



The VOTER

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 2

February 2010

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Fire District Elections	Feb 20	Sa	Varied	In some towns
Voter registration of new citizens -- after the naturalization ceremony	Feb 24	W	10 a.m.	US Courthouse 401 Market, Camden. Contact the League by phone or e-mail if interested in helping.
LWVCC board meeting	Mar 2	Tu	Evening	Vogelson Library, Voorhees. <i>Note change of weekday.</i>
Citizens Campaign -- Call to Service	Mar 16	Tu	5 - 8 p.m.	Stockton State College. Learn how to have influence at the local level! Register at http://www.jointhecampaign.com/
<u>Alternative Energy Conference</u>	April 10	Sa	Day	NJ Hospital Association Conference Center, Princeton

Voter Contents

- Topic**
- 2 -- [Co-President's Message](#)
 - 3 -- [Directions](#)
 - 3 -- [Board report](#)
 - 4 -- [From the LWVUS](#)
 - 5 -- [From the LWVNJ](#)
 - 6 -- [Census 2010](#)

The LWVCC web site now has:

1. Updated legislators for NJ districts 4, 5, 6, and 7.
2. Links to voter registration and vote by mail applications.
3. Links to the home pages of our local counties, as well as Camden and Philadelphia.
4. 2010 election calendar.
5. Links to women's history.
6. And more! <http://www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty/>

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Co-Presidents' Message:

Dear League Members:

As the year 2010 unfolds, we are proud to be at the forefront of active League programs and we are proud to have our members' support so that we can continue to provide vital services to our community. Here are some examples of programs that could use your involvement!



1. CALLATHON 2010

We have signed up for Callathon 2010, and we will take advantage of the opportunity to earn money for our League. Callathon 2010 will begin March 1, 2010.

2. 2010 Census Road Tour Vehicle Wrap

The National League is one of the official national partners with Census 2010, and the 2010 Census Portrait of America Road Tour is part of the largest civic outreach and awareness campaign in US history. The road tour vehicles will provide the public with an educational, engaging and interactive experience that brings 2010 to life. In that regard, on February 27, 2010, some members of the local League will be present at the Peter Mott House in Lawnside, NJ to participate in the 2010 Census Road Tour Awareness Day. Please see additional information about Census 2010 in the [Voter](#) (Pages 6-7).

3. League of Women Voters 90th Anniversary

The League of Women Voters will be celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2010. Not coincidentally, the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution that gave women the right to vote celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2010, as well.

4. Running & Winning 2010

The Running & Winning workshop will take place on Thursday, April 22, 2010 at the Lindenwold High School.

During the remaining League year, we encourage the members who were unable to actively participate in 2009 to join us in our mission.

Winnefred Rowell-Bullard & Harriet Snyder, Co-presidents

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.

Board Report

[Back to list](#)

At its Feb 3 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Advanced planning for *Running & Winning* at Lindenwold High School, on April 22.
2. Planned the Annual meeting, on April 24, with Camden Mayor Dana Redd as speaker.
3. Appointed Sally Thorne to the budget committee.
4. Appointed Ed Gracely to review the bylaws.
5. Made plans to involve more of the membership in League activities.



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.*

Lawnside Public School 426 Charleston Ave. From the east, take route 295 south to the exit for Warwick Road south (toward Lawnside). Stay on Warwick Road for about 0.6 miles, then turn left at E Charleston for 0.7 miles. // From the west, take 295 north to route 30 south. Stay on 30 (White Horse Pike) for 0.8 miles, then turn left onto E Charleston for 0.8 miles. // From the south, you can come up route 30. About 0.5 miles past Evesham Road, angle right onto Warwick. Stay on Warwick for 0.2 miles, turn right onto E Charleston for 0.7 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 LWVUS

LWVUS 2010 Legislative Priorities

After a review of congressional action in 2009 and a discussion of expected activity in 2010, the LWVUS Board of Directors has adopted the following Legislative Priorities for 2010: Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Money in Elections (campaign finance reform). On the Legislative Watch List are: Arms Control, DC Voting Rights, Election Reform, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, and UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This Watch List includes issues which need to be monitored for action opportunities in the 111th Congress. It is understood that the Board will have opportunities to review the priorities throughout the year to make changes if the situation requires it. It should also be noted that DC Voting Rights and CEDAW are perennial legislative priorities that the LWV has worked hard for in the past and is committed to working for successful passage. For a tally of the member recommended items for advocacy, see the [Report on Member Recommended LWV Priorities for Advocacy 2010](#)

Elections: LWVEF Launches 2010 High School Voter Registration Project

The LWVEF is pleased to announce a major new initiative to bring more young people – especially young minorities – into the democratic process. Through a joint collaboration with Project Vote, the LWVEF will be working with Leagues in five states (AZ, CA, FL, IL and TX) this spring to encourage voter registration in 100 high schools with a high-percentage of minority students. This project will provide voter registration and education through classroom activities and assemblies, and expects to help 27,000 17- and 18-year-olds apply to become registered voters. It will also serve as a groundbreaking, statistically significant experiment to determine the comparative effectiveness of registration strategies. The resulting analysis will help determine the most effective strategies for engaging high school students and help inform an upcoming manual for Leagues and other organizations to utilize in planning their own high school voter registration activities. Stay tuned for more details.



