



SC Voter

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Website: www.lwvsc.org

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Fall 2014



NEW LWVSC Voting Website Now Up & Running

www.saveallvotessc.org

The new League of Women Voters of South Carolina voter information website is now up and running. We are very excited and hope this new website will become the one-stop shop for voter information: voter registration/information toolkits, voter education, relevant legislation and research and much more.

LWVSC Leads in Advocacy for Voter Protections:

Grant Awarded to LWVSC from LWVUS Education Fund

By Paula Egelson, LWVSC Vice President, Voter Services

In the spring of 2014, the League of Women Voter of South Carolina (LWVSC) received funding from the national LWV Education Fund's *Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) Project VIII*. This grant will be in effect until March 15, 2015.

The SC PAVP grant broadly addresses voter protection issues that include:

- Increasing access to voter registration opportunities including compliance with the National Voter Registration Act, specifically opportunities at public assistance agencies

VOTER PROTECTIONS:
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Join the League today!



Co-Presidents' Perspectives:

Summer has ended and finally the temperature is a little cooler and we can all enjoy nice fall weather. However, even with cooler weather the political scene will be heating up with mid-term elections just around the corner. Leagues from all over the state are busy registering voters and planning candidate forums including those for several state offices.

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina, Delta Sigma Theta, and WIS News 10 are partnering to try to produce a televised gubernatorial debate on Tuesday, October 28, 2014. The next issue of the VOTER should have an abundance of exciting articles and information about the wonderful efforts you made to keep voters informed and encouraging them to go to the polls. Please remember to send copies of your newsletters and meeting notices to **me and JoAnne** and help us share with others what is going on in each of your Leagues.

Thanks to the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PVAP) grant, State League also continues to build a coalition of groups dedicated to providing voter education and advocating for better voter access and participation in the voting process. On August 8, 2014 the State League hosted a meeting at the AARP conference room in Columbia for invited possible partners such as

AARP, NAACP, ACLU, and others. Attendance at the meeting more than exceeded our expectations with twenty-one organizations represented, further confirming our belief in the interest and need for such a voting advocacy partnership in South Carolina. One of the exciting initiatives made possible by the grant is a new voter information website which will be unveiled soon. The new website is being designed as a one-stop shop for voter information: voter registration/information toolkits, voter education, relevant legislation and research and much more.

Several emails have recently gone out to Local League presidents with attachments we hope will be of assistance to you as you get ready for November. Voter information cards and explanations of the upcoming ballot referenda can be used at your events and shared with others in the community to help inform voters about the upcoming election. Please let us know if you have not received these items and we will make sure you get copies.

Additionally, with so many opportunities to enlist new members coming up this fall, we would like to remind you to try and include information about joining the League as well as how to donate on the materials you distribute



Susan Richards
Co-President, LWVSC

at upcoming meetings and other events. Including a member interest survey in requests for donations could also be a valuable tool in finding out exactly what issues prospective members are interested in and enable you to get them involved.

Finally, we hope you are all saving the date, Saturday, January 31, 2015 for LEAD Day. We are putting together an interesting and informative agenda. More details about the agenda and the location will go out in December and we hope to see you all there.

Susan Richards

The Local Government Fund

By Holley Ulbrich, LWVSC Director, State and Local Taxation and Home Rule

For almost 100 years, the state of South Carolina was responsible for collecting and distributing various kinds of local taxes for counties and municipalities. In 1990, the General Assembly replaced this complex system with a Local Government Fund (LGF) that would be 4.5 percent of the previous year's General Fund revenue. Taxes on banks, beer, wine, gasoline, motor transport, alcohol, and income that had been collected on behalf of local governments would be directed into the state's General Fund. At the time the legislation was passed, 4.5 was the percentage of the General Fund represented by those taxes. The

1990 law required that the revenue for the LGF be diverted first before preparing the rest of the budget appropriations. Counties receive 83.3 percent of the LGF, and municipalities 16.7 percent. The distribution is per capita, based on the last official census. Counties receive a larger share because of the large number of functions they must perform on behalf of the state.

