



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
Monday Sept. 14	5:15	Coleman Community Center	Board Meeting. 380 Thompson Lane, at Nolensville Rd. The Board meets monthly, first Monday (except Holidays), guests welcome.
Thursday Sept. 17	12:00	Davis-Kidd Green Hills	“Third Thursday” Lunch. Discussion of Health Care Reform , facilitated by Pat Post at Bronte Bistro at Davis-Kidd; order from the menu. Questions? Contact Jo Singer, gjosinger@aol.com or 794-2781.
Thursday Oct. 15	12:00	TBA	“Third Thursday” Lunch. Topic TBA
Oct 24- Oct 25	1:00 - noon	Johnson City, TN	LWV Tennessee Fall Conference. Save the date: Discuss Health Care, Immigration, TN state funding, & Action. www.LWV-TN.org .

THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH—HEALTH CARE REFORM

Our lunch on **September 17 at 12:00** will focus on proposals currently under discussion for national **Health Care Reform**. The LWVUS has entered the debate, urging Congress and the President to continue support for inclusion of a public option as the best way to ensure access to comprehensive coverage and economical delivery of health care. We'll focus on key issues in proposals currently in play in the national health care reform debate and the outcome we'd like to see. League member Pat Post, former Policy Director for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, will provide introductory remarks and facilitate the discussion. She suggests several references from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Kaiser Family Foundation to bring you up to date on current legislative vehicles in the House and Senate, key issues in health reform, and how a reform plan might be financed. For references, see www.lwnashville.org.

We will gather at 12:00 at the Bronte Bistro at Davis-Kidd Booksellers in the Green Hills Mall and will order from the menu. Please RSVP by September 14 to Jo Singer at 794-2781 or gjosinger@aol.com. Bring a friend and enjoy another lively League lunch!

The Davidson County Sheriff's 287G Program for Immigration Law Enforcement kicked off our Third Thursday lunch in August. A spirited discussion of the current program agreement between ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and the Sheriff's Department culminated in agreement that the League needs to speak out on the issue when renewal of the program is considered by Metro Council. The LWVUS immigration position supporting comprehensive reform states in part: "While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity." The Nashville Board subsequently approved a statement opposing renewal of the program because it results in deportation of many individuals with no such history. Please contact your Council member and Council-at-Large Members at www.nashville.gov/council/feedback.aspx and urge them not to renew the program.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The League has begun the fall with continued emphasis on advocacy, on both local issues (**Non-Discrimination Ordinance** and **Sheriff's 287(g) Program**) and the national issue of **Health Care Reform**. On another national issue, the **National Popular Vote Compact** (featured at our April Third Thursday lunch), the national League Board announced that no consensus had been reached. See www.lwv.org.

On a lighter note, here are the answers to the Board member **Fun Facts** we posed in the July-August Voter: Margie Parsley is a second generation League member....Barbara Gay was on her college rifle team....Judy Raines completed the Chicago Marathon in 2005....Lynn Williams plays the standard and baritone ukulele....Mary Beth Ikard enjoys jam bands, collecting antiques, and recycling....Marian Ott collects Tigers in every form but live....Jo Singer moved 11 times in 38 years including Argentina and Puerto Rico. –Lucy Chism

LEAGUE SUPPORTS NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

The LWV Nashville has joined a coalition in support of a non-discrimination ordinance (BL2009-502) that will make it illegal for Metro Government to discriminate in the hiring, promotion, and firing of Metro employees based on an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. The League board approved this action based on a long-standing LWVUS position (expanded in 1992) that says..."the federal government shares *with other levels of government* the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability."

More than 170 cities and counties have passed laws with protections for their employees. The federal government and half the states provide such protections. In addition, many Nashville companies have their own policies offering protection to their employees. (This ordinance does not in any way affect the private sector).

The non-discrimination ordinance, filed by Megan Berry and co-sponsored by other council members passed 23-16 on second reading on August 18. Final reading will be September 15. Please contact your council member and ask them to support ordinance 502. Go to <http://www.nashville.gov/council/feedback.aspx>.

ADVOCATE FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM NOW

On July 16, LWVUS President Marie G. Wilson wrote to Congress welcoming the introduction of H.R. 3200—America's Affordable Health Choices Act—and urging quick action on this essential legislation. She followed up with a CALL FOR ACTION on August 19, urging enactment of the Public Option as essential to health reform, "The public option in health care reform may not be essential to bureaucrats or insurance companies but it is absolutely essential to the almost 47 million uninsured Americans who live day to day without health insurance coverage.....We must control costs and the public option is the best chance to bring costs in line with reality."

What can League members do?

- Contact Senators Alexander and Corker and Congressman Cooper by mail AND phone.
- Visit them in their offices or attend home meetings or Town Halls.
- Tell them that you expect them to vote for health care reform that includes:
 - Coverage for all without regard to pre-existing conditions
 - A robust, public plan to compete with private insurers
 - Promotion of prevention, wellness, patient safety and quality care
 - Development of effective care based on best practice
 - Change in reimbursements to promote primary health care using a proven team approach to provide physical and mental health care.

Additional resources about the importance of health care reform are available at www.LWV.org and www.lwvnashville.org –click on Publications.

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.