



# The Kentucky Voter

Fall 2012

LWV of Kentucky, 115 S. Ewing Ave, Louisville, KY 40206  
502-875-6481, KentuckyLWV@gmail.com, http://lwvky.org/

## From the Co-Presidents:

The League of Women Voters Kentucky has made several changes as we begin the new year. The board decided to close the Frankfort office as a money-saving effort and move our mailing address to the Louisville LWV offices at Lang House, 115 South Ewing Ave, Louisville. The state League will pay a small fee to store materials and pay their part time staff assistant to send state mail to appropriate officers, reducing our budget by about \$3200. To date, the plan is working well.

The board also decided with the office move to hold board meetings in different locations this year. Members are always welcome to attend state board meetings and we especially encourage your attendance when we are in your community. (See the LWV Calendar of Events on page 4.)

We know local Leagues are busy planning candidate forums or meet and greets giving citizens more information as they vote this fall. Many Leagues tape your events and air them on local cable channels. This is an important service to your community and we appreciate your efforts.

We hope each League will participate in the Civics Education and Juvenile Drug Court studies. We had a conversation at council about using these studies to promote the League as we interact in our communities. (See Council report for more details.) Both have been extended through fall 2013.

LWV US reports that several Leagues are moving to a leadership 'management team' model and we got word that Hardin County LWV is operating by committee this year. Although the three of us are officially co-presidents, we consider ourselves to be your management team. Feel free to contact any of us with questions or concerns.

Tammy Fagley, Cindy Heine, Cecile Schubert  
Co-presidents



Front row: Bonnie Lynch, Carolyn Self  
Middle row: Terry Naydan, Gladys Thigpen  
Back row: Tammy Fagley, Nita Smith, Cecile Schubert, Richard Heine, Henrietta Kemmp, and Barbara Morris

## 2012 KY Council Report

The Hopkinsville-Christian County LWV hosted our 2012 Council meeting on April 27-28 at Rough River Dam State Park. Eighteen members attended.

Rep. Tommy Thompson (D), Majority Whip in the House of Representatives, spoke on Friday evening. Members of the Republican Party were also invited but unable to attend. Rep Thompson reported:

- The redistricting bill passed by both chambers was rejected in a court ruling; it's expected that a special session will be called after the November elections to fix the bill, which will require adding about 41,000 people to each district, keeping the numbers within 5 percent of the targets and dividing counties as little as possible.
- Expanded gaming may have a better chance of passing as a ballot issue with less specific language on use of funds in future years.
- The FY13 and 14 budget bill passed with no new taxes, less debt and a lower structural deficit. \$1.6 billion has been cut from the KY budget over the last few years.

**League of Women Voters Convention June 8-12, 2012, Washington, DC**  
**Notes and Comments from Kentucky Delegates on Issues and Workshops**  
Francis Cotton, Teena Halbig, Martha Hannifan, Beverly Moore, Pat Murrell

**POWER OUR VOICE TO POWER THE VOTE:** Carolyn Lukensmeyer, Founder & Pres. of America Speaks said “This is a moment of crisis in the history of our democracy,” and mentioned suppression of voting rights, Citizens United decision allowing the possibility of “buying elections/candidates,” and voter apathy. She challenged League members to find five people who are so discouraged that they do not plan to vote, and talk with them. The LWV image is positive, but many people don’t know much about us. Suggestions: describe League as locally based advocacy group that does not support candidates or parties, but we do support issues and always cite the source of statistics and other information when making a point.

LWVUS has a **High School Voter Registration Manual** that we can use. September 25 is **National Voter Registration Day**—Leagues are encouraged to plan events and announcements.

**Kathleen Hall Jamieson**, *Professor of Communication at the Annenberg School and Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania* **Flack-Checking Political Sneeze.** Jamieson recommends using the website [Flackcheck.org](http://flackcheck.org) to learn about the movement to protest misleading or lying third party political advertisements. Stations may say they have to accept the ads, but that is only for candidates. They can monitor and turn down third party advertisements. Of course, they can charge more for the third party ads.

**ROLL CALL OF STATES:** Kentucky reported: LWV had the only statewide broadcast of governor’s campaign debate; Is conducting a state Juvenile Drug Court study; a new League in Pendleton County; participated in the Membership Leadership Development Program; lobbied the KY legislature for a new way to finance Supreme Court Justice Election Campaigns.

**Film: Patriocracy “Civility in Our Democracy”**

Very attention-getting documentary about the dysfunction in the US congress due to lack of civility and polarization of the country. One reason for the polarization is that people no longer get the same news. The media no longer presents the news so that everyone has the same information rather fake news programs are entertainment designed to please prejudices. Delegates suggested offering this film at state convention or maybe as a fund raiser.

**“HOW DO WE UNITE AND CONQUER?” Panel Moderator: Elisabeth MacNamara**

Delegates suggested KY members watch it at [LWV.org website](http://www.lwv.org)

<http://library.lwv.org/content/how-do-we-unite-and-conquer>

Panelists included Mickey Edwards, Director of the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership and former Congressman (R-OK); New book: *How to turn Republicans and Democrats into Americans*

**Trevor Potter**, *President and General Counsel of the Campaign Legal Center and former Chair of the Federal Election Commission*

Citizens United overturned 50 years of Federal law and 26 years of state law. Key point: Judge Stevens’s dissent. For the first time, with departure of Justice O’Connor, no one on the Supreme Court has ever held an elective office or experience running for office. According to Potter the Citizens United decision was based on fundamental fallacies that corporations had previously been banned from speaking, corporate speech will be fully disclosed, and independent expenditures are not corrupting. He emphasized that getting an amendment to the constitution is very unlikely. There are more immediate and likely ways to counteract the Citizens United decision including court actions that are in progress and grassroots pressuring of the Supreme Court to change its position in future decisions.