Starting in 2009, the LGF has not been fully funded. In 2014, the idea of eliminating the Local Government Fund was broached by legislators. Local governments, especially counties, depend on this revenue source, which accounts for

almost six percent of county revenue and 4.2% of municipal revenue. From 2009 to 2012 the amount of money distributed declined from \$366 million to \$278 million, partly because the downturn in the economy affected General Fund revenues and partly because of the refusal of the General Assembly to fully fund the LGF.

LGF is a home rule issue. Counties and cities need adequate revenue to provide basic services in public safety, road maintenance, libraries, public health and other functions required by the state. Please tell your legislators to protect the LGF from further reductions and to move toward full funding in the next budget year.

VOTER PROTECTIONS:

continued from page 1 –

- Improving polling place management
- Improving poll worker training and recruitment to help diversify the Election Day workforce
- Responding to and mitigate last minute barriers to voting

On August 8, 2014, the LWVSC invited interested non-profit organization representatives from across the state to Columbia for a voter advocacy meeting. The overall purpose of this meeting was to develop a voting rights coalition. Response to the invitation was very positive. Approximately 45 people, representing 21 groups, attended including PTA of SC, United Methodist Women of SC, ACLU, Minority Lawyer's Committee, and AARP,

LWV SC co-president JoAnne Day greeted the group and explained the purposes of the grant. A variety of voting issues associated with South Carolina were then addressed: Voter ID, minority voting, voting for people with disabilities, voter registration and voting in SC in

general. At the conclusion of the meeting, participants completed coalition interest forms. Bi-monthly e-mail voting updates are now being sent to coalition members. The new coalition's specific goals are to increase voter registration, education, engagement, and protection by building a statewide voter advocacy network/database dedicated to voter registration, protection and election reform issues.

- The LWVSC website is currently being completely redesigned using funds from the grant. Developers see the revised website as the "go to" informational voting website for South Carolina. LWVSC new website categories include a voter toolkit, links to SC Voters organizations, voting in SC, voting news, and information about the LWVSC.
- With grant funding between fall 2014 and spring 2015, local SC Leagues will be in partnership with local non-profit organizations to organize voter training meetings. From these trainings, cohorts of community based voting advocates who will monitor

elections and voting administration in their areas, including observing county election commissions, implementation of photo ID law, and local barriers to voting will be formed. Local league meeting training topics will include election reform issues, voting rules, proper polling place management, and recruitment of a diverse Election Day workforce.

The Sumter League is organizing the first training on September 23rd. They have reached out to election officials in Sumter County and adjoining counties, ACLU and the Lawyer's Committee as speakers and will focus the training on various voting issues. The Sumter League members are expecting over 100 people in attendance at this training.

LWV SC is excited about the work and potential associated with the PAVP grant. For League members and others who are interested in learning more how about they can become involved in PAVP activities, please contact Paula Egelson at paulaserv@aol.com or at 843-696-5099.

Around South Carolina . . .

WITH *The* LEAGUE

Here is a small sampling of the extraordinary activities that our local Leagues are undertaking.

Columbia Area LWV kicked off the new year on September 18th with a public policy luncheon of "*The Homeless in the Midlands*" featuring speaker Carla Damron. Ms. Damron is Executive Director of the SC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She is a licensed clinical social worker with over 20 years of experience in public mental health clinics, private practice, and mental health administration.

Charleston Area LWV started off the year with a community forum on September 17th examining the relationship between calls for safety in schools and

increasing trends to criminalize student behavior reducing schoolyard violence and preventing schoolyard shootings. Many states implemented "zero tolerance" disciplinary policies and incorporated School Resource Officers in schools. Now, a growing body of research shows that the effect of these new discipline policies has cast a much wider net than originally intended and trapped a disproportionate number of minority children in the criminal justice system. The result has been that youthful indiscretions previously handled in the principal's office are now being handled through the court system. The result is often devastating to the child, their family and to the community.

