



THE WEST VIRGINIA VOTER

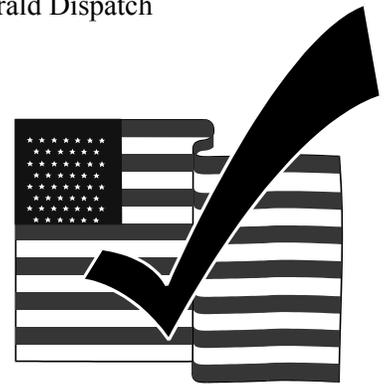
Published Quarterly by the League of Women Voters of West Virginia

Vol. 54 No. 2 Fall 2010

Ready - Set - Vote!

These election-related events and activities are those taking place in local League areas. Local Leagues also held other candidates' meetings that occurred prior to the print date of this edition of the *Voter*. Dates for registration, absentee ballots and early voting are set by state law.

- October 10 Huntington Area LWV's Voters Guide published in Huntington-Herald Dispatch
- October 12 Deadline to register to vote in General Election**
- October 13 - 30 Early voting in person
- October 18 U.S. Senate Debate, 8:00 p.m.
West Virginia Public Broadcasting
- October 19 Candidates' Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (Sponsored by AARP)
Smoot Theater, Parkersburg
Candidates for West Virginia's First Congressional District.
- October 20 Candidates' Meeting, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Suncrest United Methodist Church, Morgantown
Candidates for House of Delegates, 44th District
- October 21 Candidates' Meeting, 6:30 pm
Woodlands Retirement Community, Huntington
Candidates for Cabell County Commission, House of Delegates-16th District
and WV Senate District 5.
- October 23 Wood County LWV's Voters Guide published in Parkersburg News & Sentinel
- October 26 to
 Nov. 2 at noon Period in which you may request an emergency absent voter ballot (e.g., if you are hospitalized)
- October 27 Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail
- November 2 General Election



Candidates respond to League questions

In election years, local Leagues work with their community newspapers to publish Voters Guides. The state League board formulates questions for candidates for state and federal offices and local Leagues develop questions for local offices, such as County Commission. The state and federal offices on the ballot this year are: U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, WV Senate and House of Delegates, and Justice of the WV Supreme Court of Appeals. Local Leagues are responsible for sending the questions to candidates for WV Senate and House of Delegates. The state Voters Service chair, Marion Weiser, sent the questions to candidates for Congress and the Supreme Court the last week in August. The deadline was September 23, but was extended to September 27 for those who had not responded. The responses are being printed in this issue of the *Voter* for those who may not live in an area where a Voters Guide is published. Responses and biographical information are also available at lwvww.org.

- Responses of 1st Congressional District CandidatesPage 2
- Responses of 2nd Congressional District CandidatesPage 2-3
- Responses of 3rd Congressional District CandidatesPage 3
- Responses of U.S. Senate CandidatesPage 6
- Responses of WV Supreme Court CandidatesPage 7

Questions for the House of Representatives:

1. What should the federal government do about the growing economic disparity between the middle class and the well-to-do?
2. How will you balance the continuing costs of the military with the costs of domestic needs?
3. What measures should Congress enact to make our educational system more competitive with other developed nations?

Responses of 1st Congressional District Candidates:**David McKinley (R)**

1. With unemployment in the construction industry at 35 percent, I propose a national program to retrofit public buildings for energy efficiency. Not only will that slash the jobless rate in this crippled sector and promote energy independence, it will spur manufacturing to supply materials for roof insulation, window replacement, energy-efficient HVAC systems and lighting controls. It can start a broader economic *(exceeded 60 word limit)*
2. Without compromising national security we must rein in out-of-control spending on a program-by-program basis.
3. A third of our college graduates hold degrees in science and engineering compared to 63 percent in Japan and 53 percent in China. We were once a world leader in awarding science and engineering degrees. But our college-age population is now at the bottom among nations in this regard. Also troubling is that of 22,500 doctorates in science and engineering *(exceeded 60 word limit)*

