



TO PROMOTE POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN GOVERNMENT AND TO ACT ON SELECTED GOVERNMENT ISSUES

# THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE

[www.lwvtallahassee.org](http://www.lwvtallahassee.org)

850-309-3005

TALLAHASSEE

VOLUME 18—NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2010

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY 2010

### 05 Tuesday

Local Government Committee  
Ruth O'Donnell 668-6911

### 07 Thursday 11:30 a.m.

County Charter Review Committee  
Leon County Courthouse 5th floor

### 11 Monday 1:00 p.m.

CRTPA Meeting (Transportation)  
City Hall 2nd floor

### 13 Wednesday 2:30 p.m.

City Commission Workshop  
Charter Review Issues  
Call 891-8200 for Information

### 13 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.

Tallahassee City Commission  
City Hall

### 28 Thursday 3:00 p.m.

Health Care Committee Meeting  
Theresa Chase 2302 Trescott Drive

### 18 Monday 6:30 p.m.

LWVT Board Meeting  
LWVF Office, Beverly Court

### 19 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.

Leon County Commission  
County Courthouse 5th floor

### 20 Wednesday 10:00 a.m.

Health & Human Services  
Target issue committee meeting  
City Hall 2nd floor

### 25 Monday 10:30 a.m.

Environment & Energy Resources  
Target issue committee meeting  
Danfoss Turborcorp Bldg  
1769 W. Paul Dirac Drive

## HOT TOPICS LUNCHEON JANUARY 20, 2010

### TO BE OR NOT TO BE---A POLL-WORKER???

How often have you gone to the polls on Election Day, watched the poll workers, and thought, "Gee, I'd like to do that!"? Well, League Member Elizabeth McAuliffe will be on hand to tell you just what it takes to be a poll worker—and, just in time for the 2010 election.



Elizabeth McAuliffe is a policy analyst with the Florida Legislature. She earned her Ph.D. in public administration from FSU last year having written her dissertation on the motivation of poll workers. She previously earned a bachelor of arts in English from the University of Florida and a Master of Public Administration from FSU. She has been a poll worker in Leon County since 2004.

Prior to attending graduate school, she was a marketing manager for AT&T, a small business owner, and a Peace Corps Volunteer.

- Time:** 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Place:** Ramada Inn and Conference Center  
2900 N. Monroe Street
- Lunch:** **Burgundy Chicken:** grilled chicken breast atop onions, mushrooms, peppers in a Burgundy demiglaze. Dessert, Coffee, and Tea included.
- Cost:** \$17.00 payable at the door
- Reservations:** Please call the LWVT Voice Mail (309-3005) by Friday, January 15.

Since the League has to pay for all meals ordered, cancellations received after the deadline will be billed for the cost of the lunch.

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tallykat2nettally.com

Barbara Sterling.  
Co-Chair with Ruth O'Donnell  
sterlingsilver@earthlink.net

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Best wishes for the New Year from your LWVT board. In spite of a horrible rainstorm, we had an excellent turnout for our Holiday Luncheon and a great speaker.

The past year was a busy and exciting year; our League expended a great deal of energy in registering voters, getting petitions signed for the redistricting amendments, and producing an online Voter's Guide that won the first place prize at the LWVF State Convention in June.

During 2010, we will be working on a statewide transportation study, and I urge all members to take part in the study. Of course, we will also work to get the redistricting amendment passed; this is crucial if we are to have competitive elections in Florida.

Thank you to all who worked at the Downtown Market this past year; also, thanks to members who helped with the phones at WFSU. We still need people to attend commission meetings; if you can spare an evening every so often, please contact Ruth O'Donnell; it's good to have a League presence at these meetings.

I hope that many of our Tallahassee League members will attend the Legislative Seminar this year. Since we are celebrating the League's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, there is a special low charge of \$99 for the Seminar; this amount covers the cost of the breakfast at the Governor's Club and dinner at the Paradigm. Our speakers at the dinner will discuss the pros and cons of Amendment 4 (hometown democracy); this amendment will be on the November ballot. One of the speakers is the co-author of the amendment.

