



# The Bulletin

Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

September 2011

## Your Leadership Team ...

### Voting Deadlines:

- \* The voter registration deadline is October 8.
- \* Vote-by-mail ballot applications are due October 31.

Visit [www.lwvindy.org](http://www.lwvindy.org) to learn more.

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At this year's annual meeting the membership approved a leadership structure that divides core LWV responsibilities between four strategic areas of service. Rather than a traditional hierarchical structure, the new Leadership Committee consists of chairs that serve in the areas of Communications, Voter Service, Membership, and Events. Board and off-board members will lend support within these areas as well.

Your 2011-12 Leadership Committee is:

- Carol Fowler, Voter Service Chair
- Amy Olson, Membership Chair
- Erin Kelley, Communications Chair
- Kendra Clauser, Events Chair

What does this mean exactly? Carol will coordinate voter service opportunities, so if you want to volunteer for something, let her know! Amy will

continue with treasurer duties and will oversee our membership rolls. Erin will work on items such as the *Bulletin* and will maintain the e-news updates and Web site. She will also serve as LWV spokesperson. Kendra will help plan key LWV events such as the annual meeting and will coordinate some of our upcoming program-focused events.

Never hesitate to contact us with questions!

## Support for Dedicated Transit Funding & Satellite Voting

At the annual meeting held on June 4 at the Indiana History Center, the LWV of Indianapolis approved a resolution in support of dedicated funding for public transportation. The resolution, which can be found at [www.lwvindy.org](http://www.lwvindy.org), asks the 2012 Indiana General

Assembly to enact enabling legislation that will give local communities the right to use referendum as a way to fund local transit initiatives.

After meeting with officials from the Marion County Clerk's office in July, the LWV will again

lend its name in support of satellite voting. The LWV stands firm in its belief that all eligible voters should be allowed easy and efficient access to the polls.

Learn more about these issues from our guest columnists on pages 5 & 6.

## Calendar of Events

### SEPTEMBER

- Wednesday, Sept. 7  
7 to 8:30p.m.  
Board Meeting  
North United Methodist Church (3808 N. Meridian Street), Rm. 004.  
All are welcome to attend!

- Friday, Sept. 9  
10 to 11a.m.  
State House Tour & Optional Lunch. RSVP to Becca Loofbourrow by Sept. 2 at [becca.loofbourrow@gmail.com](mailto:becca.loofbourrow@gmail.com) or 694-7963.

- Wednesday, Sept. 14  
5:30 to 7:30p.m.  
Education Study #1  
North United Methodist Church, Parlor.  
Will discuss the LWVUS papers: *Common Core Standards, History of Federal Government in Public Education, and Impact Upon Early Childhood Education*. Read more on page 4.

- Friday, Sept. 16  
12 to 1p.m.  
Lunch with LWV  
Scottish Rite Cathedral, Truman Room.  
Our guest speakers will be Judge David Dreyer and Barbara Crawford. They will discuss the Marion County Superior Court and the Protective Order Court as it pertains to domestic violence cases.

- Saturday, Sept. 24  
1 to 3p.m.  
At-Large City County Council Candidate Forum

Central Library  
Clowes Auditorium  
Volunteers needed! Submit questions for consideration to Erin Kelley at [erinkelley75@gmail.com](mailto:erinkelley75@gmail.com) or 523-5806.

- Voter Service Dates at IMCPL Branches  
Check out the Voter Service section on page 3 to see where we'll be this month and stop by to see what we're up to.

### OCTOBER

- Wednesday, Oct. 5  
7 to 8:30p.m.  
Board Meeting  
North United Methodist Church, Rm. 004.  
All are welcome to attend!

- Wednesday, Oct. 12  
5:30 to 7:30p.m.  
Education Study #2  
North United Methodist Church, Parlor.  
Will discuss LWVUS papers: *Equity and Funding and Education of Children with Special Needs*. Read more on page 4.

- Friday, Oct. 21  
12 to 1p.m.  
Lunch with LWV  
Scottish Rite Cathedral, Truman Room.  
Join Marion County Clerk Beth White as she discusses satellite voting and more!

### NOVEMBER

- Wednesday, Nov. 2  
7 to 8:30p.m.  
Board Meeting

North United Methodist Church, Rm. 004.  
All are welcome to attend!

- **Tuesday, Nov. 8 ELECTION DAY! Let us know if you're a poll worker or watcher.**

- Wednesday, Nov. 9  
5:30 to 7:30p.m.  
Education Study #3  
North United Methodist Church, Parlor.  
Will discuss selected readings from Darling-Hammond and Ravitch's books, specific concerns and consensus questions. Read more on page 4.

