



# The VOTER

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## Co-Presidents' Message:

The League has been busy this fall fulfilling our mission to inform and to serve both our members and the larger community. We've run two voter registration drives, registering 31 voters, and had a most informative, really eye-opening, tour of the NJ American Water Company's Delaware River Regional Treatment Plant in Delran. We have also been asked to moderate three candidate forums for those running in local races in the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election. We want to thank all those members who organized, volunteered for, and/or attended these activities.



And now, we look forward to our consensus meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Vogelson Library in Voorhees. This year we will discuss and come to consensus on whether undocumented graduates of New Jersey high schools should be allowed to pay the in-state tuition rate at public colleges. Come out and let your voice be heard.

Most important—Vote on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Winnefred Rowell-Bullard  
Harriet Snyder  
Co-presidents

**League of Women Voters of Camden County**

## Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Election Day	Nov 3	Tu	6 am-8 pm	Your polling place -- <b>Vote!</b>
<b>LWVCC board meeting</b>	Nov 4	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library (Voorhees)
Freeholder caucus meeting	Nov 10	Tu	6 p.m.	Freeholder Conference Room, 16th floor-Courthouse, Camden
Freeholder public meeting	Nov 12	Th	7 p.m.	Camden Technology Center, 601 Cooper Street
<b>Consensus meeting</b> Discussion of instate tuition	Nov 17	Tu	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library (Voorhees)
<b>Voter registration:</b> Naturalization Ceremony, Camden	Nov 17	Tu	10 a.m.	Volunteers needed! Contact Bobbie Porter if interested (856- 429-1415).

### Voter Contents

#### Page Topic

- 1 -- [Co-President's Message](#)
- 3 -- [LWVCC Kickoff Report](#)
- 4 -- [Directions](#)
- 4 -- [Board report](#)
- 5 -- [From the LWVNJ](#)
- 6 -- [Consensus Information](#)

#### Gubernatorial Voters Guide

The LWVNJ has an excellent guide to the upcoming election, with everything you could want to know about voting, ballot questions, and the candidates. It includes a complete list of all twelve candidates' answers to a series of important questions. Be sure to check out this resource at:

[//www.lwvnj.org/elections/index.shtml#voteguide](http://www.lwvnj.org/elections/index.shtml#voteguide)

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.

The League of Women Voters of Camden County, LWVCC

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The VOTER is published ten times a year to keep the membership and public informed of the activities of the League of Women Voters of Camden County. For subscription or membership information call (856) 795-7878.

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY FALL KICKOFF REPORT

About 25 members and friends of the LWV of Camden County paid a visit to NJ American Water's Delaware River Regional Treatment Plant in Delran. We heard a presentation and took a tour. Very interesting!

One of the first things we learned was about the company itself. NJ American Water is the New Jersey branch of American Water, an investor-owned public utility with operations in 32 states and Ontario. The national company (where our League treasurer works) is based right here in Voorhees.

NJ American Water gets its water from a variety of sources -- surface water, ground water, reservoirs. The presenters stressed the extensive testing that is done at all levels. But they also noted that the water company's responsibility generally extends to the curbside. The piping into your house is put in by the builder and is not under their control.

We want to thank the NJ American employees who spoke or helped out: Peter Eschbach, Jason Gonzalez, Mike Battaglia, and Laura Vancho, in particular.



**Scale model of a superpulserator**

The water flows into the bottom, percolates up through the slats, and leaves its particles and such behind before exiting at the top. The real ones fill a room!

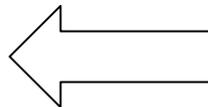


**Superpulserator room**

As you can see, these are quite large!



**Ozone generator**



Initial purification is with ozone, which is generated electrically from oxygen (as happens in a thunderstorm). Later a bit of chlorine is added to maintain purity

## Board Report

[Back to list](#)

### At its Oct 7 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Approved plans to do voter registration in Camden City Hall, where members have observed quite a few people coming and going. Perhaps we will go there in alternative months from the Naturalization Ceremony.
2. Appointed Renée Robbins as Chair of the Nominating Committee, Joyce Alexander Walker as an off board member, and Ed Gracely and Zena Cohen as board members of the Committee.
3. Discussed a proposal to reduce paper copies of the Voter to only members without e-mail (and those who request a paper copy) and selected officials. Since most members now have e-mail, and since we have to send 200 copies to earn bulk rate, the expenses are mounting for the full mailing. The board will decide in November.
4. Discussed plans for a consensus meeting, Nov 17, 2009, on In-State College Tuition for undocumented high school graduates.



