



# The VOTER

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 9

October 2013

## Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
<b>LWVCC Board meeting</b>	Nov 4	M	7-8:45 pm	Haddon Township Library - larger room. We'll show Hurricane Heroes, a 20-minutes video about voting after Hurricane Sandy.
<b>Voter registration</b>	Nov 14	Th	10 a.m.	After the naturalization ceremony, 401 Market St., Camden. Contact the League at <a href="mailto:lwvcc@hotmail.com">lwvcc@hotmail.com</a> or call 856-795-7878 if you are interested in helping register.
<b>Holiday Party/Program Planning</b>	Dec 11	W	6-9 pm	Porter residence

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### Board Report

#### At its Oct. 7 meeting the board:

1. Decided to promote Hurricane Heroes (the video) and show it at our Nov 4 meeting.
2. Finalized plans for our Holiday Party/program planning meeting Dec 11 at the Porter residence.
3. Accepted Bobbie's offer to Chair the November board meeting.
4. Continued discussion of a major spring meeting -- we can't finalize the date until November.
5. Finalized plans for the Human Trafficking Consensus on Oct 21.
6. Decided to approach Woodrow Wilson High in Camden for R&W 2014.

**League of Women Voters of Camden County**

## Board Message:



Hello Fellow Members,

The **Kickoff** was very successful. Everyone learned (and reminisced) about things they remember from our area's history. We thank our two speakers, Mike Sommeling and Dave Lummis from the Cherry Hill Historical Commission. Who knew that a famous covered bridge was built recently as a modern covered bridge, rather than an old time historical one? We watched as Cherry Hill grew, and as famous old landmarks closed or were replaced. Some very old buildings are still around, of course.

Visit the Commission's web site at <http://www.cherryhill-nj.com/index.aspx?NID=111> There are no pictures or historical links there, but you can learn about the Commission and its work.

Sorry if you missed the our local **LWVNJ Consensus meeting on Human Trafficking**. Yes, we oppose it! The consensus will make our position more specific once recommendations from local Leagues are taken by the LWVNJ and crafted into a complete picture. We had good discussion and information on Oct 21. Also consider visiting the LWVNJ's web site where there is a great deal of material posted (On the Women and Family Issues page: [http://lwvnj.org/issues\\_womenfamily.html](http://lwvnj.org/issues_womenfamily.html))

Woodrow Wilson High School has agreed to host *Running & Winning* -- Yay! Let the planning begin!

Many people helped with our several **voter registration sessions** this fall. Harriet Snyder, Renée Robbins, Bobbie Porter, Helen Ewan, Audrey Miller, Ryna Alexander, and Pearl Friedman. Thank you all!

This has been an active season for **Board of Education forums**. Bill Skinner moderated two locations and plans one more -- one of the first two sponsors sent an email with excellent reviews of his work! I've also moderated several sites. Meanwhile new moderator trainees Claudia Tucker-Keto, Helen Ewan, and Ryna Alexander have been keeping time and observing. Several old hands have jumped up to help with timekeeping as well, notably Sally Thorne and Barbara Sielaff. Thank you all!

We will use 20 minutes of the November board meeting to screen a special video from the LWVNJ called "Hurricane Heroes". Nov 4 -- join us!

Ed Gracely, Board Member

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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.

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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.*

**Haddon Township: Rohrer Library:** Take 295 to Route 30 north. On 30, pass King's Highway. In about a mile after King's Highway, just after Nicholson Road on the left, you'll see Cuthbert Road on the right. Turn right onto Cuthbert from 30. Stay on Cuthbert for about half a mile. Just past Hopkins, turn right onto MacArthur. The library is at that corner. // This is the same Cuthbert Road that becomes Cuthbert Blvd further north at routes 70 and 38, so you could take it south from there. MacArthur is about 0.8 miles south of Haddon Avenue on Cuthbert Blvd.

**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.

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From the LWVNJ

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## Fall Election Deadlines at a Glance

[A PDF with all of these dates is available here.](#)

**November General Election for Governor and other seats: Tuesday, November 5, 2013**

- **Deadline to register to vote or change address:** October 15, 2013
- **Deadline to apply by mail for mail-in ballot:** October 29, 2013 - Note: County Clerk must **receive** application by this date.
- **Deadline to apply in-person for mail-in ballot:** November 4, 2013, 3:00 pm

# Ballot Questions

## The LWVNJ has, as usual, a nice interpretation/analysis of the two questions

It's available at <http://lwvnj.org/voting.html#2013Ballot> in full detail.

### Here's are the main parts:

**Public Question #1** "Do you approve amending the Constitution to allow **veterans' organizations** to use money collected from existing **games of chance** to support their organizations?"

