. **LWVUS will provide additional guidance on Form 990-N to Leagues as information becomes available.**

This event, postponed from last Spring, has now been rescheduled!

Eagleton Institute of Politics 50th Anniversary Lecture Series
Center for American Women and Politics
presents

**The 2007 Senator Wynona Lipman Chair in Women's Political Leadership
Public Lecture**

Gwen Ifill

Moderator, *Washington Week* on PBS

**Politics, Policy and Reality:
What's Really Going On in Washington**

- Moderator and managing editor of *Washington Week*
- Senior correspondent, *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*
- Moderated the 2004 vice presidential debate
- Published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*,
Baltimore Evening Sun and *The Boston Herald American*

The

Thursday, September 20, 7 p.m.
Busch Campus Center, Multi-Purpose Room
Busch Campus, Rutgers University
604 Bartholomew Road, Piscataway
Details and directions at www.cawp.rutgers.edu

RSVP to eagleton.events@rutgers.edu or (732) 932-9384, ext. 331

***The Senator Wynona Lipman Chair in Women's Political Leadership
is made possible by the generous support of the New Jersey Legislature***

This event is co-sponsored by: *(list in formation)*

Associate Alumnae of Douglass College ★Center for Civic Responsibility ★Douglass College ★Center for Media Studies ★Center for Women and Work ★Center for Women's Global Leadership ★Common Cause New Jersey ★Department of Political Science, Rutgers ★Institute for Research on Women ★Institute for Women and Art ★Institute for Women's Leadership ★Leadership New Jersey ★**League of Women Voters of New Jersey** ★National Association of Social Workers – New Jersey Chapter ★New Jersey Public Policy Research Institute (NJPPRI) ★NJ Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority ★Office of the Associate Vice President for Academic and Public Partnerships, Rutgers ★Rutgers Citizenship and Service Education (CASE) Program ★School of Communication, Information, and Library Studies, Rutgers ★School of Environmental & Biological Sciences, Rutgers ★Women's Fund of New Jersey ★Women's Political Caucus New Jersey

Moderator Training - Be Prepared for Election Season

Please let us know if you think members of your League would be interested in being trained as moderators. Moderators are assigned by our three area coordinators, and there is always a need for more moderators to serve the public

We would be happy to conduct training for a small group. The session takes about two to three hours. Following the training, we encourage the participants to practice their skill by working with other moderators. Any member of the League can be a moderator, although those who serve elected political office may not moderate candidate forums for elected political offices.

I would like to share this comment from one of the moderators who participated in a recent session:

Moderator training enhanced my facilitating skills, and working at events has been an exciting experience, which I would highly recommend for members who are motivated to do this. It is also a way of publicizing the local and state Leagues and enhancing our expertise and professionalism.

If you wish to schedule a Candidates' Forum

the following information must be in place before we can assign a moderator:

- Office sought
- Date and time of forum
- Location
- Sponsor
- Contact person information
- Agreement of candidates

Once a forum is scheduled please call the office with these details and the process of assigning a moderator will begin.

If any local League needs help in planning a candidates' forum, the Voters Service Chair and the moderator area coordinators can assist.

The 2007 New Jersey Fair and Clean Elections Pilot Project Act creates a pilot project for the public financing of candidates seeking election to the offices of Senate and General Assembly in Districts 14, 24 and 37 for the 2007 general election. There are a number of changes from the 2005 pilot and the citizen education component is a real plus. It includes a web site which is citizen friendly, www.njcleanelections.com as well as radio and cable spots in the three districts. The latter have been running for over a month.

Part of the evaluation for consideration of expanding the program into 2009 is that 50% of major party candidates qualify and do not withdraw from the program. We set the League goal to educate voters in the three districts about how to support the candidate of their choice. Only voters living in the pilot districts may contribute to the campaigns. This was a piece that the election Law Enforcement Commission, the oversight agency, was not addressing. The League has district-specific brochures and they have been mailed for local Leagues to distribute. These are also being mailed to residents of the districts who are in our database (about 1000 names in total). Copies are also available on the League website, www.lwvnj.org as well as a general Fact Sheet about Clean Elections.

