

The **VOTER**



League of Women Voters - Janesville

www.lwvjvl.org

October 2011

LWV Fall Membership Harvest of Ideas gathering



CAROLYN BRANDEEN



AMY GOLACKSON



LORI STOTTLER AND LAURA BOETTCHER



JAN & TED KINNAMAN AND SUE MADERE



JAN HOOPES, LINDA STEHURA AND CHARLES LEMKE



DEN AND JUDY ADLER



***SAVE
the
DATE:***

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.***

We are delighted to announce that Bill Lueders will speak on The Importance of Open Government at the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin's Issues Briefing on October 8. The revised agenda is below.

Registration has been extended to October 2. Online registration: <http://www.lwvwi.org/NewsEvents/2011IssuesBriefingRegistration.aspx>.

Issues Briefing

Crowne Plaza Madison, 4402 East Washington Avenue, Madison

Saturday, October 8, 2011, 9 AM – 1:30 PM

Agenda (*revised 09/29/2011*)

8:30 **Registration and coffee**

9:00 **Implications of Wisconsin's New Voter ID Law & why LWVWI is challenging it in state court** - Susan Crawford, Senior Associate, Cullen Weston Pines & Bach, LLC

10:00* **NEW! The Importance of Open Government in Wisconsin** - Bill Lueders, President of Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council, and Money & Politics Project Director at Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism

11:00 **The Clean Air Promise: Why the Clean Air Act is Critical to Protecting Public Health** - Elizabeth Wheeler, Staff Attorney, Clean Wisconsin

11:40 **The League's 501(c)(3) Group Exemption** – Information Session with State Board and Staff

12:00 **Lunch**

12:30 **Jobs and the Economy in Wisconsin** - Laura Dresser, Associate Director, Center on Wisconsin Strategy

* The previously scheduled session "Finding Common Ground" has been replaced because one speaker could not attend due to a family-related commitment.

Special Registration Deputies trained

Kay Deupree
Voter Services Chair

On September 21, eleven LWV JVL members were trained as Special Registration Deputies for the next election cycle. County Clerk Lori Stottler organized the training so that any of the

29 Rock County municipalities could deputize these trained SRDs to help with their registrations. Among the trained Janesville members, we have registrars that can work in 11 of the municipalities in the county. The focus on registration will come next spring with the spring elections. We are ready!!

Contact Information for the Wisconsin Delegation

Federal Senators and Representatives:

Sen. Herb Kohl (D-WI)	202-224-5653
Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)	202-224-5323
Rep. Paul Ryan (R-01)	202-225-3031
Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-02)	202-225-2906

State Senators:

Scott Fitzgerald (R) [13]	608-266-5660
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Tim Cullen (D) [15]	608-266-2253
Jon Erphenbach (D) [27]	608-266-6670

State Assembly:

Andy Jorgensen (D) [37]	608-266-3790
Evan Wynn (R) [43]	608-266-9650
Joe Knilan (R) [44]	608-266-7503
Janis Ringhand (D) [80]	608-266-1192

The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education

Linda Stehura
Committee Chair

October 22 and November 5
at 9:30 a.m.
at the Hedberg Public
Library

The League understands the importance of public education, and in the past both the state and national Leagues have developed position statements on such issues as integration, tuition tax credits, tax money to private schools, and school financing.*

Now is the time to join the League's study on the role of the federal government in public education.

Last year we began to think about public education at both the national and local levels by reading and discussing Diane Ravitch's book *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*, hosting two Lunch & Learn programs featuring speakers from the Janesville School District, and viewing the Wisconsin Academy's "Education Is Fundamental" series.**

This year we start anew as we participate in



the League's national study.

All the research material you will need can be found in the "Projects and Programs" section under "For Members" at the League's website: www.lwv.org.

