



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

PO Box 158369, Nashville TN 37215 | 615-297-7134

www.LWVnashville.org

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October 2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Description
Monday October 3	9:00 am	Across Tennessee	Launch of TN Redistricting: Map It Out! A statewide contest to encourage public participation in the redistricting process with cooperation from the First Amendment Center in Nashville (see article).
Thursday October 6	6:30 pm	Belcourt Theatre 2102 Belcourt Ave. Nashville 37212	Kick-Off Event for Map It Out! A free public showing of the documentary <i>Gerrymandering</i> , followed by a panel discussion moderated by Gene Policinski, senior vice president and executive director of the First Amendment Center.
Saturday October 22 & Sunday October 23	Noon on Saturday until noon on Sunday ***** Eastern Time Zone *****	NEW VENUE Country Inn & Suites 7051 McCutcheon Rd Chattanooga 37421 Exit I-75 at Hamilton Mall area. 1-423-899-2300	LWVTN Fall Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sign in noon—Welcoming at 1 pm—Closing Saturday at 5:10 pm—Immediately followed by cocktail hour—Sunday morning workshops begin at 9 am—We're done by noon. ▪ Accomodation rate: \$119.00 for two room suites with kitchen, two queen-sized beds, and a sofa bed with hot breakfast included. ▪ Program features Senator Bo Watson—KEY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR 2012 AND PERSONAL HOT TOPICS, Senator Andy Berke—SELECTION METHOD OF APPELLATE COURT JUDGES, and Mary Mancini, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TENNESSEE CITIZEN ACTION. See article or for more information contact LWVTN President Margie Parsley (mparsley99@comcast.net).
Monday October 24	5:15 pm to 7:00 pm	E/Spaces, Inc. 4322 Harding Pike, Suite 417 Nashville 37205	LWV Nashville Board Meeting Guests are welcome at the League's monthly board meetings. NOTE: Location is upstairs of the Belle Meade Publix on Harding Pike near White Bridge Road. Covered parking is available. Use the elevator bank to the office building (not grocery), exit on the 4th floor, then left off the elevator, and left again to the conference room.
Monday October 24	Midnight	Across Tennessee	DEADLINE for TN Redistricting: Map It Out! Each submission must include the maps and a one-page explanation that can be submitted via email or U.S. mail and must be received by October 24 at midnight. Winners will be announced by October 28 with prizes totaling \$4,000 (see article).
Friday October 28	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	The YWCA 1608 Woodmont Blvd. Nashville 37215	LWVN Education Consensus, Part II—Equity in Funding Be part of the conversation that will help the Nashville League reach consensus on proposals for Equity in Funding (see related article). Parking is easy and free! For additional information contact Education Director Debby Gould (debbygould@bellsouth.net). DEADLINE FOR LUNCH ORDERS IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26.

Friday November 4	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee—The Martin Distribution Center Metro Center 331 Great Circle Rd. Nashville 37228	First Friday Hot Topics & Lunch—What’s Your Take on Immigration? Tom Negri , managing director of Loew’s Vanderbilt Hotel, and Nathan Ridley , director of Government Relations at Bradley, Arant, Boulton, and Cummings will discuss issues facing Tennessee’s immigrant population and its impact on the state’s economy, educational services, and health care resources. Reservations to lwnash@gmail.com advised; contact LWVN VP Vickie Ziegler (Vziegler@comcast.net) for more information.
Monday November 7	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services Metro Center 50 Vantage Way Suite 250 Nashville 37228	LWVTN Action Committee Meeting Committee members will continue to prepare League priorities for the 2012 Legislative Session. For more information contact LWVTN Director Barbara Devaney (bdevaney@comcast.net) or LWVTN President Margie Parsley (mparsley99@comcast.net).
Monday November 7	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Life Church 120 Indian Lake Blvd Hendersonville 37075	A Community Forum—Tennessee’s New Health Insurance Marketplace Save the Date! Sponsored by the United Chambers of Sumner County, the Leagues of Women Voters of Hendersonville, Nashville, and Tennessee, and the Tennessee Health Care Campaign, the program will focus on residents and small businesses in Davidson, Sumner and surrounding counties. Moderated by LWVN Health Care Director Patricia Stokes with Brian Haile , Governor Haslam’s representative, and local business, insurance and health care professionals, including Mike Dodd , WE Shaw & Associates; Vince Malone , SRS, Inc.; and the Salvus Center, Inc.
Thursday November 10	5:30 pm to 8:00 pm	The YWCA 1608 Woodmont Blvd. Nashville 37215	LWVN Education Consensus, Combined Session Covering Parts I & II—Common Core Standards AND Equity in Funding Be part of the conversation that will help the Nashville League reach consensus on proposals for Common Core Standards and Equity in Funding (see related article). Parking is easy and free! For additional information contact Education Director Debby Gould (debbygould@bellsouth.net).

