



DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Fall, 2012

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www.lwvdelaware.org

Volume 55 No. 2

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Editor: Letty Diswood

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Fellow League Members:

The election is over and members of the Delaware Leagues once again proved their mettle. We registered more than 800 new voters, successfully implemented the VOTE411 program again (this year we had 91 responses from 177 candidates – a better than 50% rate), and we ran ads statewide in English and Spanish providing information to voters on how to respond if they were registered but had a problem with being allowed to vote. The number of volunteer hours cannot even be counted.

Our thanks to you all but especially to Charlotte King who chaired the VOTE411 program, Janet Orlando who implemented the program, and to Connie Jones who assisted Janet so ably and numerous others in all three local Leagues who did a great deal of work. In addition, there were candidate nights and other efforts to educate voters and to get out the vote.

Now it's time to turn our efforts to all the other issues that need attention. We need campaign finance reform, immigration reform, a closer look at school funding, how to mitigate sea level rise – and the list goes on. So all of you take a bow for your recent good works, then roll up your sleeves, and prepare to tackle the rest of the problems we face as citizens of this great country.

The LWVUS President, Elisabeth MacNamara, summed things up pretty well in her memo following the election. We have copied it below for your information. I think you'll find it interesting. With thanks to all.

Carol

Carol D. Jones, President, LWVDE
(LWVUS Presidents Message page 2)

HOLD THIS DATE!!

**LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER- OUR ANNUAL
LEGISLATIVE DAY
March 27, 2013**

Theme: Public Education Trends and Issues

Morning Program: Following a kickoff plenary session that presents an overview by a guest speaker, the morning session will feature three workshops dealing with:

- A. Delaware education trends, charters and privatization
- B. Public education funding and equalization issues.
- C. Accountability and transparency at schools, districts and state levels

A second brief plenary session, featuring report backs from the three groups, will close the morning workshop session. Following the report back session, there will be a lunch starting at noon at the Duncan Center.

Schedule:

- 8:30 to 9:00 AM Registration
- 9:00 to 9:30 AM Overview with Q&A
- 9:45 to 11:30 AM Workshops
- 11:30 to 12:00 AM Feedback Session
- 12:00 to 1:30 PM Lunch - Buffett all legislators invited**
- 1:30 to 4:00 PM Lobbying at Legislative Hall

**Location:
The Outlook at the Duncan Center, Dover, Delaware**

**Message from LWVUS President
Elisabeth MacNamara**

"I think the LWVUS President, Elisabeth MacNamara, has put into words what we all feel post-election. I urge you to read her statement and take it to heart. In addition to her remarks, thanks to all for the work you did in Delaware. Power the Vote!"

Carol D. Jones, President, LWV of Delaware

All is well that ends, and, mercifully, Election 2012 ended this week.

Americans turned out and voted against long odds, choosing their leaders and deciding numerous ballot issues. The odds that we would have a result on Election Day were long because of concerted efforts to make voting less accessible through the manipulation of election laws, last minute manipulation of the election process and by a massive storm that crippled election efforts in several states. But voters persevered.

There are many reasons for the League to be pleased with the Election Day. Leaving aside any personal, partisan preferences, we should be pleased because this election was decided by a diverse electorate, parts of which were most likely to have been deterred by the voter suppression efforts that the League so successfully fought to a standstill. We should be pleased because, in the end, grassroots, person-to-person outreach efforts were just as critical to turning out our communities as all the money spent carpet-bombing battleground states with negative advertising.

We should be pleased because, in the battleground states, ballot initiatives designed to motivate a very narrow base and undermine equality, were largely rejected because those who turned out better reflected the diversity in America.

Most of all, we should be pleased because of the vital role the League played in this election. We stood up for voters in our statehouses and in our courthouses when politicians tried to manipulate election laws for their own benefit. We registered around a hundred thousand voters with a particular emphasis on first time voters in underserved communities. We challenged last minute efforts to purge voters from

the rolls. We provided access to accurate fact-based voter information. We organized poll watchers and worked at the polls to protect the process. When and where the League was needed most, we were there protecting and defending democracy.