The program drew an audience of over 200. It was cosponsored by ACLU of South Carolina, NAACP of Charleston, Charleston School of Law, College of Charleston, The Citadel, and the Greater Charleston YWCA.

Clemson Area LWV hosted a celebration of Women's Equality Day on August 26th featuring a readers' theatre presentation on the Grimke sisters, natives of Charleston and daughters of slave owners. They were early 19th century advocates for both abolition of slavery and the rights of women.



2014 Ballot Issues

By Holley Ulbrich, LWVSC Director, Taxation and Home Rule

There are two constitutional amendments on the ballot in November that require voter approval.

1. Charity Raffles

"Must Section 7, Article XVII of the Constitution of this State be amended so as to provide that a raffle is not a lottery prohibited by this section, if the raffle is conducted by a nonprofit organization for charitable, religious, fraternal, educational, or other eleemosynary purposes, and the general law defines the type of organization authorized to operate and conduct the raffles, provides standards for the operation and conduct of the raffles, provides for the use of proceeds for charitable, religious, fraternal, educational, or other eleemosynary purposes, provides penalties for violations, and provides for other laws necessary to ensure the proper functioning, honesty, and integrity of the raffles, but in the absence of any general law, then the raffle remains a prohibited lottery?"

A YES vote means that the General Assembly can write legislation that permits raffles by charitable organizations. A NO vote means that such charity raffles would still be illegal.

Currently all lotteries except the state education lottery are forbidden by the constitution. A raffle is considered a lottery. A favorable vote does not mean that raffles are automatically permitted, because the General Assembly still would have to write legislation that describes what organizations can hold raffles, spells out how they are allowed to use the revenue, and sets other rules under which raffles must operate.

2. Adjutant General

"Must Section 7, Article VI of the Constitution of this State relating to state constitutional officers and Section 4, Article XIII relating to the Adjutant General and his staff officers be amended so as to update references to his title; to provide that the position of Adjutant

General is recognized as holding the rank of Major General, as opposed to Brigadier General; to provide that upon the expiration of the term of the Adjutant General serving in office on the date of the ratification of this provision, the Adjutant General must be appointed by the Governor, upon the advice and consent of the Senate; to provide that the appointed Adjutant General serve for a term not coterminous with the Governor and may be removed only for cause; and to require the General Assembly to provide by law for the term, duties, compensation, and qualifications for office, the procedures by which the appointment is made, and the procedures by which the Adjutant General may be removed from office?"

A YES vote means that the Adjutant General would be appointed by the governor instead of elected by the voters. A NO vote means that this office will continue to be on the ballot every four years.

The Adjutant General is the head of the National Guard. South Carolina is the only state that elects a person to that office. If voters approve this proposal, the General Assembly will have to fill in the details with legislation concerning the term of office, the qualifications, and other matters. The governor would propose a candidate but the Senate would have to confirm the nominee, much like cabinet officers at the federal level.

The proposal specifically says that the term of the Adjutant General is not exactly the same as that of the governor, making that person somewhat independent of the current governor. The governor would not be able to fire the Adjutant General without an acceptable reason. The acceptable reasons must be spelled out in the legislation that has to be enacted to put this proposal into effect.

We Need To Know:

Questions For The Candidates

Wondering what questions to ask at candidate forums? These questions from Lynn Teague, our VP for Issues and Action (and one from Holley Ulbrich, Director for State and Local Taxation and Home Rule) would direct them to thinking about issues of concern to the League and also increase audience awareness of those issues.

These questions would be appropriate for local Leagues to ask of legislative candidates:

- Do you support disclosure of private sources of income received by officials, including amounts in the case of income from lobbyist principals, government contractors or are regulated by the state or local government?
- Would you support reform of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission to include only citizens not currently serving in elected positions in state government?
- Do you support full funding for the Local Government Fund that helps municipalities and especially counties to pay for needed public services? (See article in this issue for an explanation of the Local Government Fund.)

For education (school board or state superintendent) candidates:

- Do you support South Carolina's participation in Common Core, or use of Common Core standards in developing our own standards?
- Do you support tax benefits for people donating to private schools or private school partnerships?

