



DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Summer 2014
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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.

LWVDE Acting on Public Policy Issues

LWV OF DELAWARE LEGISLATIVE ROUND-UP

Advocacy Corps Active in 2014 Legislative Action



The LWVDE Advocacy Corps monitored, supported, opposed and or recommended amendments to a total of 141 bills during the very busy 147th Legislative session that ended in the early hours of July 1. Many were introduced in the final two weeks of the session.

Sandy Spence, Advocacy Corps Chair

Key bills that were among our priorities included:

Voting and Elections. A huge disappointment was failure of the Senate to pass one of our highest priorities, **HB 105** that would have allowed for same day registration (on Election Day). We had learned how well this works in other states by participating in a conference call with Election Commissioners from five other states, spoken at two press conferences, testified in both House and Senate, sent an urgent Action Alert to members, many of whom contacted their Representatives and Senators. This concept will be reintroduced in 2015 and will, once again, be among the top of our priorities.

We were also disappointed by the defeat in the House of **HB 20**, the first leg of a constitutional amendment that would have eliminated requirements as to when a person may vote by absentee ballot, providing that the General Assembly would enact general laws providing the circumstances, rules and procedures for absentee voting.

Among those that did pass were:

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On July 2, 2014, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was commemorated around the country. It was celebrated in our three counties with marches, films, discussions and other events. I had the privilege of participating in the Sussex County event which included a march of 350 children and adults, and a reenactment of speeches by significant civil rights leaders and political leaders including President John Kennedy, Martin Luther King and President Lyndon Johnson who signed the bill into law with the bi-partisan support of Senator Everett Dirksen. There was much singing, joy, tears and reminiscences from those who remembered their participation in civil rights events during the 1960s. This Sussex Co. commemoration was made possible through a coalition of many local organizations including the local and state Leagues, who came together as a group known as "Sussex Unity" and who planned and marched as one group representing the entire community. I was so proud to stand with others behind a banner that read "We the People".



There are other important dates that are so relevant to the Mission of the League of Women Voters. September 23, 2014 is National Voter Registration Day. Our three county leagues should be actively involved in voter registration events on this day. The state League will attend the Kent Co. Economic Summit, held at Delaware State Community College on that date, where we hope to do voter registration and offer pertinent information to conference attendees.

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- **HB 159** that prohibits a person from running as a candidate for more than one state, county or municipal office in the same election.
- **HB 205** that requires school districts to schedule an in-service day for the day of any primary election in which district schools will be used as polling place, which provides better security for kids and better access to rooms for elections. (But HB 206 that would have required an in-service day on the day of school board elections died in the House Education Committee, reportedly due to objections from school officials.)
- **HB 208** that establishes a procedure to assure that driver's license addresses and voter registration addresses are the same.
- **HB 305** that consolidates existing County Election Departments and Boards of Elections into one State Elections Commission and Board with representation from each county and the city of Wilmington and makes several other amendments to election law.

Early in the session **SCR 20** established a special task force to review Title 15 of the Delaware Code relating to voting and elections with an eye toward updating and reforming that law. Some of the bills mentioned were recommended by that Task Force. We were disappointed, however, that the Task Force failed to recommend, and the legislature failed to consider, changing Delaware's late primary (the second Tuesday of September) to August. This would have eased the ability to meet federal deadlines for military and overseas voting and would have meant that school districts would not need to have an in-service day since school would not be in session. A member of the Task Force told us that House members believed this would have given their opponents more time to campaign while incumbents were busy in the legislature from January to June 30.

Campaign Finance. Several bills were passed by the House and Senate, but two of the most important ones on our agenda died in committee, having been introduced by Rep. Deborah Hudson (R):

- **HB 290** would have required that candidates request donors' occupation and employer and
 - **HB 394** would have banned donations from corporations including limited liability companies, many of whom do not keep records of their "beneficial owners" – the real people who own
- (Continued on page 3 **Legislative Roundup**)

(Continued from page 1 **President's Message**)

Next year at this time we will commemorate the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This act removed voter suppressions which would otherwise control elections. Citizens who are prevented from voting are deprived of all the opportunities and rights of a democracy guaranteed in our Constitution.

