



The

VOTER

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November/December 2016

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
LWVCC Holiday Party and Consensus	Dec 12	M	6-8(30) PM	Consensus will be on sex crimes on college campuses. As usual, please let us know you are coming in case the location or date changes. Porter residence.
LWVCC Board Meeting	Jan 9	M	7-8:30	Vogelson Library, room B (third floor). Members are welcome to attend, but please let us know because meetings are occasionally moved or cancelled.

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Board Report

At the Nov 7, 2016 board meeting, the board:

1. Discussed the results of some of the calls to members. Still some long-time members who have not renewed.
2. Found 2 volunteers (on the board) to do Running & Winning next year (2017-2018), perhaps in a simplified form.
3. Learned that LWVCC members moderated seven forums this fall.
4. Made plans to buy a banner/tablecloth.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message

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Dear League members and friends:

So the election is over. New Jersey did not go for the winner of the Presidential election. The election results raise concerns for many of us that gains in the areas the League especially cares about such as health care access, marriage equality, women's rights, voting rights, global warming prevention, and many other areas may be undermined. The League will continue to fight for everyone's rights, a livable environment, and good government. Prepare for advocacy!

Please take a look at the materials in this Voter about Sex Crimes on Campus. I picked a few key sections from the main materials. We'll go through a brief PowerPoint presentation on Monday (Dec 12), then discuss the questions being asked by the LWVNJ's Women and Family Issues Committee.

Did you see that the LWVUS is continuing to take a strong stand against restrictions on voting?

Across the country, there has been a concerted effort in many states to stop some voters from voting, or to make it much harder for them to participate, and there promises to be more to come in 2017. Legislators and election officials have purged existing voters from the rolls, made cuts to early voting, reduced polling places, put in place strict voter photo ID laws and levied onerous voter registration restrictions. All of these actions have been made easier by the Supreme Court's decision to gut key provisions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013. The 2016 election was the first presidential election in 50 years without full protection of the right to vote.

The League remains committed to fighting suppression tactics that threaten our democracy and the right to vote. In Ohio, the League made thousands of phone calls to inform voters about that state's purge. In Virginia, the League conducted outreach so voters knew how the state's new voter photo ID law might affect them. In Kansas, the League fought tirelessly to protect the rights of voters caught in the crosshairs of the state's illegal and discriminatory attempts to restrict voter registration.

Ed Gracely
For the board.

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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Follow us on Twitter: @LWVCCNJ

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVCCNJ/home>

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!

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 **December** meeting is December 15 at 7PM (Wayne Bryant Community Ctr., 323 Charleston Avenue, Lawnside). The caucus meeting before this one is on the Monday (not Tuesday as it normally is) Nov 7.

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Campus Sexual Assault Study and Consensus

The following are edited and abbreviated from the LWFVNJ's detailed background.

The basic problem:

- 20-25% of college women and 6% of college men will be sexually assaulted during their college career.
- Few are reported.
- Fewer prosecuted
- Most victims knew their assailant
- A substantial subset of perpetrators are serial offenders.

Rape culture

"Rape culture" is described as a setting where rape or sexual assault is accepted as a part of everyday occurrence by a significant part of the population, and by some groups that it is a male prerogative.

Behaviors commonly associated with rape culture include: victim blaming, sexual objectification, trivializing rape, denial of widespread rape, refusing to acknowledge the harm caused by some forms of sexual violence.

Certain groups have been found to foster ideals of competition and camaraderie by viewing sex as a tool for gaining acceptance and bonding with other men as they engage in contests over sex with women. Their actions include acts of sexism such as sexist jokes meant to foster disrespect for women and an accompanying disregard for women's wellbeing; and at the extreme with rape or sexual assault as a "brotherhood" rite of passage.

Exacerbating actions such as police apathy or harsh treatment of the victim in handling rape or sexual assault cases, victim blaming, reluctance by authorities to go against local cultural norms plus fear of stigmatization suffered by rape victims and their families, may contribute to low reporting and conviction rates for rape or sexual assault. (In the US, 1 in 1000 date sexual assaults result in a conviction).

To dismantle rape culture requires the undoing of more than just the normalization and tolerance of sexual assault and rape. It requires the **relief of gender stereotypes**; where **men are expected to be dominant, strong, violent, sexual and controlling** and; where **women are expected to be submissive, weak, passive, decorative, and controllable**. This can occur through long-term commitments to behavioral changes.

We interviewed five campus administrators who deal with Campus Assault responsibilities daily. They all maintained that **IF** such at-risk men had not already developed attitudes of respect for women, healthy relationships and the relevance of consent, the likelihood that the college would be able to impact their attitudes was slim. All agreed that attitudinal and behavioral training to stop campus assault needed to take place way before people reached college level.

Therefore, other prevention activities are needed such as, bystander training where other men and women become trained to catch dangerous behavior in process and intervene to head off sexual assault incidents. Long - term programs like Men Can Stop Rape concentrate on raising the visibility of healthy masculinity and building

a new generation of male leaders who model non-violent, emotionally healthy masculinity, serving as positive change makers in society.

Federal requirements

- Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to claims of assault, usually within 60 days. If a school knows or reasonably should know about sexual harassment or sexual violence that creates a hostile environment, the school must take immediate action to eliminate the sexual harassment or sexual violence, prevent its reoccurrence, and address its effects.
- Responsible employees of the campus must promptly report sexual harassment and violence they are aware of or hear about.
- The US Department of Education has established an evidentiary standard for resolution of sexual assault claims called "preponderance of evidence, which uses the 51% model of likelihood in determining a resolution. Law enforcement must work with the higher standard of "evidence beyond a reasonable doubt" in determining moving forward with prosecution of a respondent.
- Even if a student or his or her parent does not want to file a complaint or does not request that the school take any action on the student's behalf; if a school knows or reasonably should know about possible sexual harassment or sexual violence, it must promptly investigate to determine what occurred and then take appropriate steps to resolve the situation.
- A criminal investigation by law enforcement into allegations of campus sexual harassment or sexual violence does not relieve the school of its duty under Title IX to resolve complaints promptly and equitably.
- Schools have been encouraged by the US Department of Education to adopt consent conditions for sexual contact wherein only an affirmative YES consent is required rather than an absence of NO. Some state legislatures have passed legislation to that effect as well. Schools have adopted media campaigns like "Consent Is So Sexy" or "Consent Is So Frat".
- Schools are also encouraged to conduct annual "climate" surveys that measure student's experiences with sexual misconduct, their knowledge about how to report it and suggestions on how to prevent it. This allows the colleges to more adequately understand the full scope of the problem
- Colleges must offer extensive and continuing annual training to both students and employees such as faculty members, coaches, and resident advisors re-enforcing what unacceptable conduct consists of and is NOT.
- Campuses have been severely criticized when discovered, that they have perpetrators who have been accused more than once or several times and they have not acted promptly or at all. Some of these incidents may have been perpetrated by popular figures or noted athletes on campus or by children of big donors or political figures.

Want to learn more? **Join us for our local League consensus meeting Monday, Dec 12**, at 6 pm (food first, then work!)

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. **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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