



SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **Call on HR 425 to end Citizens United! See p. 2 for details**

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Rand Paul Rejects LWV-Sponsored Debate

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

Senator Rand Paul refused an opportunity to debate at a state League-sponsored event scheduled for Oct. 30.

The move means that Paul will face his Democratic challenger, Lexington Mayor Jim Gray, in just a single debate. It will air live at 8 p.m. on Oct. 31 on KET.

“Research conducted on voter behavior and participation shows that not only does the public expect candidates to participate in voter education activities,” said Dr. Terry Naydan, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky, “but it also found that voters are more likely to vote when they know who the candidates are and where they stand on issues. “When candidates choose not to participate, it is a loss for the voters.”

The Gray campaign had an even harsher response: “Rand found plenty of time to debate when he was focused on the White House, but seems uninterested in Kentucky once again,” spokeswoman Cathy Lindsey told the



Lexington Herald-Leader. “One debate, the week before the election isn’t fair to Kentuckians.”

Paul also refused to attend a debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Hopkinsville/Christian County.

Six years ago, Paul debated his Democratic opponent five times, including a debate that was nationally televised on the Fox News Channel. This time, Paul refused to appear on the same stage as Gray except for that single upcoming debate. That included at the Kentucky Farm Bureau in May; usually, the forum has been a semi-debate format with both candidates appearing together.

Gray had agreed to

the LWV debate in July. Paul waited until early October to decline the invitation.

Due to co-sponsor this event with the Kentucky League were the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, the University of Kentucky Student Government and CBS affiliates WLKY-TV of Louisville and WKYT-TV of Lexington.



By **CINDY HEINE**

The League of Women Voters chapters in Louisville and Lexington are using VOTE411.org this year, an online voter guide offering citizens more information about the candidates.

The Leagues invited candidates to respond to questions which provide a side-by-side comparison.

Since 2006, VOTE411 has provided nonpartisan information on candidates. In addition, by going to VOTE411.org, you can find out info on election dates, registration deadlines, absentee ballots, and even how to find out your polling place!

Be sure to check out VOTE411 and share with your friends and neighbors.

Presidents' Message



Co-presidents, from top to bottom: Terry Naydan and Nita Smith

By TERRY NAYDAN and NITA SMITH

We would like to thank all candidates who attended debates and the volunteers who helped to present those debates. Candidate debates and forums go a long way toward creating a well-informed electorate. As you know, we cannot depend on "sound bites" for accurate information about a candidate's policy positions.

We look forward to a new Presidential era

and appreciate **all who vote** as they truly make us a representative democracy.

Our special thanks goes to our debate coordinator, Cindy Heine, for her tireless work coordinating state-level debates; however, we sorely regret the cancellation of the U.S. Senate debate this year. Democracy is not served when voters get but a single chance to learn about their choices.

The Girl Scouts deserve a mention for their

"Promise to Vote" campaign. Along with the League of Women Voters and other adult volunteers, they helped to register citizens throughout the Bluegrass Area and Eastern Kentucky, and then they will work to persuade potential voters to promise to go to the polls on Election Day.

This not only was a service to voters, but a potential training ground for future League leadership. A job well done.

Support an End to Super PACs with HR 425

The explosive growth of Super PACs — a major outgrowth of the Supreme

Court's decision in *Citizens United* — is undermining the integrity and effectiveness of our nation's anti-corruption campaign finance laws.

Super PACs raise and spend unlimited amounts and serve as vehicles

for donors and candidates to bypass the contribution limits that apply to a candidate's campaign — limits enacted by Congress to prevent corruption.



It's time to close this loophole that's letting too much big money into our elections. Tell your Representative to co-sponsor and support HR 425, the "Stop Super PAC -- Candidate Coordination Act" introduced by Representatives David Price and Chris Van Hollen.

Since coordinated expenditures are treated by law as in-kind contributions to the candidate, new and effective coordination rules would bring Super PACs back into the contribution limit system and help protect against corruption of public officials.

Congress can fix this.

Stand up today and urge your congressman to strengthen coordination rules and stop Super PACS from evading the law.

