



# Bulletin

" . . . we are going to be a semi-political body. In that body we have got to be non-partisan and all-partisan."  
~Carrie Chapman Catt, 1920

League of Women Voters of Indianapolis  
October 2009  
Volume 91, Number 2

## Notes from LWV-US:

**Global climate change** is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts.

The League believes that now is the time to act on global climate change. We can reduce global warming pollution by using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient, make cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline, and shift to cleaner technologies.

To reinforce and expand on those efforts, the League urges federal action that reduces global warming pollutants on a national and global scale

LWV-Indianapolis:  
Voicemail: 317-767-4187  
Email: LWVIndy@sbcglobal.net  
www.lwvindy.org

## Meeting and Event Information

### Election Day

Tuesday 3 Nov Review the ballot questions on pages 8 & 9, then  
Take a friend to vote!

### Membership Event

Wednesday 4 Nov Sate House Tour, 11:30 a.m.  
11:30 a.m. RSVP by November 2  
(See page 2 for information)

### Concurrence Discussion and Board Meeting

Wednesday 4 Nov North UMC, 3808 N. Meridian St.  
6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Hazardous Waste Concurrence Discussion  
(See page 6 for information.)  
7:00 p.m. LWV-Indianapolis Board Meeting

### Lunch with LWV

Friday 20 Nov Guest: Leslie Barnes, State Election Board Member  
Noon, Double Eagle Cafeteria,  
Scottish Rite Cathedral, 650 N. Meridian

### Lunch with LWV

No Lunch with League in December.  
Friday 15 Jan Mark your calendars for 2010.  
Friday 19 Feb Speakers to be announced.

Thursday 18 March Coalition Lunch with LWV/CWU/AAUW  
in place of Lunch with League in March.

### General Meeting – National & Local Program Planning

Saturday 23 Jan North UMC, 3808 N. Meridian St.  
10:00 a.m. Position review and soup lunch.  
Details coming in January Bulletin.

*The League of Women Voters is a time-tested nonpartisan, nonprofit, volunteer political organization, dedicated to promoting active and informed participation in government - from the school district to the nation, and from voter registration to public service. Although LWV sometimes advocates for or against issues, it never supports or opposes particular candidates.*

## Lunch With LWV

**Purpose:**

to inform us as citizens and voters

**Place:**

Double Eagle Café  
inside Scottish Rite Cathedral  
650 N Meridian St, Indianapolis

**Date:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays

**Time:**

12 NOON – 1 P.M.

**Parking:**

Free in the lot west of the building, accessed  
from North Street

**Plan:**

Come through the cafeteria line any time after  
11:30, buy your meal, and join us in the Truman  
Room to eat, listen, and discuss.

Invite a friend, and join us.

### Friday, 20 November

Our November lunch will feature two members of the State Election board who will speak on current election laws. Leslie Barnes will be accompanied by another associate from the election board and they will update us on the office and its role in state government. It should be a very informative meeting. This will be a great opportunity to have direct input to this important board.

### No Lunch with LWV in December.

#### Lunch Wrap-Up

Phyllis Nieske

The LWV Lunches at the Scottish Rite Cathedral have been a great opportunity for League members and guests to meet and greet in the daytime. It has been a very popular luncheon and we hope it continues to be so. Please spread the word and invite friends and associates. We will try to invite a wide variety of speakers. If you have any recommendations please let us know.

Thanks to all who attended the Sept. 18th LWV Third Friday luncheon with Matthew Tully, political writer for The Indianapolis Star. It was our best attendance of the year and Matthew said he would be happy to return next year.

## Membership Events – New, Prospective and Veteran Members

The League of Women Voters of Indianapolis will be coordinating a variety of special tours spotlighting the three levels of government at work here in Indiana. Focusing on state government we will have a tour of the Indiana Statehouse to be conducted on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.