Also, it is not too early to think about attending the LWVUS convention in June; the convention will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. If you have never attended a national convention, here is your opportunity. You will be able to meet Leaguers from many other states. It is an exciting and enlightening experience.

The January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Leon County Charter Review Committee will be an evening meeting; hopefully, many League members will be able to attend. The committee will be presenting charter amendments to the commission early next year, and citizen input is welcomed.



## CALENDAR

### 26 Tuesday 3 p.m.

County Commission Meeting  
County Courthouse 5th floor

### 27 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.

City Commission Meeting  
City Hall

## DID YOU KNOW?

A Fair Elections bill has been filed in the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R. 1826) and a companion bill in the U.S. Senate (S.R. 752) calling for a change in the financing of U.S. House and Senate elections. The bill has had several hearings in both houses but has seen no movement since March, 2009. The House bill has 124 co-sponsors and the Senate bill has 5 co-sponsors. A summary of the bill follows:

Fair Elections Now Act - Amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA) with respect to: (1) eligibility and qualifying contribution requirements and benefits of fair elections financing of House of Representatives election campaigns; (2) establishment of a Fair Elections Fund; (3) eligibility for Fund allocations; (4) contribution and expenditure requirements; (5) a public debate requirement; (6) certification of whether or not a federal election candidate is a participating candidate; (7) benefits for participating candidates; (8) matching payments for qualified small dollar contributions; (9) political advertising vouchers; (10) establishment of a Fair Elections Oversight Board; (11) civil penalties for violation of contribution and expenditure requirements; (12) prohibition of joint fund raising committees with any political committee other than a candidate's authorized committee; and (13) a specified limitation on coordinated expenditures by political party committees with participating candidates.

Amends the Communications Act of 1934 with respect to the deposit of proceeds from recovered spectrum auctions. Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow for designation of a certain amount of income tax liability to the Fair Elections Fund. Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to: (1) prohibit the preemption of the use of a broadcasting station by a legally qualified House candidate who has purchased and paid for such use; (2) revise Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authority to revoke licenses for broadcasting stations who fail to provide access to House candidates; and (3) revise the formula for determining reduced broadcast rates for participating candidates in certain circumstances. Directs the FCC to initiate a rule making proceeding to establish a standardized form to be used by broadcasting stations to record and report the purchase of advertising time by or on behalf of a candidate for nomination for election, or for election, to federal elective office. Amends FECA to: (1) empower the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to petition the U.S. Supreme Court for a proceeding on certiorari; (2) revise requirements for filing with the FEC by candidates; and (3) reduce from 48 to 24 hours the deadline for electronic filing with the FEC of reports by each political committee of contributions received within 90 days before an election.

Ironically, in Florida, voters will be asked to repeal the only campaign finance reform amendment in the Florida Constitution next November.

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## First Call to Convention 2010

From LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson

**WHAT:** The LWVUS 49th National Convention

**WHEN:** June 11-15, 2010

Friday, June 11	Pre-Convention Training	2-5 pm
Saturday, June 12	Briefings	10 am-Noon
	Call to order	Convention starts 1 p. m.
Sunday, June 13	All Day	
Monday, June 14	All Day	
Tuesday, June 15	Adjourn	Noon

**WHERE:** Atlanta Marriott Marquis  
265 Peachtree Center Ave.  
Atlanta, Georgia



## From State

### Nuclear Energy is not Replacable Energy

The League of Women Voters of Florida supports energy conservation and use of environmentally sound renewable resources in order to provide maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Florida is poised to move forward on a renewable energy plan; the utility industry is lobbying the Legislature to allow nuclear power as an eligible resource in meeting the target of 20% renewable energy. Other states do not permit the inclusion of nuclear energy to meet renewable energy goals. Since nuclear energy is not a renewable resource, it should not be included in a policy intended to promote renewable energy.

Contact Governor Crist and voice your concern.

[Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com](mailto:Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com)

Telephone: 850 488-7146

Contact the following legislative leaders. They sit on key committees that will have significant influence over this issue. Let them know that nuclear power has no place in a policy intended to promote renewable energy!