For other local government candidates:

- Do you support state lobbyist registration of those who lobby local governments and school boards?

Rallying For Clean Energy in Atlanta

By Ron Sobczak, LWV Spartanburg County

I attended the July 29th EPA hearings on the proposed carbon pollution regulations in Atlanta with a group from the SC Chapter of the Sierra Club. These hearings were the outcome of a 2007 Supreme Court ruling, based on peer-reviewed research, which shows that greenhouse gases endanger human health and welfare, that greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide are pollutants under the Clean Air Act and that the EPA must take steps to regulate them.

The EPA released draft carbon pollution standards (The Clean Power Plan) for current power plants and set up hearings for public comment at each regional office, which for South Carolina meant a trip to Atlanta. Power plants account for 40 % of the carbon pollution in the US. Currently, we limit mercury, arsenic, lead, and soot from power plants but not carbon pollution-the key driver of climate disruption. The Clean Power Plan will close that loophole and limit carbon pollution for the first time ever. Nearly half of all Americans will have cleaner air in their communities if strong regulations are put into place and enforced.

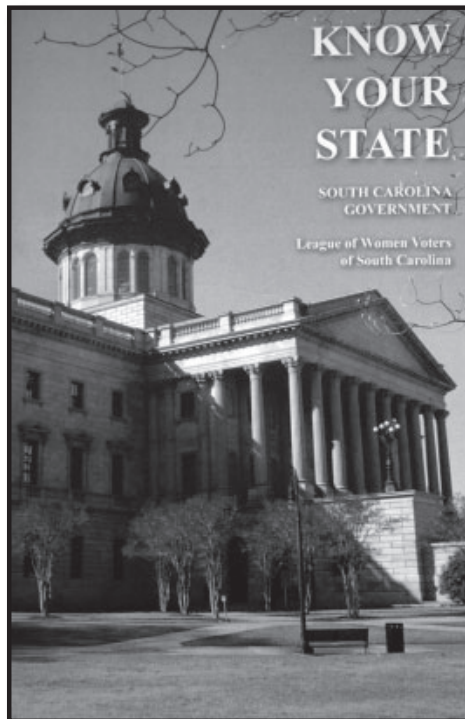
I could think of a lot of reasons not to spend a day on a bus. But then I thought of a few reasons why I should. The environment is something I have worked to protect for years. And these regulations are important. They are the first ever attempt by the US to seriously deal with a source of climate disruption. I love the outdoors and I want the air to be clean and safe whether I am at home or out hiking. I am retired and I have the time. So, why not?

We heard from politicians from Atlanta who talked about the need to clean up the air. We heard speeches by former civil rights activists who believe that cleaning up the air is as important as the civil right issues of the 60's. It turns out there are a lot more of us old activists than I thought. And we are all looking pretty good. Being involved in participatory democracy must be good for you!

As I looked around at the crowd, I was impressed with the demographic mix of the crowd: Young and old, and very

racially and ethnically mixed. There were also many faith-based groups. One just did not see many minorities or religious organizations in the early years of the environmental movement, but now the concept of environmental justice has taken hold. Environmental issues are definitely more mainstream. I was greatly encouraged by the diversity of the group. We marched to the EPA hearings, waving signs and chanting. Quite frankly, we had fun. This is how we bring about change in this country.

EPA did a great job of setting up the hearings. There were two huge rooms. Everyone who wanted to speak had a chance to sign up for 5 minutes or could submit a written comment. Since there were people on our bus who had late evening time slots, we were there for the whole day. The comments were well prepared and well delivered for the most part. Both sides were respectful. If numbers mean anything, there were more yellow "beyond coal" t-shirts in the audience than "suits". But I know that the Koch brothers are involved in fighting these regulations and will do what they can to insure that coal continues to be burnt with little regulation.



