



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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www.LWVnashville.org.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Description
Thursday Nov 19	12:00	Conexion Americas	"Third Thursday" Lunch. Discussion of DREAM Act , for young immigrants. 800 18 th Ave., S. 37203. Box lunch for \$8.00, contact Jo Singer, gjosinger@aol.com or 794-2781 by Nov 16, or brown bag it.
Monday Dec 7	5:00	Vanderbilt Inst For Global Health	Board Meeting. 2525 West End Ave. Bldg., 6 th floor, above Borders and PF Chang. Parking in front of building or in garage behind building off 25 th . The Board meets monthly, first Monday, guests welcome.
Wed Dec 9	5:30-7:30	Kay Simmons	LWV Holiday Party. Bring your friends and join our special guests, Mayor Karl Dean & Law Prof Don Welch, 3814 Richland Ave., 37215.
Monday Jan 4	5:00	Vanderbilt Inst Global Health	Board Meeting. 2525 West End Ave. Bldg., 6 th floor, above Borders and PF Chang. Board meets monthly, first Monday, guests welcome.
Thursday Jan 21	12:00	TBA	"Third Thursday" Lunch. Discussion of State Legislative Issues , facilitated by Margie Parsley and Barbara Devaney.

SEE YOU AT THE HOLIDAY PARTY!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the League's annual Holiday Party, Thursday, December 9, 5:30 – 7:30 at Kay and Keith Simmons' home, 3814 Richland Avenue.

We are hoping you will come with your spouse or guest, and also, we ask that you bring potential new members. It will be a festive setting and a great time for people to learn about the League and the good work we do. Our goal is to recruit 25 new members through our Holiday Party.

Joining us as a special guest will be Mayor Karl Dean. Come early as the Mayor can only be with us the first part of the evening. He is a big supporter of the League and is looking forward to being with us.

Also joining us will be Associate Dean Don Welch, an active scholar and teacher at Vanderbilt Law School. His current writing project is a book, *Finding Our Way: Benchmarks for Public Policy*, in which he is developing a comprehensive framework for the ethical assessment of public policy. He will speak to us briefly about the importance of the League's work in shaping public policy.

We look forward to seeing you December 9 as we kick off the Holidays with interesting people and good food and drink. Look for your invitation soon.

THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH—DREAM Act

Our lunch on **November 19 at 12:00** will focus on the **DREAM Act**, which would make a college education affordable to undocumented high school graduates. Currently an estimated 1000 Tennesseans who were brought to this country as young children face limited prospects for completing their education. Congress will look at legislation that (1) permits undocumented students who graduate from high school to apply for legal residency and (2) allows these students to pay affordable, in-state tuition at public colleges and universities in

their home state. It will give hard-working bright immigrant students a chance at college education and will benefit their communities.

We will gather to discuss the **DREAM Act** at Conexion Americas, an organization that helps acclimate immigrant families in Nashville, located at 800 18th Ave. S. Parking is available on 18th Ave. South or Roy Acuff. Debby Gould will facilitate the discussion. If you wish to order a box lunch for \$8.00, please contact Jo Singer at 794-2781 or gjosinger@aol.com by November 16 or bring your own brown bag. For additional information, see two short pieces from the National Immigration Law Center at <http://www.nilc.org/immlawpolicy/DREAM/dream-basicinfo-2009-03-30.pdf> and <http://www.nilc.org/immlawpolicy/DREAM/dream-bills-summary-2009-03-31.pdf>

LWVN PARTNERS WITH 2010 US CENSUS

Following the lead of the LWVUS, the Nashville League is partnering with the 2010 US Census. Census data is used as a basis for most federal funding to states and communities as well as for determining the number of Congressional reps. and state legislators. “Our goal is to work with others to eliminate the ‘undercount’ that occurs, particularly within low income and minority populations,” says LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson.

Only 60 percent of the Nashville area population was counted in 2000, according to Neal Darby, Jr., of the US Census. That translates into less funding for programs such as Medicaid, emergency food and shelter services, Head Start and employment services. The 2010 Census forms will be mailed March 5 and consist of 10 questions that can be answered in 10 minutes. Let’s help Nashville and Tennessee get our fair share of representation AND the \$436 billion distributed nationally! For more information contact Jo Singer, 794-2781 or gjosinger@aol.com.

LWVTN FALL CONFERENCE: LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

At the LWVTN fall conference, League lobbyist Stewart Clifton recapped progress on our top priorities—merit selection of judges, ensuring a fair taxation system, and protecting the state’s environment—and discussed possible priorities for the next year.

During the most recent legislative session, the League was instrumental in retaining merit-based selection and retention of Appeals and Supreme Court Judges and worked with others to ensure that Pre-K would be funded with recurring, rather than non-recurring funds. The League also worked with others in defeating a constitutional amendment that would have prohibited an income tax and defeating several efforts to require a photo ID to vote.

Fall Conference attendees suggested the following priorities for the 2010 legislative session: (1) implement the Tennessee Voter Confidence Act in 2010, as required by the act; (2) preserve Pre-K funding in what will certainly be a year of budget cuts; (3) work for a more equitable, progressive tax system; (4) if Congress adopts health care reform allowing states to opt out of a public option, oppose efforts to have Tennessee do so; (5) support smart growth legislation; and (6) oppose renewing the moratorium on development fees. Additionally, the Board voted to continue to work on open government and a clean environment.

Once the session is in progress, League lobbyists Stewart Clifton and Anne Ross will help the State Action Committee by monitoring and providing us advice on action. League members will receive updates weekly.

ACTION ALERT—AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

It’s time! The House will be considering The Affordable Health Care for America Act (HR 3692)—a strong and comprehensive bill. But additional support from rank and file members of the House is still needed. The LWVN website includes National’s action alert; also look for LWVN’s November action alert. Join others across the country who are standing up for reform. Contact Congress members Jim Cooper and Marsha Blackburn now.

LWV Board: President, Lucy Chism; 1st VP, Jo Singer; 2nd VP, Barbara Gay; Secretary, Carolyn Harris; Treasurer, Marian Ott; Education, Debby Gould; Health Care, Sue Bredensteiner; Human Needs, Reba Holmes; Membership, Margie Parsley and Judy Raines; Metro Government, Mary Beth Ikard; Publicity, Jackie Crumley; Voter Editor, Karen Weeks; and Voter Services, Lynn Williams. Finance Drive, Kay Simmons (off-Board). Office Administrator, September Landers.