



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville
P. O. Box 158369, Nashville TN 37215, (615) 297-7134, www.LWVnashville.org

Volume 60 No. 6

April 2008

Calendar of Events

The League sponsors meetings and events for the public as well as for League members.

Date	Time	Place	Description
Thursday, April 17	5:30-8:00 p.m.	Green Hills Library, 3701 Benham Ave	Next Door Neighbors, Which Way Nashville? A partnership with Nashville Public Television. Box Suppers \$9 (reserve by contacting KarenHWeeks@comcast.org or 373-3551 by 4/14)
Wednesday, April 23	11:30-2:00	Green Hills Library, 3701 Benham Ave	Next Door Neighbors, Which Way Nashville? A partnership with Nashville Public Television. Box Lunches \$9 (reserve by contacting KarenHWeeks@comcast.net or 373-3551 by 4/21)
Saturday, May 3	9:30-4:30	Holiday Inn Express, Lebanon, TN	LWVTN Spring Council: Discussions of Ethics, Open Government, Clean Water, Mountain Top Removal, Elections. See www.lwv-tn.org for details.
Wednesday, May 21	5:30	Sunset Grill, 2001 Belcourt Ave., 37212	LWV Nashville Annual Meeting. Gather at 5:30, greet your friends, and dine at 6:00. For details, see below.

YOU ARE INVITED

**LWV Nashville Annual Meeting, May 21
Sunset Grill
2001 Belcourt Ave. in Hillsboro Village**

**Gather at 5:30 (cash bar)
Dinner at 6:00**

Terrific Program (Details to Follow)

Please RSVP and send payment of \$30 to the League Office by May 14

Or call the Office at 297-7134

PO Box 158369, Nashville TN 37215

FROM THE PRESIDENT—MARGIE PARSLEY

We are winding up an exciting year which began with local elections last summer, moved to immigration study and consensus in the fall and culminated with hard work this spring on state legislative issues, most of which seem to be going our way. (League legislative issues are listed on the last page in this Voter). We were delighted to see the announcement of a new **LWVUS**

Immigration Position. This means that we will also be able to act on the issue at state and local levels. League members across the country reached many of the same conclusions that we did. See www.lwv.org and follow the links to the press release and the full position. We will follow up with **small group discussions on April 17 and 23** (see below). Join us!

That said, we have missed seeing many of our members. Having **informed members** is a hallmark of the League. We need to do a better job of hearing from and seeing our members. We're planning on launching a series of small group meetings in members' homes this spring and summer, each focusing on issues that members care about. At different meetings we will show and discuss "The Uncounted" on issues vital to election integrity, a DVD on Mountain Top removal, and a DVD on Pesticides. If you would like to sponsor one of these meetings in your home please contact me. Also, if you have ideas for other topics we would like to hear them.

We look forward to seeing you at the **Annual Meeting**, when we will elect some new Board members, consider some minor changes to our Program of Service, and approve our budget for the coming year. Please review the proposed nominees, program and budget in this Voter. Check out our web site www.LWVNashville regularly—where our calendar, Voters, and news items are posted—and add it to your favorites.

NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORS—WHICH WAY NASHVILLE?

What kind of community do you want Nashville to become? Join the League of Women Voters of Nashville and Nashville Public Television in a small group discussion to consider Nashville's response to its changing demographics stemming from the influx of immigrants and refugees. The number of foreign born residents in Nashville has increased from 12,000 to 60,000 since 1990. What kind of responses will contribute to a vibrant, healthy Nashville community?

Please join us and contribute your views, Thursday, **April 17 at 5:30** p.m. at the Green Hills Public Library, or Wednesday, **April 23 at 11:30**, also at the library. To reserve a box supper or box lunch (\$9), please contact KarenHWeeks@comcast.net, or 373-3551 no later than Monday, April 14 for supper or Monday, April 21 for lunch, or bring a brown bag.

LWV NASHVILLE BOARD NOMINATIONS

The nominating committee, comprised of Tommy Morton-Young, Chair, Sue Bredensteiner, Debby Gould and Karen Weeks, is pleased to present the following nominations for Board terms 2008-2010:

President, Lucy Chism

1st Vice President, Jo Singer

Secretary, Carolyn Harris

Education, Debby Gould

Health Care, Sue Bredensteiner

Membership, Margie Parsley

Finance Drive, Tish Womack (1-year unexpired term)

Voters Service, Lynn Williams

Nominating Committee, Lee Fairbend, Chair, Luvenia Butler, & Karen Edwards (1-year terms)

In addition, the following members will continue through 2009:

2nd Vice President, Berdelle Campbell

Treasurer, Marian Ott

Action, Karen Weeks

Metro Government, Reba Holmes

Voter Editor, Jan Bossing

Environment, Barbara Deneke

**PROPOSED PROGRAM OF SERVICE
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NASHVILLE
May, 2008**

I. LOCAL PROGRAM 2008-2009

The League of Women Voter of Nashville provides consistent voter services, including voter education, voter registration and candidate forums. The League also engages in strategic and effective issue advocacy based on positions reached by the membership after careful study and discussion.

II. STUDY AND ACTION

The goal of the 2008-2009 study and action program is to promote broader, more diverse citizen participation in decisions affecting public policies in Nashville. The program focus will be:

A. EDUCATION

- Study and advocate for challenging, high quality education.
- Advocate for equal access to educational opportunities, with special attention to children from diverse backgrounds and with special needs.
- Support expansion of high quality pre-kindergarten programs, with priority given to children at risk.
- Support resources adequate to meet the standards in the federal No Child Left Behind legislation and the recommendations made by the 2007 Citizen's Panel for a Community Report Card.