As always, a major election reveals that our work is never done.

Protecting access to the polls by making it easier, not harder, to register and vote, and providing factual information to reduce partisan influences and secret agendas from our election process has been and will continue to be the core mission of the League. We cannot allow voters to forget or ignore the shameful amount of money expended on this election and the influence that money will continue to have in the halls of power. These are large tasks, but we are up for it.

Finally, while applauding so many efforts from Florida to Pennsylvania, from Texas to Wisconsin, I cannot pass up this opportunity to say, "WAY TO GO MINNESOTA!" We have all heard, by now, that Minnesota voters declined to amend their constitution to ban marriage equality. The news has not been as focused on the fact that Minnesota voters also rejected an effort to amend their constitution to require government-issued, voter photo ID. Having defeated the measure through a gubernatorial veto last year, the Minnesota League engaged in a year-long campaign educating voters on the facts surrounding this ballot measure.

Minnesota voters were obviously persuaded once they learned those facts: the measure would be costly, harmful, and unnecessary, and had no place in any state's constitution. There are some significant lessons to be learned from Minnesota's successful fight! And, making that case was helped immeasurably by the experience gained by Leagues across the nation in opposing these laws!

Perhaps, for a moment, there will be some rest for the weary before the lame duck session starts in Congress and state legislatures come back into session. For a moment, let us bask in reflected glory of great accomplishments and take energy from those accomplishments to forge ahead.

In League together making democracy work,
Elisabeth



ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR VOTER INFORMATION

Voter411 was launched by the Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. in 2006 and continues each year to provide this useful information to the voting public.

This year VOTE411 Voters Guide for the state of Delaware was led by Janet Orlando and Charlotte King, helped out by Helen Hoffman, Carol Jones and many League members in each county with follow up calls to candidates.



(Pictured above L-R) Janet Orlando, Tech Chair of VOTE411 program, and Connie Jones enjoying a moment at LWV Sussex County Fun Lunch. They are co-chairs of Sussex Voter Services and Sussex Candidates Forums.

VOTE411.ORG:

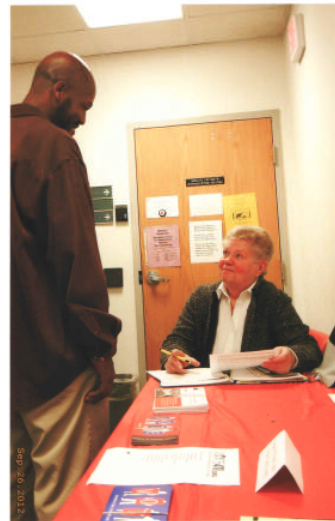
91 out of 177 candidates responded to our invitation to participate in the Vote 411 system. Our League made the Vote 411 candidate questions available in both English and Spanish. Candidates were asked to translate their responses in both English and Spanish but this is not a requirement. Through community outreach efforts which included attending the Hispanic Festival and the Afram Festival, and through paid ads in the 2 Hispanic newspapers, potential

citizens have been informed about Vote411 and about the voting process.

The League is a non-partisan political organization. It neither supports nor opposes candidates at any level of government. Non-partisanship does not mean that we do not take positions on issues, but we do so after research and with membership agreement. We have been doing this since our founding ninety years ago.

VOTER SERVICE OUTREACH

VOTR REGISTRATION DRIVES:



At least 800+ state residents have registered to vote through League of Women Voters voter registration education activities. Information about absentee voting, voter identification requirements in Delaware, the right to vote for ex-felons, how to do a write-in vote were provided.

(Pictured above is Roberta Ray registering voters at the SODAT Job Fair in Wilmington)

ADVOCACY:

Advocacy Corps members were concerned about the possibility of voter suppression on election day. There seemed to be inconsistent policy in Delaware regarding voter identification requirements for Delaware residents. The state board encouraged League members to observe what went on at the polling sites and arranged some poll monitoring. We want to hear from you about your experiences this election. Please send your comments to lwwde@voicenet.