From Nashville’s President

What a great time to belong to the League of Women Voters! This month we continue the business of voter service projects, making our voice heard on the issues of photo ID and the Affordable Healthcare Act, and presenting wonderfully informative programs at our First Friday Hot Topic luncheons.

I imagine most of you are following the photo ID issue and the very real possibility that it may discourage eligible voters in the coming elections. We have posted requirements for individuals who need to obtain a photo ID to vote on our web page (www.lwnashville.org; also available at <http://www.tn.gov/safety/driverlicense/only.shtml>) and have included ID requirements for the new law in this issue of the *Voter*. Please take time to become familiar with these regulations, and then ask everyone you know if they are ready to vote. There has been a lot of misinformation and League members need to spread the word about the new requirements. We are especially concerned about people who live in rural areas where there is no Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), making access to the necessary a new photo ID very difficult because of time and transportation. We are hopeful that Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett and the Department of Safety & Homeland Security will offer alternative sites with better accessibility so that all Tennesseans can comply with this new law.

Responding to a motion passed unanimously by the LWVN Board of Directors in September, LWVN President **Jo Singer**, **Lynn Williams**, and **Sue Bredensteiner** attended the October 4 Tennessee Senate State & Local Government Committee meeting during which the committee received an update on the implementation of the new voter photo ID laws from Commissioner **Bill Gibbons** of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, and Coordinator of Elections **Mark Goins**.

Mr. Gibbons reported that his department is taking steps to make sure the 48 drivers centers across the state have an express category of service for anyone needing a photo ID, working with the Secretary of State to educate Tennessee citizens about the new law, working to form partnerships with 30 county clerks across the state that currently offer license renewal and duplicate licenses so that they may also issue photo IDs, and working on opening some DMV centers on Saturday from

November 2011 through March 2012 for the sole purpose of issuing photo voter IDs. In response to a query from Senator **Jim Tracy** (Republican, Shelbyville) about using a mobile unit to service the 17 plus counties that have neither DMV centers nor County Clerks, Mr. Gibbons replied they had investigated that possibility but found it cost prohibitive because while Help America Vote Act 2002 (HAVA) funds could be used for education, they could not be used for issuing voter photo ID services.

Mr. Goins told the committee that in November the office of the Secretary of State would launch its most coordinated training effort, holding 95 town halls—one in every county—using a specially created video to inform voting workers and reach out to minority and senior populations across the state. Responding to the committee, Mr. Goins said that in addition to the blue hand outs explaining the requirements given to voters during local voting this year, his office was overseeing statewide and local press releases, writing a script for local election administrators who would track and contact voters with a history of voting who might not have photo drivers licenses, and spell out additional categories of acceptable IDs, such as expired drivers licenses and passports, VA identification cards, military IDs, federal subcontractor IDs, and state employee IDs. And all voters 65 years and older will be able to vote absentee.