Michael Oliverio (D)

1. Closing the trade deficit with China is first. Over the last five years, we have imported \$1.2 Trillion more than we have exported to China. It is the largest imbalance in the world. That imbalance costs us jobs in skilled, middle-class workers. We must end it. If we had fair trade with China, we wouldn't have needed a stimulus plan.
2. I understand the value of the military, having served myself. As American forces continue to return, these costs will reduce in part. However, we live in a different world now. We cannot mothball our military as we have in decades past after a conflict. I applaud the work done at the Pentagon to trim duplicative projects and congressional pet perks.
3. We must allow more local control for our education system. Unfunded mandates from Washington are tying the hands of teachers who are trying innovative new techniques. Congress must have greater faith in our state and local school boards to teach our children the skills they need for the future.

Responses of 2nd Congressional District Candidates:**Shelley Moore Capito (R)**

1. Congress needs to prevent the tax hike on all Americans next year by extending the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts. If we don't act, the 10% rate will go to 15%, married couples will pay more, the amount parents deduct through the child tax credit will be slashed in half, and most small businesses will experience a 13% increase.
2. We must provide our troops the resources necessary to complete their missions while we eliminate our deficit and reduce the debt. This starts with ending the bailouts and so-called stimulus spending that has cost taxpayers over \$1 trillion and includes holding weekly *YouCut* votes like we did nine times this year that would have cut \$120 billion in wasteful spending.
3. Congress needs to allow teachers to teach and place more control of classrooms at the local level. West Virginia needs to have greater flexibility to make decisions as states and local schools should not be hamstrung with federal regulations that ultimately take time away from students learning. We need to ensure that there is accountability at all levels.

Virginia Graf (D)

1. Elizabeth Warren's appointment to oversee the Consumer Protection Agency was an excellent step. Someone of her caliber should replace Larry Summers on the President's economic team. Also: restructure tax systems fairly, cutting all loopholes; allow Bush cuts for the wealthy to expire; stop government subsidization of oil and gas companies; purchase green energy and transportation for military and domestic use.
2. Reduce military spending from 59% of the budget to 40%. We still would be a superpower with money for domestic needs. This can be achieved by: closing some bases around the world, e.g., Germany and Japan; reducing extravagant payment to technical service companies and mercenary groups; and eliminating obsolete weaponry and delivery systems.
3. Overhaul how schools are funded and provide free quality education from elementary through college or technical school; connect teachers and students to research development centers for on-going education; employ multi-sensory learning techniques; teach critical thinking and problem-solving; reduce repetitive testing; use subjective and objective evaluation tools; re-create modest school size and avoid mega-size schools. Make free job training universally available.

Continued on page 3

Responses of 2nd Congressional District Candidates, *continued from page 2***Phil Hudok (Constitution)**

1. First and foremost the Glass-Steagall Act must be reinstated to prevent bank speculation of public investments. Also, Congress must regain responsibility for and control of the issuance of money. The Federal Reserve Act was deceptively foisted upon the citizens when most congressmen were gone for the 1913 Christmas holiday. What Jefferson warned has transpired. Congress can't lawfully delegate away responsibility.
2. Glad you asked. If we weren't militarily where we don't belong, fighting unjust, constitutionally undeclared wars, (only Congress can declare war!) we would be more respected, better liked, and not hemorrhaging to death. Let's quit playing shell games with mercenaries and troops (National Guard at that) and strengthen ourselves from the inside out. Support the troops by bringing them home.
3. Glad you asked. As a 37 year teacher, who's studied history, and hosted Charlotte Iserbyt, author of the "The Deliberate Dumbing Down of America", we must get the unfunded mandating, politically correct, force feeding, federal government OUT of education. Government schools teach the government's religion violating the first and tenth amendments. Why were we number one at the US-DOE's founding?

