



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

*League of Women Voters of New Jersey*

***STATE BOARD REPORT***

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Administration**

- President's Letter ----- p. 2
- New IRS Information ----- p. 3
- Quarterly Sales Tax Form ----- p. 4
- Soiree at 204 West State Street ----- p. 6

**Voter Service**

- Voters Service Questionnaire ----- p. 7

**Program and Advocacy**

- Letter to the Editor re Question 1 ----- p. 8
- Letter to the Editor re Question 3 ----- p. 9
- Letter to the Editor re Question 4 ----- p. 10

**Upcoming Dates to Remember**

- October 31 (W) 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr PMP due to LWVUS and LWVNJ
- November 10 (Sa) Soiree Between the Lions
- February 1 (F) LWVUS Immigration Study Deadline

**Upcoming Election Dates**

- October 30 (Tu) Deadline for mailed application for absentee ballot to County Clerk
- November 5 (M) 3 pm deadline to apply in person to County Clerk for absentee ballot
- November 6 (Tu) 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@lwnj.org](mailto:contact@lwnj.org) Web site: [www.lwnj.org](http://www.lwnj.org)

Congratulations to all who've worked so hard serving voters recently. As you push toward getting out the vote for November 6, remember how important your efforts are. In the last ten years, except for Presidential election years, less than 50% of eligible NJ voters have turned out for a November election. The record is particularly bad in years, like this one, when there is no statewide or federal office on the ballot (President, Governor, Senator). In 2003, only 34% of registered voters turned out! So continue to remind people how important it is to vote wisely for their NJ Senate and Assembly officials—their decisions really impact our lives!!

Congratulations also to Deborah Macmillan, who organized and moderated the LWVNJ Immigration Forum on October 20. It was terrific to hear national and state leaders speak about this issue. Please plan to hold local consensus meetings in December or January, since the deadline for responding to LWVUS is February 1.

#### **State Board Actions:**

- We've written an Op-Ed on tax rebates and Ballot Question #1 for the Star Ledger. Watch for it.
- A sample Letter-to-the Editor about Ballot Question #1, constitutionally dedicating sales tax money to property tax relief, *which we oppose*, is on p. 8. I encourage you to modify it to send to your local paper.
- A similar sample Letter-to-the Editor on Ballot Question #3, borrowing money to support land preservation, *which we support*, is on p. 9. I encourage you to modify it and send it to your local paper.
- We have changed "Callathon" to "Annual Member Appeal," but the fund-sharing arrangements remain the same. Local leagues who call their own and other members collect a portion of whatever their members give. Please consider participating! The form will be in next month's SBR.
- We've initiated a "Leadership Circle" to specially honor members who give \$500 or more to LWVNJ or LWVNJ-Ed Fund in a year.

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.**

**SALES AND USE TAX**  
**QUARTERLY PAYMENT FORM**

**DUE: Fifteen days after the end of each quarter**

**Form must be returned even though no money is due.**

Sales and Use Tax on  
Local Publications, National Publications  
and “Money Raising Events”

Please read explanation on next page before filling in this section.

Gross realized from “money raising” event (A) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total gross sales of national and local publications  
to non-exempt organizations and individuals (B) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total value of local and national publications used  
by non-exempt individuals and organizations (C) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Gross (A+B+C) (D) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To compute tax due, multiply (D) by .07 and enter here (E) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: League of Women Voters of New Jersey

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
League

## Sales and Use Tax, Quarterly Payment Form (continued)

New Jersey Sales tax (7%) on a “money raising” sale or event is due in the state office quarterly. Please consult your [NJ Local League Treasurer’s Handbook](#) to determine your liability for this tax.

New Jersey Sales and Use Tax (7%) on local and national publications sold, given away, or used by local Leagues is also due in the state office quarterly. If you owe no tax on local and national publications, please write “No Tax Due” across form, sign and return. The tax for state publications is reflected in your total publications statement.

Examples to assist in computing the tax owed:

A. If you sold \$10.00 worth of local and national publications:

You owe \$0.70 in sales tax. ( $\$10.00 \times .07$ )

B. If you sold \$10.00 worth of local and national publications, but \$3.00 worth of this amount was sold to a tax-exempt organization\*:

You owe \$0.49 in sales tax. ( $[\$10.00 - \$3.00] \times .07$ )

C. If you gave away or “used” (booklets for committee or board, etc.) \$10.00 worth of local and national publications::

You owe \$0.70 in use tax. ( $\$10.00 \times .07$ )

D. If you gave away \$10.00 worth of local and national publications, but \$3.00 of this amount was given to a tax-exempt organization\*:

You owe \$0.49 in use tax. ( $[\$10.00 - \$3.00] \times .07$ )

\* Tax exempt organizations include:

- a) The United States Government and its agencies.
- b) The United Nations or any international organization of which the United States is a member.
- c) The state of New Jersey and its agencies and instrumentalities (county, municipal governments, etc.).
- d) Non-profit organizations operated solely for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes; for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals; or testing for public safety.

