# 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. Sept. 24 7 pm Membership Meeting

 Vienna Library - see below

Mon. Oct. 8 7 pm LWVWC Board Meeting

 Wood County Library

Tues. Oct. 9 7 pm Meet the Candidates –Vienna

 Community Building in Jackson Park

Mon. Oct. 22 7 pm Meet the Candidates for US Congress & WV Legislature

Wed. Oct. 24 Voters Guide published

 **November 6** **GENERAL ELECTION DAY**

Membership Meeting - September 24

 **Drop-out Prevention**

The League is holding a meeting for members and the public on a school drop-out prevention program that St. Paul’s United Methodist Church would like to get started in Wood County.

The Jobs for West Virginia’s Graduates (JWVG) program is affiliated with Jobs for America’s Graduates, which is the nation’s largest and most successful high school drop-out prevention program.

 The program already serves some of the most at-risk students in WV in Greenbrier County. Through an operating agreement with Jobs for West Virginia’s Graduates, Inc., St. Paul’s has two full-time employees and a half-time volunteer working every day to help challenged young people in Greenbrier County stay in school, explore and secure career path employment, and graduate from high school. They hope to bring the JWVG program home to Wood County soon.

The JWVG program has received funding from a variety of sources such as Appalachian Regional Council, The Walmart Foundation, Logan County and Greenbrier County Boards of Education, AT&T, CSX and private donors. **→**

Voter

 September 2012

Rev. W. Brent Sturm, Executive Director of Jobs for West Virginia’s Graduate program, and Senior Minister at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, will speak about the JWVG program.

***Monday, Sept. 24, 7:00 p.m., Vienna Library***

The library is at the corner of 23rd St. and River Rd., across the street from the Vienna Foodland store. Provided that it isn’t in use for a school activity, it’s OK to park in the adjacent Neal School parking lot.

 Wood County Board of Education members have been invited to attend. The public is also welcome, so help spread the word to those who have an interest in keeping students in school.

**Meet the Candidates**

**For Vienna City Offices**

 Vienna’s next mayor, city recorder, and council members will be elected on November 6. The election is nonpartisan. Council members are elected at large and all offices carry four year terms. There are two candidates for mayor, one for recorder, and twelve candidates to fill five council seats.

 The League has invited all the candidates to meet with Vienna voters on **Tuesday, October 9 at 7:00 pm in the Community Building** in Jackson Park across from Jackson Middle School.

 Candidates will have time to make a statement to voters and will be available for informal conversation after all candidates have had a chance to speak. Refreshments will be served. AARP is co-sponsoring this event.

 Any League member who is willing to serve as a time-keeper and/or be available to help set up chairs before and take them down afterwards, please contact Nancy Novak or Kathy Stoltz.

 Help us let Vienna voters know about this opportunity to meet the candidates. Tell your friends. Posters will be put up in public places, but we can’t be everywhere. For a PDF version you can print and post,, email at ksstoltz@suddenlink.net.

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More Voters Service

Candidates for US House of Representatives, First District, and for the WV Legislature (State Senate 3rd District and Delegate Districts 8, 9, and 10) have been invited to a **candidate forum** on October 22 at 7 pm. This event will be held in the Fort Boreman Room of the Judge Black Courthouse Annex. More information in the October *Voter.*

A **Voters Guide** will be published as a supplement to *The Parkersburg News and Sentinel* on October 24. Marion Weiser is gathering candidates’ responses, which also will be posted on the state LWV website on or about October 10. [www.lwvwv.org](http://www.lwvwv.org)

**Want Some Facts?**

This is an interesting website sponsored by George Washington University’s School of Media and Public Affairs. There’s no point of view – just a new fact every day with sources listed and comments invited aimed at having a “civil and friendly” discussion. [www.facethefactsusa.org](http://www.facethefactsusa.org)

**Election Law wins and losses**

A [U.S. Federal District Court](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=sp3fjq9o6cCgaPBv11rjSuU8wyZMULEn) found that the **Texas** voter photo identification law violates Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

The LWV of **Wisconsin** won a permanent injunction against a discriminatory voter ID law. After appeals failed, the Attorney General asked the Supreme court to reinstate the law, but no further action is currently scheduled to occur before the November election.

[In **Pennsylvania**](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=100JSMnZDrrKbwum6ApI7eU8wyZMULEn), a judge ruled in favor of the voter photo ID law and against an injunction to prevent its implementation, despite the fact that there is no proof of voter impersonations in the state, and 1.2 million eligible voters could be disenfranchised.

 [**Alaska**](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=%2BiKBJ106EGtrr4tn2d1DQOU8wyZMULEn) has joined at least six states or jurisdictions challenging continued enforcement of [Sec. 5 of the Voting Rights Act](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=KM%2F0I%2FA8YV2vpzG1KfJhhuU8wyZMULEn), which is meant to prevent voting discrimination based on race or color. Section 5 requires specific states and jurisdictions with a history of discrimination to secure preclearance before any voting changes may be implemented.

Early in 2012, the **Michigan** Legislature passed a law requiring all voters to affirm their citizenship at the polls before they could receive a ballot. Although Governor Rick Snyder (R) vetoed the bill, [confusion at the polls](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=CQUx2jre0yRjNLrzS%2F1uzeU8wyZMULEn) in August caused some registered voters to be denied ballots.