Responses of 3rd Congressional District Candidates:**Elliot "Spike" Maynard (R)**

1. Congress must stop spending money we don't have. Huge debt devastates our middle class. Stop raising taxes. No new taxes on anyone. Taxes are middle class job killers. Hands off Social Security. No cuts of any kind in social security benefits. Repeal Obamacare. Restore the \$500 billion Congress took from our seniors in Medicare cuts. Stop bailouts and quit sending (*exceeded 60 word limit*)
2. I support a strong military. I am a military veteran. As a veteran, I believe we must give our veterans the very best benefits, especially medical care, and never cut benefits or payments. Combat troops in Afghanistan and Iraq deserve the finest weapons and support no matter what it costs. We must never finance any domestic spending program at the expense of the lives (*exceeded word 60 limit*)
3. First, Congress must not simply throw money at the problem. We need to teach more science, math and language arts. We need standards to measure skills of both students and teachers. Schools which do not perform should be closed. Most urgently, we need to restore order and discipline in the classroom and zero tolerance for drugs and school violence.

Nick J. Rahall II (D)

1. America cannot afford the cuts in and privatizing Social Security and give-aways to the super-rich that Republican leaders in Washington support. These policies led to the failures of Wall Street and the housing market collapse. I support building up our domestic manufacturing base, enforcing Buy American policies, closing tax loopholes that encourage outsourcing American jobs overseas and preserving Social Security.
2. The last Administration cut domestic spending to increase defense spending and reduce taxes for the wealthiest, while axing funding for mine safety inspectors, highways, and public services. Waste, fraud, and abuse resulted at the Pentagon. That must end. We can ensure sufficient funds for our troops to be well-trained and equipped, while providing more sufficient funding levels for domestic needs.
3. Congress should reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to secure educational improvements for all kids – particularly those in rural areas. It will also help to recruit and reward quality teachers. We must increase access to higher education through full funding of Pell grant providing greater access to affordable educational loans, and creating incentives for students to attend college.

DO YOU SERVE IN THE MILITARY OR WILL BE OVERSEAS DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD?

Extensive information is provided on the WV Secretary of State's website, www.sos.wv.gov or by phone – 304-558-6000.

A pilot program is available in Jackson, Kanawha, Marshall, Mason, Monongalia, Monroe, Putnam and Wood counties that allows voters covered by the U.S. Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) to access and cast their ballots through a secured website. Contact the Secretary of State's office for more information.

Natural Resources Report

By HELEN GIBBINS
NATURAL RESOURCES CHAIR

Actions Taken

1. Comments to ORSANCO, asking the agency not to weaken standards for mercury in the Ohio River.
2. Comments to the Oil and Gas Office of the WV Department of Environmental Protection regarding the reclamation of oil and gas sites. The League asked that (1) the DEP require the use of native plants for revegetation rather than the list proposed that is made up of non-native, invasive plants, and (2) that the uses of the held topsoil shall be re-spread or used as a top dressing, rather than should.
3. We joined with other WV environmental organizations on comments to the DEP on the 2010 Triennial Review of WV Water Quality Standards. Thanks to the other organizations for their preparation of the comments. Salient parts are listed here:
 - ⇒ We urged the DEP to draft legislation for immediate consideration by the West Virginia Legislature that will establish guidelines and a permit process for water withdrawals. Gas drilling in Marcellus Shale uses a tremendous amount of water in the fracking process.
 - ⇒ We supported the DEP's addition of the language "**certain water withdrawal activities**" (Sec. 3.1 and 3.2) and "**algae blooms**" (Sec 3.2.g.) as conditions not allowable in state waters (§47-2-3). However, we do not feel the additional language alone goes far enough to protect West Virginia streams from either water withdrawals or algae blooms. We are particularly concerned about water withdrawal activities associated with Marcellus Shale drilling.
 - ⇒ We oppose WV DEP's proposed changes to Section 7.2.a.2 for several reasons. It gives Weirton Steel permanent exemptions on some restrictions on its discharges in excess of drinking water criteria within one-half mile of a public water supply intake. The new language deletes all references to Weirton Steel and iron even though WS is the company that the rules would apply to. The rules should be transparent on who the exemption applies to. The WV DEP proposes to remove the requirements for Weirton Steel to monitor its treated water at its drinking water plant and to submit a status report. Was this monitoring ever con-

ducted? We requested a copy of the written report that was due on or before March 1, 2007.