Senator Lee Constantine (Orlando)  
Email: [constantine.lee.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:constantine.lee.web@flsenate.gov)  
Telephone: (850) 487-5050

Senator Jim King (Jacksonville)  
Email: [king.james.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:king.james.web@flsenate.gov)  
Telephone: (850) 487-5030

Representative Page Kreegel (Punta Gorda)  
Telephone: (850) 488-9175

Rep. Debbie Mayfield (Vero Beach)  
Telephone: (850) 488-0952

From <http://lwvfla.org/>



## From Your Local

## League

### A Job To Be Done

**EVERYBODY** was sure that **SOMEBODY** would do it. **ANYBODY** could have done it but **Nobody** did it. **SOMEBODY** got angry because it was **EVERYBODY'S** job. **EVERYBODY** thought that **ANYBODY** could do it. But **NOBODY** realized that **EVERYBODY** would not do it. It ended up that **EVERYBODY** blamed **SOMEBODY** when **NOBODY** did what **ANYBODY** could have done.

This little parable is so very true when it comes to the continued success of an organization, including the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Sewing Guild. **NOBODY** steps up to the plate – officer or committee chair – thinking **SOMEBODY** else will do it. **ANYBODY** can succeed as a leader and planner. **EVERYBODY** who volunteers to be an elected officer or committee chair is indeed a winning leader.

Please don't be a **NOBODY**, rather be a **SOMEBODY** in 2010.

**Education:** The Education Committee would like to have several more members.

**Membership:** We need a committed Membership Chair.

**Downtown Market:** Three hours on a Saturday morning, registering voters, getting petitions signed, talking to Tallahassee citizens. The Market will start again in March. Sign up now for your spot.

**Observer Corps:** 2-3 hours at a night meeting of the City or County Commission meetings or the School Board Meeting, observing and taking notes. Your presence at the meeting is our goal.

**With the Legislature returning there will be a lot for League members to observe.**

Education Reform: adequate funding, well educated teachers, a well-designed curriculum, and equal educational opportunity.

*Issac L. Kandel*

Ed. Note: Sounds good to me.



# From National Six Benchmarks for Lobbying

## Reform

In terms of lobbying reform, we are proposing six essential benchmark reforms. They include proposals that have overwhelming public support. *Two-thirds* of the American people, according to the poll, believe it should be illegal for lobbyists to make contributions to Members and other federal candidates. Our organizations support the following benchmark reforms.

### **1. Break the nexus between lobbyists, money and lawmakers.**

Cap contributions from lobbyists and lobbying firm PACs to federal candidates at \$200 per election and to national parties and leadership PACs at \$500 per election cycle.

Prohibit lobbyists and lobbying firms from soliciting, arranging or delivering contributions and from serving as officials on candidate campaign committees and leadership PACs.

Prohibit lobbyists, lobbying firms and lobbying organizations from paying or arranging payments for events “honoring” members of Congress and political parties, such as parties at national conventions, and from contributing or arranging contributions to entities established or controlled by members of Congress, such as foundations.

### **2. Prevent private interests from financing trips and from subsidizing travel for members of Congress and staff, and executive branch officials and federal judges.**

Corporations and others should be prohibited from making privately owned planes available for Members to travel at the cost of a first class air ticket rather than the cost of a chartered plane.

### **3. Ban gifts to members of Congress and staff.**

The gift ban should close the existing loophole in the gift rules that allow lobbyists and others to pay for parties held to “honor” or “recognize” specific Members, such as the lavish parties held at the

national party conventions.

### **4. Oversee and enforce ethics rules and lobbying laws through an independent congressional Office of Public Integrity and increase penalties for violations.**

Establish an independent Office of Public Integrity in Congress and provide sufficient resources for the Office to effectively carry out its responsibilities.

The Office should monitor and oversee financial disclosure and lobbying reports; advise Members, staff and lobbyists on compliance with the rules; conduct investigations of non-frivolous allegations of ethics violations, including complaints filed by Members and outside individuals and groups; present cases involving potential ethics violations to the congressional Ethics Committees for consideration and action; and refer potential lobbying law violations to the Justice Department for civil enforcement.

