



The VOTER

VOLUME 51 NUMBER 10

November 2012

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
LWVCC Program Planning and Holiday Party	Dec 12	W	6-9 pm	Bobbie Porter's House. Contact us for directions.
Happy New Year!	Jan 1	Tu	All Day!	Your house (or wherever)
LWVCC Board meeting	Jan 2	W	7-9 pm	Vogelson Library (confirmed)

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Board Report

At its Nov 7, 2012 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Chose "Ads in the schools" as our likely topic for a spring membership meeting.
2. Chose voting concerns such as Internet voting and vote suppression as likely topics for the Annual meeting in June.
3. Discussed the possibility of increasing the number of Callathon calls our League makes.
4. Confirmed the date and time of Program Planning - see calendar.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message:



Dear Fellow Members,

We hope that all of you, and indeed all of our friends and neighbors, have recovered from Hurricane Sandy and that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. The presidential election coupled with Hurricane Sandy made

...we answered many questions from callers to our League Line and moderated three candidate forums...

November a busy month for the League. See the [article below](#) for the efforts by our state League to help voters after the storm. Locally, we

answered many questions from callers to our League Line and moderated three candidate forums: two moderated by Ed Gracely and one by me. (A fourth, which was to have been moderated by Barbara Sielaff, was cancelled because

of the storm.) We really need more moderators and will have a training session in the spring, so please do consider joining us in this important service.

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Now we are looking forward to seeing many of you at our holiday party/ covered dish supper on Wednesday, December 12th, at Bobbie Porter's house (see details on [page 4](#) in this newsletter). After eating and socializing, we will be asked to advise the state League on which issues in their program we'd like to see studied, modified, or dropped. We also hope to hear your suggestions for a topic or speaker for our local League's annual meeting in May.

Now we are looking forward to seeing many of you at our holiday party/ covered dish supper on Wednesday, December 12th...

Best wishes for a joyful holiday season and a happy new year!

Harriet Snyder, Treasurer

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
 Voter Editor: Ed Gracely (856) 629-2869
 Voter Distributor: Barbara Sielaff

Voice Mail Line: (856) 795-7878

e-mail: lwvcc@hotmail.com

Visit our web site: <http://www.lwvni.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.



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.*

Voorhees: Vogelson Regional Library: Driving south on 30, turn left onto Somerdale Road just above the Voorhees Town Center. Go under the train bridge in about a half mile, then turn right onto Burnt Mill (at the light). Soon turn left onto Laurel Road at a light. The library is on your right as you pass the mall.

Holiday Party and Program Planning!

LWVCC Annual Holiday Party
&
Program Planning Meeting
Dec 12, 2012 at the Porter residence
6 p.m. -- networking
7 p.m. -- planning!

Freeholder Meetings

We encourage League members to observe Freeholder meetings when they are convenient for you. Just show up with a LWV button to let them know we are watching! Don't make any statements -- you aren't entitled to speak for the League (or even yourself after wearing a League button). You can ask a neutral/informative question, however. Meetings start at 7. It's good for Camden County!

Dec 20 Lindenwold

See <http://www.camdencounty.com/government/freeholder-meetings/2012-freeholder-meetings> for details.

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 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. The study of voting rights for felons, for example, was adopted in this way and we now have a position. 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).

The Camden County 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 any study we propose. 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!

LWVNJ response to the Storm



Hurricane Sandy hit New Jersey on Monday October 29th. By the next morning, Tuesday, October 30th (one week before the election), millions of New Jersey residents, as well as municipalities, were without power and displaced from their homes. New Jersey was in a State of Emergency.



Although all three of our full time employees were without power, the LWVNJ office, located on West State Street in Trenton across from the Capitol building, had electric and internet capability. Our 1-800 Voter Information hotline was up and running from Tuesday, October 30th on and was **manned throughout the weekend to up until the election evening at 8pm** when the polls closed.