It remains our primary Mission to work towards informing and educating our citizens about their civil and voting rights and the power of their vote. How do Race and Culture impact on LWV work in our communities?

I am inviting you to participate with me and other statewide League members in a new initiative, a monthly discussion group focusing on Racial and Cultural Inequality. **The first reading will be "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness,"** written by Michelle Alexander. This book, which has inspired considerable debate around the country and has been on the *New York Times Best Seller List* for 10 consecutive months, deals with race-related and social, political, and legal phenomena in the United States. The author's intent is "the revamping of the prevailing mentality regarding human rights, equality and equal opportunities in America, to prevent future cyclical recurrence of racial control under changing disguise".

More information about this new initiative will be forthcoming when an initial meeting date and venue are established. Until then, please let me know of your interest in attending this group. I can be reached via e-mail at charlottefking@aol.com or call me directly at 302-645-7074.

Charlotte King,
President

Diane Maxwell is our social media contact. **To join Facebook, go to www.facebook.com and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for the League of Women Voters of Delaware and send us a "friend request."**



LWVDE Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LWVDE>
Twitter - To join Twitter, go to www.twitter.com and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for @lwvde and "follow" us! LWVDE Twitter Page:
<https://twitter.com/LWVDE>

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these companies – making it difficult or impossible to ensure that contribution limits are enforced.

Both of these proposals were among recommendations of former Chief Justice Norman Veasey, who was appointed as special prosecutor to investigate alleged campaign violations by state office holders.

Among bills the AC supported that did pass were:

- **HB 170** that establishes June 30 as an additional mandatory reporting period for political campaign committees and requires that the June 30 and December 31 reports be filed within 20 days;
- **HB 300** that protects whistleblowers;
- **HB 306** that establishes a fee for lobbyists who fail to file quarterly expense reports in a timely manner; (but HB 305 that would have required paid lobbyists to pay a fee to help fund the Public Integrity Commission failed to get through the House even though it came out of Committee on April 10).
- **SB 186** that requires entities that contribute more than \$100 to a political committee to disclose the name and address of a “responsible party”— someone who shares or exercises direction or control over the entity’s activities. (But, as mentioned above, the bill requiring the names of beneficial owners died.)

Open Government. Some of the bills we supported that passed included:

- **HB 320** that requires drafts of minutes of infrequently meeting public bodies in the executive branch be made available in draft form within 10 days after the conclusion of the meeting.
- **HB 321** that requires the Attorney General to publish a manual and engage in educational efforts aimed at FOIA coordinators for all public bodies in the State.
- **HB 322** that clarifies that FOIA requests submitted via U.S. mail are valid, provided that the public records requested do not fall within the scope of the enumerated exceptions in the law.
- **HB 331** that removes the exemption from FOIA and thus fully applies FOIA to the University of Delaware and Delaware State University. Previously, FOIA applied only to their Boards of Trustees and documents relating to the expenditure of public funds.

HCR 55, a Republican proposal that would have

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Join the League for a tour of the Coastal Zone in New Castle County

We’ll travel by air-conditioned bus with lavatory from the Christiana Mall parking lot to points of interest in the New Castle County section of the Coastal Zone. A knowledgeable guide (not yet confirmed) will talk to us about the Coastal Zone Act, passed in 1971, and challenged over the years.

We’ll see some grandfathered sites, we’ll stop at the Taylor’s Bridge site (pictured above, courtesy Delaware Wild Lands) where Shell Oil wanted to build a refinery over 40 years ago. We’ll also see sites threatened by sea level rise, we’ll look at the site proposed for a new port, and other sites significant as exemplars of the recreational and environmental values we treasure.



Saturday, September 13th, 9 am - 4 pm
Meet at Christiana Mall parking lot, near Cabella’s
(north end of mall parking lot)
Check in no later than 8:45 am.

Reserved seats are \$15 each.
Only 53 spaces...first come, first served

Box lunches from Panera may be ordered for \$10 or \$11 each; sandwiches: smoked turkey (\$10) or Mediterranean veggie (\$10); salads: Asian sesame chicken (\$11), strawberry poppy seed (\$11).

Lunches include chips, cookie, and drink.

Call the League of Women Voters of New Castle County to make your reservation: 302-571-8948. Reservation secured upon payment by credit card or check.

