



THE VOTER

NOVEMBER 2012 Vol. 39, No 8

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

President's Message



This is not an easy job I'm doing, although I'm not sure what I expected. However, I got the payoff in early October. The League got a last-minute request to help register some senior citizens at two separate locations, which I probably could have ignored, but . . . that's not my style. So my stress level went up (again) for a(nother) day as I began making phone calls, looking for one or two volunteers to lend a hand. Three days later, half the job was done and I got this message: *Registering voters at the senior center was a great experience; the director is very warm, responsible, and sincere. The residents were darling. I am now in love with an 87-year-old fella named Wallace. What a delightful soul! Please remember me for next year. I'll bet that like me, you smiled. And I was reminded that 'if you want to feel good, help someone else.'*

In addition to registering almost 100 voters in the past month, we learned on October 10th that the Voter Photo ID Law was blocked for 2012. Declaring the decision as a victory for voting rights, Elisabeth MacNamara, President of LWVUS, said, "the court has interpreted the law in such a way that voters will not absolutely be required to show a photo ID in order to vote in later elections, in 2013 and beyond." You can learn more about the judges' decision and how elections will be affected this year here: www.lwvsc.org => What's New

Once again, I want to express my appreciation to those of you who do so much. From the League newcomers who have jumped right in to the veteran members who are like the Energizer bunny (who keep going and going and going), you make the world a better place. Thank you!

Yours in League,

Paula

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THE VOTER

League of Women Voter Clemson Area
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www.lwvclemsonarea.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, Nov. 6 **LWVCA BOARD MEETNG**, Central/Clemson Library, 5:30 pm
- Tuesday, Nov. 6 **GENERAL ELECTION, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm.**
- Tuesday, Nov 13 **GENERAL MEETING: “Dialogue with Legislative Panel”** Central/Clemson Library, 7:00 pm social, 7:30 pm program
- Tuesday, Dec 14 **Holiday Party**, Holley Ulbrich’s house 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Bring hors d’oeuvre to share.

November General Meeting: Dialogue with Legislative Panel

Our **November general meeting** will be just one week after the election, on November 13th at the Central-Clemson Library Community Room, as we turn our attention from choosing our elected officials to engaging in dialogue with them about public issues. We have asked three incumbent state representatives, one from each county, to serve on a panel to discuss the achievements, failures, and unfinished business in the last session of the General Assembly and the issues they expect to dominate the next session. Janie Shipley will moderate. This is a good opportunity to gear up for action for the 2013 session as they prepare to tackle education funding, another tight budget year, fixing the process of filing for the primaries, judicial selection, Medicaid expansion, and other issues of great interest to citizens of South Carolina. There will be opportunity for lots of questions from the audience. Be sure to come, bring a friend and bring your questions!

We will have an **Action Issue at each general meeting** with a brief description and a handout with talking points to use in contacting legislators or writing letters to the editor. Our November action topic is standardizing early voting procedures in federal elections, which is an issue that can only be addressed by Congress. Congress has taken other actions that pre-empt some degree of state control over elections, including the election date itself (first Tuesday after first Monday in November), and residence and age requirements for voting in federal elections, so the authority is there. Allowing early voting is one of many ways to make voting easier and more convenient, especially for working adults, people who travel, and senior citizens. It can also alleviate long waiting times at the polls. Eleanor Hare will make a few brief remarks and provide a handout with talking points and resources

~Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*

2012 Voting ID Requirements

For the rest of this year, including the Nov. 6 General Election, voters must present one of the following identification documents:

- S.C. Driver’s license
- S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles ID card
- S.C. Voter Registration Card

The S.C. Voter Registration Card does not have a photo, but is valid identification for voters. The identification requirements for the 2012 General Election have not changed.

The 3-judge panel of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia filed its opinion on October 10, 2012. To avoid confusing voters, the League will wait until 2013 to explain changes in voter identification that result from this opinion, which relied on the law’s “expansive reasonable impediment provision” to insure that voters without a photo ID will be able to cast a ballot in every election. District Judge Bates, in his concurring opinion, stated, “Act R54 as now pre-cleared is not the R54 enacted in May, 2011. ... An evolutionary process has produced a law that accomplishes South Carolina’s important objectives while protecting every individuals’ right to vote ...”