Thursday, November 1, 2012

An email addressed to Bob Giles, the head of the New Jersey Division of Elections:

Dear Bob,

We are getting inundated with calls from frantic voters that have been displaced by the storm, have no power, have no access to gas stations, are being told not to drive in their neighborhoods because of power lines down, etc. New Jersey's citizens would like to participate in the election and are asking us (through our 1 800 Voter Hotline) to provide guidance.

Clearly, as a result of NJ's State of Emergency, there are changes necessary to provide access. Can you please provide us with a copy of NJ's election plan as a result of the hurricane?

In addition, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey is offering our outreach assistance to your office. We are ready and waiting to assist you in rolling out the plan to make sure that everyone who wants to participate in the election, can.

Thanks in advance for all the work you are doing during this crisis. Again, we are here to assist you in any way you deem necessary.

Kerry

As a result of that request, from Friday on, every morning at 11:00am, Kerry Butch, our Executive Director, Alexander Shalom, a lawyer from the ACLU and Mary Ciccone, a lawyer representing people with disabilities conferenced with Bob Giles, the head of the Division of Elections in New Jersey via phone to discuss problems and new information. Later on Catherine Weiss from Lowenstein Sandler also participated in the calls.

Soon after this, Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno issued a directive to county election officials easing restrictions on voters in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

November 3, 2012

Sent a Letter to Kim Guadagno requesting that displaced voters are able to voter provisionally throughout the state and have that vote counted in every race for which they qualify.

November 4, 2012

A) Sent email to LWFNJ Board:

Dear Members of the Board,

Attached please find the directives that the Lt. Governor sent out last night regarding expanding the ability of displaced voters to cast a ballot. We believe that LWFNJ's advocacy and communications with Bob Giles had an impact, as did our outstanding communications performance during the crisis. Please note that **Directive 3 includes requiring County Boards of Election to "notify the League of Women Voters"** and ask them to post the information on their website" regarding any polling changes.

Summary:

Hotline Activity: From 10/2 – 11/5: 605 calls; 11/6: 337 calls

We helped 942 voters on the voter assistance hotline in the past month

Website Hits: In the past month (Oct 1 – Nov 7), we had 6,195 visits to our website (4,971 individuals.) Of that amount (4971), 2,839 individuals visited our homepage once the hurricane hit (Oct 29th – November 6).

The **LWFNJ Annual Appeal** will be coming soon. Take note of the above. The LWFNJ staff worked through the weekend to help voters after the storm, and all day election day. Jesse was crafting and sending alerts with new information into the night!

Please give generously to support the worthy efforts of the LWFNJ! Donate in response to the letter -- save yourself a call!

From the LWVUS

Tell President Obama to Lead the Climate Change Fight

“Climate change is not a hoax. More drought and floods and hurricanes and wildfires are not a joke. They’re a threat to our children’s future. And we can do something about it.”

These are the words of President Obama during the 2012 campaign, and we couldn’t agree more. People are dying because of climate change. Our families, our communities and our planet are all threatened by it.

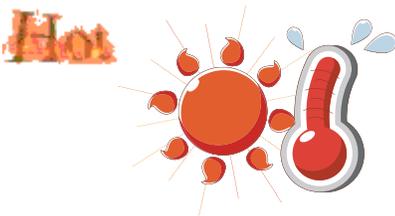
Join the League by calling on the President, to take the historically necessary step of controlling industrial carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. The President can use his existing regulatory authority to make this happen.

The world has known about climate change for decades, yet little has been done to address the issue. The U.S. came close to enacting a comprehensive climate change bill in the early years of your administration when a good bill passed the House, but it was blocked by special interests in the Senate. With the current gridlock in Congress, it seems impossible that any legislative action will be taken to protect our health and our planet.

If President Obama doesn’t do it, it won’t get done. If the United States doesn’t lead, the rest of the world cannot follow.

Tell the President that saving the world is a legacy worth fighting for.

Click on this link to take ACTION! http://participate.lwv.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=6903



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



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League of Women Voters of Camden County

P. O. Box 245

Voorhees, NJ 08043