Everyone welcome - Open to public

(Continued from page 3 Legislative Roundup)

provided for the state legislative website to include roll call votes by legislator starting in Jan 2017 was withdrawn after Speaker Schwartzkopf promised that this information would be included on a revised website that is being developed.

Public Safety. In spite of our relatively progressive legislature, no significant gun control bills were enacted in the entire session. **HB 88** was one major bill that was designed to create procedures in Delaware for making sure firearms are not in the hands of dangerous people while protecting due process and not creating a barrier to care for those suffering from mental illness. Although it passed the House in 2013 on a vote of 40-1, the Senate defeated it 13-8. A re-vote considered in the Senate in January of 2014 was cancelled when not enough Senators could be convinced to change their vote.

Justice. The big disappointment here was failure of **SB 19** to repeal the death penalty that passed the Senate but died in the House Judiciary Committee. The Coalition to Repeal, of which the League is a member, remains active and will try again next year.

Health Care. Although we followed a couple of bills this past session, most of the health care "action" recently has not been legislative but has been focused on Delaware's State Innovation Plan, a public private effort to transform the delivery and payment systems. It will be a long process and the state is currently pursuing a federal implementation grant.

Two bills of significance:

- **HB 346** is a major update of Delaware's civil commitment statutes for mental illness. It passed both houses but, as of this writing, has not been signed by the Governor.
- **HB 400** would have added a provision to the Health Care Decisions statute authorizing a Medical Order which is transportable, standardized and implements a patient's end of life care preferences. It would have adjusted the existing advanced care directives statute and the statute governing Emergency medical services. It passed the House but was tabled in the Senate on June 30. The coalition which has been working on the issue will likely introduce it again next session.

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LWVUS Convention 2014 Highlights



Letty Diswood, Peggy Schultz, Chad Tolman, Jill Fuchs, Jane Lord, and Sandy Spence represented Delaware at the LWVUS 51st biennial national convention in Dallas June 6-10. The Power the Vote theme gave the 700 League member attendees from around the country the opportunity to celebrate the organization's accomplishments on voting rights, campaign finance reform and the environment, and to discuss important public policy issues.



(Pictured L-R Delegates to LWVUS Convention: Letty Diswood, Jill Fuchs, Sandy Spence, Jane Lord, Peggy Schultz, in back is Chad Tolman)

Those of us from Delaware were proud of our own Chad Tolman, who organized a highly successful caucus on climate change that led to adoption by the 700 delegates of a resolution he drafted calling on the League to support putting a price on carbon to address climate change.

"League delegates are deeply concerned about the big money that is polluting our elections," said President Elisabeth MacNamara. "At Convention, we came together and pledged to educate our communities and fight in our legislatures to protect our democracy." A three part study was adopted to be undertaken during the next two years. It will focus on key structures of American democracy, including campaign finance reform, the constitutional amendment process, and redistricting reform for the U.S. Congress.

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Manufactured Housing. As requested by the legislators for the second half of GA Session 147, we limited our agenda to bills from last year that were carried over along with several “clean up” bills which we were assured “would be simple to get through”. Unfortunately we all know that with manufactured housing issues nothing is ever simple and we have experienced the usual difficulties. The following four bills passed the House and the Senate this session:



Jill Fuchs addressing the LWVUS Convention 2014 at the state's role call in Dallas, Texas, extolling our League's accomplishments of the last two years.

- **HB 233** passed the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor. This was a clean-up bill for DEMHRA (DE Manufactured Housing Relocation Authority) who is charged with the oversight of the rent justification program.
- **HB 106 w/A** (Right of First Offer changes/revisions) This bill by the Attorney General's office amends section 7026 of Title 25 regarding a manufactured housing home owners associations' (HOA) right of first offer to purchase their manufactured home community. The bill provides that a HOA's alternative purchase offer will not expire after 12 months and will remain valid unless it is withdrawn by the HOA. The bill also permits a HOA to amend its alternative offer at any time and allows a HOA to match a third party's lower price offer and all of the material terms and conditions of the lower offer. Finally, the bill provides that if the community owner accepts an offer from a third party that is greater than the alternative price offered by the HOA, the community owner is required to certify that fact in writing to both the HOA and the Consumer Protection Unit.
- **HA1 to HB 106** (an amendment) provides that a manufactured home owner's association (HOA) alternative purchase offer remains valid for 6 months. If the community is still for sale after the initial 6 month period, the HOA can refresh their alternative offer, the offer will be valid for another 6 months. The HOA can refresh their offer every 6

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Based on Program Planning responses, the LWVUS Board recommended and delegates voted to retain all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy as well as a concurrence with the Voters of the District of Columbia as follows: Sentencing Policy: The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses. (LWVDE has opposed mandatory minimum sentences since 2003.)