- Step 1—Read the consensus questions before reading the League's research material. (See October newsletter or national League website for questions.)
- Step 2—Read the research material with the questions in mind.
- Step 3—Come to the consensus discussion in public meeting room at the Hedberg Public Library October 22 at 9:30 a.m. The relevant readings are "Role Of Federal Government In Public Education: Historical Perspectives" and "Common Core Standards and Assessments." We will discuss the study questions and reach answers by consensus, not by majority vote. If we can't reach consensus, we respond with "no consensus" or choose the generally accepted position but include a minority statement.
- Step 4—Come to the library again on November 5 at 9:30 a.m. to address the final set of questions based on these readings: "Early Childhood Education, Equity and Funding," "Funding and Equity Issues," and "Legislation and Funding for the Education of Children Who Are Disadvantaged."
- Step 5—By the end of November, study leaders will prepare and submit our consensus report to the national League. The national study committee will then review all the individual League responses and develop a League position on the role of the federal government in public education.

*Position statements can be found at the League websites: and www.lwv.org and www.lwvwi.org.

***The Death and Life of the Great American School System* is available at the Hedberg Public Library or through Amazon.com. A quick introduction to Ravitch and her book can be found in the audio archives at www.wpr.org.



League of Women Voters

The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education

Consensus Questions



General Questions (October 22)

1. The current role of the federal government in public education is
 Much too small too small about right too large much too large

2. What should be the role of the federal government in public education? (Rank)
 - a. To ensure that all students preK-12 receive a quality education.
 - b. To develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so that they achieve adequate yearly progress.
 - c. To mandate Common Core Standards for all students K-12.
 - d. To monitor state efforts for funding
 - e. To measure teacher effectiveness through test data.

3. A quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy.
 Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree

Please share any comments your League has concerning the topics covered in the General Consensus Questions. (250 word maximum)

Common Core Standards (October 22)

4. Currently the governors and state education officers have developed Common Core Standards that are national but not federal. Should the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding? (Choose one)
 - a. Special grant programs such as Race to the Top
 - b. All programs under Elementary and Secondary Education Act where the needs qualify for funding.
 - c. All programs receiving federal funding from any source
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above

5. Should there be a **national assessment aligned** with the common cores standards?
 Yes No
If Yes, Should implementation be voluntary or federally mandated? (choose one)
 - a. Voluntary
 - b. Mandated
 - c. Mandated, if fully funded

If No, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (choose one)

- a. Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.
- b. Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the *Stanford Achievement Test* or *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*.
- c. Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically

6. National standards should lead to: (choose one)

- a. A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.
- b. A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.
- c. A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
- d. No national curriculum.

7. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (Rank order)

- a. Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
- b. Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
- c. Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
- d. Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.
- e. Provide diagnostic information on each child.

8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (Choose one)

- a. Data should be “norm referenced” (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.
- b. Data should be “criterion referenced” and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.
- c. Data should be used to determine “cut” scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.

9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one):

- a. Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
- b. Reward schools that achieve high scores
- c. Rank teachers based on student test score data
- d. Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
- e. Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.

Please share any comments your League has concerning the topics covered in the Common Core Standards Questions. (250 word maximum):

Funding and Equity (November 5)

10. In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need. All/Any Schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive grants are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain federal requirements, such as Race to the Top. Which would be appropriate: (choose one)

- a. Non-competitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements
- b. A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants
- c. Competitive grants only
- d. No federal funding

11. If the federal government's role is the concern of the "common good" then: (choose one)

- a. Mandates only should be sanctioned.
- b. Mandates and funding should both be provided.
- c. Funding should be provided through grants only.
- d. A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.
- e. No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available.

12. Equity in public education means equitable access to: (Rank order)

- a. high quality teaching/learning
- b. adequate and current learning materials
- c. clean and well maintained physical facilities
- d. food and health care
- e. safe and secure neighborhoods
- f. secure housing

13. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered "categorical" rather than for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs.

- Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree

14. The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children?

- Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree

15. Federal support for early childhood education programs (e.g. Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health as needed.

- a. Strongly Agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly Disagree

b. This funding should be extended to:

- All children only those with special needs special needs first

Please share any comments your League has concerning the topics covered in the Funding and Equity Questions. (250 word maximum)

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.



October

October 11, 6 p.m., Hedberg, Board meeting

October 22, 9:30 a.m. Hedberg Public Library, The Role of the Federal Government in Education

November

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

Government in Education

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.