Some of the highlights from the comments:

- A 4th generation coal miner told us that mining coal was no way to earn a living. He said that coal advocates never talk about the health toll on the families who work the mines and live in the polluted environment. He said there is no reason why we should burn coal to keep lights on when there is no one in the room. Efficiency is low hanging fruit and is an important part of the new regulations.
- A young man from a strong religious background said that he does his part but that the government needs to step up to the plate and do its part to regulate carbon.
- A doctor spoke about the need for less carbon pollution. He said he never needs to check the official air quality index because he can tell by the number of office visits and patient phone calls.

You still have time to submit your comments to EPA-go to their web page for details. Power to the people!

KNOW YOUR STATE - UPDATED EDITION -

The most recent edition of LWVSC's *Know Your State: South Carolina Government* publication came out in 2009. A lot of water has passed under the state's bridges since then, so before reprinting, there has been an update in 2014. The update not only has the most recent numbers for state and local revenue, population, and student enrollment, but also reflects changes in photo ID for voters, Common Core Standards, the new on-line public school, the demise of the Budget and Control Board, and other legislative changes. This informative 72-page booklet is a great gift for speakers, school and public libraries, newcomers to the state, and a great reference for our members. The retail price is \$10, but Leagues can buy copies for \$7 and resell them at full price or give them to anyone you think might need a copy. You can pre-order copies for delivery at the January 31, 2016 LEAD Day by emailing league@lwvsc.org or calling 803-251-2726.



Nuclear Waste in South Carolina

By Suzanne Rhodes, LWVSC Off-Board Specialist, Nuclear Issues

The League's report on *Nuclear Waste in South Carolina* has been presented to groups in Horry and Columbia (3 groups), and at the first of two Greenville seminars in September and November. Suzanne welcomes opportunities to share information with groups concerned about the future of the Savannah River area and this country's high-level nuclear wastes. We are working on arranging a meeting in Aiken, close to the SRS, with a local nonprofit group concerned about nuclear waste issues.

LWVSC has requested - for the FOURTH time this calendar year - a Programmatic EIS regarding DOE's plans to import foreign commercial waste to SRS. Some previous shipments, alleged to have been US-origin research wastes, may have been covered under such programs as *Atoms for Peace*. The German wastes certainly do not comply, and other non-compliant shipments have allegedly been planned.

The DOE responses (2) to the League PEIS requests to date both answered a simpler question not raised by LWVSC. In part, the League request to DOE stated: "The proposed shipment of German commercial fuel is likely to undercut attempts by EURATOM and perhaps other government units to manage their wastes. Both Germany and the US require that commercial wastes be safely managed and ultimately stored in a geologic repository. SRS is out of bounds for any commercial wastes." History had to be rewritten to

'support' this proposed project, as these wastes generated electricity off and on for well over a decade, and have been stored in Germany for 25 years.

The League was present at the Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council, when it was established that international nuclear wastes already shipped to SRS have not been treated, and there is no plan to treat them, according to DOE HQ representative Gary DeLeon. The League presentation to GNAC at that July meeting supported *SRS Watch* comments on the conflicts in Environmental Assessment regarding the proposed German shipments:

- EU directives and regulations agreed to under the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM);
- Nuclear waste management practice agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency;
- Under German law it is illegal for Germany to Export Spent Fuel for Reprocessing. (Intermediate storage of spent fuel is the only practice in Germany today);
- EURATOM established a European Community standard for management of spent fuel and radioactive waste with the aim of ensuring a high level of safety, avoiding undue burdens on future generations and enhancing transparency. The DOE/German proposal ignores this standard;

- Possible Violation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
- H-Canyon at SRS is not licensed by NRC, and not Safeguarded for commercial wastes by the IAEA;
- SRS Citizens Advisory Board (SRS CAB), a federal advisory panel on SRS clean up, went on record in July 2013 against bringing commercial spent fuel to the site. Their position statement concludes: "The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board wants the Department of Energy to know that it is opposed the use of SRS as a site for interim storage of spent nuclear fuel from commercial nuclear reactors." Although this statement primarily addressed spent fuel from US reactors, there has been ongoing concern expressed by CAB members about bringing foreign nuclear waste, and concerns have been discounted;
- SRS has a huge amount of nuclear waste that it is struggling to deal with, and it has not been demonstrated that it can deal with a large amount of graphite waste.