The information below was distributed throughout the state regarding voter identification when voting.

(Continued on next page **ELECTION**)

ELECTION DAY

- ◆ Arrive at your assigned polling place within the polling hours.
- ◆ The poll workers may ask for a non-photo ID with your name and current address such as an envelope of a bill or your polling card. **No photo ID is required.**
- ◆ If your name is on the poll list, no further information is necessary and you will be allowed to vote.
- ◆ If your name is not on the poll list, it is the responsibility of the poll worker to call the Department of Elections (see numbers below) to find out if you are registered in another polling place and to direct you there.
- ◆ If your name does not appear on any poll list and you have registered, you may complete a provisional ballot which will be counted if it is established you are registered.
- ◆ Should any difficulties occur at the polling place, request help from the poll workers who are there to assist you.
- ◆ **Should you be denied the right to vote or feel you were treated badly or felt intimidated by your encounter, obtain the name of the poll worker involved and report this to the Department of Elections :**

New Castle County- 302 577 3464

Kent County-302 739 4498

Sussex County-302 856 5367

Request information on filing Administrative Complaints from the Department of Election.

www.lwvdelaware.org

lwvde@voicenet.com

LWVUS AGRICULTURE UPDATE COMMITTEE

LWVUS Board Invites Applications for Agriculture Update Committee

Under supervision of the LWVUS Board, committee members will be responsible for selecting or developing study materials, developing consensus questions, and reviewing/tabulating responses submitted by participating Leagues. The proposed timeline extends from January 2013 to April 2014. If you are interested in being a member of the Agriculture Update Committee, please [complete the online application form](#) and submit it along with your resume no later than December 3, 2012. Any questions may be directed to Norman Turrill, Agriculture Update Chair, at lwvturrill@mac.com.

Global Democracy: Hurricane Sandy Fails to Deter BMENA Sub-Ministerial Meeting

Despite the imminent arrival of Hurricane Sandy, seventy civil society and government representatives from 22 countries in the Broader Middle East and North Africa (“BMENA”) region arrived in Washington, DC, to participate in the [Sub-Ministerial Meeting of the 9th Forum for the Future](#) on November 1-2, 2012.

LWV of New York Gets Great Visibility on Election Day!

On Election Day, the LWV of New York State rang the opening bell on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange. In addition to reminding individuals to get out and vote, State President Sally Robinson highlighted the League’s invaluable voter service work. Watch a [video](#) of this great visibility moment. This is an excellent example of how Leagues can creatively elevate their visibility and strengthen our organization to meet democracy’s challenges most effectively!

**ANNUAL FUND-DRIVE TO BENEFIT THE LWV OF DELAWARE
AND
THE EDUCATION FUND IS HAPPENING NOW!**

Thank you to all who have contributed in the past and we encourage you to do so again this year. A letter was mailed recently to you.

Listed are contributors who have given since the last Summer VOTER 2012.

Education Fund (tax deductible)

***Funder for the VOTE411 Project:
Arsht-Cannon Fund***

Friends and Members

ACLU

Harriet Ainbinder

David Baker

Theodore Blunt

Nancy Breslin

Susan Brynteson

Sheila E. Cassels

Carol E. Clapham

Francis S. Coyle III

Mary E. Craft

Doris H. Crowley

Alice Davis

Carol D. DeCatur

Jane and Frank Dilley

Larry & Letty Diswood

Jane and Robert Frelick

Anne Frost

Suzanne C. Harper

Joann Hasse

Carol D. Jones

Joyce Johnson

Catherine (Kit) Kallal

George-Anne Kelly

June Kleban

Esther Klima

George & Moonyeen Klopfenstein

Janet and Brian Kramer

Virginia S. Mayforth

Sue s. Moncure

Marilee H. Mullett

Dorothy Munroe

Suzanne Proud

Rashmi Rangan

Midge Smith Fine Art Gallery

Sandy Spence

Sarah Straughn

Betty Ann VanVessen

Frances M. Wetmore

Delaware (not tax deductible)