### **5. Slow the revolving door.**

Prohibit members of Congress and senior executive branch officials from making lobbying contacts or conducting lobbying activities for compensation in either branch for two years after leaving their positions.

Prohibit senior congressional staff from making lobbying contacts for compensation with their former offices or committees for two years after leaving their positions.

### **6. Place sunshine on lobbying activities and financial disclosure reports.**

Require lobbying reports and Members’ financial disclosure reports to be filed in an electronic format and made fully searchable on the Internet; lobbying reports to be filed on a quarterly basis; lobbyists and lobbying firms to disclose grass roots lobbying activities; lobbyists to file a list of the Members’ offices and congressional committees they lobbied during the quarter; and reports to be filed disclosing the financial backers of stealth lobbying coalitions.

For a complete text of this article go to:

[www/LWV.org](http://www/LWV.org),

Election and Lobby Reform

Ed note: The foxes are still watching the Hen House

## Health Care Committee 2009

### Activities

Three Educational Forums were cosponsored with Capital City Chapter Physicians for a National Health Program in December 2008, one at the request of Obama's transition team. Members of the Health Care Committee attended another Forum in February 2009, also at the request of Obama's transition team. Sixty percent of the 150 attendees supported Single Payer. Thanks go to Peggy Ramsey who is on the Physicians for a National Health Program (PHNP) Steering Committee and is responsible for our joining forces with them.

Seven hundred of the pamphlets by Health Care Now purchased with funds from LWVT were distributed at the educational forums, League meetings and Downtown Market. Thanks to Noreen Chase and others who distributed pamphlets at the Market.

Reports of Committee activities throughout the year have been published in the Voter.

Advocacy efforts continue-calls – letters and emails – in support of HR676, the single payer legislation. Thanks to all.

In April, Mary Wilson, LWVUS President, stated that the League has not endorsed any specific bill and did not authorize any state or local League to do so.

The LWVUS position on health care (1993) calls for a health care system that is universal, comprehensive, equitable, and affordable. Also the League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance payments. HR676 is the only bill that fits this philosophy.

In light of the above Peggy Ramsey and Jane Quinton joined Health Care Reform for the United States, a group of League members from around the country who were working to get resolutions passed at their state conferences to forward to national in protest of the ban.

The Senate Finance committee held hearings that did not include significant health care providers including Single Payer Advocates. Marian Biwar wrote an outstanding letter to Senator Baucus on this issue.

LWVUS strongly supported a public option in August. Committee members picketed the Health Care Forum held on August 25 with LWV Supports Option signs. They attended the Forum held by Rep. Boyd where Janet Findling gave a very moving

*continued next column*

## Summary of December Hot Topics

### Holiday Luncheon

We had just under 50 people at our Holiday Luncheon at the Cypress Restaurant. The rain poured down and made it difficult for people to get to the door. One of the young men working at the restaurant was most helpful in parking cars for our members and guests so that they were not completely soaked before they got into the restaurant.

Our speaker was Professor Lance deHaven Smith of the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University. He discussed the 2008 presidential election and the political makeup of Florida. According to Dr. Dehaven Smith, party affiliation in Florida is changing, and the state seems to be trending blue.

He discussed the problems with the 2000 presidential election in Florida: "Everybody had thought that the chads were where all the bad ballots were, but it turned out that the ones that were the most decisive were write-in ballots where people would check Gore and write Gore in, and the machine kicked those out. There were 175,000 votes overall that were so-called "spoiled ballots." About two-thirds of the spoiled ballots were over-votes; many or most of them would have been write-in over-votes, where people had punched and written in a candidate's name. And nobody looked at this, not even the Florida Supreme Court in the last decision it made requiring a statewide recount." Evidently, the handling of the ballot counting in Florida was one of the reasons that Dr. deHaven Smith published his 2006 book, *The Battle for Florida*.

The professor also discussed the Vietnam and Iraq wars and the fact that the Congress did not declare war in either situation. It was a most enlightening talk followed by a lively question and answer period.

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### Health Care Committee

testimony in support of health care reform and the public option.