## Getting there - Directions!

**Camden County Courthouse:** Take 676 north to Mickel 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 Mickel.

**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, Technology Center** 601 Cooper Street. Take 676 north into Camden. Exit at exit 5B towards Camden Business District/Rutgers. This is almost the last exit before the bridge. In a block or two, turn left onto Linden, then in a block, left onto 7th Street. Go over the highway, then right onto Cooper for a block.

**Pennsauken: Camden County Boathouse, 7050 N Park Drive.** Route 70 west past Garden State Pavilion to Cuthbert Blvd. In about 0.3 miles, turn right onto Park Blvd. for about a mile. The boathouse is on the right. You can also get onto N Park from Route 30/130 (Crescent Blvd.) about half a mile above Haddon Ave. Turn right onto N Park for 0.6 miles.

**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!



## From the LWVNJ

### LWVNJ Workshops -- Health Care Reform

On Sept 12, 2009, about 100 people (a wonderful turnout) attended the LWVNJ plenary session on health care reform at the NJ Hospital Association Conference Center in Princeton. There was a single keynote speaker, then a panel of experts to address the issue from their perspectives. I'll just hit a few highlights in this article.

The keynote speaker, Andrew Hyman from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, expressed optimism that a reform bill would be passed. But he challenged the President's assertion that he wanted to be the last president to address this issue. Hyman argued that we will almost certainly need more reforms even if the attempt to change the system is successful under Obama. If we don't make significant changes, the consequences would be increasing numbers of uninsured, perhaps up to 66 million in 10 years. We could see a 10% drop in the percentage of people getting insurance through the workplace, a doubling of costs to employers, and a 60% increase in individual costs in that same time frame.

So, why are costs rising? Hyman said that the answer is complex and nobody fully knows the reasons. Most experts would agree that at least 50% of the explanation for the rate of change in cost is the increase and spread of medical technology. Other component include the aging population, unhealthy lifestyles, too many specialists, and high malpractice claims. He denied that the malpractice issue is as important as some believe it to be, but did call it one of the factors to consider. There are ways to save money, such as implementing existing guidelines for care. He ended by warning that the reform bill that is passed will probably disappoint many of us.

Each of the panelists raised interesting points, from his or her own perspective. Betsy Ryan from the NJ Hospital Association provided us with a "Top 10 list" of concerns, including that reform won't happen (we need it!) or that it will happen but lead to unintended consequences. One serious problem, already seen in Massachusetts, is that there are not enough primary care physicians to handle all the people who would get insurance and start looking for one. So they could end up back in ERs anyway. And, unless the plans paid well enough, patients might not be able to get a doctor to see them even if one was available.

Ward Sanders, representing the insurance industry, said that their main concern is for everyone to be insured. If that is required, they can live with elimination of restrictions on pre-existing conditions, and even with expansion of public programs. His main concern with the public plan is that it may compete unfairly. For example, Medicare has the power to set rates that may not cover costs. Other plans can't determine rates that way, so they are at a disadvantage.

David Knowlton, of the NJ Health Care Quality Institute, observed that our state has its own committee to reform health care and ensure universal coverage. One issue to address is that when a company goes out of business, its former employees can't buy into COBRA. He also stated that it would be very helpful if people knew the cost of services they would get at any particular facility. These can vary widely. There are also insurance inequities to address, such as the fact that you can go to a hospital "in network" but see a radiologist "out of network" and be billed more! Consumers should be protected against this.

## Consensus - Instate Tuition for Undocumented NJ High School Graduates

The consensus questions have 3 parts. "A" is an overall question about the basic position. "B" asks about some qualifications and conditions that may affect the decision in "A". "C" is about aid in a slightly different context. Leagues should review part B first, to set the stage for discussion.

**A. THE CONSENSUS QUESTION:** Should New Jersey extend in-state tuition and related benefits to unauthorized immigrants who graduate from New Jersey high schools and are admitted to New Jersey's public institutions of higher education?

- YES, as asked (*skip to part C below*)
- MAYBE, Depends on conditions in Part B (*continue with part B below*)
- NO, regardless of conditions (*SKIP TO PART C BELOW*)
- NO CONSENSUS (*SKIP TO PART C BELOW*)

**B. If your League answered "MAYBE, Depends on conditions at Part B" at A above, then complete Part B. All others skip to Part C.**

*Please indicate for each of the following whether it is necessary for your League to agree to the consensus question, helpful but not essential, or not an issue for your League.*

1. If the student attended high school in NJ for 3 or more years.
2. If the student is required to file an affidavit with the institution of higher education stating that the student has filed an application to legalize his/her immigration status or will file an application as soon as s/he is eligible to do so.
3. If all information about immigration status obtained in extending in-state tuition to a student is kept confidential.
4. If credible budgetary calculations demonstrate that the total net costs that New Jersey colleges are likely to incur as a result of extending in-state tuition to unauthorized immigrants will be very minor.
5. If a priority system is used for offering admission that gives first priority to citizens, then to legal permanent residents, then all others, including unauthorized immigrants. Whether or not admission is extended to each successive group would depend primarily on the number of openings.

