



# The VOTER

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 10

November-December 2010

## Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
<b>Program Planning/ Holiday Party</b>	Dec 8	W	6 p.m.	Bobbie Porter's house (All members encouraged to attend!)
<b>Board meeting</b>	Jan 5	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library (probably)

### Voter Contents

Topic	Page
1 --	<a href="#">Board Report</a>
2 --	<a href="#">Co-President's Message</a>
4 --	<a href="#">Directions</a>
5 --	<a href="#">Program Planning</a>
6 --	<a href="#">Party Invitation</a>
7 --	<a href="#">From LWVNJ</a>

### Board Report

#### At its Nov 3 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Decided to order 75 copies of the directory and ensure that all members get one, in person or by mail, as appropriate. This provides enough to mail to all and have some left. We will try to have them for distribution at the December meeting.
2. Sought a volunteer to take the phone line. We will ask again at the December meeting.
3. Agreed to promote our availability to moderate to PTAs, Chamber of Commerce, JCC, parties, etc... Ed will put a note on the web site.
4. Discussed plans for a March meeting with CCC involving local tax rates. If that falls through we considered a different topic, perhaps redistricting, for February.
5. Discussed the December meeting at Bobbie Porter's house. Pot luck holiday party. Karen, Sally, Winne, and Harriet, will lead groups. Ed will run the meeting.

**League of Women Voters of Camden County**

## Co-Presidents' Message:



Dear League Members,

As we move forward and continue to digest the results from the midterm elections, we find it fitting to begin our League message by reflecting on our Mission Statement: 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 goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower people to shape better communities worldwide.

Thus, we would like to thank all of the members who participated in the League Voter Election process by registering new voters, by providing nonpartisan information on the candidates through the Voters' guides, and by conducting Candidates debates.

Next, a message, in part, from our National President, Elisabeth MacNamara:

*...voters were overwhelmed by millions of dollars in negative ads this year, but didn't know who paid for many of them....*

“Our examination of this year’s election has brought to light two major players during the election season that demand our immediate attention: secret money and incivility.

When the Supreme Court ruled on the Citizens United case earlier this year, huge amounts of secret money were turned loose in American politics. Congress’ failure to act and pass the DISCLOSE ACT only added to this problem.

As a result, not surprisingly, voters were overwhelmed by millions of dollars in negative ads this year, but didn’t know who paid for many of them. Leagues across the country have been calling on their elected officials to support the DISCLOSE Act, which would require corporations and unions to disclose the dollars they spend in elections...

The League will continue to address the other major issue this election season-incivility. The tone of the 2010 campaign exhibited a disturbingly new low in American politics. Not only was this evident in the expensive advertising, but we also saw it in candidates debates and forums and in the public discourse.

As we have for the past 90 years, the League will continue to help fellow citizens discuss the issues in a civil and fact-based way and fight for transparency, accountability, and disclosure in America's elections!

*"The tone of the 2010 campaign exhibited a disturbingly new low in American politics."*

We will not slow down in our work to demand disclosure requirements from Congress. The future of our nation's elections depends on it. Our democracy belongs to the people, not to a special interest group.

Voters, not money, should be at the center of our democracy" (Elisabeth MacNamara, President, LWVUS).

Lastly, as we continue our work in League for the coming year, we remind you to **mark your calendar** for Wednesday, December 8, 2010. Our general meeting will be held at Bobbie & Joel Porter's home. Please, see the enclosed flier for details.

*...mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 8, 2010. [See the flier for our holiday party [here](#) (page 6), and learn about program planning [here](#) (page 5)]*

Our annual December general meeting opens with the Holiday spirit of enjoying a variety of tasty dishes prepared by our members and then moves to the business meeting of program planning for the coming year.

Crucial times lie ahead, and your help matters. Together, as a League, we can Make Democracy Work!

We hope to see you on December 8, 2010.

In League,

Winnefred Rowell-Bullard

Harriet Snyder

Co-Presidents

**Welcome to our newest members:**

Marianne McGurk-Hughes (April 2010)  
Cherry Hill

M. Pauline Kohl (October, 2010)  
Voorhees

Vikki Cornette Scott (November, 2010)  
Sicklerville



## Getting there - Directions!

**Cherry Hill:** Bobbie and Joel Porters' house. This will be the site of our Dec 8 holiday party. For directions, contact us. The Porters live in southeastern Cherry Hill (in case you're trying to get an idea where you'd be going!)