In late August, in another win for voters, a federal judge said he would block the voter registration restrictions of a [**Florida** measure](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=%2FgRA8TM%2BJoJIUGFPF9PrGeU8wyZMULEn) with a permanent injunction once the Appeals Court dismissed the case.

This week the [**Minnesota** Supreme Court ruled](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=CkJ7gy4ct7Mk6cf1KHDqDOU8wyZMULEn) that a constitutional amendment requiring a photo ID to vote will be on the ballot in November.

Above edited from August 2012 LeaguE-Voice Newsletter. To receive the monthly electronic newsletter, go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), click on login (upper right of screen) and register your email address and a password. Log on and then click on League Sponsored Email Lists. Then check the box to sign up for LeaguE-Voice.

**Public Campaign Financing Update**

 The pilot project the legislature enacted for the 2012 election cycle provided an opportunity for candidates for the WV Supreme Court of Appeals to run on public financing rather than having to raise donations or use personal funds. The project included provisions for a participating candidate to receive an initial grant and to receive additional funds if his/her opponent passed a specified campaign spending threshold. This past June the US Supreme Court struck down the matching funds provision in an Arizona public financing law that applied to state and legislative offices.

 In WV, one candidate chose to participate in the pilot project. His application for the matching funds was challenged and the case reached the WV Supreme Court of Appeals. Earlier this month the court struck down the matching funds provision in WV’s pilot project, asserting that it would not be able to withstand an appeal to the US Supreme Court. Justices acknowledged that WV’s law was narrower than Arizona’s because it applied only to the judicial race and that avoiding any appearance of bias is especially important in the election of justices. They also ruled that the participating candidate is now free to raise private contributions.

 Member organizations of the Clean Election Coalition note that no court has ruled against the concept of public financing. The fact that one of the four candidates for the two open seats on the state court has run under the pilot project’s provisions is proof that it can work. The coalition hopes that the legislature will extend the pilot project through the next court election in 2016. The matching funds provision could be deleted or replaced by alternate provisions for giving a candidate additional funding when a privately-funded opponent has a significant funding advantage. Public financing deserves more than a one-election trial.

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Election Odds and Ends

►2012 General Election Calendar

October 16 Last day to register to vote

October 24 –November 3 Early Voting

October 31 Last day to apply for an absentee ballot

November 6 GENERAL ELECTION

►The Nov. 6 ballot will contain a proposed constitutional amendment ending the existing 2-term limit on county sheriffs. The amendment will require a 2/3 majority to be adopted. The limit to two consecutive terms was adopted by constitutional amendment in 1973.

►The Secretary of State’s web site has extensive profiles of the four candidates for WV Supreme Court of Appeals. Two seats are on the ballot for 12 year terms. At [www.wv.sos.gov](http://www.wv.sos.gov) click on See All in the Election column and look for the Quicklink to the profiles.

►Did you know you can change your address on Election Day if you have moved within your precinct? If you have moved to a new precinct, you can vote there, but it will be on a provisional ballot.

► October 24 -November 3

**Early Voting in person** will take place at:
Judge Black Annex located at 315 Market Street 8:30am and 4:30pm Monday thru Friday. Hours on Saturday, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3 are 9:00am to 5:00pm.
Community voting sites will be open October 30 thru Nov. 2, 8:30 to 4:30 and Nov. 3, 9:00 to 5:00 at the following locations:
Williamstown City Building - 100 W5th Street,
Vienna City Building - 609 29th Street,
Mineral Wells Volunteer Fire Department- 1695 Elizabeth Pike
Lubeck Volunteer Fire Dept. - 1340 Harris Highway.
***All sites will have access to all precincts’ ballots; any Wood County voter can vote at any early voting site.***

WV Legislature

During August Interim Meetings of Legislative committees, the West Virginia Municipal League urged lawmakers to extend the **Home Rule** Pilot Project, which is scheduled to sunset this year, citing successes in streamlining of bureaucratic processes when cities have more autonomy to set their own rules. The Municipal League calls the program a success in the four cities that were part of the pilot project.

Also in August, the Education Subcommittee heard a report about a project to **reduce truancy**. In seven counties a probation officer is in the high school, making it possible to intervene more quickly. Speakers said the program has reduced truancy, but stressed that there are many factors that need to be addressed in efforts to reduce truancy. The Director of Probation Services pointed out that 80 percent of current inmates incarcerated in state prisons were high-school truants or dropouts.

At Interim meetings this week, legislators heard from the WV Center on Budget and Policy, a non-profit think tank based in Charleston. They were told that the state is not doing a good job of overseeing and reporting on whether **tax credits** granted as incentives to businesses are being properly used. In light of expected cuts in next year’s state budget, legislators need to know if the state is getting a return when it gives up millions in revenue. The Center’s director called for more transparency and timelier reporting of tax credit outcomes.

Also this week, a judiciary subcommittee heard lobbyists of the WV Press Association urge passage of a bill to close a loophole in the state’s **Freedom of Information Act** concerning private emails among public officials. Such a bill was passed unanimously by the House of Delegates but was not taken up by the Senate. Media representatives feel that current law allows too much leeway in decision-making about what is personal content and what is relevant to the public’s business.



LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Drive

Vienna WV 26105

Sept. 24 Membership Meeting

See information on page 1

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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.