The tour, which will last about forty-five minutes, will tell us a little about the history and architecture of the building which has served as our State Capitol since 1888. Most of the tour will concentrate on the legislative processes that take place there. In addition to seeing where our State Representatives and Senators conduct their business we hope to learn more about the scheduling of sessions, what the Legislative Services Agency does and how we go about interacting with the whole process.

Afterwards those interested in talking about upcoming League events or those with just general questions on their League membership or League plans are invited to join us for lunch at the cafeteria in the South Government Office building. The tour is free and lunch will be on your own. Total time for the tour and lunch should be two hours. The tour will leave from the information desk in the Statehouse promptly at 11:30 so please give yourself ample time for parking and clearing security as all guests are required to pass through metal detectors.

The two entrances that are open for the public are the upper level east doors closest to Capitol Avenue and Market Street and the lower level west doors with access from Robert D. Orr Plaza. For more information on the statehouse visit the IN.gov website. Space is limited so please reserve your spot for the tour by contacting the League at 767-4187 or lwindy@sbcglobal.net by November 2nd.

Future tours will highlight local government by touring the City-County Building in February and the federal government with a tour of the Federal Courthouse of the Southern District of Indiana in late March/early April.

## Health Care Reform Program

On September 30 the LWV-Indianapolis hosted a health care reform program at North United Methodist Church. Approximately 40 people attended – many of whom were Leaguers, but a solid number of “new faces” were in the crowd too!

The evening began with a history and overview of the LWVUS position on health care and then Dr. Stephen Jay, former Chair of the IU School of Medicine’s Department of Public Health and public health historian, presented an overview of health care insurance history in America. (Did you know America has been debating the idea of national health insurance since 1915?) Dr. Terrell Zollinger, Associate Director of the Bowen Research Center and Director of the Indiana Center for Health Workforce Studies, next discussed the dearth of primary care physicians in medicine. A paucity of PCP’s causes obvious negative impacts on society, but Dr. Zollinger also pointed out the logistical problems this fact creates when and if universal health care insurance is made available. Dr. Eric Wright, Associate Dean of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI, went on to discuss catch phrases and terms (e.g., socialism) that are being used without full understanding. He also pointed out we live in the health care society “we” have created. By allowing direct advertising of new drugs and hospitals, devaluing healthy living, and not teaching youth about their bodies, we have created a system that feeds on itself.

The audience was also lucky enough to have Justin Ohlemiller, Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Communications for Rep. Andre Carson, and Joshua Gillespie, Field Representative for Dan Burton, in attendance. Both answered a few questions, encouraged the audience to learn more about HR 3200 (the Democratic health care bill) and HR 3400 (the Republican health care bill – yes, the Republicans have a bill too!).

Leaguers are encouraged to contact Joshua and Justin with questions:  
Justin.ohlemiller@mail.house.gov or 317.283.6516 (Rep. Carson’s office)  
Joshua.gillespie@mail.house.gov or 317.848.0201 (Rep. Burton’s office)

## Making Democracy Work Award

Next year marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League of Women Voters of the United States, of Indiana, and even of our local Indianapolis League!

The board is busy thinking of ways to celebrate this momentous occasion and WE NEED YOUR HELP. If enough member support is generated, the LWV Indianapolis would like to mark the occasion by giving out a “Making Democracy Work Award” (MDWA). Among other things, the MDWA recognizes community leaders who, like the League, work to safeguard democracy.

Assistance is needed in a preliminary planning phase that will take place between now and the end of November. This early planning phase would include reading through LWVUS materials on the MDWA and making recommendations to the board on how to proceed. (How large of an undertaking is this? How would the League solicit nominations? What kind of media/marketing timeline should be kept? When should we give the award?)

Contact the League to learn how you can help in this important planning phase (767-4187 or lwvindy@sbcglobal.net).

## New Website: [www.LWVINDY.org](http://www.LWVINDY.org)

The League of Women Voters of Indianapolis has a new website. The new address is simple and easy to remember but make sure to add it to your “bookmarks”: LWVIndy.org!

