



The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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LWVWV website: www.LWVWV.ORG

LWVUS website: www.LWV.ORG

The LWV is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$45 individual, \$60 for two in one household and \$24 for students. To join, send your check to: Ann Speer, Treasure, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701. Check is to be made out to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area.

FEBRUARY 21 LEAGUE MEETING

The Huntington League and Delta Sigma Theta will co-sponsor a meeting at the West Huntington Library at 10 am on Saturday, February 21. Our speaker will be Irv Johnson, the Cabell County Assessor. Mr. Johnson will talk about the duties of the office. Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting. Refreshments will be served by Delta Sigma Theta.

FEBRUARY 12 LEGISLATIVE FORUM AT MU

Thurs Feb 12, 2015. 6:00-8:00 pm. 2E28 in the Memorial Student Center (Shawkey Room) The forum is sponsored by the Our Children Our Future Campaign, and will cover a number of the campaign's issues. League involvement - Organizing Committee - Jeannette Rowsey; among the presenters - Laura Deveny and Helen Gibbins; The forum is open to the public.

RECYCLING TIPS

Here are some things to remember about recycling. Break down boxes. This will allow more room in the bins. Also, it is important that recyclables not be placed in plastic bags. Note that plastic bags appear on the "do not recycle" list. In addition, when recyclables are placed in plastic bags, the bags inhibit the sorting process.

Posters placed on the bins illustrate the types of materials accepted for recycling.

Metal - Aluminum, steel, and tin cans (empty, crush, and clean)

Plastic - Bottle-Neck containers only (empty, crush, reattach lid)

Glass - Bottles and jars (all colors, empty, recycle lids separately)

Cartons - Aseptics & cartons (remove plastic lids and straws)

Paper - Newspaper & inserts; magazines, catalogs & phone books; clean pizza boxes; envelopes and junk mail; paperboard; cardboard.

WVLEGISLATURE - <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/>

Reminder - If you would like to receive a copy of Cabell and Wayne County legislators, their email addresses, phone numbers, and committee assignments, please contact Helen Gibbins, gibbins@frontier.com.

The League has many issues on its plate during this session. Periodically we will be sending email messages to League members asking them to contact their legislators on the different bills. If you have a particular interest in any of these issues, feel free to contact Helen Gibbins, gibbins@frontier.com.

Here are some of the issues that we are covering.

Oppose a Voter ID law, SB 340 and HB 2477.

WV does not have a problem with voter impersonation at the polls, so Voter ID is a solution in search of a problem.

Voter ID will add costs to the administration of elections.

Voter ID will add costs and time for voters to obtain a Voter ID. Those of us who have gone through the requirements of obtaining the Real ID driver's license know how difficult it can be. Some people have trouble accessing a birth certificate or current marriage license. Some people do not drive and may live a considerable distance from the Office of Motor Vehicles or other offices needed to access the records required for the Voter ID. This bill will turn some already legal eligible voters, like senior citizens and persons who do not drive, into illegal voters even though they have voted since they were 21. Voter ID will cause longer lines at the polls when more voters will have to vote a provisional ballot. The provisional ballots will be judged by a canvassing board and not the voter.

We have spent over 200 years in our country making it easier to vote. Voter ID turns us backwards in opening up the right to vote for every eligible citizen.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
6128 GIDEON ROAD
HUNTINGTON, WV 25705

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

CALENDAR

Feb. 19, 7 pm - Amicus Curiae lecture at Marshall U.
Feb. 21, 10 am. West Huntington Library. League meeting. Irv Johnson, Assessor is the speaker.
March 3, 7 pm - Amicus Curiae lecture at Marshall U.
March 16 - League's annual meeting.
April 18 - State Convention, hosted by the LWV of the Huntington Area. Speaker - Ted Boettner, Executive Director, WV Center for Budget Policy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO the Huntington chapter of Links. The group received the MLK Service Organization award in Charleston.

AMICUS CURIAE LECTURE SERIES

February 19, 7 pm "War & Remembrance in Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address". The lecturer will be Lucas Morel, professor and chair of the Politics Department at Washington & Lee U. The lectures take place at the Marshall U. Foundation Hall, Fifth Avenue.
March 3, 7 pm. "Why Women Don't Run for Office and What Happens When They Do". Lecturer is Jennifer Lawless, a professor of government and the Director of the Women & Politics Institute at American University.
Live streaming is available at www.marshall.edu/it/livestream.

Oppose Weakening the Laws Enacted to Protect our Drinking Water

After last year's chemical spill into the Elk River the legislature passed a strong law (SB373) to protect our drinking water sources from spills from Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs). Subsequently the DEP promulgated rules making provisions for three types of tanks, according to their risks and proximity to drinking water intakes. The highest risk tanks will be subjected to inspections and

certification, while the low risk tanks will only be on a list of tanks.

But this year's HB 2574 and SB 423 were introduced to remove most of the ASTs and the Oil and Gas Industry from the Source Water Protection Law. HB 2574 and SB 423 will substantially weaken the protection of our drinking water sources that the 2014 legislature so wisely passed.

Support Strengthening Environmental Laws and Rules

The League favors keeping WV's waters in "Category A", WV's Water Quality Standards that protect our waters for current or future drinking water use. Since 1967, it's been the state's policy to protect most rivers and streams for future drinking water use, with few exceptions. In the 1980s the Kanawha River became one of those exceptions. Now the legislature is to decide whether to support DEP's proposal to restore Category A protection for the Kanawha. This change would promote a cleaner Kanawha River and provide the option for a secondary intake on the Kanawha for the Charleston water system. In addition we want to keep Category A for all of our waters, with the right to a variance for certain waters when a case can be made for weakening the standards.

Oppose Severing West Virginians Right to Health Insurance under the ACA (HB2216)

Many West Virginians have benefited from the Affordable Care Act in their access to health insurance through the federal exchange. If the Supreme Court rules that only those insured through state health exchanges can receive subsidized policies, a bill introduced in the legislature will make it more difficult for the state to sponsor its own health insurance exchange in time for our West Virginians to become insured.