Susan Brynteson

Sheila Cassels

Ellen J. Casson

Alice Davis

Jane and Frank Dilley

Larry & Letty Diswood

Jane and Robert Frelick

Anne Frost

Rachel Grier-Reynolds

Alice M. Hanke

Ann V. Jaeger

Joyce P. Johnson

Catherine (Kit) Kallal

Esther Klima

George & Moonyeen Klopfenstein

Janet and Brian Kramer

Virginia Mayforth

Sheila Mensch

Elizabeth (Lisa) Pertzoff

Corene L. Petrosky

Suzanne Proud

Sarah Straughn

Chad and Ann Tolman

Frances M. Wetmore

Catherine W. Wojewodzki

Thank you

RECENT ACTIVITIES AROUND THE STATE

Below: A Full house at a candidate forum sponsored by the LWV of Sussex County in Lewes, Delaware.



Below: The editorial cartoon by artist Chris Wildt was published in the Cape Gazette. The artist gave LWVSC permission to use the cartoon in any way we chose.

It was forwarded to LWVUS and also made into a poster for local use.



Below: LWVNCC, American Chemical Society, Delaware Section and the Society of Natural History of Delaware toured the **Peninsula Compost Group-Wilmington Organic Recycling Center** at 612 Christiana Ave., near the Port of Wilmington. This facility uses the Gore Cover System.



Tour of Peninsula Compost Group-Wilmington Organic Recycling Center continued.



Inside the mixing facility at Peninsula Compost Group-Wilmington Organic Recycling Center continued.



Below: Tour of Richards (Piendak)Paving Inc., a cement and asphalt recycling center located at 9 Bellecor Drive, New Castle, DE.



Rashmi Rangan was awarded the 2012 *Carrie Chapman Catt Award by the LWV of New Castle Count*. She is a former president of the LWV of Delaware.



(Article below was taken from the *News Journal* 2012)

Rangan a shining example of how to help people

Rashmi Rangan is among those rare people who work "from the ground up," the kind that local governments do themselves harm to ignore. For the last 25 years, this petite Indian-American has made the shadowy neighborhoods of Wilmington and their economically beleaguered residents her second home. Once you meet her you'll understand how she commandeered the Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council into a central resource for low-income residents throughout the state. And you'll get why Wilmington Mayor James M. Baker included her in Wednesday's citizen of lights award given to 21 residents.



**RHONDA
GRAHAM**

Since its founding DCRAC has done the hardscrabble work of preparing residents for long-term homeownership despite their low-income status. It has been both activist and liaison for a segment of the wider population in need of hands-on help in navigating financial challenges of debt, unemployment and homelessness. Rangan knows their story well from her college years as a married struggling mom without a job.

She explains the complicated dual role that DCRAC has had to play lately. "We are the advocates, the watchdog organization for financial institutions, yet we have to walk this tightrope because the financial institutions are also our donors for our projects." She's talking about big banks and corporations, some tied to the recent international financial upheaval that has led to a crisis in home foreclosures, devaluation of home values and rampant joblessness in this country and DCRAC's neighborhood.

In this environment as a watchdog, DCRAC has to walk the fine line between holding banks to fair lending practices and being a resource for programs to help some of their former customers restore their credit worthiness. For example, Citibank, Discover Card, Capitol One, WSFS and Artisan donated \$1.2 million to DCRAC's new Stepping Stones Community Credit Union that opened up this year as the state's first credit union chartered in three decades and one specifically targeted to low-income residents.

"What she uses that money for is, she invests it and that investment becomes income so she can support the work," explains Teresa Hasson, regional director of community development for Citibank. "We don't get to vote and we don't get to have a say in it. We are nonmembers."

To drop by the 601 N. Church St. offices is to witness a well-regulated hum of activities among a network of college students, teenagers and middle age helpers who have been trained to help people of all ages on how to avoid, get out of and settle their debts. It is work that is taken seriously with training provided by Delaware's well-respected Money School From the basics of developing a budget to sessions about which bill to payoff first, the classes have instructors as young as 20 and clients decades older.

