# League of

Women Voters

Of Wood County WV

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LWVWV [www.lwvwv.org](http://www.lwvwv.org) LWVUS [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

Mark Your Calendar

Mon., Oct. 28 7 pm Membership Meeting

 Vienna Library (see below)

Mon., Nov. 4 7 pm LWVWC Board Meeting

 Wood County Library

 (note change from usual meeting date)

Sat. Nov. 23 Wood County Schools Excess Levy Election

Mon. Nov. 25 Membership meeting – Movie night

 “A Place at the Table.”

**Membership Meeting**

**Future Fund**

**Monday, Oct. 28, 7 pm, Vienna Library**

With its heavy reliance on its natural resources for revenue, WV is one of the least economically diverse states in the nation. Eventually coal and gas resources will be exhausted and/or replaced by cleaner energy sources. Is it time for policymakers to consider establishing a permanent mineral trust fund in West Virginia, the income from which will replace lost revenues and allow the state to move forward in a more diversified economy?

Six other states have established such funds. Bills to do the same in WV have been considered by the Legislature, but have not been adopted.

Paul Miller, an analyst for the WV Center on Budget and Policy, will meet with the League on Monday, October 28 at 7 p.m. at the Vienna Library to inform us about what such a fund could mean for the state and why many leaders think it is important for WV’s future.

**Members’ guests and the public are welcome to attend.**

For more information on the Future Fund, see the WV Center on Budget and Policy’s web site: <http://www.wvpolicy.org/>

Voter

 October 2013

 Nov. 23 School Levy Election

**The LWVWC Board has voted to endorse passage of renewal of the excess levy**, for which the Wood County Board of Education has set an election on Saturday, November 23.

This is a one-item election using paper ballots. Early voting is November 9-20 at the Judge Black Annex downtown and at satellite sites at the city buildings in Vienna and Williamstown and the Volunteer Fire Dept. firehouses in Lubeck and Mineral Wells. Early voters can vote at any of these sites regardless of where they reside.

The renewal is for 5 years. The levy rate will remain the same as that currently in effect. Over the 5 years, the levy is expected to raise nearly $17 million to provide for a long list of projects and services not covered by the state aid formula – including reading resource teachers. (See below) *This is no time to cut school funding for Wood County students.*

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***In grades 1 – 3, kids learn to read.***

***From grades 4 on, kids read to learn.***

 Results from the WESTest2 of 4th grade reading and language arts for school year 2011-12, show that more than 7 in 10 West Virginia students were not reading proficiently at the end of 3rd grade. (Reading levels are grouped as below basic, basic, proficient, advanced.)

* County by county, the percentage of those not proficient ranges from 36.72% to 71.33%.
* Overall, almost 40% of WV 4th graders tested as having below basic reading skills.
* Children from low-income families (eligible for free or reduced school lunch) scored an average of 21 points lower than those from higher income families.
* Students in 37 states scored higher than in WV.

From WV Kids Count [www.wvkidscountfund.org](http://www.wvkidscountfund.org)

The Shutdown

 As this is written, the great Shutdown/Debt Ceiling Crisis of 2013 appears to be resolved – for now, LWV members may wonder what the League’s position statements have to say about Congress. The following is from a message from Elizabeth MacNamara, the LWVUS president:

“The League’s [position on the role of Congress](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=qdXBxHvv8Iq3j7ggFCaUONyDXvqGPWiT) outlines what a responsive legislative process should look like. Key to this is the ability for Congress to “make decisions that meet national needs and reconcile conflicting interests and priorities”, as well as “function[ing] in an efficient manner with a minimum of conflict, wasted time and duplication of effort.” The government shutdown has only illuminated the issues that have riddled Congress in recent years – the impact of huge amounts of outside special interest money in elections, including primary elections, gerrymandered districts, and an inability by Members of Congress to put what’s best for the nation ahead of how an issue is perceived in their home districts.”

It is always appropriate for League members to contact their members of Congress (as individual citizens, not speaking for the LWV) to voice concern about the way in which the country is being served – or not – by the people’s representatives.

Nov. 28 Movie Meeting: “A Place at the Table tells the powerful stories of three such Americans, who maintain their dignity even as they struggle just to eat. In a riveting journey that will change forever how you think about the hungry, A Place at the Table shows how the issue could be solved forever, once the American public decides—as they have in the past—that ending hunger is in the best interests of us all.”

From <http://www.magpictures.com/aplaceatthetable/>



LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Drive

Vienna WV 26105

**Meeting October 28**

**Future Fund**

**October 2013 Voter**

Membership in the LWV is open to all citizens of

voting age. To join the LWVWC, send a check

payable to LWVWC for $40 ($60 for 2 people at

one address) to the LWVWC Treasurer, 1 Fox Hill Dr.,

Parkersburg WV 26104 Write “dues” on the memo line.

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Health Care for (more) West Virginians

Good News for a Change

 WV joins Michigan and Kentucky as the three states in which the highest percentage (81%) of people without health insurance will be eligible for assistance in obtaining coverage, either through expanded Medicaid or a subsidy in the Marketplace.

Since cost is the usual reason that low-income people do not have coverage, it’s not good news this ranking reflects the fact that WV has a lot of low-income people and many workers in low-wage jobs that don’t offer insurance. *But* it does demonstrate that our governor and legislature were able to ignore wide-spread antipathy for the Affordable Care Act and do what was best for the people of the state.

Contrast this with Texas where Medicaid eligibility was not expanded. Only 34% of the uninsured will be eligible for assistance. Hundreds of thousands of adults and children who would have been eligible for expanded Medicaid will probably remain uninsured.

An extensive report from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “Eligibility for Assistance and Projected Changes in Coverage under ACA: Variations Across States” is at

<http://www.rwjf.org/en/research-publications/find-rwjf-research.html?pn=Health+Policy+Snapshot+Series&t=topics%3A1633> or go to [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org) and type the first few words of the title into the search box.

Contact Congress

Rep. David McKinley [www.mckinley.house.gov](http://www.mckinley.house.gov)

Sen. Joe Manchin [www.manchin.senate.gov](http://www.manchin.senate.gov)

Sen. John D. Rockeller [www.rockefeller.senate.gov](http://www.rockefeller.senate.gov)