



The VOTER

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 10

November-December 2007

Calendar (League activities in bold)

November 2007

- 7 W 7:00 p.m. **LWVCC Board Meeting**
Vogelson Library, Voorhees NJ
- 13 Tu 6:00 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus
16th floor, Camden Co. Courthouse, Camden
- 14 W 10 a.m. **Voter Registration**
- 15 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting
Ferry Avenue Library, Camden

December 2007

- 5 W 6:00 p.m. **LWVCC Program Planning**
Bobbie Porter's House. See flier (page 4).
- 17 M All day Last day to change parties
for the February 5 presidential primary
- 18 Tu 6:00 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus
16th floor, Camden Co. Courthouse, Camden
- 20 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting
Harry Williams Building, Runnemede

January 2008

- 2 W 7:00 p.m. **LWVCC Board Meeting**
Vogelson Library, Voorhees NJ
- 15 Tu All day Last Day to register to vote
in the presidential primary (Feb 5, 2008)

At its Nov 7 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Made plans for the LWVUS program planning meeting
2. Tentatively picked January 23 for the Immigration Consensus meeting
3. Created a team to work on legislative outreach and lobbying.

Local program planning: This year, in addition to national planning, we are considering something new --a **local study**. We'll be especially interested in topics that are part of county government, ranging from good governance items like "pay to play" to service items like the library system. We might also be interested in a more regional issue, like shared services. Come and participate in what is sure to be a keen discussion. Dec. 5.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY



President's Message:

"Tis the season to be jolly". Another election has gone by and already we are preparing for the NJ Presidential Primary on February 5th 2008. It is important that we start early to understand and address the issues that are relevant to our state and our local residents. One way to start is by participating in the program planning process, which is the League's holiday and program planning party, to be held on Dec 5, 2007. It is important as members that you attend and participate in the process of setting the agenda for our future direction. This planning process occurs all over the nation with every League participating in determining the future agenda for the League of Women Voters of the United States.

"It is important as members that you attend and participate in the process of setting the agenda for our future direction... on Dec 5, 2007."

Much of the program discussion at national convention next June will be framed and directed by the program planning process that takes place this winter. For example, if a number of Leagues around the country were all to express an interest in a particular topic (say, price subsidies for yak breeding), it might become a "recommended" item at convention, with a relatively easy path to adoption as a new study. If a few Leagues mentioned the item, it would be on the list, but non-recommended. Non-recommended items have to leap extra hurdles to be approved by convention delegates. Finally, an item not mentioned by any League cannot be brought to the floor as a new study or update at all.

Our League has adopted a very interesting and participatory workshop format that gives everyone in attendance an opportunity to voice his or her opinion. LWVUS positions fall into 4 categories: Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. Different groups will talk about each of these 4 broad areas and report back to the larger group of attendees, which will discuss further and recommend whether to retain positions, review and update one or more existing positions, or undertake a new study. The final program that is adopted by convention will be the basis for lobbying and citizen education for the next two years. **Please join us on December 5th!**

Ann Saunders, President

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.

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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.*

Camden: Ferry Avenue Library: 852 Ferry Avenue. Take 295 to Route 168 north. In about 2 miles, pass Route 130. In another mile or so, turn left onto Ferry Avenue. Pass 9th Street. The library is in the block between Phillips Street (just past 9th) and 8th Street.

Runnede: Harry Williams Building: At the corner of Broadway and the Black Horse Pike (Route 168). Take 295 to Route 168 south. Pass the turnpike entrance. Just below it is Broadway. Look for the building around there.

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!

LWVNJ Annual Appeal (formerly Callathon)

We have renamed "Callathon", that annual letter and phone call fund raiser for the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. It's now the [Annual Appeal](#).

Why the name change? *Because we really don't want to call you!* We want you to send in a donation in response to the appeal letter. Many of you give generously, but wait to be called. That takes up your time (being called) and *our* time as callers.

This year, **please make as generous a donation as you can afford, directly in response to the LWVNJ appeal letter.** This saves postage, staff time, and calling time!

We need your support, so we will contact you by phone if you don't send in a donation. Why not do it with the letter in hand and make everyone happy???



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***League of Women Voters
Of Camden County***

***Program Planning
And
Holiday Party***



***December 5th, 2007
6 p.m.***



***Home of Bobbi Porter
1 Millhouse Lane
Cherry Hill NJ 08003
Tele: 856 429-1415***



***Come Join the League for an evening of holiday treats and
participate in the planning process for the coming year.***

President: Ann Saunders

Immigration forum Oct 20, 2007

Three members of the LWVCC attended the immigration forum organized by former LWVNJ President Deborah Macmillan in Piscataway. We heard from Dr. Frank Argote Freyre of the Latino Leadership Alliance, who represented the pro-immigrant side of the panel, Ms. Susan Tully from FAIR (Federation for American Immigration Reform), representing a restrictive view of undocumented immigrants, and Mr. Ron Chen, the NJ Public Advocate, who took a middle position.

Dr. Argote Freyre argued that national immigration policy is not working.

- 10-12 million undocumented immigrants live in this country, and deporting them all would be prohibitively expensive.
- The capitalist system draws labor where it is needed. For example, in North Carolina, where there was a need for 150,000 harvest workers, farm owners set aside 6,000 slots for American citizens. Of that potential number only 120 even applied, and far fewer came. Without the undocumented workers, the crops would have rotted in the field.
- Illegal immigrants pay social security taxes they will never collect, which benefits the rest of us.
- His organization opposes local laws against illegal immigrants, supports in-state college tuition for undocumented children who have completed high school here, and favors a driving privileges card.

Ms Tully argued that strict attitudes towards immigrants span the political spectrum. Liberals and environmentalists worry about population increases, for example.

- Because immigration has a large impact on population growth, FAIR wants to stop illegal immigration and talk about reducing even the legal side. She stated that we have the most generous legal immigration policy in the world.
- American unwillingness to work in agriculture is not surprising -- Even most undocumented immigrants don't work in that field, since its seasonal nature makes it a difficult choice for getting a regular income to live on. Some kind of guest-workers program would be better.
- She pointed out the darker side of the capitalist system -- Workers willing to work for lower wages can drive down pay and break unions. As an example, some jobs that were once done by Americans with good pay (like hotel workers in California), even represented by unions, are now done by immigrants for less money without unions.
- FAIR wants to see the laws enforced, such as those against employing undocumented workers. They oppose driving privileges, since they feel that driving privilege cards may support terrorism. And they oppose any leniency for current undocumented immigrants on the grounds that it may encourage others to come here expecting leniency in the future.
- She doubted that the state could provide in-state college tuition for a subgroup without doing so for all residents, even those who had not completed high school here.

Mr. Chen is heading up the state's Blue Ribbon Panel on immigration. He described the panel and its plans to produce a report by Dec. 2008. He noted that 8-10 states have in-state college tuition for undocumented high school graduates, and added that the law is more complicated than Ms. Tully suggests. He also noted that, at the public education level, our state constitution guarantees everyone a thorough and efficient education.

The LWVUS consensus on Immigration is coming soon. Have you checked out the material on the LWVUS web site www.lwv.org?