The League also adopted a position on human trafficking enabling state and local Leagues across the country to take action protecting victims of such crimes. The latter states:

“The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.” (This position came a little late for Delaware. Our legislature passed a strong human trafficking bill on June 5, just 4 days before LWVUS adopted its position. Governor Markell signed SB197 on June 30.)

Delegates attended different tracks of training sessions on topics such as fund raising, growing the League including how to attract young members, social media, and powering the vote. In addition, caucuses sponsored by state and local Leagues offered helpful information and resources on a variety of topics. Besides Chad Tolman's session on climate change, Sandy Spence presented at a caucus on redistricting and prison-based gerrymandering with its organizer, Karen Kimball from the Virginia League, and representatives from the Bureau of the Census and the Prison Policy Initiative.

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months until the property is sold or 5 years has elapsed from the time the property was first listed for sale, whichever comes first. The HOA's alternative offer and any refreshed offer will be void if the community owner decides they no longer want to sell the community.

- **SA1** – This amendment changes the shelf-life of an “alternative offer” from 5 years to 18 months. The amendment also changes the trigger date for time limit on refreshing offers from the date first listed to the required owner’s notice date.
- **House Substitute 1 for HB 234** (Clarifies DEMHRA abilities to regulate their new responsibilities) –This bill: (1) Provides clarification for how market rate is based and must be documented; (2) Allows DEMHRA to request a list of affected homeowners; (3) Provides that community owners proposing increases above the CPI-U should suggest to DEMHRA a date, time and place of a meeting and the Authority shall affirm that meeting if it finds it to be reasonable; (4) Allows homeowners or a homeowners association on behalf of a homeowner to file for arbitration if no agreement is reached at the informal meeting; (5) Makes a technical change to the effective date of Senate Substitute NO 1 to Senate Bill NO 33 of the 147th General Assembly.
- **SB 238** which replaced **HB 107** is a true “consensus bill” developed by members of the homeowners groups and the landowners groups, it addresses the disclosure problem (transfer of lease will remain as currently established with option the choice of the seller). This legislation will require manufactured home community owners to provide prospective tenants with a copy of the proposed rental agreement, a copy of the rules, standards and fee schedule of the manufactured home community, a copy of the Manufactured Home Owners and Community Owners Act, and a summary of the Act written by the Attorney General at the time the prospective tenant obtains an application for tenancy in the community, to ensure that prospective tenants have ample time and opportunity to review the documents prior to entering the community.

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At another Caucus, the Wisconsin League Executive Director outlined how to organize a poll observer program based on a successful one in that state that identified problems associated with new photo ID laws and assisted voters at the polls. Their work resulted in collection of data documenting that concerns about Election Day fraud were erroneous. Sample questions that were addressed is available.



One of the most inspiring talks was presented by Houston Mayor Annalise Parker. She emphasized the importance of transparency in

government, the urgent need for redistricting reform and how Houston – and other cities like it – can help lead the fight against climate change. An interesting fact mentioned in her speech was that a project replacing street lights with LED bulbs in that city delighted its sponsors by paying off the investment in two years rather than the projected seven years that was based on lowered priced electricity costs. The quick payoff resulted from a reduction in the time city employees needed to replace burned out lights.

As part of the budget process, after voting to retain the current \$31 PMP (per member payment) for the July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015 fiscal year, delegates voted to increase the PMP to \$32 for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2015. These votes supported the recommendation of the LWVUS Board.

We plan to add additional Convention highlights in the next Voter.



Peggy Schultz selling **T-shirts** at the LWVUS Convention 2014 (June) There are still some shirts left at \$20 and \$22 each. Call the League office 302-571-8948 or lwvde@comcast.net for your order. Proceeds go to LWVNCC.