- Friday, Nov. 18  
12 to 1p.m.  
Lunch with LWV  
Scottish Rite Cathedral, Truman Room.  
Hoosier Environmental Council executive director Jesse Kharbanda will share insights on HEC's legislative priorities for the upcoming session of the Indiana General Assembly.

### DECEMBER

- Wednesday, Dec. 7  
7 to 8:30p.m.  
Board Meeting  
North United Methodist Church, Rm. 004.  
All are welcome to attend!

- NO Lunch with LWV in December. Enjoy the holidays! Your next *Bulletin* will arrive in January.

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**"Our excursion to Sun King Brewery last August was great—we even gained a new member!!"**

**- Becca Loofbourrow**

Becca is a new board member and is in charge of creating fun member events for us including an upcoming tour of the State House on September 9. RSVP for this event ASAP to [becca.loofbourrow@gmail.com](mailto:becca.loofbourrow@gmail.com) or call 694-7963.

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## Membership News—It's Not Too Late to Renew

In 2009 the LWV of Indianapolis moved to a single membership renewal date for ALL members. That renewal date is **August 26**. As of this writing, most of you have renewed—but not all!

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please send your check in as soon as possible to LWV of Indianapolis,

Attn: Membership, 3808 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208.

Membership renewals not received by January 1, 2012 will be dropped from the roster. Contact Amy Olson at [amysbn@yahoo.com](mailto:amysbn@yahoo.com) or 536-0711 if you have any questions about your membership status.

On the new member

front, our we had great fun at Sun King Brewery on August 18! In fact, we even recruited a new member and signed up others to begin receiving email updates.

If you see any new faces at LWV events, please make them feel welcome!

## Voter Service Updates—Volunteers Needed!

It's that time of year when we do what we do best: Voter Service.

This election season the LWV has partnered with the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library to host a series of voter information booths at several branches. Dates vary throughout September and October and include the following branches: Eagle, College Ave., Shelby, Irvington, West Indianapolis, Southport, East Washington, Central, and Haughville libraries.

Volunteer slots have been filled, but if you're willing to be on "back-up" or help with other voter service requests, please con-

tact Carol Fowler at [cjfowler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cjfowler@sbcglobal.net) or 784-7516.

Dates & locations:

Sept. 6 at Eagle Branch from 3 to 5p.m.

Sept. 10 at Southport from 2 to 4p.m.

Sept. 15 at College Ave. from 3 to 5p.m.

Sept. 24 at Irvington from 2 to 4p.m.

Sept. 28 at West Indianapolis from 10a.m. to 12p.m.

Oct. 2 at Central Library from 2 to 4p.m.

Oct. 4 at Haughville from 1 to 3p.m.

Lastly, the LWV will host an At-Large City-County Council candidate forum on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 1 to 3p.m. in Clowes Auditorium at Central Library. If you are interested in volunteering as a time keeper or greeter, please let Carol know. Not interested in volunteering? That's okay—but please come out and be an audience member! Taking the time to participate in an event like this, and submitting a question, is important LWV work too.

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**August 26 is more than just our annual membership renewal date, it is also Women's Equality Day.**

**Women's Equality Day is in honor of the day women gained the right to vote—August 26, 1920.**

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## LWV Study, Program, & Action —What's What?!

Every now and again it's good to remind ourselves of what we mean by all the League lingo we use.

"Program" is the basis for the LWV's education and action efforts. It is the generic term used for all the organization does and includes: 1.) issues about which we educate the public, 2.) adopted positions upon which action is taken, and 3.) issues for study that will lead to a position.

When we use the words "study" and "action," we

mean very specific things. "Study" is the process by which all levels of League create or update their public policy positions. "Action" is when the LWV acts using one of these positions. Action might include writing to your state legislature, creating a monitoring project, or submitting a letter to the editor. If a position already exists at the local, state or national level, we not need to study the issue to take action.

At the LWVUS national

convention (June 2010), the membership decided to conduct two studies. One on the "Role of the Federal Government in Education" and one on "Privatization."

We're still looking for someone to head up the privatization study, but Kendra Clauser and Karen Kay Leonard have agreed to lead the education study. . . .