#### Background from the League of Women Voters of NJ:

Voters of the State of New Jersey must authorize specific kinds of gambling and the restrictions on each kind. Veterans' groups; charitable, educational, religious or fraternal organizations; civic and service clubs; senior citizen associations or clubs; volunteer fire companies; and first-aid or rescue squads are currently authorized to conduct games of chance such as bingos, lottos, or raffles. However, only senior citizens associations or clubs are allowed to apply the money raised from gambling activities directly to support their organizations. The remaining groups listed above, including veterans' groups, are restricted to using any funds raised in games of chance for some socially beneficial purposes, such as to support educational, patriotic, or charitable activities.

For example, a veterans' group could conduct a bingo event to help fund a clinic for disabled veterans, or a 50-50 raffle from which the proceeds would be used to upgrade the lighting in a local park. But they could not use any of the money gained to pay the cost of utilities or the rent in the building where they meet, or other purely organizational expenses.

If approved, the amendment would allow veterans' groups to use the money raised from games of chance to support their organizational expenses, in addition to the educational, charitable, patriotic, religious or public-spirited purposes already permitted.

#### Reasons to Vote Yes:

- Veterans' groups perform a valuable service. This amendment provides them with an additional source of revenue to support their organizations.
- Some veterans' groups might not be able to continue serving their members without this additional source of revenue to cover increasing expenses such as rent and utilities.

#### Reasons to Vote No:

- There are many worthwhile organizations other than veterans' and senior citizen groups. This amendment provides veterans' groups with an option not available to some other groups.
- There are serious downsides to gambling, including addiction. Veterans' organizations could find less socially-risky sources to procure additional funds.

**Public Question #2** "Do you approve amending the State Constitution to set a State **minimum wage** rate of at least \$8.25 per hour? The amendment also requires annual increases in that rate if there are annual increases in the cost of living."

**BACKGROUND FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW JERSEY:**

The minimum wage for hourly workers in New Jersey is \$7.25, where it has been since 2010, at which time it was raised 10 cents from the \$7.15 it had been since 2007. If this ballot question is approved, there will be an amendment to Article I of the New Jersey State Constitution, which will place the minimum hourly wage in the constitution and set it at \$8.25 per hour on January 1, 2014 and tie future annual increases to the U. S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) every January 1.

There are conflicting views on the impact. The New Jersey Minimum Wage Advisory Commission in January 2012 recommended keeping the minimum wage at \$7.25. They said raising it could put New Jersey at a competitive disadvantage to neighboring states that have not raised it and argued that "higher wage costs would have to be passed on to consumers."

Others argue that increasing the minimum wage encourages consumer spending because minimum wage workers will spend their increased income locally and on necessities. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, a \$1.75 hike in the hourly federal minimum wage could increase the level of real gross domestic product by up to 0.3 percentage points in the near term, but with virtually no effect in the long term.

There are 129,000 New Jersey residents earning the minimum wage or less. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, three quarters of minimum wage earners are 20 or older. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia have minimum wages that exceed the federal standard (\$7.25 per hour). The state of New York recently passed legislation to increase minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$9.00 per hour over three years and Connecticut will raise the current minimum wage of \$8.25 to \$9.00 per hour by 2015.

The proposed amendment does not cover employees who rely primarily on tips. Their minimum wage will remain at \$2.13 per hour, based on the national Fair Labor Standards Act.

**REASONS TO VOTE YES:**

- The current minimum wage has not kept up with inflation and is not sufficient to sustain a family. Adjusted for inflation, New Jersey's current minimum wage is lower than it was in 1967.
- Increasing the purchasing power of low wage workers could benefit the economy as well as the workers directly affected.
- Better paid workers may be more productive, and more loyal, sparing companies the expense of training new workers when old ones leave.
- If workers are being paid too little to support themselves, this raises issues of basic fairness.
- Tying the minimum wage to the consumer price index and building it into the constitution ensures that workers will have a minimum wage level that keeps up with inflation and avoids having to fight a battle over the minimum every few years.

**REASONS TO VOTE NO:**

- Tying the minimum wage (and annual increases) to the NJ State Constitution will make it less flexible and more difficult to change, should the need arise.
- Increasing the minimum wage might reduce the number of available jobs and/or increase the cost of products and services.
- Small employers may have an especially difficult time paying a higher rate.
- If increasing the minimum wage is beneficial to companies through reduced turnover and more productive workers (as some argue), then wages should rise by way of market forces without a government mandate.
- Some workers have been pressing for a minimum wage of \$10 or higher -- if that was an appropriate level, then constitutionally fixing the rate at an inflation-adjusted \$8.25 ties New Jersey to an inadequate minimum for a long time.

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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