

# Morgantown-Monongalia County League of Women Voters Newsletter

March 2011

## Call Governor Tomblin and Request a Special Session!

### Calendar

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| <b>April 6</b><br>Wednesday | City Council Candidate Forum<br>7-9 p.m.<br>Suncrest United Methodist Church   |
| <b>April 26</b>             | City Council "Votes by Mail" will<br>be counted  |
| <b>April 30</b>             | WV State League Convention<br>Valley Healthcare System<br>Scott Avenue (Details to be in State<br>Newsletter)                                    |
| <b>May 14</b><br>Saturday   | Annual Meeting for our local<br>League<br>12 Noon<br>Potluck at home of Phyllis<br>Marshall, 194 McCormick Hollow<br>Road (off Van Voorhis Road) |
| <b>May 14</b><br>Saturday   | Primary election for Governor of<br>West Virginia  |

*On behalf of the League of Women Voters of West Virginia I am requesting that you call a special session of the legislature to act on Marcellus Shale drilling legislation. Even if the DEP can regulate Marcellus Shale drilling to some extent under its present authority, the agency does not have enough inspectors to do the job. The DEP's proposed legislation would have provided through permit fees enough money to regulate the industry.*

*Also there are other problems associated with Marcellus Shale drilling that impact the residents in the areas where there are Marcellus Shale operations.*

*The gas will stay in the ground so there is no hurry to drill for it before we establish protections for West Virginians, our water, our air, and our land. Without protection we will end up with legacy costs that the state will have to pay for. We believe a **moratorium** should be set on further Marcellus Shale drilling until the legislature provides adequate protection.*

*Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.*

Both Speakers of the House and Senate have called for a Special Session so lawmakers can look again at the Marcellus bill this year. But, the Governor says "Instead of calling a Special Session, I will be directing DEP Secretary Randy Huffman to use his inherent statutory power and rule-making authority to regulate this industry."

Hopefully, by the time you have received this newsletter the Governor will have relented to the pressure from citizens, but until then please call his Secretary at 304-558-2000 requesting a Special Session to regulate Marcellus Shale Drilling in our State.

### Breaking News

March 15, 2011. Helen Gibbin, Natural Resources Director of LWVWV sent this letter to the Governor:

## City Council Forum

The League's Candidate Forum for the 12 people running for City Council will be on April 6, Wednesday, from 7 to 9 pm at Suncrest United Methodist Church. This year there are contests in 5 of the 7 wards.

The candidates are:

1st ward: Ron Bane and George Papandreas  
2nd ward: John Gaddis and Jim Manilla  
3rd ward: Wes Nugent and WVU student  
Nelson France  
4th ward: Jenny Selin (unopposed)  
5th ward: Marti Shamberger (unopposed)  
6th ward: Bill Byrne and Guy Panrell  
7th ward: Don Spencer and Linda Herbst

Those listed first in each ward are the incumbents. This year the city is participating in a pilot project using Vote by Mail. See attached page or "**Our Website**" for details on the process for voting by mail.

## Annual Meeting

This year the Annual Meeting will be more informal with a time to discuss local League issues and enjoy each other's company. We will have a potluck with dishes shared by those members who come as well as grill offerings by Phyllis Marshall and her husband Joe. Please come even if you are unable to bring a dish. There will be plenty of food!!

Please call Shirley Rosenbaum (304-599-2730) or Fran Nelson(304-599-4937) if you are coming.

## Become a Leader!

The Nominating Committee for this year is Elizabeth Renahan, Jan Bagby, Jonathan Rosenbaum, and Linda Yoder (Board representative)

This year they are seeking a President, First Vice-President and Secretary.

## Pay Your Dues

If you have not paid this year's dues, your name will not be on the list published in this newsletter. If you believe that you are a member but your name is not there, or if the information is incorrect, please contact Lyndell Millecchia (304-599-0904). If you wish to become a member of the League, dues are now \$44 for an individual and \$66 for a household. Checks should be made to LWV Morgantown-Mon Co. and should be mailed to:

Lyndell Millecchia  
476 Lawnview Drive  
Morgantown, WV 26505

## Our Website

You can get the our most current newsletter from <http://lwvww.org/category/league-of-women-votes-of-wv/morgantown/morgantown-newsletter/> and you can view the video and the slick flyer for Morgantown's vote by mail pilot project at <http://lwvww.org/2011/02/21/morgantowns-new-vote-by-mail-pilot-project/>. Too much to type? Just point your web browser to <http://lwvww.org> and find Morgantown in Categories.



## **Voting by Mail**

It may surprise you to know that voting by mail is not a new idea. Oregon has been conducting all of its elections by mail since 1993, and almost all counties in Washington state also vote by mail.

### **Morgantown Pilot Project**

The 2011 municipal election for the City of Morgantown will be conducted by mail as part of a pilot project. Morgantown is the first city in West Virginia to employ the new vote by mail method. This brochure will answer many questions that you may have about the process. Voting by mail is similar to absentee voting, which you may have already experienced.

### **Q: Am I eligible to vote by mail?**

A: Any person registered to vote by April 5, 2011 in Morgantown City limits is eligible to vote by mail. Make sure you are registered and your information is correct by calling the County Clerk's Office at (304) 291-7238 or visit [www.wvsos.com](http://www.wvsos.com) and click the "Am I Registered?" link under Elections.

### **Q: What if I get a ballot that is not mine?**

A: Call the City Clerk's Office at (304) 284-7439 to request the proper ballot and get instructions on returning the other ballot.

### **Q: What if I did not get a ballot?**

A: You may call the City Clerk's Office at (304) 284-7439 to check that your ballot has been mailed.

### **Q: What if I'm going to be absent from my county?**

A: You may fill out an application to request an absentee ballot that will be mailed to your absentee address. The deadline to submit an application for an absentee ballot is April 20, 2011.

### **Q: What do I do with my marked ballot?**

A: Place the ballot in Envelope #1 and seal the envelope, then place sealed Envelope #1 into Envelope #2 and sign and seal that envelope.

### **Q: How do I return my ballot?**

A: You may either mail it back in the pre-addressed envelope you received along with the ballot, or drop it off at one of the official ballot deposit locations.

### **Q: Where are the official ballot deposit locations?**

A: You can drop off your ballot between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the following locations:

**April 8 - City Hall**

**April 11-15 - City Hall**

**April 18-20 - City Hall**

**April 21-23-25 -**

**City Hall, BOPARC Senior Center, Mountaineer Mall & Marilla Center**

### **Q: How do I get my ballot?**

A: The ballot will be mailed April 8, 2011 to the mailing address listed in your voter registration record.

### **Q: When is the last day to return my ballot?**

A: Ballots must be received at the City Clerk's Office no later than 8 p.m. on **Election Day: April 26, 2011.**

### **Q: What if I need a new ballot?**

A: If you need a new ballot because you marked yours incorrectly or it has become unusable in some way (ripped, destroyed, stained), contact the City Clerk's Office at (304) 284-7439 to request a new ballot.

### **Q: What if I need assistance with voting?**

A: Anyone may go to City Hall to vote and receive assistance.

If you need assistance with voting because of blindness, disability, advanced age or inability to read or write contact the City Clerk's Office for instructions.