DOE hopes to have a draft Environmental Assessment before the end of the year, and the League plans to comment within the 45-day comment period.

IMPORTANT LEAGUE DATES:



* Any member of the LWV of South Carolina is welcome to attend LWVSC Board meetings.

October

LWVSC Finance Drive.

Donation appeal mailed to members. Second Quarter PMP Statements mailed & payment due.

13th Monday, Columbus Day

15th LWVUS & LWVSC

Per Member Payment due.

15th Fall SC Voter mailing

24th Thursday, United Nations Day

31st Friday, Halloween

November

8th Saturday, 10:15 a.m. - 3 p.m., LWVSC Board Meeting, Grecian Garden Restaurant, West Columbia, SC*

4th Tuesday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., General Election Day

11th Monday, Veteran's Day

27th Thursday, Thanksgiving Day

December

LWVSC sends Program Planning materials to Local Leagues.

15th Monday, Bill of Rights Day

21st Wednesday, Hanukkah begins at sundown

25th Thursday, Christmas

26th Friday, Kwanzaa begins

31st Winter SC Voter material deadline



6



Website: www.lwvsc.org

Join the League today!

It Isn't All About Bobby Harrell

By Lynn Shuler Teague, *LWVSC Vice President, Issues and Action*

This article first appeared in *Statehouse Report* On September 11, 2014. You can subscribe to receive this blog at www.statehouseport.com

The saga of Bobby Harrell, Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives, has moved forward with the filing of nine indictments for criminal violations of the South Carolina ethics laws. We can all be grateful that Attorney General Alan Wilson and Solicitor David Pascoe have done their jobs responsibly and well, bringing the case to this point despite serious obstacles. As Solicitor Pascoe has pointed out, it isn't over yet – Harrell has been indicted but has not been convicted of any crime. We will all watch closely as the process continues, in hopes that the whole criminal justice system will function as it should.

However, this isn't all about Bobby Harrell. It also isn't all about one political party or another. Those who try to define this issue in partisan terms do the state a serious disservice by obscuring the real issues. This is about how our state government works, and how well it serves the public interest. This is about the distribution of power, and the invitations to abuse of power that exist in our system. It is about a state with serious imbalances in its governmental structure and weak ethics laws, a deadly combination.

How do we end our long history of abuse of the public trust? In order to address the problem at its root, we must have structural reform in our government as well as stronger ethics laws. The disproportionate power of the General Assembly was reduced by changes enacted in the last session, but more work remains to be done. Further, both the strong and the weak within the General Assembly are placed into a framework that encourages abuse.

In 2012, the League of Women Voters of South Carolina submitted recommendations to the South Carolina Commission on Ethics Reform. Our final recommendation was that the House and Senate leadership be limited to two terms in their leadership roles.

This recommendation was not directed at any individual incumbent, but at the very obvious history of these offices. Throughout our lifetimes, and before, Speakers and Presidents Pro Tempore have sometimes become autocratic; the inherent power of their offices amplified by networks of power and influence cultivated over years and even decades.

Corruption, putting self-interest above public interest, can become easy. Some

have resisted the pressures to follow this path, but too many have not. Even the lack of power in the face of this concentrated political authority has its own temptations to corruption. These issues are a source of serious sickness in our state government. This must end.

There are related problems in our judiciary. The General Assembly dominates the Judicial Merit Selection Committee (JMSC) and then makes the decisions about who will become a judge or justice. Then, the General Assembly controls court budgets. This is far too much legislative power over the judicial branch. It is an imbalance that has led to concerns about the impartiality of the judiciary in the Harrell case and in other cases.

We do not advocate public election of judges, a wretched option that simply provides another avenue for corruption, as judges solicit campaign funds from donors hoping for special treatment in the courts. Instead, we advocate removing legislators from the JMSC. The redundancy of their control of the judicial branch at every turn makes a mockery of the supposed balance of power among branches of government.

