

North Country Legislative Representatives

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Governor Eliot Spitzer
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Web: www.house.gov/mchugh/



**Does the Current State of Politics Get You Angry?
Don't Just Explode!
Join the League of Women Voters
and Do Something About It!!**

Join an organization that makes an impact in the community, the state and the nation.
Nonpartisan: We do not support candidates, elected officials or political parties.

Membership Information: call Myra Decker 643-2742 or send:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. (home) _____ (work) _____ Email: _____

Membership Dues: _____ \$45.00 Individual

(Check desired level) _____ \$65.00 Family

Make **check** out to: **Plattsburgh Area League of Women Voters**

Mail to: Myra Decker, 7 Woodland Hills, Morrisonville, NY 12962

THE INFORMER



**League of Women Voters
of the Plattsburgh Area**

March 2008 No. 7

**7 Woodland Hills
Morrisonville, New York 12962**

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Visit Plattsburgh LWV Web Site at www.plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org

Special

OFFER TO THE PUBLIC

If you wish to be put on the League's mailing list and receive the League Newsletter, "The Informer", to keep in touch about the League's activities, please submit \$5.00 to cover cost of postage and printing for 10 issues. Make check payable to **League of Women Voters, Plattsburgh Area** and send it to **Myra Decker, 7 Woodland Hill, Morrisonville, NY 12962.**

NYS PAY EQUITY COALITION

Presents

A GLORIA STEINEM DAY FOR FAIR PAY
Wednesday April 2, 2008
Albany, NY

LOB (Legislative Office Building)
9:45-11:30 AM – program begins at 10, light refreshments at 9:30

Hear Gloria Steinem speak and field questions from the press about pay equity.
Other invited speakers: Governor Eliot Spitzer, Lt. Governor David Paterson, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senate Democratic Leader Malcolm Smith, Assembly Minority Leader James Tedesco, Senator George Maziarz, Senator Craig Johnson, Assemblymember Susan John.
Attendance is free. For parking information – barbandbob220@verizon.net

The League would like hear **your story** about how you became involved in the League. Please email your story to larry.arcarese@verizon.net.



REMEMBER: Donations to the local League of Women Voters are **tax deductible** if the checks are made out to the **LWV Educational Fund.**

Steps to access the Informer:

Log on to www.plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org. Click on "The Informer" either on the side bar or main part of the page. Click on <http://www.lwvny-bulletins.org/Capital%20Region/Plattsburgh.htm> The next page enables you to click on the latest or past editions of the newsletter. It will ask to either open it up or save it to a disk. You can then print it if you desire. You will get a larger print if you use **legal size paper.**



Thanks

Special thanks to:
Sara and Harvey Hurwitz for reporting primary election results to the Associated Press.

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 30th

League of Women Voters Annual Dinner Wednesday, **April 30th**, Anthony's Restaurant, guest speaker Marcia Merrins, former President LWNYS, current President LWV Chautauqua County, nominee for LWVUS Board

Greetings from Florida



Hi Everyone,

I hope the primary voting went off without any problems up there. As I said in my previous greetings, I had the chance to work the polls here in Fort Myers. I must say that the polling place was well organized and all of the personnel very efficient in their rolls. We used the touch screen counting machines and encountered no problems with them. As the person entered, they had to show photo and signature ID, state their address which had to match what was on the registration list and then sign their name on the registration list and an "enrollment" form. This "enrollment" form which told which political party had to be activated for that individual was given to the voting machine activator. The voter would then choose the language (English or Spanish although in some other counties, Creole was listed too) and then vote. The "enrollment" forms were collected by the activator and then at the end of the evening (7 pm here) were counted and then compared with the number of votes cast on the machines. Fortunately our numbers matched so we could go home after taking down the voting machines.

Most of the voters knew what was on the ballot and were prepared to vote. There were some who didn't realize that if their political party was not democrat or republican, they could only vote for the ballot amendment and not for the presidential candidates.

Even though it was a long day (we started at 5:30 am to set up the machines and take an oath), it went by rather quickly because of the many voters that came throughout the day. Looking forward to the next election which should be interesting because the optical scan machines should be in operation by then.

The Lee County League did their National and local program planning with some good discussion. Our co-president gave a talk on "Tools for Change"-when and why change occurs and how we can facilitate this.

We'll be counting ballots for an election in March and several of us will be attending the League's Legislative Seminar in Tallahassee. Willlet you know how that goes.

In the meantime, keep warm.

