



The **VOTER**



League of Women Voters - Janesville

www.lwvjvl.org

September 2011

Harvest of Ideas Planned for September 28th



Our fall membership gathering will held at Basics Coop on Wednesday, September 28 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. The board had a brief brainstorming session, but a small committee would be helpful to coordinate the event. Those interested in helping plan or sharing the bounty from their garden should contact Laura Boettcher at mlboettcher@charter.net or call her at (608) 295-7830. More information will follow!

Two of our members set to observe the Supreme Court

By Kay Deupree

LWV-JVL Immediate Past President

Ethel Himmel and I have met with a state LWV committee to strategize about observing the Supreme Court because of concerns about the Court. With that in mind, the following was received.

I am planning to attend this oral argument session on Sept. 6. I would be happy to have any one join me in spending the afternoon at the capital. Please call or e-mail your interest. – Kay (deupreen@charter.net or 752-8342)

Notice from Andrea Kaminski, LWV Wisconsin, executive director:

You have probably been hearing about the recusal issue now before the state Supreme Court. The Court will be hearing oral arguments September 6 in a case that pits tea party and other conservative groups against the Government Accountability Board over campaign

finance regulations. Representing the conservative groups is Jim Troupis and his law firm, the same firm that was paid \$75,000 by the Prosser campaign during the statewide election recount. The GAB is represented by Attorney General Van Hollen’s Dept. of Justice. I hope (some) of you can attend the oral arguments Sept. 6, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Supreme Court chamber in the state capitol.

There have been calls for Justice Prosser to recuse himself from the case. He released a letter (earlier) in which he said he is friends with, and/or has worked with, both attorneys and all of the parties in the case. He said he can be impartial but he requested that the parties and their attorneys confer to determine whether he should participate in the case.

This is a case that touches on two League priorities - campaign finance and judicial recusal. Prosser asks parties whether he should step aside in case.

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

League Planning on Challenging New Voter ID through Lawsuit

By Andrea Kaminski

Executive Director, LWV-WI

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund will challenge 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 citizens who will be disenfranchised by the new law. The state constitution (printed below) specifically limits the classes of citizens who may be excluded to the two named classes - felons and people ruled incompetent. The new law creates a 3rd excluded class -- people who don't have ID on election day. The lawsuit would challenge the Legislature's authority to enact this law on the grounds that it creates a third class of citizens who cannot vote - those who do not have ID.

The League is working with Attorney Lester Pines of Cullen Weston Pines & Bach to challenge the legislature's authority to enact the law. The League is financing the lawsuit through donations. People interested in supporting the lawsuit can go to the website, <http://www.lwvwi.org/> or call Andrea Kaminski at (608) 256-0827.

ARTICLE III.

SUFFRAGE

Electors. SECTION 1. [As amended Nov. 1882, Nov. 1908, Nov. 1934; repealed April 1986; created April 1986] Every United States citizen age 18 or older who is a resident of an election district in this state is a qualified elector of that district.

[1881 *ŷ.R.* 26 A, 1882 *ŷ.R.* 5, 1882 c. 272, vote Nov. 1882; 1905

ŷ.R. 15, 1907 *ŷ.R.* 25, 1907 c. 661, vote Nov. 1908; 1931 *ŷ.R.* 91,

1933 *ŷ.R.* 76, vote Nov. 1934; 1983 *ŷ.R.* 30, 1985 *ŷ.R.* 14, vote April 1986]

Implementation. SECTION 2. [As repealed April 1986; created April 1986] Laws may be enacted:

(1) Defining residency.

(2) Providing for registration of electors.

(3) Providing for absentee voting.

(4) Excluding from the right of suffrage persons:

(a) Convicted of a felony, unless restored to civil rights.

(b) Adjudged by a court to be incompetent or partially incompetent, unless the judgment specifies that the person is capable of understanding the objective of the elective process or the judgment is set aside.

(5) Subject to ratification by the people at a general election, extending the right of suffrage to additional classes.