Senator **Roy Heron** (Democrat, Dresden) asked Mr. Goins what would be done to help the 675,000 Tennessean citizens who did not have a photo ID and were not over 65, especially since only 218 people had been able to get the required photo ID so far. He added: “Without a photo ID the right to vote had been taken away by the General Assembly. The moat is wide, the wall is tall, and these are impediments to voting. If a person has to take off work and travel over 60 miles round trip to get to a county that does have photo ID services, then they could very realistically be out of pocket over \$150.” He also mentioned that many senior citizens, his mother included, did not want to vote absentee—they wanted to walk into the polling place and cast their ballot in person. Indeed, to vote absentee you have to request your ballot in writing.

Mr. Goins replied that addressing such issues in the press was frightening, particularly to the senior population, and was unnecessarily making the transition to photo voter IDs more difficult. Indeed, information provided by voting officials in Indiana showed only 3,000 provisional ballots cast the first year of their photo ID law and that number of provisional ballots was similar to numbers cast in previous years.

Senator **Lowie Finney** (Democrat, Jackson) joined the discussion asking why college students had been singled out excluding their college or university IDs. Mr. Goins told the committee that change had happened in the House when Representatives **Curry Todd** (Republican, Collierville) and **Eric Watson** (Republican, Cleveland), both former policemen, told their colleagues that college and university IDs often were altered to change the bearers’ age. After more discussion, Mr. Goins agreed that he would do what the committee directs concerning student IDs but that was not spelled out during the meeting.

We were pleased to be recognized and welcomed by committee Chairman Senator **Ken Yager** (Republican, Harriman) who is a member of the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge.

During the committee’s lunch break, we were joined by other LWVN Directors **Jan Sobotka**, **Debby Gould**, **Libby Thurman**, **Pat Post**, and **Brenda Gilmore** at a press conference initiated by **Mary Mancini**, executive director of Tennessee Citizen Action and in collaboration with ACLU, NAACP, and other groups that support repeal of the voter photo ID requirements passed by the Tennessee legislature in 2011. The LWVN is circulating a copy of the coalitions’ petition.

On Monday, October 17, LWVUS President **Elisabeth MacNamara** will be a guest on the NPR show, “On Point,” scheduled for 10 am to 11 am eastern time. **Tom Ashbrook** hosts the live, call-in radio program originating in Boston. Monday’s topic is “voting law changes.” One of the other guests will be Ari Berman of *The Nation*, who has called those changes “[The GOP War on Voting](#).” You will be able to listen online (including [live streaming on Monday at 10-11am](#)) or on the radio in your community [here](#).

For 91 years, the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, has encouraged informed and active participation in government, worked to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influenced public policy through education and advocacy. Continuing that mission, we strive to help all Americans participate in the democratic process. So news in the September 29 *Tennessean* showing only 37.7% of the eligible voters in the state voted in 2010 was discouraging. That ranks Tennessee as second worst in voter turnout and just above Texas. The LWVN needs to do our job: register voters, inform voters, and make sure there are no barriers to voting. We will be asking you to help in many ways—please be ready to say yes to our call.

In addition, the LWVTN was joined by the LWVUS in submitting comments to the Department of Health and Human Services on the Proposed Rule on the Affordable Care Act to establish exchanges and qualified health plans. The document was written by off board LWVN Director **Pat Post** with assistance from LWVN Editor **Sue Bredensteiner** and LWVTN Director **Mary Headrick**, and its joint submission facilitated by LWVTN President **Margie Parsley** and LWVUS Senior Lobbyist **Betsy Lawson**. It currently can be accessed at the LWVUS home page (<http://www.lwv.org>).

