

A LOOK AHEAD...

GUESTS are always welcome at League meetings!

- Thursday, May 1** **7:00-8:30 PM**
Fargo City Commission Chamber, 200 3rd St N
LWVRRV Candidates' Forums – cosponsored by the F-M Chamber of Commerce
Fargo City Commission 7:00-7:40 PM
Fargo School Board 7:45-8:30 PM
- First Friday, May 2** **12:00 noon-1:00 PM**
(lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)
Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave N, Fargo
Topic: Getting the word out about polling place changes in Cass County
Speaker: Mike Montplaisir- Cass Co Auditor
- Thursday, May 8** **6:30-8:00 PM**
NDSU Memorial Union – Century Theater
Debate on the proposed ½ cent sales tax in Cass Co.
High School Forensic Debate with public forum input
For more information, contact Chuck at PEPP, chuck@pepp.org or 218-236-5434
- Tuesday, May 27** **starting at 6:30 PM**
West Fargo City Commission Chamber
800 4th Ave E, West Fargo
LWVRRV Candidates' Forums – cosponsored by the West Fargo Chamber of Commerce
-West Fargo City Commission Candidates
-West Fargo Park Board Candidates
-Cass Co Commission District #5 Candidates
- Tuesday, June 10** **7:00 AM-8:00 PM**
2008 ND Primary Election
-City, School & Park Board Elections for Fargo and West Fargo
-Ballot Measures in Cass Co., Fargo & West Fargo
- (Note that most polling sites in Cass County are now different from those at previous elections. Check for your correct site before going out to vote.)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear LWVRRV members and friends,

Today it looks like spring has arrived; a time of new beginnings. At our Annual Meeting, Lois Altenburg and I were elected as co-presidents.

As a Minnesota resident, I will try to bring to League the most important issues for the state, Clay County and Moorhead; Lois will do the same for North Dakota for Cass County and Fargo. We both hope that this will lead to interesting First Friday meetings and entice new members to join.

Lois will be attending the North Dakota LWV council this spring and I will attend the Minnesota LWV council and a special presentation on Judicial Independence and Impartiality that features United State Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor as a key note speaker. We both hope to bring back fresh ideas to enrich our meetings.

The LWVRRV, during this national election year, will be holding many candidates forums for local races. We need your help to do so. We will also hold some issue forums. These is another opportunity for your participation. As a Board we will be evaluating the First Friday meetings. Do you have ideas on how to encourage attendance and participation in meetings? Would a different time be better? A different day? More information about the presentation? Some way to discuss after the presentation? Presentation-targeted audiences such as Minnesota or North Dakota residents? This is your organization. Let any board member know your opinions. We thank you for sharing them with us.

Patti Kratky, LWVRRV co-president

LWVUS BOARD ADOPTS IMMIGRATION POSITION

On January 7, 2008, the League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley held a consensus meeting on immigration policy. This meeting was well attended, with 16-18 members and guests. Members came to the meeting well-studied and prepared to take positions and, when necessary, adjust to reach consensus.

In the end, the National LWV office received a report that contained not only consensus positions but additional language to fortify the group's position on some of the questions. The meeting was very well-run and an amazing amount of work was accomplished on time. The meeting should have been video-recorded, as it was a proud moment for the LWVRRV and a testament to the strong women who were part of that group.

This local meeting was part of a lengthy and comprehensive study of this complex issue by grassroots members of the LWVUS. As a result of this study, the LWVUS Board of Directors unanimously adopted the League's position on immigration, which calls for a path to citizenship for current unauthorized immigrants.

The 18-month study was successful thanks to the hard work of the Immigration Study Committee, led by LWVUS Board Member Carolie Mullan, and the high level of participation – 67 percent (560 Leagues).

LWVUS Immigration Position

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Criteria for Legal Admission to the U.S.

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.;
- Education and training needs of the U.S.;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the U.S. to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the U.S.

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.

CASS COUNTY HALF-CENT SALES TAX INITIATIVE

The following question will be on June 10, 2008 Cass County ballot

Shall Cass County Government be authorized to implement and collect a one half of one percent sales tax as outlined in Resolution #2008-4 for a period of twelve consecutive years from and after October 1, 2008, to be used exclusively for the implementation of the Growth Plan for economic development, including debt obligations related to implementation of the Growth Plan incurred after October 1, 2008, in Cass County in accordance with the Growth Plan and such Resolution?

Excerpts from Fargo-Moorhead Economic Development Corporation website, www.gfmedc.com.

Look on this website for more information about the Growth Plan and the proposed sales tax.

Also plan to attend the High School Forensic Debate on this ballot measure on May 8. For more details about the debate, see A Look Ahead on page 1 of this Voter.

