



RRV VOTER

NOV.
DEC.
2006

A look ahead...

**GUESTS are always welcome
at League meetings!**

CANDIDATE FORUMS

Thursday, Oct. 19, 6:30 - 8 pm.

- Cass County Sheriff
- ND District 13

Legislative Candidates
West Fargo City Commission chamber
800 4th Ave. E., West Fargo

Sponsors: LWVRRV & West Fargo Chamber
of Commerce

Saturday, Oct. 21, 9 am - noon

- ND Districts 11, 21, 27 & 45
- Cass County Recorder

Fargo City Commission chamber,
200 3rd St. N., Fargo

Sponsors: LWVRRV & FM Chamber of
Commerce

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 5:30 - 8:30 pm.

- MN Senate, District 9; House 9A & 9B
- Clay Co. Dist. 3 Commissioner, Clay Co.
Auditor & Clay Co. Attorney
Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead

Sponsors: LWVRRV & FM Chamber of
Commerce

First Friday, Nov. 3, 12:00 noon

Lunch available beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave N, Fargo
*Fargo 20/20 Renewable Energy Initiative - A
Balanced Discussion*

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 7 am—8 pm

ELECTION DAY

First Friday, Dec. 1, 12:00 noon

Lunch available beginning at 11:30 am

Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave N, Fargo
Women in Corrections

President's letter

Dear League Members,

This will be the last Voter you receive before the November election so I would like to use this opportunity as a get out the vote push. As a League member you are most likely highly consistent voter. However, I am sure there are people in your life who do not get to the polls. Each of us needs to work toward our shared League goal; to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

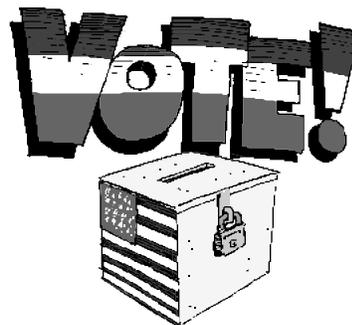
The first step to get citizens out to vote is through education and excitement about the issues and the candidates. What better way to do this then to escorting her/him to a LWV sponsored candidates forum? The League is hosting a forum in West Fargo Oct. 19th, Fargo Oct. 21st and Moorhead Oct. 24th. I would encourage each League member to attend a candidates forum and to bring that person you know who may not be civically engaged.

Secondly it is important to remember that people have busy lives and this is often the reason they don't get to the polling booth. The easiest solution for many people is to vote early. Encourage your busy friends and neighbors to vote absentee. Cass county residents can contact the county Auditors office or go to <http://www.co.cass.nd.us/departments/auditor/absentee.htm>. The same is true for Clay county residents <http://www.co.clay.mn.us/Depts/Auditor/AbsBall.htm>.

So please keep our mission and goal at the front of your mind as we near Election Day. Sometimes those we know who don't vote regularly just need the slightest amount of encouragement.

Sincerely,

*Amy Jacobson, President
League of Women Voters
of the Red River Valley
701-261-4858
ajacoson@ppmn.org*



The LWVRRV Blog - a new communication tool for members and citizens

A new feature on the LWVRRV website will increase participation and activism among members and non-members. The LWVRRV blog is an important communication tool that can be accessed on the Internet and will be managed by members of the League. To best describe what a blog is, envision it as a more responsive and broader form of email. With email, a person can send messages back and forth to friends, family, or co-workers. But what if this person had a message or a vision that needed to be accessed by a larger audience? A website could possibly fulfill this role, but often is too time consuming and costly to maintain. A blog can then become the most efficient and easiest tool for communication on the Internet. Blogging is free, can be reached by a larger audience, and encourages feedback and participation from its viewers with comments and links available for further inquiries.

The LWVRRV blog incorporates much of the LWVRRV's mission statement of access to information and active participation. It will encourage readers to respond to questions from the League (also a perfect tool to use for studies), participate in local events and programs held by the League, and leave room for comments and questions from citizens. Members will be able to communicate with other members, share reports and policies with the public, and educate a broader audience about the important role the League has in our community.

I will be posting new messages on the blog weekly, so check into the site often. If anyone needs further assistance, I can be reached at this email address: bakeramy@mnstate.edu.

If anyone has an idea about a topic that could be added, leave a comment on the blog or send me an email. I encourage anyone who wants to understand more about blogging to check out the site. Also, share with friends, family, or any other interested parties so they can participate in the LWVRRV blog. The blog can be found in two locations:

<http://lwwnd.org/rrv.html> -this is the League's website; there should be a link that automatically directs you to the blog. Or it can be found here: <http://lwwredrivervalley.blogspot.com/>

—Amy Baker

Candidates' Forums

Cass County Sheriff & District 13

When: Thursday, October 19, 2006, 6:30-8:00 pm

Where: West Fargo City Commission Chamber, 800 4th Ave E, West Fargo

- 6:30-7:15 pm Cass Co. Sheriff
- 7:15-8:00 pm District 13

Fargo area Legislative candidates & Cass County Recorder

When: Saturday, October 21, 2006, 9:00am-noon

Where: Fargo City Commission Chamber, 200 3rd St N, Fargo

- 9:00-9:35 am ND District 11
- 9:40-10:15 am ND District 21
- 10:20-10:35 am Cass Co Recorder
- 10:40-11:15 am ND District 27
- 11:20-11:55 am ND District 45