A link to the court’s opinion has been posted on our home page.

~Submitted by *Eleanor Hare*



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

PO Box 8453, Columbia, SC 29202, 803-251-2726, www.lwvsc.org

November 6, 2012, General Election South Carolina Constitutional Amendment Question

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina wants to make the PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT more easily understood by the voters of South Carolina.

The League of Women Voters only supports or opposes issues that our members have studied and reached consensus on. We have not taken a position for or against this proposed amendment.

The following Constitutional Amendment Question will appear on November 6, 2012, General Election Ballots:

Amendment

Beginning with the general election of 2018, must Section 8 of Article IV of the Constitution of this State be amended to provide that the Lieutenant Governor must be elected jointly with the Governor in a manner prescribed by law; and upon the joint election to add Section 37 to Article III of the Constitution of this State to provide that the Senate shall elect from among the members thereof a President to preside over the Senate and to perform other duties as provided by law; to delete Sections 9 and 10 of Article IV of the Constitution of this State containing inconsistent provisions providing that the Lieutenant Governor is President of the Senate, ex officio, and, while presiding in the Senate, has no vote unless the Senate is equally divided; to amend Section 11 to provide that the Governor shall fill a vacancy in the Office of Lieutenant Governor by appointing a successor with the advice and consent of the Senate; and to amend Section 12 of Article IV of the Constitution of this State to conform appropriate references?

Explanation

A "Yes" vote will require, from 2018 onward, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor to run on the same ticket and be elected to office jointly. As a result, the Lieutenant Governor will no longer preside over the Senate and the Senate will elect their presiding officer from within the Senate body.

A "No" vote maintains the current method of electing the Governor and Lieutenant Governor separately. The Lieutenant Governor shall continue to serve as President of the Senate.

Explanation of the Office of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, South Carolina

The Governor is the Chief Executive Officer of the State. The Lieutenant Governor is the second ranking executive officer of the Executive branch. Both are elected every four years by a plurality vote and are limited to two terms.

The chief responsibility of the Lieutenant Governor is to assume the duties of the governor should the Governor die, leave the State for a significant length of time, become ill or disabled; i.e., be unable to complete the term. Otherwise, the Lieutenant Governor has only two responsibilities: to preside over the Senate (entitled to a vote only in case of a tie) and to oversee and operate the state Office on Aging.

The office of Lieutenant Governor is unique in that (s)he is the only state elected official who is a part of both the legislative and the executive branches of government.

Under the current provisions of the Constitution, the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor run and are elected on separate tickets (may or may not be members of the same political party).

This amendment proposes two major changes:

1. Requires that a candidate for Governor select a candidate to serve as Lieutenant Governor to run for election on a joint (single) ticket.
2. Removes the Lieutenant Governor as presiding officer of the Senate.

South Carolina Constitutional Amendment Question continued

What Adoption of the Constitutional Amendment Would Mean

Beginning with the General Election of 2018 “a person seeking the office of Governor” . . . “shall select a qualified elector to serve as Lieutenant Governor . . . candidates for the office of Governor and Lieutenant Governor must be elected jointly” . . . “so that each voter casts a single vote for the office of Governor and Lieutenant Governor.”

In case of a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor, the Governor would appoint a successor subject to the “advice and consent of the Senate.”

The amendment would remove the Lieutenant Governor as the presiding officer of the Senate and provides that the Senate shall elect from its own members a President to preside over the Senate.

By running on the same ticket as the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor would be squarely in the executive branch of government, helping to ensure that the Governor’s agenda would be carried out in case the Governor should be unable to complete the term.

Similarly, by requiring that the Senate choose its own leadership as opposed to being presided over by the Lieutenant Governor, the amendment would place the Senate on the same footing as the House of Representative. Legislative leadership and decisions would be maintained in the legislative branch without crossover in the proceedings of the General Assembly by a member of the executive branch.

PROS

A single ticket election process would provide a more harmonious and cohesive executive policy, avoid a possible change of the executive agenda in “midstream,” and ensure continuity of that agenda in case the Governor is unable to complete the term. Also, it would clearly define the leadership roles and authority (power) balance between the two legislative branches and that of the executive branch.

The federal process of electing the President and Vice President on a single ticket has worked well.

