



The Broome-Tioga Voter

Bulletin of the *League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties*

www.lwv-broometioga.org

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Voting Rights, Election Process, Citizen Rights, Congress and the Presidency,
United Nations, Trade, U.S. Relations with Developing Countries, Arms Control,
Military Spending, National Resources, Resource Management, Air Quality,
Waste Management, Equality of Opportunity, Fiscal Policy, Health Care,
Child Care, Gun Control ...



Your Input Is Needed:

LWVUS Program Planning

2008-2010



Mail your ideas to Anne Taft,

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See the January 2008 Voter for additional details.

Co-President's Column:

Take Action!

Perhaps you hesitate to take action because you don't know how. Maybe it just seems too difficult, looking up your representatives' names and addresses, writing and typing a letter to each, and stamping and mailing them. With the convenient tools provided on the national and state League websites, it could hardly be easier. Both national and state websites do the hard work for you, including looking up the name of your representative and suggesting a sample letter which you can use or modify to your liking.

If you are interested in lobbying your representatives on important League issues, you can choose any of several ways to do so. Perhaps the easiest is to sign up for free Action Alerts from the National and/or the New York State League. But perhaps you don't like to interrupt your routine to respond to an Action Alert. The easiest choice is to sign up for Action Alerts but save them in a special "folder" in your computer to respond when it is convenient. You can also go to the "Take Action" section of the LWVUS or LWNYS websites at any time to take action on the issue or issues that interest you the most.

On the LWVUS website, click on the "Take Action" part of the blue bar immediately below the masthead. This takes you to the "TAKE ACTION" page, where the first paragraph includes a link to the page where you can join the LWVUS Grassroots Lobby Corps. This free service alerts you to take action on urgent issues. The page also includes calls to action and details of recent actions. Topics in the pull-down menu that appears when you point to "Take Action" take you to press releases, updates, and calls to action on several topics of particular interest to Leaguers. Explore this section of the LWVUS website now so you'll know just where to find what you want as the current congressional session heats up.

On the LWNYS website, click on "Take Action", which appears on the blue line immediately below the masthead, to the right of the date. This link takes you

to the "CITIZEN ACTION TOOLKIT (CATT)" page. Below the description of the Toolkit, there is a box titled "New York Legislative Action Center". The first link in this box takes you to the sign-up form for the LWNYS Action E-List. This free service sends out email alerts when your involvement can make a critical difference in the NYS Legislature. A wealth of other information is also available here. Enter your address for the names of your US Senators and Representatives, and NYS Senator and Assembly person, including district numbers. At the bottom of the box are links to information about officials, agencies, local elected officials, media organizations, and current issues and legislation. I encourage you to explore this section of the LWNYS website to get a sampling of the variety of information available.

~ Anne Taft

National Healthcare Programs

Last month's column acquainted us with the H.R.676 Bill and its tenets concerning a National Healthcare Program.

This column shows how a Single Payer National Healthcare Program can be financed.

~ Clare Simeone

The following is an excerpt from www.healthcare-now.org/resources/financing_hr676.htm.

Financing HR 676, The United States National Health Insurance Act, (Medicare For All)

Medicare For All would reduce health spending in 2005 from \$1,918 trillion to \$1,861.3 trillion (a savings of over \$56 billion) while covering all the uninsured. Ninety-five percent of families would pay less for health care than they do today. This is a 3% reduction in over-all health care spending: what a family pays, business, and government for health care.

Continued on page 3...

Sources of Revenue (2005)

>Government: \$852.5 billion

Keep existing federal, state and local revenues that currently pay for Medicare (employer and employee payroll taxes of 1.45% each or \$194 billion) and other federal and state programs.

>Employers and Employees: \$441.6 billion

Implement a modest payroll tax of 3.3% on all public and private employers and employees, while eliminating employer premiums for private health plans. This is in addition to the 1.45% payroll tax that people are already paying. So the total payroll tax is 4.75% on the employer, and 4.75% on the employee. Add a 5% Health tax on the richest 5% of Americans; 10% tax on richest 1%: \$221.8 billion

>Tax on stock and bond transactions: \$144.6 billion
Anyone who buys or sells a stock will pay a transaction tax equal to one quarter of one percent of the purchase price. For example, a \$100 stock purchase will be taxed a total of 50 cents.

>Close corporate tax shelter loopholes: \$105.2 billion

>Repeal the Bush tax cut of 2001 and invest the Bush 'economic stimulus plan' of 2003 into health care: \$206 billion

>Household: \$65.9 billion

Since all medically necessary services including prescription drugs will be covered, the only expenses left for individuals will be over-the-counter drugs such as aspirin, elective cosmetic surgery, etc. This represents an 80% reduction in current out-of-pocket expenses.

>Existing non-patient revenues: \$44.5 billion

Existing funds raised from philanthropic donations from individuals and foundations, and from hospital gift shops will continue to contribute a small percentage of the total budget.

Total budget: \$1.861 trillion *This progressive fund-

ing package was developed in 2001 by Tony Maz-zochi (Labor Party) and Drs. David Himmelstein and Steffie Woolhandler (Harvard), with assistance from Dean Baker (Center for Economic Research and Policy). For more info, contact Joel Segal, Rep. Conyers, (202) 225-5126.

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Finance Drive – Help Needed

Our finance campaign will be starting soon, and I need your help. Over the past number of years our contact list of potential donors has grown smaller and more outdated. We need an influx of new names!

Please think of people or businesses you know who might like to support the mission and efforts of our League. Then pass their names and addresses along to us so that we can give them that opportunity! We will check your suggestions against our current list to ensure that no one receives duplicate mailings.

Names and addresses can be either e-mailed to me at pgiglio@chowc.org or hard-copy mailed to me, Pat Giglio, 51 Clearview Place, Binghamton, New York 13901. I appreciate any help you are able to provide us with this critical task.

~ Pat Giglio

Identification Statement

The Broome-Tioga Voter is published 9 times a year (January, February, March, April, May, July/August, September, October, and November/December) by the League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties, 38 Oakridge Drive, Binghamton, NY 13903.

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Calendar

Tuesday	February 12	Board Meeting
Tuesday	March 11	Board Meeting
Tuesday	March 25	Program Meeting, details to be announced in next issue.
Tuesday	April 8	Board Meeting
Tuesday	April 22	Program Meeting, details to be announced in next issue.
Tuesday	May 13	Program Meeting
	June 13-17	LWVUS Convention,

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