Members of LWVN also joined LWVTN President **Margie Parsley** at the October 6 kick-off event for the Map It Out! redistricting contest at the Belcourt Theatre featuring a free public showing of the documentary *Gerrymandering*, followed by a panel discussion moderated by **Gene Policinski**, senior vice president and executive director of the First Amendment Center.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Chattanooga for the LWVTN Fall Conference on “October 22-23. We are hosting several key speakers on Saturday, October 22: Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate Bo Watson, Senator Andy Berke, and Mary Mancini, executive director of Tennessee Citizen Action. If you have not registered already, please go to www.lwv-tn.org and follow the links or call me. It promises to be a fantastic weekend.

In League, *To Singer*

Photo Identification for Voting in Tennessee (<http://www.tn.gov/sos/election/index.htm>)

Beginning January 1, 2012, all [Tennessee] voters must present an ID, meeting the requirements below, containing the voter’s name and photograph, whether voting early or on Election Day. These requirements DO NOT apply to elections in 2011.

What form of photo ID do I need to bring?

- Tennessee driver’s license with your photo;
- United States Passport;
- Department of Safety photo ID;
- Photo ID issued by the federal or state government;
- United States Military photo ID; or
- Gun permit card with your photo

What forms of photo ID are NOT acceptable?

- A college student photo ID
- A photo ID not issued by the federal or state government

Who is exempt?

- Voters who vote absentee by mail. (View requirements to vote absentee at <http://www.tn.gov/sos/election/bymail.htm>)
- Voters who are residents in a licensed nursing home or assisted living center and who vote at the facility
- Voters who are hospitalized
- Voters with a religious objection to being photographed
- Voters who are indigent and unable to obtain a photo ID without paying a fee

What if I don’t bring a photo ID to the polling place?

- If you do not bring a photo ID and you are not exempt (see above exemptions), you must vote a provisional ballot.
- You will then have two (2) business days after the election to return to the county election commission office to show a valid photo ID.

What if I don’t have a photo ID?

- You may obtain a free photo ID from the Tennessee Department of Safety.

League of Women Voters Launches *TN Redistricting: Map It Out!*

As one of the nation’s oldest grassroots organizations, which has worked for many decades to educate citizens about major public policy issues and to encourage active participation in democracy, the League of Women Voters of Tennessee has launched a statewide contest to encourage public participation in the redistricting process—*TN Redistricting: Map It Out!*

As the state’s legislative colleagues begin the process of drawing new legislative and congressional districts for Tennessee, the League fully supports the General Assembly’s goal of engaging citizens in this process. With cooperation from the **First Amendment Center** in Nashville, the League hopes to encourage all Tennesseans to submit plans using free online software. Other states, including Arizona, Ohio and Virginia, have held similar contests with great success. Interested individuals and organizations, including universities, high schools and middle schools, can compete for cash prizes by drawing our state’s new electoral district lines. The goal of the contest is to support a thoughtful, transparent, nonpartisan redistricting process that includes public participation. Tennessee is more than 500 miles from end to end, and its communities are diverse. This contest offers participants the opportunity to suggest a redistricting plan that reflects the needs of every resident, from Memphis to Mountain City.

TN Redistricting: Map It Out! began on Monday, October 3, and ends on Monday, October 24, at midnight CDT. Anyone can Map It Out!, but only Tennessee residents are eligible to win prizes totaling \$4,000 that will be awarded for Best State Senate Map, Best State House Map, Best Overall Congressional Map, Best Tennessee Middle School, Best Tennessee High School, and Best Tennessee College or University. To help offset the cost of participating, a \$250 stipend will be offered to the first 20 professors or teachers who would like to encourage his or her students to participate, so long as the submissions meet the contest criteria.

Technology makes the process easy. Advances over the past 10 years have allowed for greater public participation in the redistricting process. Anyone who uses the Internet can find a host of free software products to build his or her own plan, but those participating in TN Redistricting: Map It Out! will use **Dave's Redistricting software** to draw their district maps, which is provided at <http://www.tnmapitout.org>. Instructions are provided on the website. Winners will be announced October 28 and an awards program is planned for early November.

LWVN Education Consensus: Federal Dollars in Local Schools—How Much is Enough?