Take care,

Stasia Arcarese

Great Blue Heronby
Golf Course Lake



League News



League Calls on Bush to Restore FEC Operations

The League and other groups are strongly urging President Bush to take action to help end the shut down of the Federal Election Commission. For details: www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=10640

League Voices Concern About Changes to the Freedom of Information Act

The League and other organizations sent a letter to House Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey and Ranking Member Jerry Lewis regarding concern over changes to the Freedom of Information Act. To read the letter, go to www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Civil_Liberties&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=10653

Two Climate Change Task Force Papers Online

Two background papers by the Climate Change Task Force have been posted to the LWVUS Web site. "Cities Take Action to Curb Global Warming" and "Economic Effects of Not Taking Action on Climate Change." www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global_Climate_Change&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=10652 and www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global_Climate_Change&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=9859

LWV/Newspaper in Education Supplement – "Electing the President"

The LWVUS worked with the Newspaper in Education Institute (NIE) to create a newspaper supplement of election information for young voters, students and others. This supplement, "Electing the President," is available free of charge. Leagues are encouraged to contact their local newspaper's NIE program to develop local partnerships and provide this resource to local schools and communities. Download the supplement and find a contact list (by state) of NIE programs www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Voters_Service_Chair&CONTENTID=10594&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm

continued from p. 8 "Ethics"

Section 305 of the new law provides that during the convention, a member of Congress "may not participate in an event honoring that Member . . . if such event is directly paid for by a registered lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 or a private entity that retains or employs such a registered lobbyist." No parties, you might think?"

Think again. The House ethics committee, in its wisdom, issued an interpretation of the new law last month that leaves little of it intact.

A New York Times editorial said about the House Ethics Committee guidance (February 4, 2008):

"Congress's new ethics rules ban deep-pocketed corporate lobbyists from "honoring" members with lavish V.I.P. galas at the presidential nominating conventions. As originally written, the rules instructed House members to firmly decline the honor. But as newly loopholed by the committee, the rules will only ban a single lawmaker from being so honored. Representatives are free to belly up to fetes honoring groups of them. "

The misinterpretation of the House ethics rule described above is not the only problem with the House Ethics Committee guidance on party conventions. The guidance also says, in effect, that lobbyists and lobbying organizations can finance parties "to honor" a single Representative by paying for the party through a conduit.

This interpretation would mean that a lobbyist or lobbying organization could do indirectly what they are prohibited from doing directly, which simply reverses the standard legal interpretation for such efforts to circumvent a law or rule.

On December 18, 2008 our organizations wrote to the House Ethics Committee on this matter. The letter concluded:

We strongly urge the Ethics Committee to withdraw

the guidance on parties at the national conventions that it issued on December 11, 2007, and to provide new guidance for Rule XXV, cl. 8, that properly implements, rather than destroys, the new House ethics rule adopted to prevent lobbyists from throwing lavish parties for Members at the party conventions.

We have received no response from the Ethics Committee.

This is not the only guidance, furthermore, issued by the House Ethics Committee that has raised serious problems regarding its interpretation of the new House ethics rules. Our organizations strongly urge you to take all steps necessary to ensure that the Ethics Committee withdraws its misinterpretation of the new ethics rule on party conventions and issues a new guidance that carries out the clear meaning, purpose and spirit of the new rule.


It is essential for the Ethics Committee guidance to be revised in order to prevent a major House accomplishment in this Congress from being publicly undermined and to protect the integrity and credibility of the House as an institution.

Thank for your attention to this matter.

Campaign Legal Center, League of Women Voters, Common Cause, Public Citizen, Democracy 21 U.S. PIRG

NEW **LWVUS Congressional Votes Tool**

The League, this week, announced a new tool for researching congressional votes for the first session of the 110th Congress (2007), listing House and Senate votes on key good government issues. This tool, searchable by member of Congress as well as by issue area, includes key votes on LWVUS legislative priorities. This is a new tool to assist you in your advocacy. Check it out by visiting www.lwv.org

<h1>The Informer</h1>	
League of Women Voters of the Plattsburgh Area	
March 2008	
President Myra Decker 643-2742 mystdek7@northnet.org Stasia Arcarese 561-1745 "Informer" Editor larry.arcarese@verizon.net Madeleine Robinson Circulation 834-7516 robinson7516@charter.net	

League of Women Voters First Friday Forum

March 7, 2008



12 noon

Butcher Block Restaurant



Speaker: Kristy Sprague, Chief Assistant District Attorney for Clinton County

Topic: The Child Advocacy Center---CTRAC (Community Team Responding and Advocating for Kids)

This is a new program for Clinton County. A place is being established where children who have been victims of crimes can be interviewed and examined in a relaxed and friendly environment, rather than the police station or the hospital.

