



# The VOTER

VOLUME 56 NUMBER 2

February 2016

## Calendar (League activities in bold)

| EVENT/ACTIVITY                             | DATE     | DAY | TIME       | LOCATION/INFO   |
|--|----------|-----|------------|---|
| <b>96<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the LWV</b> | Feb 14   | Su  | All day    | Celebrate the League!   |
| <b>LWVCC Board meeting</b>                 | Mar 7    | M   | 7-9 p.m.   | Vogelson Library Room B. Members welcome to attend. Please let us know if you are coming as meetings may be cancelled or moved. |
| <b>LWVCC Board Meeting</b>                 | Apr 4    | M   | 7-9 p.m.   | Vogelson Library Room B. Members welcome to attend. Please let us know if you are coming as meetings may be cancelled or moved. |
| <b>LWVCC Annual Meeting</b>                | April 30 | Sa  | ~ noon - 2 | Speaker, local information and updates. Good food!  |
| <b>LWVNJ Spring forum</b>                  | May 7    | Sa  | ~ 9-2      | Always a great panel in the morning, then excellent training sessions in the afternoon. Hold the date!                          |

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### Board Report

1. Running & Winning is getting back on track -- Harriet has a new contact and a letter of commitment from the top leadership.
2. We are working on a speaker for the annual meeting (post meeting note -- success. We have a great speaker - watch for details!)
3. We will not buy LWVNJ Citizens Guides, but will use our local ones for Running & Winning.
4. We will produce (Staples) 1,000 copies of our local Citizens Guides.
5. We are entitled to one delegate at LWVUS convention. Ed will ask our members.

**League of Women Voters of Camden County**

# Board Message

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Hello Fellow Members and Friends,

We hope you are keeping warm and safe this winter while monitoring the political debates leading to the primary elections in the various states this presidential election year. New Jersey’s primary comes late in the season, June 7<sup>th</sup> this year. Our League has plans for voter registration events leading up to both the primary and the general election in November.

This month is Callathon month. If you have not already contributed to the state League, one of your fellow members will call you to ask if you can do so. We hope you will be as generous as possible, especially because our local League gets a percentage of the total we raise.

The Running & Winning committee is preparing for our annual workshop for high school girls, this year to be held at the Leap Academy Charter School in Camden on April 19th. Please let us know if you would like to participate.

And looking forward to Spring, we are planning our annual meeting/luncheon on Saturday, April 30 (with a wonderful speaker), and our participation in the national League’s convention in June, to be held in Washington, D.C.

Reminder: You are always welcome to attend our board meetings, held on the first Monday of each month. Please see the schedule in this edition of the Voter for more details. Let us know if you plan to come, in case something changes.

In League,  
Harriet Snyder  
Board Member



Happy Birthday, LWV!

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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.

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

Follow us on Twitter: @LWVCCNJ

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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!

**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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## 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!

The list for the year is online at <http://www.camdencounty.com/your-government/public-information/2016-freeholder-meetings>

The **February** meeting is February 18 at 7 p.m. (Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building, 200 College Drive, Blackwood).

The **March** meeting is March 17 at 7 p.m. (Collingswood Community Center, 30 W. Collings Ave, Collingswood). Take a look -- see when they are near you and observe the meeting!

# League of Women Voters Announces New Position

*From the LWVUS web site*

The League of Women Voters today announced [a new position](#) calling for safeguards to govern the constitutional convention process of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

“The League believes that procedural safeguards must be put in place to protect democratic values and ensure that any proposed amendments reflect the concerns of citizens,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

“We cannot afford to have a chaotic or unrepresentative process for amending the Constitution. We can’t afford to let special interests dominate a constitutional convention,” MacNamara continued.

There are many current proposals for constitutional amendments, from both the right and the political left, from a Balanced Budget Amendment to one curbing the rights of corporations. “Everyone should be concerned what a runaway, topsy-turvy Constitutional Convention might do. Before we head into uncharted territory that could affect our basic principles of government and our individual rights, we need to make sure some basic rules are in place,” according to MacNamara.

The League supports these safeguards for a Constitutional Convention:

- 1) The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret;
- 2) Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote; and delegates should be elected rather than appointed;
- 3) Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state;
- 4) The Convention must be limited to a specific topic;
- 5) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention should be called;
- 6) The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention should be determined by the most recent action of the state.

The new League position is especially relevant because the Balanced Budget Amendment is close to achieving the number of states needed to require Congress to call a convention. “The states that have called for a convention on the Balanced Budget Amendment have not provided for the safeguards that are necessary. Any calls for a constitutional convention must have built-in protections to ensure it is not hijacked by a small minority,” MacNamara said.

Article 5 of the U.S. Constitution provides for two ways to amend the constitution. Congress can initiate an amendment or, if two-thirds of the states petition Congress to do so, a Constitutional Convention can be called to propose amendments. Under either mechanism, proposed amendments must be ratified by three-fourths of the states in order to take effect. There has never been a constitutional convention called under the U.S. Constitution.

“There are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. These problems must be solved before America embarks on a dangerous journey,” MacNamara concluded.

### 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. **First time new annual membership** is only \$25! This also applies to student and household members (for an entirely new household membership).

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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League of Women Voters of Camden County  
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