- ⇒ We support the changes to the nutrient criteria for lakes although we do not support the addition of a requirement for an impairment to be determined only in the case that both phosphorus and chlorophyll-a exceed standards. This contradicts the stakeholders who worked on the criteria and the US EPA.
- ⇒ We strongly oppose weakening the current water quality standard for iron on West Virginia's Category B-2 trout waters.
- ⇒ We support the proposal that WV establish a standard for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS comprise inorganic salts, principally calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, bicarbonates, chlorides and sulfates and some small amounts of organic matter that are dissolved in water.) **However, we support a stronger standard of 250mg/l rather than the proposed 500mg/l. The US EPA recommends the stronger standard.**

10/10/10

October 10, 2010 is a Global Day of Action for environmentalists all over the world to address climate change. The focus is on the number 350, as in 350 parts per million of CO₂, the amount that leading climate scientists say is the safe upper limit of CO₂ in our atmosphere. Communities will celebrate what people can do right now to make an impact, garnering media attention for climate action, and sending a strong message to decision-makers at all levels that it's time for them to do their job, too. For more information, access 350.org or the League of Women Voters at www.lwv.org. Click on Climate change.

Tidbits

Federal Judge Chambers recently ruled that two of Patriot Coal's mines must install a treatment system for selenium.

The US EPA set seven public hearings on its proposed rules to govern the handling and disposal of toxic coal ash from power plants.

The Obama administration issued an order to EPA to develop a Chesapeake Bay "recovery strategy."

The EPA is studying the hydrofracking process for accessing natural gas.

Leagues to participate in Membership Recruitment Initiative

By NANCY NOVAK
ORGANIZATION CHAIR

The Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) is a partnership among local, state and national Leagues to focus on growing the membership of the League. The LWVUS did its own research and also engaged outside specialists to help lay a foundation for the development of the plan.

The five main “building blocks” for the initiative are:

- Focusing on a target audience (and ASKING them to join);
- Conducting regular and intentional outreach;
- Being visible in the community;
- Training and developing a work plan or roadmap for follow up; and
- Consistent coaching and team building.

Training and planning are essential to the success of the MRI. The training for state coaching teams and local League teams are important components of this. The national League board and staff have trained coaches who are recruiting and training state coordinators and coaches. The state coaches will train representatives of each local League in the latest membership techniques, and then coach them into keeping on the path.

Three national representatives (Diana Haskell, Judy Davis and Mary Klentz) attended the LWVWV’s board meeting in September and presented an overview of the initiative. I am the WV coordinator and the two state coaches are Marilyn McGeorge and Teresa Koon, both from the Charleston area. Each coach will work with

two local Leagues.

The plan is to weave membership outreach efforts into the activities that are already on our calendars. It is not a separate activity, but a change in focus. No opportunity is too small or too big to promote League membership. The key is very simple: *ask* people specifically to join the League.

For 90 years, the League has been a respected nonpartisan organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Are you a member?

If not, you may contact these local Leagues:

Huntington Area 304-736-3287
gibbins@frontier.com

Jefferson County 304-876-3158
anncoulter@comcast.net

Morgantown/ Monongalia Co. 304-599-8233
clozier@gmail.com

Wood County 304-295-8215
NNovakWV@frontier.com

If you live outside a local League area, you may join as a member-at-large by sending a check or money order payable to the League of Women Voters of West Virginia to:

Treasurer, LWVWV, HC 60, Box 148, New Martinsville, WV 26155. Dues are \$40 for individuals, \$60 for a household, and \$20 for students.

