



The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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The Voter

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LWV JOINS GROUPS SUPPORTING SALES TAX REFERENDUM

The League of Women Voters of Nashville joins Nashville Tomorrow, Chamber of Commerce, Nashville Alliance for Public Education, Senior Citizens Inc., and other groups in supporting the sales tax referendum September 13, 2005 for the purpose of providing additional revenues for public schools and tax relief for low income elderly citizens.

League President, Karen Edwards, said "The League has long supported adequate funding for essential services, especially schools. At this time, when students are called upon to meet challenging academic standards, we must make sure that we are providing the resources they need. While we celebrate the progress the schools have made in the last several years, it is very important to keep that momentum going."

In taking this action, the League Board noted that in the short term, increasing the sales tax is the only feasible option for raising the revenues necessary. But in the long term, the League will continue to work for a "balanced system of taxation that considers the taxpayer's ability to pay and which produces sufficient revenues to fund essential services." Allocation of a portion of the new sales tax revenues to tax relief for low income elderly citizens will improve the fairness of the tax structure somewhat.

For detailed information on early voting on the referendum, uses of the funds, and how to get involved, go to www.NashvilleTomorrow.com or contact Karen Weeks 373-3551.

PLAN OF NASHVILLE—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The League will sponsor a forum on October 11 at 5:30 pm on the Plan of Nashville in the Metro Parks Board Room. Look forward to a double feature. The forum will explore the new the Plan of Nashville, including its significance for the future development of downtown, greenways, the Gulch, and Rolling Mills Hills. Particular emphasis will be given to progress in greenways development. Extensive plans and maps of all greenways in Metro Davidson County will be displayed in the Parks meeting room.

Special representatives from the Nashville Civic Design Center and Metro Nashville Greenways will present. League members are encouraged to bring their friends. The meeting is also open to the public.

Directions: The meeting will be held in the Metro Parks recreation building at Oman Street near Centennial Park. From West End Avenue, travel north on 31st Avenue S until it dead ends into Park Plaza (near the HCA building). Turn left on Park Plaza and then bear right on Oman St. to reach the Recreation Building.

LWV WORKS ON CHILDCARE WITH METRO COUNCIL WOMEN'S CAUCUS

The League is working with members of the Women's Caucus of the Metro Council to remove provisions relating to childcare in BL2005-726. As currently drafted, the bill would require that all early childhood education/child care programs be approved by the Metro Council. If this bill is passed the Council will have the authority to stop any child care facility for any or no reason, even if the home or center complies with all objective standards.

Child care is an important aspect of the goal to reduce poverty and promote self-sufficiency. Allowing children to be cared for in neighborhoods accessible to families promotes this goal. League members are encouraged to write or email their council persons to vote against the bill or to delete the sections pertaining to child care.

The League believes that the current process under the Board of Zoning Appeals for reviewing requests for child care centers to be located in residential areas is coordinated, orderly, and sufficient for protecting the interests of neighborhoods, as well as families and children in child care. Therefore, no additional action by Council on individual applications is needed.

Adding approval by Council to the already stringent state and local agency requirements will place additional burdens on child care vendors who would like to provide care in residential areas. There is a dire shortage of quality early education/child care programs in Nashville, the state, and nationwide. This legislation may cause day care operators to avoid the approval process or operate without current protections for children. Other potential providers will simply decide not to provide services.

LWV LAUNCHES "SMART WOMEN VOTE" CAMPAIGN

The League has launched a campaign to recruit new League members. The first "Smart Women" event was hosted by Board Member Jennifer Cole on August 25. Two council members and one state representative attended, in addition to 35 prospective members. If you are interested in hosting such an event, please contact Rose Rodriguez at 383-6587. Jennifer and Rose are membership co-chairs.

BUDGET FORUMS DRAW 400 PARTICIPANTS

Over 400 Nashvillians attended the two forums on the Metro Budget sponsored by the League and Metro Council June 9 and 11. Metro council members listened attentively as a total of 90 citizens addressed the two forums. Speakers supported adequate funding for the schools, arts outreach to children, transportation for people with disabilities, the YWCA domestic violence center and the African American Museum. A few spoke about the burden that a property tax would entail. Fifteen council members attended at East and 20 at Hillsboro.

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