Somewhere in the building Rangan is on a phone, with a calculator nearby or in a meeting trying to figure out how to get more city residents along the Del. 9 corridor to become aware of Stepping Stones. "She is an amazing organizer," Citibank's Hasson says of Rangan's insistence on partner relationship. "And the advocacy makes us rethink our positions."

DCRAC's alliances with community organizations are just as valuable as its new credit union. Mostly, DCRAC's last 25 years have been an attack on the ignorance of those on the fringes of a market-based economy that terms winners as those people with sufficient resources to participate. That's why the agency fought hard earlier this year against payday lending lobbyists in support of the General Assembly's eventual move to limit the amount of new loans borrowers can take out in a 12-month period.

It's a fight Rangan considers as one of empathy, that necessary duty to consider the disadvantages of those who lack what's needed to be healthy contributing members of society.

And it's why Mayor James M. Baker's award to Rangan should serve as a reminder that DCRAC is more than a glimmer of hope in desperate times. It's a guiding light for many residents' financial freedom, too.

"We are very strategic. We are looking not just at Band-Aid solutions or just giving to a man, but teaching him how to fish," she says. "The credit union took seven long years. This is about creating an institution that will outlive the organization. That teaches people how to survive long after we're gone."

Contact Rhonda a. Graham at rgraham@delawareonline.com.

Delaware Coalition for Open Government's Third Reception For Delaware Elected Officials Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Dear Friend:

You are invited to attend The Delaware Coalition for Open Government's Third Reception for Delaware Elected Officials on **Wednesday, December 5, 2012, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm, at the Ed Oliver Golf Course Restaurant, 800 N. DuPont Road, Wilmington, DE 19807.**

All State, County and Municipal officials have been invited to attend this "meet and greet" reception.

There is a \$3 admission fee for the public, taken at the door. The reception is an opportunity for you and your friends to discuss with Delaware elected officials issues which are of concern to you today.

*cash bar

The following groups and individuals are co-sponsoring the event, to date:

Charles Brittingham, NAACP; Civic League for New Castle County; Bill Cortes; Bonnie Corwin; Delaware Coalition for Open Government Delaware Council for Gambling Problems; Delaware Nature Society; Elisa Diller; Harvey Clark Greisman; John Kowalko; Michael Kozikowski; Sandra LaBlanche; **League of Women Voters of Delaware; League of Women Voters of New Castle County**; Libertarian Party of Delaware; Bayard Marin; David McBride; Ed Osborne; Pacem in Terris; Karen Peterson, Charles Potter; Ann Rydgren; David Tackett, Loretta Walsh; WDEL Radio

Sincerely,

John Flaherty, President,
Delaware Coalition for Open Government
P.O. Box 493
Montchanin, DE 19710-0493

RSVP. Call 302-319-1213 or [email jdf0000@aol.com](mailto:jdf0000@aol.com) if you wish to attend the event OR

To register for the Dec. 5 DelCOG Elected Officials Reception, please click the link below and scroll down to the registration form.

[Register for DelCOG Elected Officials Reception](#)

Ed Oliver Golf Course Restaurant. 302-571-9041, 800 North Dupont Rd., Wilmington, DE 19807. (1/2 mi. west of Lancaster Ave. 7/10 mi. east of Kennett Pike).

The Delaware Coalition for Open Government, an officials of the National Freedom of Information Coalition (NFOIC), is an alliance of journalists, lawyers, business owners, news organizations, elected officials, government employees, civic associations and individuals dedicated to the free flow of public information, which strengthens and energizes a democracy and keeps the process of government truthful and vigorous.



Support Victims, Reduce Violence, Redirect Savings

VICTIMS

When murder happens, it is the family of the victim that suffers the most and the longest, yet our system focuses exclusively on the murderer. We believe that it is time to shift our focus and put victims' families first.