\$12.00 Soup and Salad Bar

RSVP by March 6th to Carole Cao-Ba 563-3903 or tzivia12@aol.com



March 7, 2008
April 4, 2008

April 27, 2008
April 30, 2008

First Friday Forum: CTRAC
First Friday Forum: Andrew Wylie, Clinton County District Attorney, "What's Happening in the DA's office?"
Earth Day - tentative date
League Annual Meeting



January Potluck Speaker

The League held its annual potluck brunch on January 26th at the home of Kathy Schumacher. Members and guests exchanged ideas with Mayor Kasprzak before he discussed the state of the city. The Mayor said he appreciated suggestions and the exchange of ideas. Residents from the various North Country communities are linked. Topics included:

- Water usage in multi-unit housing - suggestion - emphasize conservation & bill tenants for actual usage instead of the same flat rate for all units. Mayor's response - basic infrastructure costs exist and the number of people seasonally out of town has significantly increased.

- Sidewalk snow removal - Mayor's response - good intent, most people are complying. For people needing assistance, a list of volunteer shovelers including church members and Scouts is in the works.

- Energy conservation - energy efficient light bulb program was praised. Mayor's response - funding came from the utility companies' minute charge to promote energy conservation in municipalities. Light bulbs were the first phase. Ways to make city buildings more energy efficient are being considered. Suggestion - also implement use of solar panels.

- Waterfront hotel status - Mayor's response - project is estimated at \$12-14 million. The current owner will not discuss the subject so the City sent the case to the State for evaluation. The owner claims over \$791,000 has been spent to date, is looking for a profit, and plans to get out of the project.



Inge, Mayor Kasprzak, Madeleine, guest Victoria, Anne

- Reassessment - concern - significant increase as experienced by the Elks Lodge. Mayor's response - businesses had not been re-assessed for 6-7 years so there was a big jump. Assessments should be done annually or bi-annually as has been done with residential properties.



Guest Victoria, Anne, Myra, guest Loni, Barbara, Madeleine, guest Anna, guest

- Impact of tax increases on senior renters who are forced out of their dwellings - suggestion - form of rent control. Mayor's response - rent control must constitutionally go on referendum. It would be defeated as discriminatory. The City has the largest amount of senior housing in Clinton County.

- Strand/Federal Building/NCCCA - several people stated the arts are pivotal to the appeal of a community. The Mayor states he is a strong arts supporter, but his primary responsibility is to the City re. fiscal responsibility to address the high taxes and budgetary issues. Income generating opportunities are vital. 40% of City property is tax exempt. Seton Catholic, St. Johns, and the Federal Building are prime resources. The Federal government owns the Federal Building. The City cannot give away federal property. The General Services Administration will ultimately determine the disposition of the building as stipulated: 1st priority is to the homeless so HUD must sign-off; state, county, and/or city would bid if interested, then apply through the Education Department in Washington; winning entity would pay for remediation estimated at \$200,000.

- Shared services continue to be explored.

Note: the Mayor's State of the City was printed in the Press Republican so will not be addressed here.

Letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi Re; House Ethics Committee

February 6, 2008

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As you know, our organizations strongly supported the landmark ethics and lobbying reforms passed by Congress last year and strongly praised the House for this major accomplishment.

Our organizations include the Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, the League of Women Voters, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG.

One of the important new ethics rules adopted by the House last year requires that during a national party convention, a Member "may not participate in an event honoring that Member ...if such event is directly paid for by a registered lobbyist...or a private entity that retains or employs such a registered lobbyist." Rule XXV, cl. 8.

The purpose of this rule was to prevent lobbyists and lobbying organizations from currying favor with Representatives by paying for lavish parties to "honor" the Representatives at the national conventions, as has been done at past conventions.

The language, purpose and spirit of the new ethics rule makes clear that this includes lobbyist-funded parties at the national conventions to "honor" multiple House members, such as a congressional state delegation, a congressional committee, a congressional caucus or any other group of members of Congress.

Nevertheless, the House Ethics Committee issued a guidance on December 11, 2008 stating that the new ethics rule applies only if a party "honors" a specific Member, but not if the party "honors" a group of Members.