The new website is based off a template created by the LWV-California called “League Easy Web.” It provides a look that is consistent with the national website, LWV.org, and the Indiana state website, LWVIN.org. The template system allows us to easily update and change the site as needed.

Our former site was hosted by the City of Indianapolis and we are very grateful for the years of service they provided us.

Please check out the new site and send us any comments and suggestions!

## LWVIN Regional Workshop

Tracy Heaton deMartinez

With Karen Kay Leonard and Harriet Wilkins, I attended the regional workshop on August 29th. The workshop was held in Vincennes and was hosted by LWV-Knox County.

The morning included an overview of several state and national issues. Currently LWVIN is reviewing its positions, and committees are forming for Motor Vehicle Licensing, Tax System, School Finance, and General Assistance. Are you interested in serving on one of those position review committees? If so, please contact the League right away.

A detailed explanation of the LWVIN Local Government Study followed. We were provided with information packets and a CD on which to gather budget information from each township.

A presentation on the 2010 Census emphasized its importance to our state and local communities. The League is a national partner in the Census effort, and our local Leagues are encouraged to participate as well. We received an informative packet of materials from the Census office.

Climate Control was the next topic, as this is a LWVUS action issue. League has asked for a moratorium on new construction of coal-fired power plants. This is a relevant issue in Indiana, for energy companies are building new coal plants (sometimes referred to as coal gasification or “clean coal” plants) in Southern Indiana now. There is loads of information on the LWVUS website, such as a clear explanation of “cap and trade” and a fact sheet showing how climate change will affect the Midwest (should be of interest to us here in Indiana)!

After lunch, we were invited to join roundtable discussions on various topics. The first roundtable discussions were on Membership, Speakers Bureaus, and Effective Local Program. I participated in the Membership discussion. Our moderator shared materials with ideas about recruitment, involvement, and retention. My “take away” was the idea of an awards luncheon, featuring a “Making Democracy Work” award.

Our next set of roundtable discussions featured Increasing League Visibility, Observer Corps, and Leadership Development. I chose Increasing League Visibility. The moderators shared how their League’s “Making Democracy Work” award luncheons garnered a good deal of positive media attention for their League. Another League member shared how she submits photos of every League event to the local paper, and eventually many of the pictures are published. Another League provided “I voted today” stickers with the League logo for those who were able to vote early in their county. Good ideas all!

The day was rich with ideas and furnished a great opportunity to meet League members from across the state.

## 2009-2010 Dues

If you haven’t renewed your dues for the League Year 2009 – 2010, please do!

At Annual Meeting in late April 2009, LWV-Indianapolis members voted to change to a single-date membership renewal. That date is Women's Equality Day, 26 August!

The dues amounts have not changed. Please send \$50 for individual membership; \$75 for household membership (more than one member at the same address); \$25 for student membership.

As you may know, after state and national PMP (per-member payments), LWV-Indianapolis will keep only about \$8 of each person’s \$50.00 dues – not enough to print and mail newsletters, much less to rent meeting rooms and send delegates to Council or Convention. Please consider including an additional donation with your dues to help cover our activities. We appreciate this support and thank each of the donors.

## A Big Thank You to LWV of Indianapolis's Volunteers

We have been involved in several events and completed quite a few tasks in the last several months. We would not be able to contribute to many worthy events without the help of our dedicated members. Several members have offered their time and expertise on different fronts. We would like to take this space to thank the following people:

Emily Murray, Ada Schaum, Erin Kelley, Sandra Mowell, Karen Kay Leonard, Deb Langerman, Vada Kim, Mary Lou Rothe, Anna Weiser and Marian Towne for their work on updating the Directory of Government Officials.

Claiborne Handleman for providing a location and taking on the planning of the reception for LWVUS President Mary Wilson.

Ada Schaum for her time in attending several months of *Step Up For Kids* planning meetings and being very involved in the whole process culminating at the Statehouse on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Harriet Wilkins and Kendra Clauser for manning a LWV table for the *IPS Back-to-School Night* in August.