B. ENVIRONMENT

- Support a comprehensive coordinated approach to land use, growth and development, and transportation, with focus on encouraging efforts to expand efficient and accessible mass transit—including the Metropolitan Transit Authority and commuter rail project—and on facilitating walking and improving bikeways.
- Support efforts to manage and reduce waste in environmentally friendly ways. Support implementation of Metro's Waste Management Plan, including refuse pick-up and disposal, recycling, and hazardous waste disposal.
- Educate the community about local, state and federal issues that impact the local environment, including air and water quality, use of pesticides, public lands protection, and protection of state parks and state forests.
- Educate the community about issues related to energy use and support energy conservation.
- Support action on state and federal environmental issues, consistent with LWV positions.

C. ELECTORAL PROCESS

- Work with the Davidson County Election Commission to ensure that voting systems are consistent with LWVUS best practices so that they are secure, accurate, re-countable and accessible and include voter-verified paper ballots.

- Support adequate resources for the election process including acquisition, testing, and security of voting machines and equipment; training for election officials; and improvements to the failsafe process.
- Promote the implementation and equitable distribution of federal allocations for the Help America Vote Act of 2002 in Nashville.

D. HEALTH CARE

- Promote a health care financing and delivery system that assures an appropriate level of high-quality health care for all residents of Nashville, including the following services:
 - Health and wellness education and promotion;
 - Primary care: prevention and treatment of illness, reproductive health care, maternal and child health care;
 - Behavioral health care: mental health care and substance use treatment;
 - Acute, urgent and emergency care; and
 - Long-term care: home- and community-based care.
- Provide information about the impact of TennCare on Metropolitan Government and on access to appropriate health care affecting residents of the county.
- Support efforts to contain costs by using evidence-based medicine whenever possible, using best practices in care management, and promoting continuity and coordination of care.

E. HUMAN NEEDS

- Support equal access to education, employment and housing.
- Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families in Nashville, including those newly immigrated and individuals with disabilities.
- Provide voter education activities with newly naturalized citizens.
- Support policy changes related to immigration consistent with LWVUS positions at the local, state and federal level.

F. METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

- Educate citizens about their elected and appointed officials and about how Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County Government works.
- Educate citizens about the budget process and finances for Metropolitan Government and support policies that provide adequate resources for public services in Nashville, consistent with state and national League positions.
- Provide information to the Metropolitan Council and its committees regarding issues supported by the League.
- Support ethical standards in Metro Government.

KEY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES 2008-2009

The League has been following and advocating on behalf of a number of issues consistent with national, state and local League priorities. For additional information, see the weekly Legislative Reports you receive from our lobbyist. In order to be successful, we need you to contact your state Senators and Representatives (see contact information below).

The LWV of Tennessee SUPPORTS the following issues before the 105th General Assembly:

- **Open Government:** Creates office of Ombudsman and strengthens Open Records Law. As amended, the bill no longer includes the weakening open meetings changes. SB 3280 McNally, HB 3637 McDaniel.
- **Paper Ballots:** Tennessee Voter Confidence Act of 2007. Requires ballot of record be a paper ballot marked by the voter, and be used in any recounts or random audits. Accommodations for voters with disabilities. SB 1363 Haynes, HB 1256 Moore.
- **Taxes:** Food and Business Tax Fairness Act. Reduces state sales tax on food by 1%. Revenue loss to be offset by closing corporate tax loopholes that permit multi-state corporations to shift earnings outside the state. SB 3158 Burchett, HB 3182 Fitzhugh.
- **Container Deposit:** Establishes a deposit and recycling program for beverage containers. SB 1408 Kilby, HB1829 Turner M.
- **Early Childhood Education:** Expands Pre-Kindergarten early childhood education for 4-year olds. \$25 million proposed funding expansion in the Governor's budget.
- **Long Term Care Community Choices Act:** Governor's plan simplifies access to home- and community-based services and increases number of people able to stay at home for long-term care needs. SB 4181 Kyle, HB 4144 Odom.

In addition, **the League OPPOSES** the following issues:

- **Elections:** Photo ID required to vote. Bill places unacceptable burdens on elderly, low income, and disabled voters. SB 2811 Tracy, HB 3049 Mumpower.
- **Environment:** Various bills designed to prohibit important state regulation of clean waters. SB 4119 Southerland/ HB 4185 McCord; SB 1253 Burchett/ HB 0865 Harrison; SB 3966 Ramsey/ HB 2511 Mumpower.
- **Right of Privacy:** Constitutional Amendment SJR 127 Black. The League affirms the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. The Constitution should not be amended to reduce individuals' rights.
- **Taxpayer Bill of Rights:** Constitutional Amendment SB 177 Stanley, HB 168 Casada. TABOR provisions capping expenditures were unworkable in Colorado; negative effects on education led to eventual roll back of TABOR provisions.

Contact your representatives: It is crucially important for members to respond to action alerts in the League's weekly Legislative Report prepared by our lobbyist, Stewart Clifton, and to respond to other action alerts from the League.

For contact information, go to www.legislature.state.tn.us and click on Senate or House. Click on "members," then "your county," then the portion of the map that corresponds to your neighborhood. Committee members are listed under Senate or House committees.