UMBRELLAS FOR SALE!! The LWV of Delaware bought umbrellas at LWVUS Convention. The umbrella has a neat **logo & Be informed VOTE** on a blue background. They are for sale for \$18. Nifty pushbutton open and close. Contacts: **Sandy Spence** 302-841-2882 cell, sandyspence325@gmail.com to buy yours with funds going to the state League. Or contact **Mary Kay Eggers** of Kent County funds going to Kent County 697-9430, camdenmke@comcast.net.

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The following bills did not go through in this session:

- **SB 259** would have set a \$.50 assessment for deposit in the DEMHRA Trust Fund for each rented lot in a manufactured home community for a legal expenses fund for homeowners and will be paid only by homeowners. NOTE: This is a good idea but was introduced the last week of session and needs work and clarification in order to make it feasible. This will be done and will be presented next year.
- **HB 262** Would have assisted the AG's office to determine what violations qualify as "Pattern and Practice"). This bill was pulled by the Attorney General's office. NOTE: We hope to work on this also for next year.

Current laws that require changes and will be worked on for 2015:

- Tree law (Chapter 70, 7006.13 (I)) - some owners acknowledge that they're responsible for trees but state that there is no mention of the roots in the law so they are not responsible for them. Of course this is crazy because you wouldn't have trees if they didn't grow from the roots, but many homeowners are experiencing major problems and costs due to tree roots damaging water pipes and wiring. ***This is critical but legislators would not work on it this year.***
- Standards (Chapter 70, 7020) - the higher standards for manufactured homes that were put in place years ago are simply not "reasonable" anymore since the value of the homes has dropped severely. It is not reasonable to force people to put large amounts of money into homes that they will practically have to give away.
- Homeowners Insurance - A new problem that has come up involves homeowners insurance. Many companies are not renewing policies on manufactured homes in Delaware and since leases require homeowners to have this insurance, this issue needs to be addressed.
- All of the above and more are indicative of our desperate need for a **state agency** to oversee manufactured housing and the wide variety of issues involved. A new attorney, Wendy Danner, who was hired by the AG's office to deal strictly with manufactured housing transferred to a different position after only five months; they are seeking to replace her. Twelve different attorneys have filled that position in the last 12 years.

LWVUS CONVENTION 2014 AND A PRICE ON CARBON



Convention 2014 was an important event for the LWVDE and for the LWVUS. The Delaware League held a caucus titled, **Stepping Up Our Game on Reducing Carbon Emissions,**

gathered 130 signatures on a petition to put a price on carbon emissions, participated in a caucus of the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force (CCTF)- telling what we had done to get Governor Markell to sign Executive Order 41 for a comprehensive Energy/Climate plan for Delaware - and got the following Resolution passed by a near-unanimous vote of the Convention delegates:

The LWVUS should support a price on carbon emissions that will increase in stages, as part of an overall program to improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, fast enough to avoid serious damage to the climate system.

After the vote, a group of us from Delaware, California and Florida met with Elisabeth MacNamara to discuss how we might improve inter-League communication and the sharing of ideas and resources for reducing carbon emissions. She was very supportive. We chose the name of the LWV Climate Action Network for our new organization, added Eleanor Revelle (IL, Chair of the CCTF) to its leadership team, established a web site and listserv, and are writing a Mission Statement.

TESTIMONY ON EPA'S [CLEAN POWER PLAN](#)

Chad proposes to testify on behalf of LWVDE at EPA Headquarters in Washington on June 29 on new regulations to reduce carbon emissions from existing power plants. The meeting will be one of four public hearings; the others will be held in Denver, Atlanta and Pittsburgh.

THE PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH IN NYC ON SEPT. 21

A call has gone out from [350.org](#) and over 500 other organizations to make the [People's Climate March](#) in New York City on Sunday, Sept. 21 the largest demonstration for tackling climate change in history. If you are interested in participating, contact Peggy Schultz at schultz_peggy@yahoo.com or her cell phone at 302-598-9427.