And then there are our weak ethics laws. If you look at the Harrell case and other recent cases, it is reasonable to suppose that most of our ethical problems lie in the area of misuse of campaign funds. This is not necessarily so.

Our existing ethics law requires disclosure of the acquisition and use of campaign finance funds, so problems in these areas can be identified. However, we have no disclosure of sources of private income. Lucrative “consulting fees” can be a great temptation to abandon the public interest. We know that we have at least two House members who are “consultants” to lobbyist principal organizations. We can be sure that there are many more that we don't know about. Disclosure of private sources of income is one of the most important elements of sound ethics reform.

The enforcement of our ethics laws is another area of great importance. This past summer a Supreme Court ruling in the Harrell case overturned a very unfortunate ruling by a lower court and affirmed the constitutional authority of the Attorney General to pursue criminal investigations of all persons in the state, including legislators, without seeking permission from committees of the General Assembly.

The ruling affirmed that civil and criminal processes associated with the Ethics Act are

separate and discrete. Unfortunately the same ruling contained more questionable elements, preventing open hearings on procedural issues in the case and essentially inviting a lower court judge to remove the Attorney General from the case, although the grounds for doing so were exceedingly weak. The Attorney General must be allowed to do his or her job without unwarranted intervention, or the constitutional authority of the office is seriously diminished.

We need statutory change to bring ethics law into better conformity with that constitutional authority of the Attorney General, clearly identifying that office as the appropriate authority at all stages of a criminal investigation and prosecution.

We also need an improved system for the investigation of offenses, both civil and criminal. Routine audits of disclosures are an important aspect of this, in both the executive and legislative branches. Investigation by professionally trained personnel is also essential. The executive branch has the Ethics Commission, which has professional investigators on staff, to fulfill this role. The legislative branch has relied on staff members and, on occasion, attorneys and accountants hired for a specific case. This is not sufficient.

Independence of investigation is also very important. In the criminal arena, the Attorney General is an independently elected official who the citizens of South Carolina select to represent them. He should be allowed to do so without inappropriate obstacles.

And so, from the Harrell case we move quickly into issues that reach into every aspect of ethics law, and from there into the underlying structure of our state government. We need to provide a framework within which officials are encouraged to serve the public interest rather than themselves and their friends. We must have a legal framework that is adequate to handle both the civil and criminal processes when someone decides to place their own interests above those of the people of South Carolina.

There will be people, some of them very powerful people, who have too much invested in the current system to cooperate in reforming it. They don't want change. There are others for whom anything short of a perfect bill is too little. Both can be major obstacles to reform. Nevertheless, we must do the hard work of making South Carolina's government accountable, transparent, and responsive to the needs of its citizens.



LWV SC Voter

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The SC Voter

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Established in 1951, the League of Women Voters of South Carolina is a nonpartisan, political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a League member. All members receive the National Voter, the SC Voter, and a newsletter from their local League.

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School Discipline: *Classroom to Prison?* Event



"Seating" room only at the event



*Sponsored by LWV Charleston
Area on September 1*



*Hon. Daniel E. Martin, Jr., Family Court Judge;
Legal Director of ACLU of South Carolina, Susan
Dunn, Esq.; Hon. Marlon E. Kimpson, SC State
Senator; Principal Eleanor Hardy, Greg Mathis
Charter High School; Lieutenant Kathleen Love,
North Charleston Police Department*

***Not in photo: Moderator, Professor Heath
Hoffman, College of Charleston*

Save The Date LEAD 2015

Last year LWVSC decided to change the name of League Leadears' Day, traditionally held in August, to League Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD). State Board has decided to move it to January when the legislature is in session and we can focus on what used to be our Legislative Day agenda back when we were holding that statewide event in February. We have lined up some interesting speakers, some networking opportunities, and some good food, fellowship, and information for local Leagues. ***So save the date, January 31st, 2015 and plan to bring several carloads to Columbia!***