Gin Harrison and Phyllis Nieske for taking on the task of securing speakers for *Lunch with the League*.

Carol Fowler for her continuing work on the *Bulletin* and additionally getting the new website up and running at [www.lwvindy.org](http://www.lwvindy.org)

Jessica Moore for her research into the Naturalization Ceremonies conducted by the Southern District of Indiana.

Jean Preer for her research into and article on public access for public meetings published in the previous *Bulletin*.

## LWV-US Presidential Visit

On September 15 and 16, Mary Wilson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, visited Indianapolis. She met with members of the local media and local staff of Indiana's US Senators to present the League's concerns and positions regarding health care and climate change.

Shortly after her arrival on Tuesday, she met with the editorial staff of the *Indianapolis Star*. On Wednesday, she met with Bob Healey from Senator Lugar's office and Andrew Hulman from Senator Bayh's office. She also had an interview with Sharon Hartnett of WFYI radio.

In all of her meetings, she stressed the LWV's interest in reform legislation that will insure that all Americans have access to adequate, affordable health care. She explained that although the League favors a single payer plan as the most effective way to achieve this health care goal, the League will support legislation with other mechanisms to achieve this goal. She expressed particular concern for Americans who have lost their health care insurance during the current economic downturn because they have lost their jobs.

On the issue of climate change, Ms. Wilson urged action on legislation that would significantly reduce carbon emissions. She stressed that the League hopes that such action can take place before the international meeting in Copenhagen this winter.

Ms. Wilson also met with members of the Indianapolis League at a reception hosted by the Board and Claiborne and Avrom Handleman. At this meeting, she talked about the national League's lobbying efforts and listened to concerns of local members about health care, the national economy, and the environment.

## LWVIN HAZARDOUS WASTE CONCURRENCE

The LWVIN is in the process of reviewing and revising state positions. Below is the proposed new wording for the (state) League's Hazardous Waste position. Concurrence on this position is needed by the end of the year and the Indianapolis board will conduct a concurrence meeting at the beginning of the regular board meeting on **Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m. at NUMC**. All Leaguers are welcome to attend this meeting or submit recommendations and comments to the League at [lwvindy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvindy@sbcglobal.net) before November 4.

### Hazardous Waste Concurrence Concurrence Introduction

The national League position, on which the 1983 state position depended, no longer exists as such, although most of the position statements are included in other national positions on environment, health, and other national positions. The statewide restudy committee has reviewed and updated the definitions, and rules and regulations of the current LWVIN position. The proposal is formatted so that topics are readily accessible to the reader. The main resources are [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov), [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), and [www.IDEM.gov](http://www.IDEM.gov).

### Proposed New Wording of “Hazardous Waste”

#### 1: Definition of hazardous waste

The Indiana League of Women Voters (LWVIN) defines hazardous waste as any waste material with properties that make it dangerous or potentially harmful to people or the environment.

#### 2: Comprehensive measures

LWVIN supports comprehensive measures to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous wastes.

- a. Hazardous waste planning should emphasize the prevention of contamination by and exposures to hazardous waste.
- b. Source reduction and recycling and resource recovery should be a top priority in hazardous waste management.
- c. In addition to industrial waste management, provisions should be made to manage hazardous waste disposal for households, farms, small businesses, and new technologies.

#### 3: Precautionary principle

LWVIN supports application of the “precautionary principle” as a guide for protecting public health and the environment in the face of uncertain risks.

- a. The absence of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason to postpone regulatory measures where there is a risk of serious or irreversible harm to public health or the environment by waste generation or disposal.
- b. Waste generators must supply evidence that they are in compliance with the rules and regulations governing their activities.

*(continued on next page)*

#### **4: Stringent standards and enforcement**

LWVIN supports stringent standards and enforcement to prevent harmful exposures through soil, surface and ground water contamination, bio-accumulation, air pollution, and direct contact.