The status as of August 13, 2007 is the following:

District 14:

- All 8 candidates have filed declarations of intent that they will seek certification as Clean Elections candidates.
- The Republicans and all but one Democrat have each secured the necessary 800 \$10 contributions to become certified and receive the entire amount of available public monies to run their 2007 campaign. The one Democrat has secured enough contributions (400) to be certified as a Clean Elections candidate and is working to secure the 800 contributions of \$10 needed to receive the full amount of public funding.
- The two Libertarian candidates are still seeking contributions in order to qualify as Clean Candidates

District 24:

- All 6 candidates have filed declarations of intent that they will seek certification as Clean Elections candidates
- The Republican Senatorial candidate has received at least 400 qualifying contributions and is certified as a Clean Elections Candidate but continues to seek \$10 contributions to reach the maximum of 800 contributions in order to receive the full amount of public funding.
- None of the other District 24 candidates are yet certified and are still seeking the \$10 contributions necessary to become certified.

District 37:

- All 6 candidates have filed declarations of intent that they will seek certification as Clean Elections candidates
- None is yet certified and all are still seeking the \$10 contributions necessary to become certified.

The deadline for securing contributions is September 30, 2007.

Death Penalty Advocacy Update

The League's work on abolishing the death penalty in New Jersey is now reaching the critical moment. We expect that later this year the legislature will address the bill which would replace the death penalty in New Jersey with life without parole and to use the cost savings for benefits and services to victims' families.

The League's work on this issue has been extremely important to the effort to abolish the death penalty in New Jersey. Victory is within our reach. However, additional action is needed now to take us across the finish line.

Our partner on death penalty issues, New Jerseyans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, would like to come to your local League meetings as part of a concerted (hand written) letter-writing advocacy effort. Representatives from NJADP will attend your meeting to implement this effort. Reserving 20 to 30 minutes at the beginning of your meeting should be adequate time.

Someone from NJADP has or will soon contact your League and ask you to participate in this effort and to schedule a time for an NJADP representative to attend your meeting to help facilitate letter writing. LWVNJ encourages all Leagues to participate in this important effort. If you have any questions, please contact Abe Bonowitz at NJADP, abe@njadp.org or (609) 278-6719.

There is much interest nationally and even internationally in the efforts to abolish the death penalty by legislative action in New Jersey and recent gains were highlighted on the front page of *The New York Times*.. We look forward to a huge celebration later this year of a historic legislative victory and seeing New Jersey's name splashed across the national and international press for a very positive reason.

**LWVNJ FALL WORKSHOPS
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2007
TILLET HALL
53 AVENUE E
LIVINGSTON CAMPUS, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, PISCATAWAY, NJ**

Join fellow Leaguers from all over the state for a morning of learning, updating and networking. Be the one in your League to share with the others. This is the opportunity you have been waiting for!

9:30 - 9:55 Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:55 - 10:00 President's Welcome

10:00-11:30 "Voting Rights of Those in Conflict with the Law", Ed Martone

11:30-1:00 "Global Climate Change: Challenge and Opportunity", Dr. Judy Kramer
And Nancy Polan

1:00 - 2:30 **LUNCH WORKSHOPS (CHOOSE ONE FROM 3 LISTED BELOW)**

___ Making Your Voice Heard, Michelle Bobrow and Sandy Matsen

___ Presidents/Membership Roundtable, Gail Marsh Saxer, Anne Bungo
and Jean Aratingi

___ Voters Service: The Heart of the League, Edith Frank

Registration fees:

\$25. by August 25, 2007

\$30. after August 25, 2007

Lunchbox : will be provided for an additional \$10.

For Directions to Tillett Hall go to <http://maps.rutgers.edu/directions.aspx?id=198>

Much construction -- check before coming:

<http://route18update.rutgers.edu/>

Note you may also go to www.lwvnj.org and download the registration form for the brochure for the Workshops 2007.

Mail form and payment by August 25th to:

LWVNJ, 204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Name: _____

League: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____ (for confirmation of receipt)

Street/Box _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Lunchbox Option (\$10) __yes. Payment total __Check enclosed __ (payable to LWVNJ). Be sure to check off which Lunch Workshop you will attend.

Attention all Leagues and Moderators

The State Office needs a comprehensive list of **all** persons **who have acted or plan to act** as moderators on behalf of the League **by August 15th**. Please submit the names of all moderators who have acted for your League at any time over the past 2-3 years as soon as possible. Individual moderators are asked to complete this form. Please either email the information to contact@lwvnj.org or fax it to the office at (609) 599-3993.

It is very important that the State Office have the name and contact details of anyone and everyone who is acting as a League moderator.

Also, please let us know if you are interested in having moderator training.

Moderator: Yes OR Please, Remove

Would you like another training? Yes No

Are you interested in coordinating events in your region? Yes No

Are you an elected official? Yes No

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Comments: _____