Clay County

When: Tuesday, October 24, 2006, 5:30-8:00 pm

Where: Hjemkomst Center Auditorium

- Clay Co Commission District 3: 5:30--5:50 pm
- Clay Co Auditor/Treasurer: 5:50—6:00 pm
- District 9 MN Senate: 6:05--6:30 pm
- District 9A MN House: 6:35—7:00 pm
- District 9B MN House: 7:05—7:30 pm
- Clay Co Attorney: 7:35-8:00 pm

These forums are free and open to the public. The panelists will answer questions that have been submitted by the audience, so we please help make them a success by attending and participating.

Join the League!

Send your check to:

*League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley
PO Box 295, Fargo, ND 58107*

Individual — \$45.00; Household — \$67.50

Student — \$15.00

Include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address.

Did You Know?

An Early Example of Women's Political Power

Prohibition was written into the North Dakota State Constitution in the 1880's.

The North Dakota Woman's Christian Temperance Union was so strong that they persuaded the North Dakota Constitutional assembly to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in the state of North Dakota.

Many North Dakota women banded together as they found themselves widows when their spouses went to town to drink and then never returned home. The men were found frozen to death as they attempted to return to their wives and children. Since unmarried women had few legal rights, some of these widows quickly married a brother-in-law or acquaintance, so that they could keep their land and manage the farmsteads. In forming the ND WCTU and pushing for Prohibition, these women became a political force.

—*Diane Briggs*

News From the LWVUS

September 21, 2006

League Denounces Passage of Voter ID Legislation H.R. 4844 is a Means to Discriminate Against Voters

Washington, D.C. – National League President Mary G. Wilson today strongly denounced yesterday's House passage of the so-called "Federal Election Integrity Act" (H.R. 4844). The legislation requires eligible citizens to present government-issued, current and valid photo identification at the polling place in 2008 and proof of citizenship by 2010.

"This is a truly sad day for our nation. The House of Representatives voted in favor of legislation that masquerades as protection against voter identity fraud. In reality, this bill is a means to discriminate against legal, eligible voters," said Wilson.

"Any proposal that restricts voter registration or raises barriers to voting is a fear-based approach instead of a fact-based solution," Wilson stated.

"Some would have you believe that this legislation cures voter identity fraud," continued Wilson. "But there remains a lack of evidence of instances in which voters misrepresent their identity at the polls."

"It sounds good to stand on the floor of Congress and demand equality and fairness in elections, but when one takes a closer look behind the political smokescreen, it is clear that this bill's restrictions will disproportionately impact those who are least likely to have a current photo ID: the elderly, young people, people of color, rural voters and others," said Wilson.

"In modern society, it is easy to assume that everyone has appropriate ID or can prove their citizenship. But it is more difficult than one might think," Wilson said. "The costs in time and money of obtaining proof of citizenship and photo ID would clearly discourage voter participation."

"The League hopes members of the Senate will do the right thing for all voters by voting against this legislation and a return to the dark days of exclusion, which relied on such measures as literacy tests and poll taxes," Wilson stated. The League sent two letters to members of Congress over the past few months strongly urging them to oppose H.R. 4844.

"Congress should not be playing politics with our right to vote. The League and our members in communities nationwide will work to keep this bill from passing the Senate and becoming the law of the land," concluded Wilson.

Encouraging Voter Turnout and Involvement

A major part of the mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage citizen engagement and participation. And this year, the LWVRRV has chosen Encouraging Voter Turnout and Involvement as our local study topic.

Locally only about 60% of eligible voters participate on Election Day. The numbers are much lower in local elections.

Do you have any ideas about why so many eligible citizens do not vote? Would you be interested in being part of a committee that works on this local study topic?

If so, please contact Amy Jacobson, 701-261-4858 or ajacobson@ppmns.org. The more of us who step up and help with this study, the more we will learn from each other.

League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley
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2005-2006 LWVRRV Officers

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*Margaret Blue, Barb Headrick, Lynne Olson,
Sherri Seeba and Carol Zielinski.*

The League of Women Voters values diversity in its members. In principle and in practice, the League knows no barriers on the basis of age, creed, disability, gender, national origin, race or sexual orientation, and encourages full participation in and contribution to the organization by all its members.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League Vision, Beliefs and Intentions:

The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political membership organization which:

Acts after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels.

Builds citizen participation in the democratic process.

Engages communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund is a nonpartisan public policy educational organization which:

Builds citizen participation in the democratic process.

Studies key community issues at all governmental levels in an unbiased manner.

Enables people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management.

We believe in:

Respect for individuals.

The value of diversity.

The empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities.

We will:

Act with trust, integrity and professionalism.

Operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both members and the public.

Take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership.

Acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future.