CONS

The process of electing the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on a single ticket deprives the voter of the opportunity to “vote for the person” rather than a party label.

A single ticket election process places too much power in the hands of the Governor through the selection process and continuity of agenda.

NOTE

Election of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor from opposing political parties has occurred 3 times in the history of the State (the last in 1998).

In 25 states, the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor are elected on the same ticket. A few states do not have an office of Lieutenant Governor.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

As in the case of the Federal election process for President and Vice President, a strong candidate for Lieutenant Governor can bolster the gubernatorial candidate’s chances at the polls and, reversely, a poor choice for Lieutenant Governor could jeopardize the whole ticket.

In South Carolina, as in many states, general geographic areas define political party strength. A geographic choice for Lieutenant Governor may strengthen or weaken the gubernatorial candidate’s chances and/or impact the geographic political balance of the State.

OCONEE CANDIDATES' FORUM-OCT 11



SC House District 1: John Dalen, John Hester, Rep. Bill Whitmire with Moderator Kathy Woodard & Reggie Turetzky, Voter Service



SC House District 2: Ed Rumsey & Rep. Bill Sandifer

On October 11th, LWVCA held a forum for the candidates for SC House Districts 1 & 2, The Candidates for District 1 were: State Representative Bill Whitmire, Democratic Party Candidate John Hester and Petition Candidate John Dalen. The candidates for District 2 were: State Representative Bill Sandifer and Petition Candidate Ed Rumsey.

All of the candidates, except John Hester, backed Governor Haley's desire to not expand Medicaid in South Carolina with \$11B in federal funds, for they fear that in the future, we will not be able to afford the expansion.

Representative Whitmire admitted that he was unsure of how the State could improve leveling education funding. John Dalen and Ed Rumsey support school choice. Representative Sandifer and Ed Rumsey support Charter Schools.

Ed Rumsey and John Dalen support replacing income taxes and corporate taxes by a consumption tax, collected as a sales tax estimated at between 15-18%. Representative Sandifer pointed out that since we are so close to Georgia and North Carolina people would purchase their merchandise there as opposed to paying the higher sales tax in South Carolina. It would also hurt tourism.

~Submitted by Reggie Turetzky

UPDATE ON ACT 388

Remember **Act 388** passed in 2006? That was when the General Assembly raised the state sales tax from five cents to six cents and dedicated the proceeds to providing school property tax relief for owner occupied residential property worth more than \$100,000 (the first \$100,000 has been granted relief since 1995). With data now available for the first three budget years since it took effect, it's possible to assess the effects of the act, and they are pretty grim. The penny didn't produce enough revenue, so the rest of the relief had to come from the General Fund. The relief overwhelmingly benefited school districts with higher tax bases per pupil at the expense of poor districts. The implementation of Act 388 coincided with a downturn in state revenue generally, so the General Assembly responded by reducing funding for the Education Finance Act and other state aid to school districts, so total state aid rose by much less than the increase in the sales tax from the extra penny. And EFA is the one state aid program that attempts to equalize between rich and poor school districts, so the poor districts that saw little revenue from Act 388 also experienced a sharper decline in their EFA funds. A number of poor districts saw a significant drop in state funding per pupil while some wealthy districts with lots of high value homes and little reliance on EFA funding made out pretty well.

Ellen Saltzman and Holley Ulbrich of the Strom Thurmond Institute have just produced a report detailing the effects of Act 388. It can be downloaded from the Institute website, www.sti.clemson.edu. We will also be having a program in the spring on education funding in South Carolina that will take a look not just at what has happen but what some of the policy choices are for more equitable and adequate funding of our state's public schools.

~Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

Report from Clemson City Council Meeting for 10/15/12

Clemson City Council met on Monday, 15 October 2012 at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall. All members of Council were present. A group of 12 citizens from the *Pendleton-Clemson Relay for Life Association* were in attendance. Two citizens and two LWV observers (Lis Branstead and Cynthia Warner) were also present.

During the public session portion of the meeting *Pendleton-Clemson Relay for Life* presented Mayor Cook with an award and thanked him and the city for their support. They have raised \$103,220 for cancer education & research. The next Pendleton-Clemson Relay for Life event is scheduled for 10 May 2013.