**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!

---

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

Voice Mail Line:

(856) 795-7878

Co-Presidents

Harriet Snyder

(856) 779-1298

Voter Editor: Ed Gracely

(856) 629-2869

Winnefred Rowell-Bullard

(856) 228-2042

Voter Distributor: Barbara Sielaff

1st Vice President: Ann Saunders

(856) 232-1041

2nd Vice President: Karen Avenick

(856) 784-8977

e-mail: [lwvcc@hotmail.com](mailto:lwvcc@hotmail.com)

Visit our web site: <http://www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty>

*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.

---

## LWVNJ Program Planning

The year at our annual holiday program planning party, we'll be doing LWVNJ program planning.

### So what is program planning?

Well, every other year, in the spring at Convention, the LWVNJ decides on its program for the upcoming two years. The NJ League supports a variety of public policy positions. These are listed in the membership directory, as well as on the LWVNJ web site. Some examples to give you a flavor:

- Support restoring voting rights to all parolees and probationers who are U.S. citizens (Adopted in 2009).
- Promote increased state funding for public education to guarantee a thorough and efficient education, equalize opportunities, and provide adequate support for children with special needs.
- Support a sound fiscal policy with balanced, progressive, and equitable tax structure, reduced dependency on the property tax, reduced disparities in tax rates and services between communities, and adequate revenue for state services.
- Support conservation of open space, biodiversity, and farmland, historic preservation, and provision of low and moderate-income housing consistent with environmental policies.
- Support state efforts to increase the availability of quality child care services.
- Promote laws which protect the rights of women, provide adequate protection for women throughout their lives, and take into consideration changes which may occur in their status (single/married/divorced, working/non-working, etc.).

At our local Program Planning meeting we review the list, suggest ones that may be outdated and need review, others we would drop entirely (rare), and possibly new topics suitable for study.

New positions like those in the list can only be adopted after study and consensus at the state level, through one of several mechanisms. The most common mechanism is for a number of Leagues to promote the topic during program planning and for the Convention delegates to agree that a study is merited. We recently completed a study of voting rights for felons, for example and now have a position on the topic. Before that, we studied and adopted a position on the death penalty (which we then helped promote into a national position in opposition to capital punishment).

Our League is one part of this larger process. We need input from as many of our members as possible.

The process we have adopted as of a few years ago is for our members to break into several smaller groups to each discuss an assigned chunk of the list of positions. This division of the list allows a smaller number of individuals to discuss each chunk, and to focus on a smaller part of the whole list. Otherwise there are too many people and too many topics to handle as a whole group!

The subcommittees report back to the whole group on their recommendations, which then need to be fitted to the format that LWVNJ requested. For example, the state may require each League to provide a detailed rationale for that study. Leagues that don't follow the rules may have their input discounted, so it is important that we do what we are asked.

The process is interesting, the results are important, and we hope to see you there!

**League of Women Voters  
of Camden County**

***Program Planning  
And  
Holiday Party***

**Wednesday, December 8, 2010  
6 p.m.**



**Home of Bobbie 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.**



## From the LWVNJ

### Give back to the League this Holiday Season – Shop for democracy!

**It's time to start shopping for the holidays and there are many easy ways to give a little back to the League as you shop!**

#### Amazon.com

If you buy items through Amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to the League - **at no additional cost to you!**

Amazon.com is an online retailer offering everything from clothing and books to electronics and kitchenware. This is a perfect way to find the perfect gift for everyone on your shopping list from the comfort of your own home - no lines, no traffic, no hassle. And you can feel great knowing that a portion of what you spend will be sent to the League of Women Voters of New Jersey!

**In order for the League to be credited with your purchases, you MUST visit Amazon through the League web site. Visit <http://www.lwvnj.org> scroll down until you see the “Amazon box” on the left hand side, hit go and start shopping!**

#### **New League Merchandise**

Or maybe you are looking for League merchandise for those lovers of democracy on your list (or want to give yourself a much deserved gift)? **We have great new items available to kick off this holiday season!**

**The League has opened a brand new online store where you can buy great League merchandise.** Visit <http://www.cafepress.com/lwvnj> to purchase League logo clothing, mugs, water bottles, bags, office supplies, wall clocks, buttons, and even teddy bears! Show your League pride by making a purchase today!

#### **Give the gift of membership**

League members are intelligent, engaged members of the community who are just amazing to be around. Why not invite your friends to join in the League experience by giving them the gift of membership? This is a great way to increase your local League membership and you may find that the gift recipient will renew year after year.

**Thank you and happy shopping!**

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)

The



**OTER**

League of Women Voters of Camden County  
P. O. Box 245  
Voorhees, NJ 08043