The Ethics Committee's unjustifiable guidance threatens to seriously undermine the public credibility of the new ethics rules.

It would mean that the goal of the House in adopting the new rule was to prevent a lobbyist or lobbying organization from paying for a lavish party to curry favor with a single Representative, but not to prevent the same lobbyist or lobbying organization from paying for a lavish party to curry favor with a group of Representatives.

This makes no sense.

Furthermore, it is in direct conflict with an interpretation of the same ethics rule in the Senate issued by the Senate Ethics Committee, and with an interpretation made by the House Clerk and Senate Secretary of analogous language contained in the new lobbying disclosure law.

The House Clerk and Senate Secretary correctly concluded that the lobbying disclosure provision requiring lobbyists and lobbying organizations to report payments made for "the cost of an event to honor or recognize a covered legislative branch official," covers payments for events held for multiple honorees from Congress.

The Senate Ethics Committee interpretation issued on February 4, 2008 makes clear that the Senate ethics rule, virtually identical to the House ethics rule, does not allow lobbyists or lobbying organizations to pay for events at the national conventions, to honor groups of Senators, such as a state congressional delegation or to honor specifically identified Senators.

A Washington Post editorial said about the House Ethics Committee guidance (January 14, 2008):

"The new ethics law prohibits lobbyists and the entities that employ them from hosting -- read, paying for -- convention parties to "honor" lawmakers. This is a phenomenally cushy perk, in which key members of Congress get to entertain and curry favor with their supporters, at the expense of the lobbyists who want to curry favor with them.

**Letter to U.S. House of Representatives
Re: H.R. 4294, Reforming the Presidential Public
Financing System from Mary Wilson, President**

Jan. 18, 2008 The League of Women Voters urges you to cosponsor and support H.R. 4294, the legislation designed to reinvigorate the public financing system for presidential elections. With prominent candidates from both parties opting out of public financing for 2008, this Congress has a special responsibility and a special opportunity to fix the system for the 2012 cycle.

Presidential candidates in the 2008 cycle will likely spend more than one billion dollars in funds raised from private sources. Instead of competing on a level playing field for the votes of their fellow citizens, candidates will necessarily seek competitive advantage in huge fundraising operations. To raise such large sums, candidates will expose themselves to the special interest influence that comes when lobbyists and other interested persons solicit, bundle and give to their campaigns.

In contrast, the public financing system provides for more equitable competition and helps insulate the candidates -- and our political and governmental systems -- from corruption and the appearance of corruption.

Presidential public financing needs to be updated in order to regain its vitality. H.R. 4294, recently introduced by Representative Price (D NC) and Representative Shays (R CT), would accomplish this in several ways:

- Eliminates the state-by-state spending limits and raises the overall limits for the primary and general elections;
- Provides public funds to primary candidates earlier in the process;
- Provides additional public funds if a privately-financed candidate significantly exceeds the spending limits applicable to the publicly-financed candidate;

- Increases the public funds available by raising the check-off amount.

These and other provisions should make the system a viable option for serious candidates facing opponents who are capable of raising significant sums outside the system.

The presidential public financing system worked well for decades. We urge you to support the changes that will enable that system once again to provide for equitable competition and to protect against undue influence.

VOTE411.org: Serving Voters in 2008!



Super Tuesday has passed but the election year has just begun! Thanks to Vote411.org, more than 150,000 visitors have accessed up-to-date election information for their state so far this year! One PC Magazine blogger told Super Tuesday readers: "VOTE411 is quite possibly the single most important site you'll visit today." And our media outreach gained us exposure on CNN Tuesday morning. We've stepped up our efforts to get out the word about all the resources available on VOTE411.org and in our new "Elections 101" area at www.lwv.org. Now we need your help! Please urge people in your community to sign up at VOTE411.org to receive election alerts, and to make sure their friends and families are registered to vote.

**A Friendlier LWVUS Member
Section Login Page**

The login page on www.lwv.org was updated recently to make it more user friendly. Stop in and sign up for a League discussion list or update your profile. Nothing about the login process has changed. It's easy and straightforward. Your personal e-mail address is your User ID and the password is what you set it to be. If you have not logged in to the LWV site or have forgotten your password, please go to www.lwv.org.

Stasia Arcarese: A Woman of History

by
Betty Ann King

Women's History Month always conjures up images of strong patriotic women whose intelligence and fervor for justice for all levels of society have made a positive difference in the lives of today's American women. Certainly the League of Women Voters is a part of that history. The League continues to champion the rights of all citizens by using its resources to safeguard the integrity of elections and the rights of the American voter.