**APPROVED: NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE 2012-2014 BIENNIUM** Motion to adopt a concurrence with the Sentencing Policy position of the LWVDC as follows: Sentencing Policy: The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses. **[Note: Kentucky LWV can use this position for the upcoming legislature.]**

**APPROVED:** Motion to review and update the LWVUS agriculture position, approved in 1988. Such a review would investigate genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process, and the consumer’s right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling.

**APPROVED:** We, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2012 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for all appropriate, duly-considered measures which may include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which: are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters.

New Positions: The National Board recently approved positions on Privatization and on Education. They are both posted on [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org).

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- The pill mill bill passed, requiring doctors to use a state-wide reporting system (KASPER) for controlled drugs in an effort to reduce abuse of prescription drugs.
- Methamphetamine production: a limit was put on the amount of an ephedrine-related drug that can be purchased/year; the drug is behind the counter and a driver's license must be shown to purchase the drug.
- The governor appointed a Blue Ribbon Tax Commission, hoping for recommendations that will be fair, simpler and provide adequate funding and also keep KY competitive
- A bill in the special session authorized work on two bridges in Jefferson County.

Members attending Council discussed ways to use our state studies to **promote the League** and build membership. For example, we could publish results of our findings locally, collaborate with other groups, wear LWV pins when out in public, ask for help from members who may be inactive and others interested in the topic, follow up with those expressing an interest in the LWV with calls or member materials, carry LWV member information when working on the studies, ask local businesses for financial help with study-related activities.

Local league presidents reported on their many activities including candidate schools, candidate forums, 'blue sheets' of information on how to contact elected officials, essay contests, hosting state of the city/county events. Our members are busy offering important voter services across the state.

Council adopted a resolution asking LWVUS to hold per member payments (PMP) to the same level without approval of the members.

Members discussed the need to influence the process used for **state redistricting**. Members feel it's an important issue that is appropriate for the League. The state board was directed to investigate this issue further (check national and other state positions and actions) and decide whether to take action.

The LWV KY gets frequent requests for our **study on felon voting rights**, which is outdated. Members decided to update that report this year.

**Vote411** was discussed as a good way to provide information about candidate positions at the local and state level. Those attending LWVUS Council urged us to take advantage of it. Council recommended local Leagues use it this year at \$300/local League for all local elections (federal, state, and local) for Lexington and Louisville, \$200/League for smaller KY cities. KY LWV will check on use of Vote411 for the state in 2013 and explore help underwriting the cost of the project.

**Join the "Civics Education in Kentucky Schools" Study**

**Do high school graduates in Kentucky know enough about government to understand what government and voting are all about?**

The LWV of KY wants to find out. A study of civics education in Kentucky schools is beginning. The LWV Kentucky Board is asking each local league to learn as much as they can in their community. We will review national and state civics standards and research. Then we will learn from local educators and students by interviewing them, inviting them to conversations and, we hope, finally doing a civics survey of students' knowledge. If you would like to help with this study or if you have questions, please email and/or call Beverly Moore at [beverlydm@aol.com](mailto:beverlydm@aol.com) or 502-473-1114. This can be a very important study at a time when democracy in the United States seems to be in danger.

**In celebration of** the 92nd anniversary of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote, the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA) in co-operation with Cincinnati World Cinema (CWC) will be screening "**Iron Jawed Angels**," the true story of the struggle for women's suffrage, on September 8. LWV of KY and the Pendleton County LWV will co-sponsor this event to be held at the Carnegie Arts Center, 1028 Scott Blvd., Covington, KY. There will be viewings at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. A social hour with cash bar and a-la-carte lite-bites precedes each screening. Reservations are required. **Reserve your seats today** at Cincinnati World Cinema and donations will be cheerfully accepted.

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From the Brennan Center for Justice: A new comprehensive review of state laws governing vote registration drives and restrictions imposed on groups like the League of Women Voters has been released by the Brennan Center. "State Restrictions on Voter Registration Drives" can be found at [www.brennancenter.org](http://www.brennancenter.org).

**NOTE: LWV Kentucky Address Change**  
**League of Women Voters of Kentucky**  
**115 S. Ewing Avenue**  
**Louisville, KY 40206**

**LWV KY Calendar of Events**

**September 15, 2012** Kentucky LWV Board meeting  
115 S. Ewing Ave, Louisville

**October 11, 2012** Vice Presidential Debate, Centre  
Danville, KY

**November 6, 2012** Election Day

**November 17, 2012** Kentucky LWV Board meeting  
1000 Tates Creek Rd., Lexington

**January 12, 2013** Kentucky LWV Board meeting  
Elizabethtown

**March 16, 2013** Kentucky LWV Board meeting  
Pendleton County

**2012-13 LWV KY Board**

**Co-Presidents:** Tammy Fagley  
Cindy Heine  
Cecile Schubert

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Nicole George

**Treasurer:** Steve Senft

**Board of Directors:** Beverly Moore  
Richard Heine

**Off Board Positions:**

**Legislative Liaison:** Terry Naydan

**Web Page:** Nicole Wolfe

**Nominating Com:** Chair, Nita Smith  
Terry Naydan  
Shawn Nordheim

**Membership/  
National liaison:** Carolyn Self

*The League of Women Voters of Kentucky is a nonpartisan political 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.*



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