Part I of LWVN Education Consensus took place on September 23 and League Education Director **Debby Gould** offered an apt description of the meeting, saying: “The League’s Education Consensus process kicked off with a lively and engaging discussion about Common Core standards and the appropriate role of the federal government in public education. The session was an important first step in the national consensus process and enhanced our understanding of the fundamental changes in public education that are occurring in Tennessee.” Consensus Committee member **Ethel Detch** added, “This was my first experience with the League’s consensus-building process. I was so impressed with the depth of the discussion and the courtesy extended to each other when opinions differed. I wish our representatives in Congress could treat each other with similar respect.”

What role should the federal government play in funding public education? How do we balance the responsibilities of local, state, and federal government to provide for strong educational systems in our country? Part II of the consensus process will take place on Friday, October 28 when League members address these questions in determining equity in funding for local education as well as the balance between categorical and competitive grants (for background materials, see the Education Study & Consensus Resource Manual at <http://lwvnashville.org/Voter.html#Publications>). This is a particularly timely question for Tennessee as the state moves forward with ambitious education reforms. For new and long-time members, this is an excellent opportunity to see League grassroots processes at work.

Be part of the continuing conversation that will help the Nashville League reach consensus on the federal government’s involvement in funding and setting standards for public schools. Across the country, Leagues are participating in this consensus process, initiated by members and coordinated by the national League. The result will be national consensus that will drive LWV education policy and advocacy in the future.

Participants may brown bag a lunch of their own or order a lunch from Kalamatas Restaurant in advance through Debby Gould (debbygould@bellsouth.net or 403-6478). Orders must be placed by the Wednesday before each meeting. Check out the Kalamatas menu (<http://www.eatatkalamatas.com/menu1.html>).

ADDITIONAL MEETING TIMES: Can’t get to the meeting on October 28? We will have an additional session on Thursday, November 10 from 6 pm to 9 pm at the YWCA that will include Part I and Part II of the Educational Consensus process.



First Friday Hot Topics & Lunch on November 4: What’s Your Take on Immigration?

This year, the First Friday Hot Topics & Lunch programs continue to allow the LWVN to partner with Second Harvest and support their delicious Friday Lunch Buffets at the Martin Distribution Center in Metro Center. It’s a plus for both organizations because the League will consistently meet at Second Harvest with easy and free parking.

“This country will give to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance,” George Washington said in a letter to a Rhode Island synagogue, 1790. Today, immigration and the status of immigrants will come up in almost any conversation about any topic whether it is education, access to health care, voting rights, or the economy.

During the 2011 legislative session a number of efforts were made to criminalize and restrict opportunities for the immigrant community. The measures introduced focused on employment, access to education and health care, citizenship for children born in the United States, and religious freedom. While most of the restrictive legislation was defeated or watered down during the last session, we can expect renewed anti-immigration efforts in 2012 that will again target immigrant rights and

religious freedom.

Arrangements for the November First Friday speakers were coordinated by LWVN Human Services Director **Jan Sobotka**. The program will focus on legislation proposed during the 2011 session, what we might expect in 2012, and the impact of those efforts on our community. **Tom Negri** is the managing director of Loew's Vanderbilt Hotel. He has served on many professional and community boards and developed a deep understanding of the challenges facing immigrants and the business community. Negri has been recognized for his commitment to facilitating constructive community dialog around immigration and integration as well as his leadership on those issues within Nashville's business community. He testified before the Tennessee General Assembly last session on the economic impact of many proposed measures. **Nathan Ridley** is director of Government Relations at Bradley, Arant, Boult, and Cummings and represents the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Coalition. He spent eighteen years with the Tennessee General Assembly, serving as Senior Legislative Attorney in the Office of Legal Services and Special Counsel to the Speaker of the Senate.