From: The Growth Plan - Executive Summary

The effects of globalization and the rapid pace of change in the global economy present challenges and opportunities for the Fargo Moorhead metropolitan statistical area. In order to compete and win in the competition for economic and job growth, our community must evolve and engage in new economic development strategies.

These strategies focus on identifying and pursuing growth sectors of the U.S. economy in which Fargo Moorhead has the potential to become a national or global destination. Growth sectors are target industries that are adding jobs in the United States and are projected to do so for many years.

Through our research of today's rapidly-changing U.S. and global economies and our knowledge of how technology companies pick their locations, we have determined the most important features of a growth economy. Strategies and/or investment must be focused on the following five areas, which competitive firms in growing sectors demand:

- **Core Knowledge Infrastructure**
- **Entrepreneurial Infrastructure**
- **Telecommunication Infrastructure**
- **Air Service**
- **K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Strategies**

From: The Growth Plan -Questions & Answers How long will the half-penny sales tax remain in effect?

It will run for 12 years, from Oct. 1, 2008 to Sept. 30, 2020.

How much will it raise?

Projections indicate it will raise roughly \$9.4 million the first year with a four percent increase in each consecutive year.

How much will it cost me?

A family making \$40,000-\$50,000 per year would pay about \$47 per year.

What process is in place to ensure accountability?

A Cass County-appointed Sales Tax Resolution Subcommittee recommended a three-part governance model for the expenditure of funds. Proposals must be consistent with the Growth Plan. Each funding decision will be subject to three levels of approval, each of which entails a public meeting open to the public. These meetings will ensure the county's citizens have opportunities to provide input.

1. The GFMEDC Board of Directors, through its Executive Committee, is responsible for investigating, designing, and proposing all expenditures.

2. The Board of Directors of the Growth Initiative Fund (GIF) will consider the proposal for approval or rejection. The GIF is an existing non-profit corporation that manages a revolving loan fund and whose members are appointed by the City of Fargo, the City of West Fargo, Cass County and the GFMEDC.

3. If a proposal clears those two boards, it will be considered for approval or rejection by the Cass County Commission.

Ballot language for other measures on the Fargo & West Fargo June 10 ballot

A Home Rule Charter Amendment on the Fargo ballot, relating to initiated and referred measures.

Shall Article 4(F) of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Fargo be amended to provide that initiated or referred ordinances approved by a vote of the voters may only be repealed or amended by a vote of the voters?

Currently, Article 4(F) of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Fargo provides that an initiated or referred ordinance approved by the voters may be repealed or amended by a two-thirds majority of the city commissioners within one year of the effective date of the initiated or referred ordinance and by simple majority thereafter.

Two different measures on the Fargo ballot relating to smoking.

Shall an initiated ordinance relating to prohibiting smoking in public indoor workplaces in the city of Fargo including all bars, truck stops and certain places of public access rented for private functions?

and

Shall ordinance number 4639 relating to prohibiting smoking in public indoor workplaces in the city of Fargo except for an all-enclosed bar area which prohibits entry of customers under the age of 21; in designated areas of truck stops restricted for use of professional drivers and their adult companions only; and in J.T. Cigarro Tobacco Bar be adopted?

An advisory vote on the West Fargo ballot relating to smoking.

Smoking in public indoor workplaces prohibited:

A. The provisions of Sections 23-12-09 through 23-

12-11 of the North Dakota Century code as now enacted, are hereby adopted, except as provided in Sections B, and shall govern the regulation of smoking in public places and places of employment as if set out in this Chapter.

B. The exemptions from the prohibition of smoking in public places set forth in Section 23-12-10 (2) f, g, h, as set out below are deleted, and smoking is also prohibited in those places within the city limits.

f. Bars

g. Any place of public access rented or leased for private functions from which the general public and children are excluded and arrangements for the function are under the control of the function sponsor.

h. Separately enclosed areas in truck stops which are accessible only to adults.

SECTION 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after 8:00 a.m. on July 1, 2008 or the time an ordinance with the same restrictions on smoking goes into effect in the City of Fargo, North Dakota, whichever date is later.

League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley

P.O. Box 295

Fargo, ND 58107-0295

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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

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.

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.

Join the League!

Individual — \$50

Student— \$15.00

Send your check to:

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

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

2008-2009 LWVRRV Officers

Co-President:	Lois Altenburg Patty Kratky
First Vice President	Carol Sawicki
Second Vice President	Mary Tintes
Secretary	Amy Jacobson
Treasurer	Sherri Seeba

Board of Directors

Sharon Benzal, Donna Chalimonczyk, Jessica Clark, Barbara Headrick, Amanda Noce, Betsy Vinz, and Carol Zielinski.