- a. Federal, state, and local agencies should strictly enforce all hazardous waste standards and regulations.
- b. Standards should establish maximum contamination levels for hazardous materials allowed in the air, in surface and groundwater, in soil and as residue on food and feed crops.
- c. Hazardous waste standards should prevent degradation of existing clean air, surface and groundwater and soil and to prohibit further degradation of already polluted areas.
- d. Hazardous waste generators should be required to treat hazardous waste to level of Best Available Control Technology standards before disposal.
- e. Stringent siting, design, and operating standards should be in place for hazardous waste disposal facilities.
- f. People and the environment should be protected from hazardous waste sites before, during, and after their closure.
- g. State and local emergency response and public health officials should be adequately trained to deal with hazardous waste spills, leaks, and releases.

#### **5: Responsibility at all levels of government**

LWVIN supports responsibility at all levels of government for preventing exposures to, and contamination by hazardous wastes.

- a. Federal, state, and local standards should emphasize the prevention of harmful exposures to hazardous wastes.
- b. State and local standards may exceed federal standards.
- c. All activities should be routinely monitored according to the established regulations for the particular hazardous waste. Non-compliance should be dealt with promptly by giving assistance or penalties as appropriate.

#### **6: Public access to information**

LWVIN supports public access to information about hazardous wastes.

- a. The public has the right to know the potentially harmful effects of materials they encounter in the home, workplace and community.
- b. Citizens should be included in the planning and decision making processes of hazardous waste management.
- c. Adequate funding to promote citizen participation should be available.

#### **7: Full funding for agencies**

LWVIN supports full funding for government agencies that regulate and monitor hazardous wastes.

- a. The federal, state, and local governments should recover their regulatory costs primarily through taxes on industrial users and producers, and through license and permit fees, penalties and fines.
- b. Generators of hazardous waste and operators of hazardous waste disposal facilities have the responsibility for paying for new disposal facilities.
- c. Federal funds (e.g., Superfund) plus funds recovered from generators and operators of hazardous waste sites should be used to clean up hazardous waste sites if necessary.
- d. If these funds cannot be used, state funds or some other combination of funds must be used.
- e. Taxes should be increased as necessary for the stringent enforcement of hazardous waste regulations.

## **Nov. 3 2009 Special Election Ballot Questions**

On November 3, 2009, Marion County voters will be going to the polls to participate in a special election. There are five public questions, or referenda, that must be decided in November.

There are no candidate elections on this ballot.

All Marion County voters will have the opportunity to vote on the Health and Hospital Corporation’s question. In addition to the Health and Hospital Corporation question, voters living in Franklin Township School Corporation, Beech Grove School Corporation or Perry Township School Corporation will also vote on a specific question pertaining to their school district.

### **Health & Hospital Corporation Ballot Question**

All five hundred ninety (590) precincts in Marion County are eligible to vote on a Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana referendum question.

These precincts exist in the jurisdiction of the Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana. The question on the ballot shall appear as follows:

*“Shall the Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana, issue bonds or enter into a lease to finance safe, efficient and functional facilities for the Wishard Hospital project:*

- 1. to allow Wishard to provide access to care for all residents of Marion County, including people who are seniors, poor, uninsured or vulnerable regardless of their ability to pay; and*
- 2. to allow Wishard to provide specialized care, including to victims suffering from traumatic injuries or severe burns; and*
- 3. to allow Wishard to work with colleges and universities, including Indiana University School of Medicine, Ivy Tech Community College, and the Purdue School of Pharmacy, to teach future doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals in Indiana?”*

### **Beech Grove School Corp.'s Public Question**

There are ten (10) precincts eligible to vote on a Beech Grove City School referendum question, which shall appear on the ballot as follows:

*“For the next seven calendar years immediately following the holding of the referendum, shall the Beech Grove City Schools impose a property tax rate that does not exceed thirty-five cents (\$0.35) on each one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed valuation and that is in addition to the school corporation’s normal tuition support tax rate?”*