Community Forum About Tennessee's New Health Insurance Marketplace

The Leagues of Women Voters of Hendersonville, Nashville, and Tennessee have joined the United Chambers of Sumner County, and the Tennessee Health Care Campaign to sponsor a Community Forum about Tennessee's New Health Insurance Marketplace. Join us on Monday, November 7, 2011 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Life Church, 120 Indian Lake Blvd., in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

The program will focus on residents and small businesses in north Davidson, Sumner and surrounding counties. Moderated by LWVN Health Care Director **Patricia Parrish Stokes**, president and CEO of the Urban League of Middle Tennessee, it will also feature LWVN member **Craig Anne Heflinger**, a professor at Vanderbilt whose report, "American Health Care Reform: Serious Business for Tennessee's Small Businesses," shows that only half of Tennessee small businesses offer health insurance to their employees, but nearly all agree it is time to pay attention to health care reform and want to be involved in the process. **Brian Haile**, director of the Insurance Exchange Planning Initiative, Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, will represent the Haslam administration and gather information from forum participants, and local business, insurance, and health care professionals, including **Mike Dodd**, WE Shaw & Associates; **Vince Malone**, SRS, Inc.; and the Salvus Center, Inc. will offer business, insurance, and health care perspectives.

In addition to be an informative evening about implementation of the American Care Act, the event offers individuals and business people a chance to make their voices heard concerning the needs of their families, employees, and business bottom lines and give input about the types of insurance products that need to be offered by the Tennessee Marketplace (Exchange). This is an excellent opportunity to take part in a government process. League members from the Hendersonville and Nashville Leagues are asked to attend and to volunteer to facilitate the event.

Dollars & Sense

by LEE FAIRBEND AND CAROL MCSWINEY

This month treasurer **Lee Fairbend** explains the complexity of League finances in a really fun way. "In so far as our financial accounts are concerned, we are a rather bipolar organization," Lee says. "Parts of our income are tax-exempt and parts are not. Our Education Fund, fondly known as the Ed Fund, is the tax-exempt part and donations to this fund are tax deductible. The LWVTN holds these funds for our use for activities that meet federal qualifications, such as voter services activities, First Fridays luncheons, and candidate forums—all educational activities.

"The rest of our activities are not tax-exempt, which means in part that we pay sales tax on all of our office supplies. It also means that your much-appreciated donations to our Operating Fund are not tax deductible. We will, however, happily accept your in-kind donations for our office. For instance, when you next buy stamps, think about getting some for LWVN. Or, how about a ream of paper, pens, ink cartridge for the new printer (Brother TN-650)? All would be more than welcome.

"You may bring your donation to a LWVN Board meeting or to a First Friday Forum. Give your in-kind donation to me or to September to give to me, and please include your receipt. There's a form (naturally), but if you put the information on the receipt I'll take care of the form for you. We keep track of all of your in-kind donations and are so pleased to get them!"

Finance Director **Carol McSwiney** adds: "Many thanks to those of you who have made a contribution to the League's Operating Fund this fiscal year. I hope that we will continue to build that fund, giving us more control over running our operations as smoothly and effectively as possible. In October, please watch for a letter from Jo Singer, our president, and me asking for your greatly appreciated support.

"You'll remember that in the July *Voter*, I commented about planned giving. We will include a Letter of Intent form for your use, should you ever choose to leave money to the Nashville League in your will, with our fundraising letter. As you

know, a will or codicil is the document that makes any bequest official, but sending in the attached form is simply a way of notifying the Nashville League that you have included us in your estate planning. (Please note that the form indicates that you can change your mind about the bequest at any time!) If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 385-1502.”

Voter Service

The Voter Service Committee has completed the poll-watcher observation report from the 2011 Nashville-Davidson County election. The report can be found on the LWVN website at http://www.lwvnashville.org/files/lwv_poll_watcher_report2_.pdf. It details poll watcher observations highlighting issues related to accessibility, transparency, and uniformity of voting procedures. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to be a poll watcher! The Committee couldn't have done it without you.