Chad Tolman July 21, 2014

Florida Decision is Major Victory Against Partisan Gerrymandering
“Court decision is a big step forward in fight for voter-based redistricting,” says League

Washington, D.C. – A Florida Circuit Court, in July, issued an opinion in *Romo v. Detzner*, a case that examined whether Florida's congressional districts violate that state's constitution. The final judgment of the court was that the congressional map drawn by the Florida legislature and adopted in 2012 violates the Fair District Amendments to Florida's constitution which were adopted by citizen initiative in 2010 to remove partisan influence from the redistricting process. The League of Women Voters of Florida was the lead organizational plaintiff in the lawsuit, and was the driving force behind passage of the Fair Districts Amendments.

“This decision gives us a new tool to fight partisan gerrymandering,” said national League President, Elisabeth MacNamara. “The criteria adopted by the citizens of Florida and enforced by the court are effective in fighting partisan gerrymandering. This case provides a roadmap for other states to limit partisan gerrymandering and force an open and transparent process for drawing congressional lines.”

LWVDE President Charlotte King was excited to hear of the Florida case but pointed out that since Delaware does not provide for citizen initiatives, securing legislation to reduce partisanship in redistricting here is a much bigger challenge. “But, through our Advocacy Corps, we are continuing to seek progress in redistricting reform. Unfortunately, it didn't happen this year, but we'll be back in 2015, working with a broad coalition to advocate for change.”

What is your passion? What do you DO about it?

Some League members achieve satisfaction by addressing their passion through their work in the LWVDE Advocacy Corps. The update on our work above might give you some ideas. You don't even have to read the entire report, but could just look for the topic or topics that interest you.

A few of us are registered lobbyists. But most of us aren't comfortable with that role, so we support the official lobbyists in other ways, by:

- researching issues,
- sharing our professional expertise,

- studying the implications of proposed legislation,
- drafting letters to the editor, or Op Ed's (Opinion Editorials), or testimony,
- tracking the status of bills as they work through the legislative process, or
- observing committee hearings or legislative sessions when the regular lobbyist is unavailable or busy at other hearings.

Some of us started out doing those kinds of things and learned enough about the work of the lobbyists that we found we could do that too! It's exciting to see how accessible our legislators are and to observe them in action – seeing their good work and the not so good work for ourselves. It's exciting, too, to learn how much they (generally) respect the work of the League and consider our views as they decide whether to support or oppose the bills on which they vote.

Whatever our role, we are always inspired by the opportunity to learn more about our state government and work with other AC members who are knowledgeable and anxious to share their enthusiasm and experience with others. It's also exciting to participate in our monthly meetings where we deliberate on the pros and cons of legislation that affects us, our families and our communities. And, then, feeling a part of the work of the League in advocating for positions developed by LWVDE and LWVUS – to help make our democracy work here in Delaware!

If you'd like to learn more about what we do, please consider attending a meeting – on the first Wednesday of most months from 9:30 to noon in Dover – and decide for yourself if you'd like to participate. A lot of our work can be done from the comfort of your home, researching and writing about the issues and we'll be happy to mentor you as you learn about our work.

Please contact me for more info:
sandyspence325@gmail.com or 302-645-9559.

✓ **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM COMMITTEE**

Carol Jones is the League's **new committee chair to study campaign finance reform in Delaware.**

You are invited to participate. “We have information on existing regulations, information from the Veasey report, and information from the Brennan Center that we can review, discuss and consider. If you're interested in joining this committee, please respond to Carol at sundiallee@aol.com. I look forward to hearing from you, my fellow League members.”

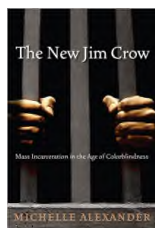
✓ **VOTE 411 ONLINE VOTERS GUIDE**

Are you interested in working on Vote411, the League's online Voters Guide for 2014 elections? We have created committees in each county to help with this grand effort. More helpers are needed, Contact Janet Orlando jo321@att.net.

✓ **RACIAL AND CULTURAL INEQUALITY**

You're invited to a new initiative, a monthly discussion group focusing on Racial and Cultural Inequality. The first reading will be "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, written by Michelle Alexander.

This book, which has considerable debate country and has been York Times Best Seller consecutive months, related and social, legal phenomena in



inspired around the on the New List for 10 deals with race-political, and the United

States. The author's intent is "the revamping of the prevailing mentality regarding human rights, equality and equal opportunities in America, to prevent future cyclical recurrence of racial control under changing disguise".