We can support murder victims' families and all crime victims by adopting innovative policies and using the money saved by repeal on additional services. Some possibilities include:

- Unpaid employee leave to attend court proceedings;
- Financial support for children who lost a parent to murder;
- Improved services such as:
 - Grief counseling
 - Crisis intervention
 - Funeral assistance
 - Crime scene cleanup
 - Emergency funds

Did You Know?

Many family members who have lost a loved one to murder are working to repeal the death penalty because they do not think we should answer violence with more violence and that a sentence of true life in prison is an appropriate punishment.

VIOLENCE

No reputable study of the death penalty has shown that it deters crime. In fact, murder rates are higher in states with the death penalty than they are in states without capital punishment.

A "brutalization" effect has also been documented. It has been shown that murders occur more often in the weeks and months immediately after an execution.

Some facts:

- After Canada repealed the death penalty murder rates dropped 27%.
- Homicide rates in states with the death penalty have been shown to be 48% to 101% higher than in states without.

Savings from repeal can also help reduce violent crime by putting more police on the streets.

Did You Know?

57% of police chiefs polled agreed with this statement: "The death penalty does little to prevent violent crimes because perpetrators rarely consider the consequences when engaged in violence."

SAVINGS

Every study ever conducted has found that the death penalty costs much more than life in prison without parole. With savings from repealing the death penalty, we could:

- Better support victims
- Make our communities safer
- Solve unsolved murders
- Offer more drug treatment
- Create more jobs

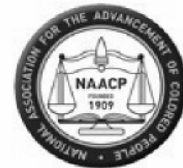
Reasons that the death penalty system is so expensive, include:

- The state usually pays for the prosecution and the defense in a capital murder trial;
- The trial involves 2 phases, 2 defense lawyers, expert witnesses and years of appeals;
- Not all murder trials end in a conviction or a death sentence but the money has already been spent.

Did You Know?

Police chiefs consider the death penalty the least efficient use of taxpayers' money to reduce violent crime. They prefer training for police officers, community policing, programs for drug and alcohol abuse, and neighborhood watch programs.

See reverse side for notes. To join the repeal effort, go to www.Derepeal.org or email DErepeal@gmail.com.





Support Victims, Reduce Violence, Redirect Savings

For more Information

Victims:

Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights- www.mvfr.org

Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation- www.mvfr.org

Delaware Victim Services- <http://dsp.delaware.gov/vs.html>

Violence

FBI Crime Statistics- www.fbi.gov

Death Penalty

Amnesty International - www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/campaigns/abolish-the-death-penalty

Death Penalty Information Center - www.deathpenaltyinfo.org

National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty - www.ncadp.org

The Facts

- "In fact, murder rates are higher in states with the death penalty than they are in states without capital punishment."
- "Homicide rates in states with the death penalty have been shown to be 48% to 101% higher than in states without."
- *Bonner, Raymond & Fesseden, Ford "Absence of Executions," New York Times: Sept. 22, 2000.*
- "A "brutalization" effect has also been documented." - *Bailey, William, "Deterrence, Brutalization, and the Death Penalty," Criminology, 1998.*
- "After Canada repealed the death penalty murder rates dropped 27%."
- *Amnesty International, Death Penalty Facts. www.amnestyusa.org*
- "57% of police chiefs polled agreed with this statement: "The death penalty does little to prevent violent crimes because perpetrators rarely consider the consequences when engaged in violence."
- "Police chiefs consider the death penalty the least efficient use of taxpayers' money to reduce violent crime."
- *Smart on Crime: Reconsidering the Death Penalty in a Time of Economic Crisis. Death Penalty Information Center Report. 2009. www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/facts-about-deterrence-and-death-penalty*
- "Every study ever conducted has found that the death penalty costs much more than life in prison without parole."
- *Death Penalty Information Center, www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/costs-death-penalty*
- **Help repeal the death penalty in Delaware by becoming a supporter of Delaware Repeal!**
Become a supporter by visiting our website www.Derepeal.org and signing up for e-mail news and alerts.
For questions or more information contact Rachel at DErepeal@gmail.com or by phone at (302)-654-5326 ext. 104.