These precincts exist in the jurisdiction of Beech Grove City Schools:

- |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| CO-001 | CO-002 | FR-001 | FR-005 | PE-006 | PE-007 |
| PE-008 | PE-009 | PE-018 | PE-019 |        |        |

*(continued on next page)*

### Franklin Twnshp School Corp.'s Ballot Questions

There are twenty-five (25) precincts eligible to vote on two (2) Franklin Township Community School Corporation referenda questions:

*“For the next seven calendar years immediately following the holding of the referendum, shall the Franklin Township Community School Corporation impose a property tax rate that does not exceed thirty-three and one third cents (\$0.333) on each one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed valuation and that is in addition to the school corporation’s normal tuition support tax rate?,”*

AND

*“For the next seven calendar years immediately following the holding of the referendum, shall the Franklin Township Community School Corporation impose a property tax rate that does not exceed sixteen and sixty-seven /one-thousandth cents (\$0.1667) on each one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed valuation and that is in addition to the school corporation’s normal tuition support tax rate?”*

These precincts exist in the jurisdiction of Franklin Township Community School Corporation for the purposes of this special election:

- FR-002      FR-003      FR-004      FR-006      FR-007      FR-008
- FR-009      FR-010      FR-011      FR-012      FR-013      FR-014
- FR-015      FR-016      FR-017      FR-018      FR-019      FR-020
- FR-021      FR-022      FR-023      FR-024      FR-025      FR-026
- FR-027

### Perry Township School Corporation's Ballot Question

The Perry Township School Corporation's question on the ballot shall appear as follows:

*“Shall the Metropolitan School District of Perry Township, Marion County, Indiana, issue bonds or enter into a lease to finance the Building Futures Project—Initial Phase, which is estimated to cost not more than \$98,885,000 and is estimated to increase the property tax rate for debt service by a maximum of \$0.2641?”*

There are sixty (60) precincts eligible to vote on a Metropolitan School District of Perry Township, Marion County, Indiana referendum question. The precincts are as follows:

- 26002 PE-035      26004 PE-036      PE-001 PE-037      PE-002 PE-038
- PE-003 PE-039      PE-004 PE-040      PE-007 PE-041      PE-010 PE-042
- PE-011 PE-043      PE-012 PE-044      PE-013 PE-045      PE-014 PE-046
- PE-015 PE-047      PE-016 PE-048      PE-017 PE-049      PE-020 PE-050
- PE-021 PE-051      PE-022 PE-052      PE-023 PE-053      PE-024 PE-054
- PE-025 PE-055      PE-026 PE-056      PE-027 PE-057      PE-028 PE-058
- PE-029 PE-059      PE-030 PE-060      PE-031 PE-061      PE-032 PE-062
- PE-033 PE-063      PE-034 PE-064

## Joining the League of Women Voters

Yes, I would like to become a member of the League of Women Voters for an annual fee of \$50.00.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

My annual dues of \$50.00 are enclosed.

I am a new member. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I am a renewing member. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

(All members receive the *Bulletin* several times a year as well as other League literature and information.)

Scholarships/reduced dues are available for student memberships please contact the League.

Enclosed is an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the League of Women Voters make a positive impact on voting, citizenship and democracy.

Enclosed is an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help provide student member scholarships.

Below is the name and address/phone number of a prospective League member.

\_\_\_\_\_

I expect to be an active member \_\_\_\_\_, an occasional participant \_\_\_\_\_ or a supporter \_\_\_\_\_.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be contacted to assist with (*circle all preferences*):

Education	Health & Welfare	Natural Resources	Public Transit
Voter Service	Women's Issues	Local Government Reform	Other/Special

*For more information about the League of Women Voters, please call (317) 767-4187.*

**From:**

League of Women Voters of Indianapolis

c/o North United Methodist Church

3808 N. Meridian St.

Indianapolis, IN 46208-4019

*Forwarding and Address Correction Requested*