More information about this new initiative will be forthcoming when an initial meeting date and venue are established. Until then, please let Charlotte King know of you interest in attending this group. Contact: charlotteking@aol.com or call her directly at 645 7074.

Delaware Election Commissioner's Office and the County Department of Elections is praised in "A Brief" from Pew Charitable Trust
(Abbreviated from original) May 2014

Measuring Motor Voter

Delaware: Automated DMV registration Delaware has created a system to ensure that all customers at its motor vehicle offices receive and acknowledge the opportunity to register. The state built a digital system called "eSignature" for its licensing and ID process. As customers move through a series of screens to obtain, renew, or update their driver's license or state ID, they view a screen on which they must choose to register to vote, update an existing registration, or affirmatively decline to register to vote before they can complete their licensing transaction. This system shifts the

responsibility for the registration process from state employees to the voter—even if only to confirm registration data—through an easy and streamlined process.

...the [Delaware] Division of Motor Vehicles was able to reduce registration transaction times by 67 percent, from 90 seconds to 30 seconds, and save approximately \$50,000 per year."

The eSignature system, which launched in 2009, transmits all registration applications to the Department of Elections' voter registration database through a real-time electronic link. In addition, because voters are required to fill out certain fields, this system encourages complete data collection.

Implementing Delaware's eSignature program took considerable effort. It required the state to reconcile the policies, procedures, and technologies of multiple agencies—including the Division of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Technology and Information. The resulting decrease in staff time and paper required for processing registrations, however, generated immediate cost savings and efficiencies. For instance, the Division of Motor Vehicles was able to reduce registration transaction times by 67 percent, from 90 seconds to 30 seconds, and save approximately \$50,000 per year.

Governor Signs Campaign Finance and Public Integrity Commission Bills at the New Castle Court House Museum on July 23, 2014



Above L-R Dee Durham, president of Common Cause (DE); Letty Diswood of LWV of Delaware; Representative Trey Paradee; Senator Margaret Rose Henry; seated, Gov. Jack Markell; Representatives Charles Potter Jr.; Ed Osienski, and Paul Baumbach.
(Continued on page 10 Gov. signs bills.)

(Continued from page 9 **Gov. signs bills.**)

On Tuesday, July 23 Governor Jack Markell signed a series of bills into law that will increase government transparency by strengthening Delaware's campaign finance laws and the state Public Integrity Commission. These new campaign finance reforms are small steps. The League and others supporters of the legislation note that lawmakers stopped short of overhauling Delaware's election laws to prevent the kind of corruption identified in special prosecutor E. Norman Veasey report to the General Assembly. Among the eight bills signed Tuesday were measures to provide whistleblower protection to Delawareans who report potential violations of campaign law; require corporate entities to name a "responsible party" for political contributions; give politicians a path for returning suspicious contributions to charities; and require public officers and lobbyists to file disclosure reports electronically.

Thank you to our generous contributors who are providing the financial support for this organization to thrive and continue its work to advocate and educate about the important and challenging issues of our times. Listed are names who contributed since the Spring 2014 newsletter:

Eleanor Revelle, Nancy Gray, Pamela Person, Vernadene Anderson.

In-kind Contributions: To all our volunteers who devote many hours of their precious time and money to advocate, educate about the issues we all care about.

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CALENDAR

Thursday, August 21, 2014 6-8:30 pm	Roma Restaurant 3 President Drive Dover, DE 19901	State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors.
Thursday, September 18, 2014 6-8:30 pm	Roma Restaurant 3 President Drive Dover, DE 19901	State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors.
Thursday, October 16, 2014 6-8:30 pm	Roma Restaurant 3 President Drive Dover, DE 19901	State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors.
Monday, October 20, 2014		General Election Registration Deadline. DEADLINE for uniformed and overseas citizens to register to vote before the General Election.
Tuesday, November 4, 2014 7 am - 8 pm		GENERAL ELECTION. Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm.
Thursday, November 20, 2014 6-8:30 pm	Roma Restaurant 3 President Drive Dover, DE 19901	State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors.