



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR DEMOCRACY

CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION REFORM – 2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION MARY KLENZ KLENZM@BELLSOUTH.NET, 704 542-9858

The accomplishments of the 2006 legislative session contained some promising news for the reform community. North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections Coalition (NCVCAE), of which the LWVNC is a member, worked tirelessly to urge lawmakers to pass laws for increased transparency and expand the public financing of elections. More work needs to be done in future sessions but headway was made. NCVCE provided the following summary for coalition members:

Passage of the Government Ethics Act (HB-1843): Despite the loopholes written into the bill, the Act does begin to put in place the framework for lobby and ethics changes. It begins the process of reform by establishing an independent Ethics Commission covering the three branches of government, sets rules for conflict of interest, increases disclosure requirements, sets in place some gift restrictions, and more.

Judicial Campaign Fund: Next year’s tax form check off contains language to clarify that the check off does not increase your taxes – it directs funds from taxes already owed to the Voter Owned Election fund. As of August, tax return checkoffs and attorney fee surcharge yielded over \$2 million. This insures the fiscal health of the fund for the 2006 election cycle.

State Board of Elections Finance Division: The budget provides for six new positions for the SBOE to audit campaign reports and conduct audits. This will relieve the backlog at the Board and increase capacity to enforce current laws.

Pilot program for public financing of local elections: Despite much hard work by advocates and legislators the bill authorizing the pilot program did not make it to the floor. More headway was made in moving public financing for legislators this session but not enough to pass it in to law. The coalition will continue its work on this and other related issues.

The LWVNC and the rest of the coalition will continue to work on issues related to campaign and election reform. Bills under consideration for coalition work are:

- one for public financing of Council of State agency heads,
- pilot program for legislative races

- and one giving local governments the authority to sponsor their own public financing programs for local elections.

Look for more details on this and other LWVNC priorities after the first of the year.

Many thanks to Louise Romanow, LWV Wake, who has served as the LWVNC representative to the coalition.

WEB SITES TO CHECK

These web sites are either mentioned in this NC Voter issue or have been recommended as good sources of information:

- Safeguarding U.S. Democracy*
www.lwvnc.org.lwvus.org
- National Popular Vote*
www.NationalPopularVote.com
- LWVODC Supreme Court Forum*
www.lwvodc.org
- Vote 411*
www.Vote411.com
- Demos*
www.demos.com

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**SAFEGUARDING U.S.
DEMOCRACY**

On the LWVNC web site, <http://www.lwvnc.org>, you will find a link to the video session from the LWVUS Convention on Judicial Independence.

The title of the session is "Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary by Defending the U.S. Constitution." The total video is about 1 1/2 hours or you can select small segments to view. It is also available at the LWVUS web site.

**PLANS FOR THE 2007 LWVNC GRASSROOTS
LOBBY CORPS**

Mary Klenz, klenzm@bellsouth.net 704 542-9858

At its October 28th meeting, the LWVNC board discussed plans to expand the Lobby Corps program. During the Spring, 2006 legislative session, Corps members met in Raleigh on several occasions to receive updates on issues, meet with legislators and observe the General Assembly in session. The program also included *Field Trips to the Legislature* for those interested in knowing more about how our North Carolina legislature operates.

The board is looking to expand the program in order to provide more opportunities for members to participate. As in the past, dates will be set for a field trip but Lobby Corps Director, Mary Klenz, is also available to arrange a tour, etc., at the convenience of local Leagues. The session includes briefings on issues, a tour of the general assembly, a visit to their legislator's offices, lunch in the cafeteria, a chance to sit in on committee meetings and observe the assembly in session. Members usually meet at the legislature at 10:00 am and wrap up by 3:00 pm.

The legislature will convene on Wednesday, January 24, 2007 at 12:00 noon. Information on the calendar, bills, etc is available at www.ncga.state.nc.us.

Please contact Mary at klenzm@bellsouth.net or 704-542-9858 for more information.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

At State Convention in March, 2007 members will be electing a Board of Directors and adopting a program for 2007-09. The State Board is soliciting suggestions for Board members and for State program.

Recommendations for Board members should be sent to Kadra Bradford, Nominating Committee Chair, at normbradford@earthlink.net.

Recommendations for State program should be sent to Beverly Kawalec, Program Committee Chair, at bevkawalec@bellsouth.net.

We hope that all local Leagues will take this opportunity to make their voices heard about the direction of the NC State Board and its program.

CIVICS 103 ENDS

After a number of very successful events, the last Civics 103 grant was awarded to the Asheville/Buncombe League to conduct a Civics 103 in their area.

Plans are underway for an Eastern Regional Conference to be held in the spring. More information on that will be in the Winter NC Voter or you can reach Carole Ellis at 910 791-0922 or cellis@bellsouth.net

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA
Registration Form for Twenty-Seventh Convention
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 23-25, 2007
Little River Golf Resort, 500 Little River Farm Road
Carthage, NC 28327

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Name for nametag _____

League _____ Responsibility _____

Street/Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone _____ email _____

Voting Delegate Yes No

REGISTRATION FEE for all convention attendees: \$20

CHECK ONE TO INDICATE TYPE OF ROOM REGISTRATION:

Two-day package at Little River Golf Resort includes Friday and Saturday nights, all meals on Saturday and buffet breakfast on Sunday. Villas include two bedrooms, each with two queen beds and private bath, kitchen, and living room. See www.littleriver.com for information about facilities.

- _____ Two nights, sharing room and villa (2 queen beds per room): \$160
- _____ Two nights, single room, sharing villa: \$225
- _____ Two nights, two-bedroom villa for one person \$305
- _____ Commuter package (all meals and meeting facilities) \$125

OTHER OPTIONS for Non-Convention Attendees:

- _____ Saturday dinner banquet only \$35
- _____ Saturday luncheon \$15
- _____ **Nightly** room rate for sharing room with convention attendee \$55

TOTAL (Add registration fee and room/meal charges) _____

For those sharing rooms and villas, indicate your preferences. If no preferences, LWVNC will assign rooms.

_____ No preference

Roommate preference: _____

Share villa with the following: _____

Return Form with check payable to LWV-NC by February 15, 2007 to:

Betty Ellerbee, Treasurer, Convention Registration
 3509 Haworth Drive, Suite 404
 Raleigh, NC 27609

NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA
Registration Form for Twenty-Seventh Convention
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 23-25, 2007
Little River Golf Resort, 500 Little River Farm Road
Carthage, NC 28327

Bring your spouse or friend for a golfing outing!

Golf fee: \$65 per person per round, including green fee, range balls, bag handling, storage and cart. Call for tee time: 888-766-6538 or 910-949-4600.

DINE AROUND FRIDAY EVENING

Would you like to join a small group led by a Moore County League member to a local restaurant? If so, check the restaurant you would prefer. See next page for descriptions of restaurants.

_____ Elliotts on Linden. A local favorite. Gourmet dining in an elegant garden setting. Entrees range from \$12 - \$34. Located in Pinehurst just outside the village on Linden Road. www.elliottsonlinden.com

_____ Carolina Dining Room at Pinehurst. Elegant formal dining in the Carolina Hotel in the village of Pinehurst. Four course fixed price menu \$65. Jacket required.

Members Club: Casual dining. Specialty events many Friday nights. Entrees including salad and dessert range \$ 20 – 30

_____ Theo's Taverna.. Authentic Greek/Mediterranean Cuisine in a garden setting located in heart of the Village of Pinehurst. Casual attire Entrees range from \$ 12 – 28.

_____ Ashten's. Located in Southern Pines. Upstairs menu offers beef seafood and duck – “global cuisine with a southern perspective”. Entrees \$15 - 30.
Burger menu available in the cellar.

_____ Table on the Green. Located on Midland Road in Southern Pines, Table on the Green serves traditional American cuisine . Entrees range from \$ 16 – 22. Casual attire. www.tableonthegreen.com

Questions? Call Brenda Rogers at 919-968-0833 or email at Brenda.rogers@earthlink.net or contact Sandra Wright in Moore County at 910-255-3088 or email at Sandra.wright@yahoo.com.
Go to www.littleriver.com for information about Little River Golf Resort.

Return Form with check payable to LWV-NC by February 15, 2007

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3509 Haworth Drive, Suite 404
Raleigh, NC 27609

THE LEGACY CIRCLE – GOOD NEWS

Lee Mahan Evans, State Board Fund Raising Chair

Good News: The Legacy Circle now has two official members and one in the wings. What does that mean? The Circle comprises people who have let us know that they have left a bequest to the LWVNC in their wills.

It is a wonderful way to recognize your joy in being a part of League and insuring your estate can help carry on this important work of Educating and Advocating for Democracy.

Note: The last donor completed her will revision before going on a trip. What a great idea! Perhaps it can be a part of your next adventure planning!

Be aware that our Annual Fund Drive solicitation will be in November - after elections...and after you VOTE! (Endowment Fund Donations are welcomed throughout the year.)

We are grateful for ALL your support of the State League and your local Leagues.

LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

ORANGE, DURHAM & CHATHAM LEAGUE QUESTIONS SUPREME COURT REFORM AT MAJOR FORUM

The LWV of Orange, Durham, and Chatham Countie has scheduled a public education forum on “The Supreme Court: Does It Need Reform?” for Tuesday, November 14 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Binkley Memorial Baptist Church, 1720 Willow Drive, Chapel Hill.

Two distinguished scholars will argue the pros and cons of the issue with special regard to the question of whether there should be term limits for Supreme Court Justices. The speakers are Paul Carrington, Professor of Law at Duke University Law School and Kevin McGuire, Associate Professor of Political Science at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Judie Burke, state president, will moderate the forum.

Paul Carrington has taught at many law schools in America and abroad. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and the author or editor of eighteen books or symposia and over 120 essays. Among his recent works is a symposium of papers presented at a conference held at Duke in 2005 on Reforming the Court: Term Limits for Supreme Court Justices and published in 2006 with the co-editorship of Roger Cramton of Cornell University. He is now at work on another essay on that subject, reflecting on the conference papers.

Kevin T. McGuire’s research has focused on a number of issues related to the U.S. Supreme Court, including its responsiveness to public opinion, the impact of the Court’s legal community, and the influence of Congress and the President on the Court’s policymaking. His most recent book is Institutions of American Democracy: The Judiciary, a co-edited assessment of the state of the American judiciary, published by Oxford University Press as part of its multivolume series on the institutions of democracy. Currently, he is an editor of the Series on Constitutionalism and Democracy for the University of Virginia Press.

This forum is funded with a grant from the League of Women Voters Education Fund and the Program on Constitutional and Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute. It is free and open to the public. For more information call (919) 542-7009 or (919) 490-5718 or check the ODC web site, www.lwvodc.org.

“NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE” UPDATE

The nationwide popular election of the president has been a League position for a number of years. At the national convention last summer, information on a plan to implement that position was presented. The following is an update of the effort, provided by National Popular Voter organization.

29 STATES NOW HAVE SPONSORS FOR BILL FOR NATIONWIDE POPULAR ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT FOR UPCOMING 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

New York Times, Chicago Sun Times, Los Angeles Times, Sacramento Bee, and Minneapolis Star-Tribune Endorse National Popular Vote Plan

October 3 — National Popular Vote President Barry Fadem today announced that 29 states now have legislative sponsors for the bill for nationwide election of the President for the upcoming 2007 legislative sessions. The 29 states are: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. “We expect to have sponsors lined up in all 50 states when the state legislatures reconvene for their 2007 sessions,” said Fadem.

The proposed interstate compact implements a goal favored by 70% and more of the public since the 1940s, namely nationwide popular election of the President as shown in recent poll results from Arkansas, Missouri, Maine, and Michigan, and Gallup Polls results since 1944.

On March 14, *The New York Times* endorsed National Popular Vote’s plan, calling it an “innovative new proposal” and “an ingenious solution” and saying “Legislatures across the country should get behind it.” On March 1, *the Chicago Sun-Times* called National Popular Vote’s plan “thinking outside the box” and said “It’s time to make the change with this innovative plan.” On March 27, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* endorsed National Popular Vote’s plan saying, “the Legislature [should] do the right thing and endorse the new compact.” The National Popular Vote plan was recently endorsed in a *Sacramento Bee* editorial and *Los Angeles Times* editorial.

National Popular Vote’s National Advisory Board now includes John Buchanan (R–Alabama), Birch Bayh (D–Indiana), John Anderson (R–Illinois and later Independent presidential candidate), Tom Campbell (R–California), David Durenberger (R–MN), and Jake Garn (R–Utah).

The proposed interstate compact implements nationwide popular election of the President by having states agree to jointly award all of their electoral votes to the presidential candidate receiving the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The proposed interstate compact would not take effect until identical legislation is enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes (that is, 270 of the 538 electoral votes). Thus, the compact would only take effect when it can guarantee an Electoral College majority to the presidential candidate receiving the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The proposed compact is described in detail in the book *Every Vote Equal: A State-Based Plan For Electing The President By National Popular Vote* by John R. Koza, Barry Fadem, Mark Grueskin, Michael S. Mandell, Robert Richie, and Joseph F. Zimmerman. The legislative bills currently pending in various states would enact the compact in those states. National Popular Vote is working to get identical legislation introduced into all 50 states by the start of the 2007 legislative sessions.

For more information, go to www.NationalPopularVote.com.

VOTE411.ORG WEB SITE LAUNCHED FOR 2006 ELECTIONS

As the NC Voter goes to press, the national League is expanding its traditional arsenal of voter education tools by launching www.VOTE411.org, an easy-to-use, nonpartisan Web site for election information. VOTE411.org provides a polling-place locator, general and state-specific information on voter registration and absentee ballot rules, early voting provisions, ID requirements, voting machine types, tools for overseas citizens, and contact information for elections officials. It's easy to use and it is complete. Check it out!

FROM LWVUS "HELPING AMERICA VOTE"

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BALLOT BOX: INNOVATIONS FOR THE POLLING PLACE REPORT

In 2004, more than 40,000 residents of Clark County, Nevada cast their ballots Election Day in a popular shopping center. Larimer County Colorado replaced its 143 polling places with 31 full-service "voter centers" where anyone in the county can vote. The "Express Check-in" procedure in Seminole County, Florida eliminates the use of paper poll books and makes voting faster by connecting polling places to the voter registration database.

Across the country, elections officials are changing the way Americans vote. Some of the changes - such as early voting and the use of voter centers - are dramatic. Others are more subtle, involving new technologies and changes in the procedures used to get voters in and out of the polling places.

The common denominator linking many of the changes: convenience. Reports of long lines and widespread confusion at polling places in recent elections have forced election officials to take a fresh look at how they do their work while drawing attention to innovative approaches and new ideas.

According to the U.S.Census Bureau, 20 percent of registered voters who did not vote in the November, 2004 election said it was because they were too busy or had conflicting work or school schedules. By bringing added convenience to the voting process,

elections officials hope to boost participation among these voters while making less of a hassle for one and all.

"We are still voting the same way we did 150 years ago, and we don't live that way anymore" says Scott Doyle who manages elections in Larimer County, Colorado.

The new mantra in election administration is customer service. But it is not just the customers (i.e., the voters) who benefit. Elections officials are embracing approaches that make their own jobs easier, for example, by reducing Election Day lines and by equipping poll workers with the technologies they need to solve problems on their own.

This Report, which can be found at www.lwvus.org, goes on to take a closer look at several innovations that local and state elections officials are adopting to put the "service" back in "voter service". It is the League's hope that these stories lead to further experimentation and more new thinking at all levels about how to make elections work better for the American voter.

If you have a report to share about your county's voting experiences in November, 2006 please forward it to the NC Voter editor, Beverly Hanly, at bhanly@aol.com