The Tennessee Voter Identification Act (Voter ID Act) will take effect on January 1, 2012. This Act will require that all voters present a government-issued photo ID to vote. The March 2012 presidential primary will be the first election following implementation of the Voter ID Act and the LWVN plans to be at the polls. The Committee will be actively promoting a poll-watching project for the upcoming election and will be reaching out to volunteers. To get involved, contact Libby Thurman at libbysthurman@gmail.com (615-497-4942) or Lynn Williams at lynn@lynnwms.com (615) 383-0778.

In addition, the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law recently released a report (see <http://lwvnashville.org/>) that tallies just how many voters stand to be affected by recent legislation passed in more than a dozen states. Michael Cooper wrote an excellent article in the October 2 *New York Times* describing how laws passed requiring voters to show photo identification at polls, cutting back early voting periods, or imposing new restrictions on voter registration drives will erect hurdles to voter participation (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/03/us/new-state-laws-are-limiting-access-for-voters.html?pagewanted=1>).

Action Committee News

Following up on his top ten projections for the 2012 legislative session at the October First Friday Forum, League lobbyist **Stewart Clifton** has sent League members a link to a good article by Tom Humphrey about redistricting in Tennessee that was posted on [knoxnews.com](http://www.knoxnews.com), part of the *Knoxville News Sentinel* (<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2011/oct/09/redrawing-tennessees-district-lines-sparks/>).

Humphrey writes in part: “House Speaker Beth Harwell and Senate Speaker Ron Ramsey are urging citizens to submit proposals for changing the boundaries for state legislative districts, while the Tennessee League of Women Voters is holding a contest for plans submissions.

“But there almost certainly will be a big disconnect between any plan that the Republican-controlled Legislature will approve and any plan likely to win part of the \$4,000 in prizes offered by the League for the best plans submitted.

“The League's rules declare a preference for ‘competitiveness’ in districts, meaning those districts are not stacked with voters deemed to prefer one political party over the other. League President Margie Parsley says she doesn't think districts should be designed with incumbents in mind.”

Clifton adds: “Having a process that calls attention to this issue and its excesses may or may not revolutionize the system this year but could well chill some folks and keep some of the more egregious self-dealing from occurring.” This is certainly something the LWV Action committee should continue to highlight.



In addition, the LWVTN Action committee sent members an important Survey this month. We are reprinting it here

because some recipients had difficulty opening the attachment.

Dear LWV Members,

The Tennessee General Assembly will consider many serious issues during its upcoming session. LWV members have worked hard to support good government and implement LWV priorities. Much of this work will be challenged in the months ahead. Therefore the LWV must ask you—LWV members—to become more involved. To focus advocacy efforts more effectively, the Action Committee wants to know what is important to you. Your support of these issues and willingness to work on them makes an important statement to public officials.

The Action Committee has compiled a list of issues that will be addressed soon by the legislature or departments of state government. Adequacy of state and federal funding is a concern. Critical services that have been supported with a combination of federal and state funding may be vulnerable. Some state regulatory processes are not adequately funded.

Please rank the issues listed below and indicate whether you are willing to contact your legislators and/or host a coffee for your legislators. Estimate the number of hours per month you would like to work on any particular concerns. Rank Issues from 1 as most important to 9 as least important. You will receive weekly legislative alerts once the General Assembly begins, but there is also a lot that you can do locally before then to express your concerns to your legislators.

Issue	Ranking	Host Coffee	Work
Judiciary: Retain a merit-based judicial selection process to appoint qualified judges			
Health Care Reform: Implement Affordable Healthcare Act in Tennessee			
Appropriations: Maintain the funding of safety net services for the neediest Tennesseans			
Elections: Educate Voters about new photo ID law and citizenship requirements			
Immigration: Promote educational opportunities or refugees and immigrants			
Environment: Protect air, water, land and energy through an effective regulatory process			
Education: Maintain funding and support for public school system and implementation of Race to the Top grant			
Open Government: Monitor Congressional redistricting process In Tennessee			
Tax Reform: Provide sufficient revenues through an equitable and fair system of taxation			

Would you be willing to host a coffee for your legislators? Yes No

Please fill out the information requested below and return this survey to bdevaney@comcast.net or mail to Barbara Devaney, 2813 Tyne Blvd, Nashville, TN 37215.