[1983 *ŷ.R.*

30, 1985 *ŷ.R.* 14, vote April 1986]

Climate Change / Sustainability Working Group

Neil Deupree

Climate Change Committee Chair

Janesville City Council – Neil Deupree advocated for the council to approve the additional \$750,000 for enhanced energy saving additions to the waste water treatment plant renovations. The council did approve the additions.

Book study – September 24, 2011 - “Global Day” - 9:30 – 11:30 am, Basics meeting room has been reserved. Book – Earth by Bill McKibben. Arrowhead library has three copies.

Global Day, September 24, Saturday – 350.org is planning a worldwide action day in support of public awareness about global warming and what we can all do to live more sustainably. Please check out the website (350.org) and watch for more info from our

working group about local efforts.

Recycling in Janesville – Our group is continuing to discuss revising our local league's position on recycling. We expect to have a draft by the middle of September. Once it is approved we will work with the Sustainable Janesville Committee to present it to the Janesville City Council.

The proposed keystone XL tar sands pipeline – President Obama will soon be making a decision on whether to designate the pipeline as in the interests of the United States. Although the LWV does not have an official stand on this issue, individuals may send their feelings to the president. Check out the Natural Resources Defense Council for more information: <http://www.nrdc.org/land/files/TarSandsPipeline4pqr.pdf>

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

Voter Services Team to Meet

There are no Rock County elections until spring. Until then the LWV has a role to play in educating citizens about the new Voter ID law. Considering the challenge this may be, I have called a meeting of LWV members interested in working on voter issues this year.

We will meet for an initial time this Friday, Sept. 2; from 5 – 6 p.m. at 419 S. Franklin St. (My home) We will make some preliminary plans and brainstorm possibilities. Any LWV member interested is welcome to join the team. If you



can't make the Sept. 2 meeting, let me know of your interest.
 – Kay Deupree
 (deupreen@charter.net or 752-8342)

A Friendly Reminder about Dues

Almost half of our members renewed their membership in the League of Women Voters and paid their dues at our Annual Meeting. Thank you for the continuation of involvement in and support for the work of the League! If you not yet paid for or renewed your membership since February, please remember to pay your 2011-2011 dues (\$65 Individual, \$95 Household, \$35 Student) soon. You can send you dues to: LWV of Janesville, PO Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064. If you are not certain whether your dues are paid, Treasurer Linda Reinhardt (Email: linda.reinhardt@uwc.edu; Phone: 608-563-2361) will be happy to let you know.

What's the deal about February? Besides being the month of Susan B. Anthony's birthday and Wisconsin's Spring primary elections, February is significant for us because the dues our local club owes to the State and National organizations is based on the number of members we have on our roster at the end of February. If you have joined League or renewed your membership since the end of February, you're good for the year!
 Thanks, Linda

I want to add my voice to the League of Women Voters 2011-2012

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

- Individual \$65.00*
- Household \$95.00*
- Student \$30.00*

I am unable to join the League at this time but enclosed is a contribution of \$_____.

Please make your check payable to:
 League of Women Voters - Janesville
 P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064

*For tax purposes, membership dues and contributions to the LWV are not deductible.

My Interests:

Study Topics:

Local

- Sustainability Working Group (Local Recycling Review)
- Juvenile Justice System

State

- Supreme Court
- Health Care

National

- Federal Role in Education

Voter Service

- Voter ID Education
- Voter Registration
- Candidate Forums

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.

September

September 13, 6 p.m., Hedberg, Board meeting

September 28, 6-7:30 p.m., Basics Coop. Harvest of Ideas and Issues - membership gathering.

October, November & December

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

We will have the study session on the Federal Role in Education, followed by the consensus meeting. We

will also be covering the changes of Voter ID requirements and educating our members as well as the general public.

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

FLASH

With the new Voter ID law there is special training required for voter registration. County Clerk Lori Stottler will be holding a training session on September 21st, in the afternoon. More information will follow!

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.