During the working session of the meeting, Council approved two new ordinances. The first was to establish a temporary moratorium for the establishment of any new or proposed arcade type business. The second was to amend the City of Clemson Business License Ordinance to include Stamp Fees for Video Sweepstakes Machines with rewards; skill based machines with prizes; internet café terminals with promotions; or any other electronic or mechanical game device with promotional prizes or rewards.

Also during the working session, Council acted on five requests.

The first request was from Mr. Bret Martin, City Planner. The request was for a Second Reading to [Rezone](#) a 0.42-acre parcel located at [104 Daniel Drive](#) in downtown Clemson from RM-3 multi-household residential district to the C, general commercial district. This request had been tabled at the July 16th meeting and Council left it on the table at this meeting.

The second request was from a committee headed by Mr. Steve Figueroa, Director of Parks & Recreation. Mr. Figueroa's committee is overseeing improvements to rest rooms and storage areas at Nettles Park. Council Member Tim Fowler recused himself from this discussion. Council approved Mr. Figueroa's committee recommendation to award a \$240,000 for Nettles Park improvements.

The third request was from Mr. Kent Guthrie, City Engineer. He presented a request from residents of Campden Sound Subdivision to accept Aileen Lane as a City Street. He explained that the street was built to City specifications 8 years ago and is not in immediate need of repaving. Council approved his request.

The fourth request was for a Public Hearing date for a [Proposed Rezoning \(2012-R-14\)](#) of 5.56 acres located behind the Valvoline on Old Greenville Hwy from Planned Development (#11-Stoneledge) to R-20, Single-household Residential. The owner is Z&H, LLC and the applicant is the Chinese Christian Church of Clemson, TMS: 4054-15-64-6590 – Ms. Sharon Richardson, Planning & Codes Director. Council scheduled the public hearing for 7:00 PM on Monday 5 November 2012.

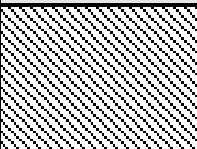

The fifth request was for a Public Hearing date for a [Proposed Amendment \(2012-R-15\)](#) to the City Zoning Ordinance to amend Section 19-309 (e). C, General Commercial to modify the minimum front setback, establish maximum front setback standards, and establish a façade step-back requirement and to amendment Section 19-107. Definitions to add the term facade step-back with illustration – Ms. Sharon Richardson, Planning & Codes Director. Council scheduled the public hearing for 7:15 PM on Monday 5 November 2012.

Council announced that the Clemson City Regatta will be held on 27 October 2012.

The next Council meeting will be Monday 5 November at 7:30 PM.

~Submitted by Cynthia Warren

☐ **NOVEMBER 2012** ☐ **Oconee County Observer Corps Schedule**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 <i>A</i>	7	8	9	10
11	12 <i>E</i>	13 <i>B, C</i>	14	15	16	17
18	19 <i>E</i>	20 <i>A, D</i>	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

A **Oconee County Council** : 1st & 3rd Tues @ 6pm. South Church Street, Walhalla.

Observer: 6th: _____

20th: _____

B **Salem City Council**: 2nd Tues @ 6pm . Town Hall.

Observer: 13th: _____

C **Seneca City Council**: 2nd Tues @ 6pm. City Hall.

Observer: 13th: _____

D **Walhalla City Council**: 3rd Tues @ 5:30pm. City Hall.

Observer: 20th: _____

E **Oconee County School Board**: 2nd and 3rd Mon @ 6pm. School District Office, Walhalla

Observer: 12th: _____

19th: _____

Clemson City Council 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:30 pm.Seneca City Council 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm.Pickens County Council 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:00 pm.Oconee County Council 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm.

Anderson County Council

1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm

Pickens County School Board

4th Monday, 7:30 pm.

Oconee County School Board

3rd Monday, 6:00 pm.

Anderson Co. School Board

3rd Monday, 6:00 pm

Contribution Form

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area LWVCA, P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Phone (opt) _____

____ I wish my contribution to remain anonymous.

____ I wish my contribution to be tax deductible where allowed by law. My check is made out to the "*League of Women Voters Ed Fund*" which is a 501(c)(3) organization.

____ I wish to support the League's action priorities. My check is made out to the "League of Women Voters" and is not tax-deductible.

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

P. O. Box 802

Clemson, SC 29633

[Recipient]

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Address Line 4