Your name: _____ E-mail: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
 US Representative: _____
 Tennessee state Senator: _____ and District: _____
 Tennessee state Representative: _____ and District: _____

Thank you for completing the survey. We appreciate your support and work on behalf of the LWVTN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE

As a meaningful way to understand hunger in America, the Jewish Federation's Community Relations Committee (CRC) and Catholic Charities are asking Nashvillians to join the Food Stamp Challenge to put themselves in the shoes of those living on food stamp allotments.

From Monday, October 24, to Sunday, October 30, participants will pledge to live on a weekly food budget of \$31.50, or \$4.50 a day. It doesn't sound like much - and it isn't.

The Metro Human Relations Commission, the Campus for Human Development, and the Mayor's Nashville Poverty Initiative have signed on as partners. Other local organizations and faith groups will be joining the effort urging their members to participate.

The Food Stamp Challenge is part of a national program, Fighting Poverty with Faith, sponsored by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), Catholic Charities, and the National Council of Churches, to help people understand one aspect of poverty in American, today.

Anyone who would like to participate can sign up by sending an email to Judy Saks at judy@jewishnashville.org. Please put the words "Food Stamp Challenge" in the subject line. Those who sign up will receive additional information about the challenge, including the guidelines. Anyone who can't do a full week on the challenge is urged to sign up for as many days as possible. For additional information or questions, call Saks at 354-1637.

COMMUNITY CINEMA AT THE NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Community Cinema is a public education and civic engagement initiative that utilizes free, public screenings of documentaries produced by the Independent Lens to motivate public discussions of critical social issues. Co-sponsored by the Nashville Public Library, Nashville Public Television, Nashville Film Festival, and Hands On Nashville, these screenings are scheduled on Saturday afternoons each month in the auditorium of the main branch of the Nashville Public Library (615 Church Street). It is also possible for groups (think LWVN) to arrange additional viewings of films.

This year, a series of films are focusing on the international issues of "Women and Girls Lead"—an appropriate topic for League members. Two of these films might be special interest to LWVN members. Please contact Education Director **Debby Gould** if you are interested in joining a group to view and discuss these films (debbygould@bellsouth.net).

December 17 at 3 pm: Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai

Maathai received the Nobel Peace Prize for her transformational work of planting trees in Kenya.

January 14 at 3 pm—Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock

Bates led the charge to desegregate Central High School in Little Rock in 1957.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The League of Women Voters of Nashville gives a special shout out to **E|SPACES**—a new kind of office—designed for people who work from home, their cars, coffee shops, hotel lobbies, in other words mobile, connected professionals. This attractive business center combines the functionality of state-of-the-art offices with a wide variety of work and meeting spaces that offer the aesthetics of a comfortable, inviting, and professional community. Meeting rooms can be scheduled in advance. The LWVN appreciates the opportunity to hold our monthly meetings at **E|SPACES**, 4322 Harding Pike, Suite 417, Nashville, TN 37205 (615.777.8514; info@espaces.com).

ATTENTION: *The Nashville Voter* became a digital publication in Spring 2010. If you have received this copy of the *Voter* in the mail, it means the League of Women Voters of Nashville has no recorded e-mail address for you. Please help us by sending your e-mail address to LWVNash@gmail.com. This will ensure you receive all LWV newsletters, event invitations, meeting announcements, and Call to Action alerts. Thank you, *Voter* Editor Sue Bredensteiner (suebred@mindspring.com).