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**Want to  
acquaint  
yourself with  
even more  
League  
terminology?  
Visit the  
LWVUS Web  
site at  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
and search  
under  
"League  
Lingo."**

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## The Role of the Federal Government in Education

Kendra Clauser and Karen Kay Leonard will lead three general meetings, on "second Wednesdays" of September, October, and November to discuss the LWVUS study on the "Role of the Federal Government in Education."

All will occur in the parlor (main floor) of North United Methodist Church at 5:30 and end no later than 7:30pm. Sack suppers are welcome; decaf coffee and sugar-free lemonade will be provided.

By the end of November we must send to LWVUS our answers to the national consensus ques-

tions. Leagues across the country are discussing the complex questions involved. Most of you know that this is the process by which LWV positions usually are formed: study and discussion, consensus report, compilation of all reports, and crafting of position (if any) by the appropriate Board of Directors -- in this case, LWVUS.

Please read and collect information on the topic now. At our meetings, we plan to discuss five briefs on various aspects of the study. Each is approximately two pages and all are available at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). (Go to the "Issues" tab and then se-

lect "Social Policy.") If you'd rather get the papers electronically or by hard copy, contact Karen Kay at [kkbleonard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kkbleonard@sbcglobal.net) or 253-0403.

Those who want more detailed information are invited to read Diane Ravitch's *The Death and Life of the Great American School System* and Linda Darling-Hammond's *The Flat World and Education*.

Plan to be with us. The full study schedule with readings is included in the Calendar of Events.

- Karen Kay Leonard

## Volunteer THANKS!

From working info tables at the State Fair and Sun King Brewery to coordinating Lunch with LWV's and voter service events, you all do an amazing job! Thanks to everyone who has lent their time and talents this summer.

Indiana State Fair  
Rhea Cain, Beth Hayes, Tracy Heaton deMartinez, Erin Kelley, Becca Loofbourrow, Amy Olson, Judith White, & Harriet Wilkins

Sun King Brewery  
Erin Kelley, Becca Loofbourrow, & Amy Olson

Membership Recruitment & Retention  
Karen Kay Leonard ("Iron Jawed Angels"), Becca Loofbourrow (State House Tour), Amy Olson (renewals), & Janet Rash (new member packets)

Lunch with LWV  
Gin Harrison & Phyllis Nieske

Voter Service  
Carol Fowler & Lenora Maze

Communications  
Rhea Cain & Erin Kelley

Education Study Committee  
Kendra Clauser & Karen Kay Leonard

## Satellite Voting—By Beth White, Marion County Clerk

On November 8, Hoosiers will go to the polls to elect local leaders who will manage their cities, towns and counties for the next four years. There are several absentee options available before Election Day -by mail, traveling board and in-person. Voting by mail was traditionally favored by Marion County's absentee voters, but that has changed and now more take advantage of the early, in-person option.

Early voting caught fire during the spirited 2008

presidential election when the bi-partisan Election Board offered satellite voting sites, which are early voting locations in addition to the Clerk's office. These sites are closer to where we live, work and take our kids to school. As a result, more voters used the two satellite sites than the downtown Clerk's office. This was also true in 2009 when the Board opened three satellite sites for our special referendum election.

Bi-partisan cooperation is necessary because state

law requires the Board to unanimously agree to a satellite voting plan. However, since 2010, the local Republican Party has refused to agree, saying the sites aren't 'necessary.' I disagree. I believe increasing access to voting should be our highest priority and remain disappointed in the local Republicans who stand in the way.

I will continue to fight for more convenient voting options, but I need your help. As League members, you can show your support by:

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**Being active with the LWV can be a challenging at times—we're all busy, right? Not everyone can volunteer to work events, but you can serve the LWV by always carrying membership brochures and other League materials with you. Recruiting new members and making LWV resources available to the public is something we can all do.**

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## Satellite Voting—Beth White, cont'd.

- Signing an online petition at [www.indy.gov/election](http://www.indy.gov/election)
- Calling Mayor Ballard and your City-County Councilor to express your support
- Emailing your state legislator

Let me close by thanking you for all you do to educate voters and remove barriers to voting. We are a better community because of your advocacy, and I look forward to working with you in the years to come.



DEMOCRACY IS NOT  
A SPECTATOR SPORT.



## Mass Transit— By Ehren Bingaman, Exec. Dir. of CIRTA

Within the last five years major cities, from Charlotte to Denver, have conducted voter approved referendums that have created new local funding for transit. The result is that each of these cities has introduced improved bus service and new rail transit projects meaning more people are getting to work, school, and shopping via improved transit. It also means that voters from North Carolina, Texas, and beyond understand the value of the transit and are willing to pay for it.