From the LWVNJ

[Back to contents](#)

Save the Date - Alternative Energy Conference

April 10, 2010

Local Leagues will present their research reports on 6 different alternative energy options - solar, biomass, geothermal, wind, wave and nuclear. A keynote speaker and expert panelists will follow these reports, speaking on other forms of energy not covered by our local Leagues. It will be held at the NJ Hospital Association Conference Center in Princeton.

Supreme Court Decision Endorses Corporate Manipulation of Election Outcomes

Anne Maiese, LWVNJ President

The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in Citizens United V. Federal Election Commission is a crushing blow to representative democracy. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey works to advance the principal that people — not corporations — have the right and duty to participate in their government by speaking up, asking questions and voting. People also have the right and duty to hold elected officials accountable for their actions.

The Supreme Court seems to disagree. The tragic decision to declare corporations "persons" with free speech rights, allows corporations to pour massive amounts of money into endorsing or opposing candidates and gives special interests, lobbyists, and big money a tighter grip on democracy. The Supreme Court has made it legal, and easier, for corporations to bribe candidates, and has taken significant power away from voters.

If a corporation thinks candidates won't serve their interests, it can now legally blast the public with ads attacking that candidate. And if a candidate makes promises to a corporation or has already acted for its benefit, he or she will be rewarded with endorsement ads. It won't matter if the candidate serves the best interest of the public — we are no longer a factor...until Election Day.

Few citizens have the means to buy ad time, but we can and must push back. The Supreme Court has overturned decades of campaign finance laws that were designed to protect our democracy from the pernicious influence of money, but citizens still have a voice and the ultimate weapon, their vote. This decision makes it that much more important for real "persons" to speak up loudly and clearly, especially at the ballot box.

Yes, this requires a huge commitment on the part of every voter, but it is possible. We must be more vigilant in fulfilling our civic duties by asking questions, checking every fact in every ad, following the trail of money from corporations to candidates, attending candidate forums and debates, and voting for candidates who serve the public and not corporations. New Jersey doesn't need another avenue for corruption, and it is up to each and every one of us to hold our officials accountable.

The 2010 Census

The LWVUS is an official partner of Census 2010. We are also in partnership with the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) and working with the Census 2010 Task Force of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR).

An Introduction to the 2010 Census

Counting Everyone Once — and Only Once — and In the Right Place

The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more.

Reaching an Increasingly Diverse Population

The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. To help ensure the nation's increasingly diverse population can answer the questionnaire accurately and completely, about 13 million bilingual Spanish/English forms will be mailed to housing units in neighborhoods identified as requiring high levels of Spanish assistance. Additionally, questionnaires in Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Vietnamese and Russian □ as well as language guides in 59 languages □ will be available on request.

Recruiting Census Workers

By 2010, there will be an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States. Counting each person is one of the largest operations the federal government undertakes. For example, the Census Bureau will recruit nearly 3.8 million applicants for 2010 Census field operations. Of these applicants, the Census Bureau will hire about 1.4 million temporary employees. Some of these employees will be using GPS-equipped hand-held computers to update maps and ensure there is an accurate address list for the mailing of the census questionnaires.

10 Questions, 10 Minutes to Complete

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questions about *how* we live as a nation our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire. Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential.

For more information, visit the 2010 Census Web site at <http://www.census.gov/2010>.

The 2010 Census and the American Community Survey
America is Changing, and so is the Census

One of the most significant changes in modern census history will occur in 2010 — for the first time since 1930, all addresses in the U.S. will receive a census short form.

In recent censuses, most addresses received one of two forms: either the short form, which focused on the population count and demographics; or the long form, which included additional questions on socioeconomic and housing characteristics. Nationwide, about one-in-six addresses in 2000 received the long form. Together, the two parts of the decennial census showed not only the number of people living in America but also the way we live: education, housing, jobs and more. This information will still be part of the decennial census, but it will be collected on a continuing basis as part of the American Community Survey.

Although the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program provides estimates of population and housing in the years between censuses, there were no updates on the estimates for the long form's characteristics data. Our nation is not static, however, and communities need current data to make informed decisions.

After a decade of testing and development, the Census Bureau launched the American Community Survey (ACS) in January 2005. The ACS is officially part of the decennial census and includes essentially the same questions as the long form. But rather than once a decade, the ACS is sent to a rolling sample of addresses every month, every year, throughout the nation. By 2010, the new survey will yield current annual data for all geographic areas of the country in the form of single- or multiyear estimates.

For more information about the American Community Survey, please visit the Census Bureau Web page at <http://www.census.gov/acs>.

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

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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