You are then asked for any other conditions that you would want to either support or oppose a specific approach to in-state tuition.

**C. Further question about the application of this consensus to related issue at independent colleges.**

*All Leagues participate in Part C.*

Some state funding is now available to New Jersey's 14 independent colleges, based on the number of NJ students enrolled. This funding is administered by the Independent College Fund of NJ (ICFNJ), and by law the formula for dividing the money excludes unauthorized immigrants. Do you support reversing this exclusion to encourage state funding on the basis of total NJ enrollment, including unauthorized immigrants?

- YES, we should treat unauthorized immigrant students attending private colleges in the same way as we treat other students. Given that we provide some state-funding for any NJ students, we should provide it for all.
- NO, leave things the way they are.
- NO CONSENSUS

## **Background and information**

This LWVNJ study and consensus concerns the extension of in-state tuition for public higher education to all students, including unauthorized<sup>1</sup> immigrants who have attended and graduated from NJ high schools and are admitted to public colleges in New Jersey. It also concerns the possible elimination of immigrant status as a criterion for state-funded scholarships used at independent institutions.

### **Who is involved?**

Most of the students involved arrived in this country as children traveling with family members. They are unauthorized now because their families entered without proper authorization or because the authorization that they had on arrival has expired. These students have graduated from NJ high schools, and in many cases elementary and middle schools, without regard to their immigration status. (The right to a public school education through grade 12 is guaranteed by the U.S. Supreme Court decision *Plyler v. Doe* -- see below.) Most of these students expect to stay in this country for the foreseeable future, and they have been accepted at a NJ public college or university.

### **Who is NOT involved?**

Students who were born in this country (“native born”) are US citizens by virtue of their birth in this country. As a result they receive in-state tuition if they meet eligibility requirements based on residency in New Jersey. The immigration status of their parents is not at issue.

Similarly students who are authorized permanent residents in the United States and New Jersey residents can receive in-state tuition without regard to the immigration status of their parents.

### **How much tuition money could be involved if in-state tuition is passed?**

Unauthorized immigrants who graduate from NJ high schools are generally charged out-of-state tuition in NJ. This is the tuition charged to students not living in New Jersey. Out-of-state tuition averages at least 90 percent more than the tuition charged to students who graduate from NJ high schools who are citizens or permanent residents, and varies little with the category of the college. NJ has no set policy for unauthorized immigrants, however, and some colleges refuse admission to unauthorized immigrants altogether while others already charge in-state tuition.

We estimate that about 2000 unauthorized immigrants graduate each year from New Jersey high schools. Using other states’ experience, we also estimate that roughly 200 of these students would actually use in-state tuition.

### **What fairness issues are involved?**

Section 1 of Amendment 14 to the U.S. Constitution guarantees equal protection of the law to all persons in the U.S., without respect to citizenship, and specifically applies this to all states. This Amendment does NOT address education per se, but the 1982 U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Plyler v. Doe* does guarantee a free public education through grade 12.

Fairness is frequently raised in opposition to in-state tuition for unauthorized immigrants. Opponents point out that other immigrants did things “right,” entering with proper authorization, doing what was required to maintain that authorization, and paying their fair share of taxes.

### **LWVUS position**

Remember that the LWVUS already has a position on immigration. It doesn't address in-state tuition, but does say, "the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria.

**To learn more:** Visit the LWVNJ web site, members section: <http://www.lwvnj.org/members/> On the right are links to the study document, summarized above, and additional references.

If You Are Interested In:

- *Learning about government and the political process.*
- *Getting involved in the political process in nonpartisan ways.*
- *Meeting and working with other citizens who care about good government.*



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

**Call 856-795-7878 or send this form to: PO Box 245, Voorhees, NJ 08043**

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Annual membership is \$60 (plus \$30 for each additional household membership). To join, or for more information, send this form or call the number above.

I want to become a member of the LWV of Camden County: \_\_\_\_\_ (Check enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_)

Please send me information on membership in the LWV of Camden County \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please include area code)

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