This form is also available on our website at: <http://www.lwvnj.org/members/#FORMS>

**The League of Women Voters of New Jersey**

*Invites You to a*

***Tour of the New Jersey State House  
and***

***The LWVNJ State Office  
for a***

**“Soiree Between the Lions”**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2007**

***3:00 PM TO 6:00 PM***

***Tour begins at 3:00 promptly, followed by the Soiree at***

***204 West State Street***

***Cost: \$35.00 (Checks payable to LWVNJEF)***

**LWVNJ, 204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608**

***RSVP by November 1***

***Questions? Contact:***

***Andrea Kahn 732.297.4049 or [akahn@mandslaw.com](mailto:akahn@mandslaw.com)***

***Or***

***Jeanne Van Steen 973.667.5239 or [vansteen@juno.com](mailto:vansteen@juno.com)***

-----  
**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **League** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check enclosed (\$35.00 payable to LWVNJEF) \_\_\_\_\_ by Nov. 1**

Edith Frank, Voters Service Chair  
[edithnotto@yahoo.com](mailto:edithnotto@yahoo.com)  
(973) 267-9486

SBR October, 2007

We have almost come to the end of another "**Voter Service Season.**"

I know that this is a busy time for us all, especially the special team of moderator coordinators and the office staff. I am most appreciative of how much work has gone into the success of our commitment to voter service. We can all be very proud of our accomplishments.

I hope you will let us know of how it went by answering a few questions:

1. Did your League conduct any voter registration drives?

Where?

2. What was the most successful venue for registering voters?

3. Did you work with other community groups?  
Which ones?

4. Did your League sponsor candidate forums this year?

Local, municipal?  
State legislature?  
County?

5. Did you work with any other groups in your community?

6. Do you have any *lessons learned* to share with other Leagues?

7. Any recommendations for the next time?

I look forward to reading all your replies and comments.

Thank you

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Office held: \_\_\_\_\_

League: \_\_\_\_\_

You can send in your responses to the state office, or  
you can email your information to me at  
[edithnotto@yahoo.com](mailto:edithnotto@yahoo.com)

**Due date: December 1, 2007**

## SAMPLE LETTER-TO-THE-EDITOR

Editor  
Newspaper of your choice  
Address

Dear Editor:

The League of Women Voters of \_\_\_\_\_encourages citizens to vote “No” on Ballot Question #1. Although the idea is very tempting for voters, the proposal to amend the New Jersey State Constitution to divert sales tax money into the dedicated “Property Tax Relief Fund” is a really bad idea. If Ballot Question #1 passes, it provides short term relief with a long term dedication.

We need to demand serious tax reform to make property taxes less burdensome. This dedication will tie up the remaining money from the 1 cent sales tax increase for good. None of it will pay off the accumulated state debt, or fix our aging bridges or keep our environment clean.

Our representatives are responsible for allocating resources to changing needs. They shouldn't be asking us to handcuff ourselves and future citizens to a dedication which shifts their responsibilities away and still leaves the property tax burden in place. Don't let the tough, disciplined decisions about the state's finances go unaddressed again. Demand real solutions and not gimmicks by voting “No” on Ballot Question #1 on November 6.

Sincerely,

Name of Local League President

## SAMPLE LETTER-TO-THE-EDITOR

Editor  
Newspaper of your choice  
Address

Dear Editor:

The League of Women Voters of \_\_\_\_\_ encourages citizens to vote “Yes” on Ballot Question #3, which would allow the state to borrow funds (sell bonds) to preserve farmland, lands along waterways, and historic sites in New Jersey. Although we ordinarily oppose the state incurring more debt, we believe this proposal is essential, not only for our states’ environmental health, but also its economic well-being.

Many economic benefits come from preserving open land. Farming is an economic asset to New Jersey, and the source of our name, “the Garden State.” Open land, by soaking up rainwater, helps recharge aquifers which provide fresh water for human and agricultural activities. Recreational areas bring tourists who are vital for our economy, as do preserved historic sites. And without protection of open space, towns are under great pressure to develop them.

Keeping land along rivers and streams, “Blue Acres,” from being developed helps avoid damages when flooding occurs and prevents chemicals from polluting waterways that are necessary for fish and seafood, also important for our economy.

We can’t afford *not* to preserve these vulnerable and important resources. Vote “Yes” on Ballot Question #3, for Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres and Historic Preservation, on November 6.

Sincerely,  
Name of Local League President

SAMPLE LETTER-TO-THE-EDITOR

Editor  
Newspaper of your choice  
Address

Dear Editor,

The League of Women Voters of \_\_\_\_\_ encourages citizens to vote “Yes” on Ballot Question #4. This ballot question removes the words “idiot or insane person” defining who is not entitled to vote from the New Jersey Constitution. These words are replaced with the current case law which denies the right to vote only to those individuals with cognitive disabilities who a court of law finds do not understand the act of voting. Language is powerful and stigmatizing language should be eliminated from our Constitution. Vote “Yes” on Question #4.

Sincerely,  
Name of Local League President