At present, Health Care Bills have passed both Senate and House. To compare House and Senate bills go to: <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/sidebyside.cfm>

Thanks to Theresa Chase for her educational pieces in the Voter.

Jane Quinton, Chair, Health Care Committee



The Board agreed that it was appropriate that LWVT sign on as a community partner in the hosting of the PBS documentary “Unnatural Causes” which will air on WFSU in January. The project will be referred to Jane Quinton, chair of the Health Committee for coordination.

Ruth O’Donnell of the Local Government Committee is scheduling appointments with our Legislative delegation for interviews prior to beginning of the 2010 session. Questions to be asked during the interviews will be provided by the State League. Any member wishing to participate in this activity may contact Ruth or Marilynn Wills.

Rebecca Sager again will organize a committee to work on the 2010 Voter Guide prior to next year’s election. She is asking for volunteers for this project, which will begin in March 2010.

The treasurer reported a check was sent to Fair Districts Florida for \$713.00 to help fund the verification of signatures on the redistricting petitions: \$500 from the Board and \$213 collected at the November Hot Topics.

The Board also voted concurrence with the Transportation Study previously carried out by LWVT. After other local Leagues concur, the current Transportation Study will begin on a statewide basis.

Plans for the LWVF Legislative Seminar on March 22-24 are taking shape. LWVT will host a dinner on March 23 at Paradigm Restaurant, where speakers will discuss Amendment 4, Hometown Democracy. Make plans to participate in this event.

The next meeting will be Jan. 18 at 6:30 pm at the LWVF office on Beverly Ct. Peggy Ramsey, Secretary

Classified Ad

The U.S. Census is currently testing people for employment during the 2010 Census. Locally we will be hiring over 2000 part time and full time employees. Employees will work in or close to their place of residence. Hours will be flexible and some weekend and night work may be needed. For hours of employment at night, employees may have a partner. Operations overlap so it is to your advantage to take the test as soon as possible. You are paid for training and the wage for field work is currently \$12.25 per hour plus mileage. Please contact the Tallahassee office at 205-6220 to schedule a test.

submitted by: Kathleen Stinson, Local Recruiting Asst.

The US Census

The decennial US census was authorized by Congress on March 1, 1790. A permanent Bureau of the Census was established March 6, 1902. (1) A briefing article in *The Week* highlights the historical facts as well as controversial political issues about “the counting of America.” Throughout its history, the census has been notoriously imprecise. Some of the imprecision stems from the undercounting of minorities, urban poor, and immigrants, many of whom have frequent relocations or distrust the census inquiries. Use of statistical sampling methods to improve count-

Census

ing has been favored by Democrats because many minorities vote Democratic. Statistical sampling is opposed by Republicans who argue the Constitution specifies “actual enumeration,” not estimation of the population. Washington uses the census to allocate billions of dollars in funding. The census is needed for redistricting. Says Harvard government Professor D. Sunshine Hillygus, “it’s the basis of the two most important things in politics: money and representation.”(2)

For more information on the census and redistricting, please see [www.factfinder.census.gov](http://www.factfinder.census.gov) and [www.fairdistrictsflorida.org](http://www.fairdistrictsflorida.org).

References:

- (1) *The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2010*, pp. 480-481.
- (2) *The Counting of America* in *The Week*, July 24, 2009, p.11

NEW MEMBER

Natholyn Harris  
 2019 Lee Avenue  
 Tallahassee, FL 32308  
 385-5979

cont'd next column: Census



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE  
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 (please, print legibly)

\$100 Susan B. Anthony Membership	\$ _____	
\$75 Household Membership	\$ _____	
\$50 Individual Membership	\$ _____	
\$25 Student Membership	\$ _____	
I am enclosing \$5 for the LWVF Lobby Fund	\$ _____	
Additional Gift to the LWVUS Education Fund	\$ _____	(tax deductible)
TOTAL	\$ _____	

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 Mail to: LWVT, P.O. Box 10216, Tallahassee, FL 32302  
 (You may also renew/join online at [www.lwvtallahassee.org](http://www.lwvtallahassee.org). There is a \$2.00 charge for using PayPal.)