



The VOTER



League of Women Voters - Janesville

www.lwvjvl.org

November 2011

This is notice that the meeting for the League board in November has been changed to Monday, **November 7th**, 6:00 p.m. at the Hedberg Library. Sorry about the inconvenience.

The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education Consensus



Linda Stehura, Nancy Stabb, Mary Buelow and Jan Kinnaman discussing the consensus questions.

Photo Carol Herzig

Nancy Stabb
Study Co-chair

Members of the Janesville LWV that met on October 22 at the HPL had a good discussion of the first 9 consensus questions. The consensus of our discussion will be forwarded to the LWVUS Education Study committee along with consensus results from other Leagues in all 50 states. The LWVUS committee will synthesize the information to develop a national position, which will be the basis of the League's advocacy in the future.

Janesville Leaguers agreed that a quality public education is not only important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy but is also important to building strong communities and a strong economy. There was general agreement that the role of the federal government in mandating integration, gender equity and appropriate edu-

cation for students with special needs was about right but the requirement of high-stakes testing was going too far. The primary role of the Federal Government should be to ensure that all students pre K-12 receive a quality education. Developing national Common Core Standards for all students K-12 is a better way to accomplish the goal than high-stakes testing. Districts would be encouraged but not required to adopt the standards. An incentive to adopt would be the availability of a national assessment aligned with Common Core Standards that will inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs and could be used to provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement and possibly diagnostic information on each child.

Join us November 5 to continue the discussion. The topic will be equity in education funding.



***WI's
New
Voter
ID Law***

THE VOTER ID LAW EXPLAINED!

**Wisconsin's
Government
Accountability Board
(GAB) speakers will**

**explain the new Voter Photo ID requirements
and its implementation.**

***Plan to join us on Tuesday, November
15, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Rock
County Job Center, 1900 Center Avenue,
Janesville, WI 53546, to get the
clarification we all need.***



**Hosted by Janesville LWW
and Rock County
Clerk Lori Stottler.**



***SHARE WIDELY.... WITH EVERYONE WHO HAS
BEEN ASKING QUESTIONS OR LAMENTING THE NEW LAW.***

League Voter ID lawsuit filed in Dane County Court

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network today, October 20th, filed suit in Dane County Circuit Court, challenging Wisconsin's new voter ID law based on the state constitution. As a nonpartisan organization that encourages participation in government, the League is concerned about the many eligible citizens who will be disenfranchised by the new law. The League is working with attorneys Lester Pines and Susan Crawford of Cullen Weston Pines & Bach, LLP,

in trying to obtain an acceptable ID," said Melanie G. Ramey, president of the Wisconsin League. This challenge is different from lawsuits brought in other states against voter ID laws because it is based on the Wisconsin Constitution. The suffrage, or voting, portion of the state constitution defines who may vote (citizens, at least 18 years of age, residents of WI) and specifies the permitted subjects relating to suffrage on which the legislature may enact laws: defining residency; providing for voter registration; providing for absentee voting; excluding felons and persons adjudicated incompetent from suffrage; and extending the right of suffrage to additional persons. "The Wisconsin Constitution only allows the legislature to exclude the two named classes from voting - felons and people ruled incompetent. The new law creates a third class of citizens who may not vote - people who do not have ID. This lawsuit challenges the legislature's authority to enact such a law," Pines said, "Some people say that you have to show ID to use the library, cash checks, and so on. That is very different than a right that is guaranteed by the constitution of the state or federal government. Those transactions are generally based on personal business decisions of companies or other entities. They are not rights of citizenship," Ramey said.

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to challenge the legislature's authority to enact the law. "Founded by the suffragists who won the right to vote for women in 1920 after a decades-long struggle, the League of Women Voters believes voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. We are appalled by the stories the League is hearing about the barriers people are facing

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network is a non-profit, nonpartisan membership organization that promotes informed and active participation in government. Through member-led research, education and advocacy, the League works to improve public participation in the democratic process and to champion public policy goals that are beneficial to all. There are 16 local Leagues in Wisconsin. More information at www.lwvwi.org.

LWV- Janesville would like to send matching funds

Laura Boettcher
1st Vice President

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network on October 20, 2011 filed suit in Dane County Circuit Court, challenging Wisconsin's new voter ID law based on the state constitution as noted in last month's *Voter*. This lawsuit will cost approximately \$200,000. The Janesville executive board would like to contribute to the lawsuit fund if the general membership agrees. The suggestion is that we match up to \$250 from our reserve fund for donations from Janesville League members. There will be a separate email with a link to vote on this question via a website called Survey Monkey. If you don't receive email, please call Laura Boettcher at 754-6661 to give your response. If there is a positive response to using reserve funds to match

members' donations, we will ask that you report your contribution to Laura so the board knows how much our matching donation will be. Her email address is mlboettcher@charter.net.

Contributions may be made payable to LWVWI Education Fund, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

1. Send a check payable to:
LWVWI Education Fund
612 W Main Street #200
Madison, WI 53703

Note "Voter ID lawsuit" on the check. It would be helpful if you would include a completed [donation form](#) found at www.lwvwi.org

Calendar

Upcoming Activities 2011-12

*Additional events may be planned. Check website: lwvjvl.org/calendar

This is a tentative schedule for what we plan to cover this year. Scheduling for the events is in the planning stages. Once they are solid you will receive more information about them. Thank you for your patients.

LWV_JVL Board

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P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064

November

November 5, 9:30 a.m. Hedberg Public Library, part II The Role of the Federal Government in Education

November 7, 6:00 p.m. Hedberg Public Library, LWV Board meeting.

November 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Rock County Jobs Center, 1900 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI 53546

December

January

Winter Social gathering.

February

Recycling Program

Susan B. Anthony Birthday

March

Juvenile Justice Study

Candidates Forums- City Council & School Board

May

Annual Meeting.

Check website: lwvjvl.org/calendar

Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues:

To check out the action go to: LWV-US <www.lwv.org> LWV-WI <www.lwvwi.org> JANESVILLE LEAGUE <www.lwvjvl.org>

Celebrate your Birthday with the League!



Remember you may still contribute to the State League with a birthday donation and half of your donation will be returned to our Janesville League.