When you join at the local or state level, you also become a member of the national League of Women Voters.

LWVWV Board of Directors

President	Susan Watkins 304-343-8574 susanwatkins@suddenlink.net
1st VP Natural Resources	Helen Gibbins 304-736-3287 gibbins@frontier.com
2nd VP Healthcare	Nancy Deming 304-363-6844 NDeming@valleyhealthcare.org
Secretary Website	Jonathan Rosenbaum 304-599-2370 freesource@cheat.org
Treasurer	Margie Renaud 304-455-6272 margie@eDeltaNET.com
Director State Govern.	Lee Defabio 304-766-8661 leed@citynet.net
Director Education	Priscilla Haden 304-346-7252 caphaden@aol.com
Director Social Policy	Marilyn McGeorge 304-344-8722 mandw@suddenlink.net
Director Organization Publications	Nancy Novak 304-295-8215 NNovakWV@frontier.com
Director Public Relations	Shirley Rosenbaum 304-599-2370 shirley.rosenbaum@gmail.com
Director International Relations	Sharon Rowe 304-898-6308 srowe@concord.edu
Director	Steve Rowe 304-898-6308 rowe@concord.edu
Director Advocacy/ Election Laws	Kathy Stoltz 304-295-7880 ksstoltz@suddenlink.net
Director Voters Service (off-board)	Marion Weiser 304-428-3608 rmweiser@frontier.com

Learn more at:

lwvww.org

lwv.org

Questions for U.S. Senate:

1. What should the federal government do about the growing economic disparity between the middle class and the well-to-do?
2. How will you balance the continuing costs of the military with the costs of domestic needs?
3. What measures should Congress enact to make our educational system more competitive with other developed nations?

Responses of U.S. Senate Candidates:**Jeff Becker (Constitution Party)**

1. The Federal Reserve Act, secretly foisted upon us on Christmas Eve, 1913, must be repealed. America must return to silver coin money as we had in 1964, and only gold and commodity-backed currency. Fiat paper “money” is the root of all inflation so Congress must stop putting it into circulation. The Glass-Steagall Act must be reinstated to end banking speculation.
2. Article I, Section 8 of our Constitution tells us that only Congress has the power to declare war, appropriations for armies shall only be for two years at a time, that the states are mostly responsible for training our militias, and that our Navy is paramount. Our founders only intended “General welfare” to mean well-being and happiness, not public assistance.
3. The Department of Education Organization Act went into effect in May of 1980 just as I was graduating from high school. I was able to receive a thorough and efficient education without any interference by the federal government. The word “education” appears nowhere in our Constitution, so the best thing Congress can do here is to repeal Public Law 96-88.

Jesse Johnson (Mountain Party)

1. We should stop with corporate welfare for industries that are realizing record growth and more importantly profit and incentivize research and development as well as renewable and therefore sustainable industry. We must design, build, ship, modify and trade. These have always been the cornerstones of economic prosperity. Tax breaks for the rich have not and will not revitalize this economy.
2. I will fight to cut military spending. Its appropriations are greater than all of our neighbors ‘potential threats’ put together. Last months Treasury statement shows that one in three of taxpayers dollars go to DOD. Every administration asks for more as does Congress. We have no conventional enemy of significant threat militarily. This waste must stop. Nation building starts here.
3. State and federally subsidized schools must provide to the citizens of this country, free life-long learning to empower our nation and its competitiveness in our world. Our public airwaves and library systems must be an integral part of our institutions of learning, working symbiotically to “...promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity...”

Joe Manchin III (D)

1. In this time of recovery, we must first get our nation’s financial house in order and cut wasteful spending, just like we have done in West Virginia. We need to make capital available to businesses willing to create full-time jobs with livable wages and benefits. We must focus on spurring private investments.
2. We have to make sure our soldiers in the field have the tools they need to do their jobs – it’s the least we can do given their dedication and sacrifices. Once we bring our combat commitment in Afghanistan to a close, we will have the opportunity to reevaluate our defense spending with an eye towards deficit reduction and domestic needs.
3. We must enact education reforms, because every child deserves a quality education. I support the federal Race-to-the-Top initiative, which sets performance and results as priorities. There is too much bureaucracy that prevents our educators from being innovative in the classrooms. States and their educators need flexibility. The federal government must set good examples so that states can adopt proven programs.