Looking at our local League of Women Voters of the Plattsburgh Area, Stasia Arcarese is an exciting example of a woman who has consistently embodied a portrait of the ideals of the League of Women Voters. Stasia, a native of Long Island, originally came to Plattsburgh as a student in Plattsburgh State University's School Nurse Teacher's program. She met her husband Larry during her time in Plattsburgh. They have 3 children, Josephine, Stacey and Tina. Stasia and Larry also have 6 grandchildren and one great grand child.



Stasia received her Baccalaureate of Science degree, School Nurse Teacher permanent certification and a Registered Nurse License from Plattsburgh State University. She received her Masters Degree in nursing from Russell Sage College in Troy, New York.

Stasia has worked as a nurse in the operating room at Physician's Hospital, a school nurse teacher at an elementary school on Long Island and at the Campus School of SUNY Plattsburgh, as a nursing skills lab instructor at Plattsburgh State and as a Professor of Nursing at Clinton Community College. Stasia is a member of the prestigious International Nursing Honors Society, Sigma Theta Tau International Gamma Delta Chapter.

In the year 2000, Stasia received the State University of New York's Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. What an incredible honor. She also received the Faculty Staff Impact Award from Clinton Community College in 2006.

Loyal to her alma mater, SUNY Plattsburgh, Stasia is and has been for many years, the secretary of the Plattsburgh State Alumnae Association. She and her husband, Larry, also sponsor a student scholarship.

Stasia is a past president of the District 8, New York State Association and Sigma Theta Tau, Gamma Delta Chapter, and she is quick to point out that her experience and training in the LWV helped her develop skills that have transferred to other areas in her professional and personal life. In particular she cites public speaking as all important.

Stasia was also a stay at home mom when she was raising her three children. It was during this time that Stasia went to an informational meeting about the League of Women Voters. She decided she wanted to become involved...and involved in the LWV she was and is!

As a result of being involved in the League's provisional study area on recreation, she was named chairwoman of the City of Plattsburgh Recreation Committee and was involved in the planning of Bailey Avenue and the West End Park.

Through the years of Stasia's involvement in the LWV of the Plattsburgh area, Stasia has held every elected office; treasurer, secretary, president, et ceteras. She has presided over several political forums; has been moderator for Mountain Lake television political candidate debates; and has coordinated and participated in voter registration drives on student campuses and other public locations. Stasia has also created and produced power point presentations on *LWV of the Plattsburgh Area* and on *Voter Registration*. Stasia continues to update

continued from p. 4 “Woman of History”

these presentations. For many years, Stasia has been the editor of the LWV of Plattsburgh Area newsletter, *The Informer*. Stasia generously continues to be the editor even though she is no longer a board member of the LWV of the Plattsburgh Area. (Thank you, thank you!!) Indeed she is currently the co-president of the LWV in Lee County, Florida. Stasia is now a resident of Florida but she continues to summer in Plattsburgh.

Stasia states that “voter information” remains the biggest issue the LWV needs to champion. She says it is important for the LWV to get its name out there. She further advises that “Getting the youth involved is essential for the League to remain viable. Educating the public on issues legislators are promoting is also crucial.”

Stasia is such an asset to women. She has been involved with LWV for over 35 years...If you “Google” Stasia Arcarese, you will come up with not less than 72 entries. Stasia is a woman of the 21st century. She is energetic, youthful, creative and committed to making the best even better. The League of Women Voters of the Plattsburgh area has been most fortunate to have Stasia Arcarese as part of its history.

Thank you, Stasia.

2008 LWVUS Legislative Priorities

At the January LWVUS Board meeting, the Board approved the following legislative priorities for 2008: Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Administration, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Tax Policy. Given the current political environment, it was determined that the priorities of the first session of the 110th Congress (2007) are relevant for the second session (2008). The addition of Tax Policy is in recognition that income inequality has grown substantially over the last several years and a comprehensive look at tax policy is possible. These priorities will be regularly reviewed and adjustments could be made should new opportunities for effective action emerge.