Communities in Indiana should be afforded the same opportunity. Presently, voter referendums to dedicate local transit funding for are not allowed in Indiana. Transit

systems in communities across Indiana are struggling to maintain service due to reduced local revenues from federal, state, and local sources. South Bend, Indianapolis, Gary, and others are facing shortfalls at a time when thousands of Hoosiers need transportation options. As transit riders grow in number, our transit system faces the potential of reduced service. This doesn't make sense!

Recently, **the Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA)** in partnership with the Indiana Citizens Alliance for Transit, Hoosier Environmental Council, Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors, AARP of Indiana, Health by Design, and others es-

tablished a coalition to draw attention to the transit opportunity in Indiana. The result is a petition, available at [www.cirta.us](http://www.cirta.us), calling on the Indiana General Assembly to allow for referendums to dedicate adequate local revenue for transit.

The LWV of Indianapolis was among one of the first organizations in the state to pass a resolution calling on the Indiana General Assembly to authorize voter referendums for transit. Voters in Indiana are smart enough to vote on property tax caps, they're smart enough to vote for their leaders...they're smart enough to vote on their transportation future. Please sign and share the petition today.

## News You Can Use

### LWV Joins ICAT

This summer the LWV-Indianapolis became an institutional member of the Indiana Citizens' Alliance for Transit (ICAT). ICAT's mission is to educate and advocate on the benefits of mass transit. ICAT is one of the groups helping to organize the grassroots coalition of organizations who support the use of referenda to secure dedicated transit funds.

### What the HEC?

HEC is the Hoosier Environmental Council—the state's largest environ-

mental advocacy group. The LWV-Indianapolis was recently approached by Jesse Kharbanda, HEC's executive director, to discuss ways the LWV and HEC might partner on issues. In that spirit of partnership, the LWV will co-sponsor of an educational (legislative) forum HEC will organize this fall. More details soon!

### LWVIN CONVENTION

Last May the State League held its biennial convention in South Bend. Kendra Clauser and Erin Kelley attended on behalf

of the LWV-Indianapolis. Among other matters, the LWVIN dropped its Motor Vehicle Licensing System position, adopted a re-study of Redistricting (so we'll be better prepared in 2020) as well as limited restudies on the School Finance (vouchers), Hazardous Waste, and General Assistance positions. If you would like to be involved in any of these studies, please contact LWVIN president Karen Kay Leonard at [kkbleonard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kkbleonard@sbcglobal.net) or 253-0403.

## Unigov Handbook is Here!

An updated *Unigov Handbook* is hot off the presses!

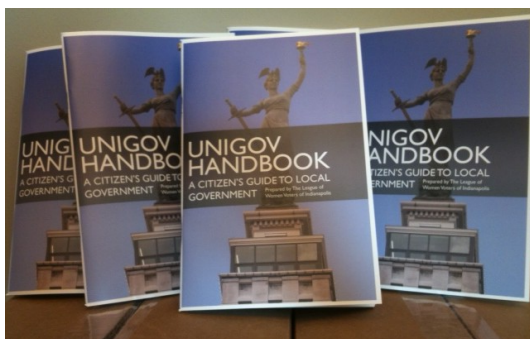
Thank you to everyone involved with this project, especially Madelyn Sundquist, Harriet Wilkins, Carole Gall, and Carol Kirk. We also re-

ceived a great deal of assistance from Chris Cotterill and the folks at "City Legal." And we can't fail to mention Tracy's husband, Felipe Martinez, for taking all the photographs.

Now begins the process

of getting the Handbook into people's hands. Please take a copy for yourself, but also for friends and family. Consider giving a copy to an educator you know or to another organization you belong to. This is a useful publication everyone can use and we need your help getting it out there!

Contact Erin Kelley with quantities needed or with ideas on who to send copies to.




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**The League is easy to like, right?!?**

**So, have you "liked" the LWV of Indianapolis on Facebook yet?**

**Just visit our Web site at [www.lwvindy.org](http://www.lwvindy.org) and click the Facebook tab!**



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League Women Voters of  
Indianapolis  
3808 N. Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Visit us online at [www.lwvindy.org](http://www.lwvindy.org) or on Facebook!

**Join the LWV TODAY!**

Dues are \$50 a year for individuals, \$75 for households, and \$25 for students. Make checks payable to the LWV of Indianapolis and send to 3808 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Kind of Member:      NEW              RENEWING