John Raese (R)

Mr. Raese did not respond.

Questions for the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals:

1. What do you see as the role of the Supreme Court of Appeals in assuring justice for the citizens of West Virginia?
2. What special background and experiences do you have that make you the better candidate?

Responses:

Thomas E. McHugh (D)

1. No matter how tempting it may be, the best way for the Supreme Court to guarantee that it assures justice in all of its actions is not to bend to the prevailing political wind of the moment. Instead, the Court must rise above such political pressure and deal equitably, thus justly, with one case at a time.
2. My nineteen years as a Supreme Court Justice, my six years as a circuit judge, my 20 years as an attorney and mediator, my 3 years in the U.S. Army, and my lifetime as a husband, father of four, grandfather of seven, and even a great-grandfather of one all qualify me for the work on the bench.

John Yoder (R)

1. Diversity in experience and background are important to assure justice for all West Virginians. Unfortunately, 4 of the 5 justices are currently from Charleston (1 happens to be from Huntington), but Kanawha County only makes up 10% of the state's population. The other 90% deserve a voice too. All West Virginia regions, viewpoints and perspectives should be represented.
2. My service in all 3 branches of government helps me appreciate differences between the role of a legislator and that of a judge. A judge is supposed to enforce and uphold the law, not to legislate and enact social policy. We need a former legislator on the Court to help keep judges from acting as super-legislators rather than as judges.

Election information available at many websites

sos.wv.gov or wvsos.com, the West Virginia Secretary of State's website, provides useful information on topics such as registering to vote, absentee ballots, campaign finance and election procedures.

Vote411.org is a LWVUS website that provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information.

lwv.org offers a variety of election-related tools.

factcheck.org, a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, checks the accuracy of political ads, debates, speeches, interviews and press releases.

votesmart.org provides information about candidates and their positions, issues, and voting records.

VOTER RIGHTS

To be provided with another ballot if you make a mistake.

To have written and oral voting instructions if requested.

To request and receive assistance in voting.

To bring an aide or interpreter if you are disabled or have a language barrier.

To not be prevented from voting for any reason if you are a registered voter.

To vote if you are in line by the time the polls are closing.

To prove your identity by signing an affidavit if officials doubt your identity.

To have an explanation if you are refused the right to vote and to be allowed to cast a challenged ballot.

To have your vote counted.

VOTER RESPONSIBILITIES

To study and know candidates and issues.

To keep your voter address current.

To know precinct and hours of operation.

To bring proper identification to the polling station.

To treat precinct workers with courtesy.

To respect the privacy of other voters.

To report problems or violations of election law.

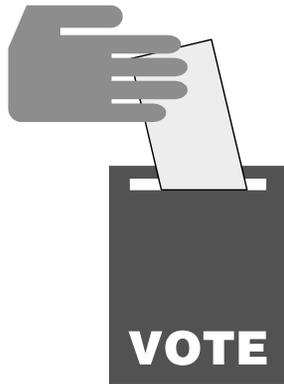
To check your ballot for accuracy.

Susan Watkins
President and Editor



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 150
Charleston, WV



Election Day is November 2

JOIN THE LEAGUE! The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that 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. **If you live in Cabell, Jefferson, Monongalia, or Wood County, please contact the local League in those counties.** To join at the state level, send a check or money order payable to LWVWV to: Margie Renaud, Treasurer, LWVWV, HC 60, Box 148, New Martinsville, WV 26155. Dues are \$40 for individuals, \$60 for a household, and \$20 for students. Because we are a lobbying organization, membership dues are not tax-deductible.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____
Address _____ E-mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____