Holt Bill: Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act of 2008

Dear League Leaders:

The “Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act of 2008” (H.R. 5036) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on January 17, 2008 by Representative Rush Holt. Judy Duffy, LWVUS Advocacy chair, and I met with Rep. Rush Holt, for over an hour on Monday to discuss the provisions of H.R. 5036. He expressed appreciation for the League’s support for Section 2 of the bill which would provide federal funding to replace voting systems that do not use or produce a paper ballot verified by the voter or a paper ballot printout verifiable by the voter at the time of casting the vote. We discussed at length Section 3 of the bill which would provide federal funding for those election jurisdictions that choose to conduct manual audits of the November 2008 results. As we talked, it became clear that auditing elections is a complex subject that even has different meanings to different people.

I believe that the auditing of elections is an area in which Leagues can play a vital role. Therefore, I have decided to form a Task Force to provide the LWVUS Board information and advice about election auditing that we can all use as this subject develops nationwide. With regard to the LWVUS position on Section 3 of H.R. 5036, because the bill, if enacted, may have the effect of giving voters in audited jurisdictions some additional level of confidence in the final results of the election, supporting Section 3 of the bill would be consistent with the position adopted at LWVUS Convention 2006. Likewise, even though the bill’s provisions do not themselves require the application of uniform auditing practices, the audits which would be funded under the bill could yield useful information that could lead to the development and use of uniform standards. Accordingly, local and state Leagues may express their support of Section 3 of the bill to their Congressional delegations.

Sincerely,
5 Mary Wilson

Public Advocacy for Voter Protection

The League of Women Voters Education Fund’s (LWVEF) Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project has been created to help bolster the League’s capacity for continuing and expanding its critical state-based advocacy in order to prevent the disenfranchisement of eligible citizens, particularly underserved populations.



The League is working to:

1. Oppose ID and Documentary Proof of Citizenship

As many as 21 million Americans do not have government issued picture identification cards. New laws that require a picture ID at the polls or proof of citizenship are barriers that block citizen voter participation. The League therefore opposes ID and documentary proof-of-citizenship requirements.

2. Improve Administration of Statewide Voter Database Systems

The policies and procedures that govern statewide voter registration systems directly impact whether or not eligible voters are rightfully added and wrongfully removed from the system. Proper management of the systems is essential to ensuring that all eligible voters can cast their ballots. Therefore, the League is working to ensure the proper management of these systems.

3. Guard Against Undue Restrictions on Voter Registration

A number of states require voter registration programs of any size to register with the state; some mandate state-run training. While training and registration requirements may seem reasonable, the details of compliance can unreasonably restrict programs. Increases in fines against individuals and organizations also make it cost prohibitive for some organizations to conduct registration drives.

4. Improve Polling Place Management

The design and operation of polling places is critical to ensuring that all eligible voters can cast their vote and have their vote counted. The League believes we need to examine current practices with an emphasis on how minorities move through the polling process and on those practices that improve both efficiency and the voter’s perception of voting.

5. Improve Poll Worker Training and Strengthening Poll Workers

Poll workers, more than any other individual, have direct contact with voters by helping them understand ballots and voting machines, checking registration and determining the use of provisional ballots. Because poll workers are essential to the voting process, the League is dedicated to working with elections officials to ensure there are adequate numbers of well trained poll workers.

League Files Amicus Brief in North Carolina Voting Rights Act Case

LWVUS filed an amicus brief in the Supreme Court that will determine the rights of minority voters in North Carolina. The brief urges the Court to hear the case which will review the Voting Rights Act in relation to a 2003 redistricting in North Carolina.

League files Amicus Brief in Indiana Voter ID Case

A joint amicus brief was filed in the Supreme Court case by LWV of Indiana, LWV of Indianapolis and LWVUS that will determine the constitutionality of an Indiana law that requires voters to present photo ID at polling places. The brief details experiences of a number of Indiana voters where votes were either not counted or the right to vote was denied entirely. The brief points out that while those burdened by the Voter ID Law may be in the minority that does not change the fact that each individual has the fundamental right to vote. Further, the law in question gives an astounding amount of discretion to polling officials who are political appointees in that these appointees are able to challenge any voter without constitutionally required limitations or guidelines for the use of this power.

League Celebrated 88th Birthday on Feb. 14th!

“Today we celebrate the League and its 88 years of proud service! As we laud the generations of Leaguers who made our communities better, I also want to celebrate all of you, the current generation of League leaders, and our members. You are confirmation of our legacy as you continue to provide trustworthy and balanced resources to citizens and lawmakers, particularly in this presidential election year making sure voters are registered, educated and confident in the political process. I believe our democracy is stronger because of the League’s work and perseverance. Happy Birthday and thank you for all you do!”



6 Sincerely, Mary Wilson