Help us stop big money by telling your Representative to co-sponsor and support HR 425 **today!**

Contact Information

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State League Proposes Redistricting Committee

By STEVE SENFT

At the League of Women Voters of the United States' Convention in June, delegates adopted a position on redistricting.

In brief, this position reads: "Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation."

The details of this position can be found on the lwv.org site by going to the *Convention 2016 Workbook & Program*, page 34.

We are working on promoting legislation that would create a Kentucky non-partisan committee to redistrict

Congressional and state legislative districts, as will be required after the 2020 census.

We are requesting that at least one person from each local League participate on a committee for this effort so we have representation from as many parts of the state as possible. Getting this

legislation passed will require a coalition of supporting groups so part of our activity will be identifying and working with other public policy interest groups. Please let Nita Smith, nitavotes@aol.com, or Steve Senft, steve.senft@twc.com, if you want to work on this project.



Above, Secretary of State Allison Lundergan Grimes expresses her satisfaction with how well online registration, which she implemented, is going in Kentucky. Grimes visited Lang House, the headquarters of the League of Women Voters of Louisville, for an early meet-and-greet breakfast on Oct. 11, the final day to register to vote and still be in time for the Nov. 8 general election. She later headed to Lexington for more celebration of a successful first year of online registration in Kentucky.
Photo by Bill Lieshoff

Louisville League Hosts

Forum on Race

By IVONNE ROVIRA

The League of Women Voters of Louisville hosted an incredibly successful forum on the racial divide in August.

The six-member panel at *Racism: Justice and Changing Hearts and Minds* drew an audience of nearly 100 (pictured above), the largest crowd to gather at Lang House in recent history. Before this multi-racial audience, the panel discussed racism on the local and national stage.



Above, Louisville activist Christopher 2X speaks about alliances. Top left, the largest audience in recent history gathered at Lang House.
Photos by Bill Wolfe

Local Leagues Host Debates, Voter Drives

By **CAROLYN SELF**
Hopkinsville

The League of Women Voters of Hopkinsville/Christian County hosted a candidate forum for James Comer and Sam Gaskins, the candidates for the First District Congressional race, the only debate for that race.

Candidates expressed appreciation for the opportunity. The event was covered by Channel 6 in Paducah and all radio media in Western Kentucky.

They are also hosting forums for city council, school board and Kentucky state representative candidates Jeff Taylor and W. Thomas.

Although the Hopkinsville League also invited the U.S. Senate candidates, incumbent Senator Rand Paul declined — just as he did for the state League debate.

They will also host their annual candidate luncheon and fund-raiser on Oct. 28. Candidates mingle with the guests while eating soup, cornbread and desserts. They have served 100 to 200 each time they host this event! Leaguers also register students at the local high school.

By **TAMMY FAGLEY**
Lexington

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is working on getting out the vote in November. To that end, they are working with the Girl Scouts on the latter's Promise to Vote campaign.

The League is helping the Girl Scouts register voters and persuade citizens to sign a promise to vote.

The League held candidate forums for 75th House district, Fifth District Supreme Court justice and two local school board races. The Lexington Public Library's staff

videotaped these events, which will be broadcast on their cable channel and on YouTube until Election Day.

The League is also taking advantage of VOTE411.org, an online voter guide made available by the national League. Graduate student and League member Lauren Wallace is managing this project.

Leaguers are also working on a campaign to get out the vote. As part of that campaign they will conduct focus groups to discover why people are not voting then will work on solutions.



Above, 75th House District Candidates Kelly Flood (D) and Gary McCollum (R) share a word after the League forum in Lexington, Oct. 1 at the Lexington Public Library.

At left, Lexington League members Donna Blue and Tammy Fagley serve as timers for a League forum in Lexington. Photos by Judy Johnson

State League Recognizes Hart

By **CINDY HEINE**

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky recognizes Reva Hart of Hardin County for her outstanding service to the League. She has been elected president at both state and local levels as



Reva Hart

well as holding other offices during her more than 50 years with the League.

“The League has been my passion along with education for our children,” Reva said.

Born in Grayson County, Reva moved to Hardin County in 1947. She met her husband at the University of Kentucky and, after both graduated with degrees in Commerce, they returned to Elizabethtown in 1961.

She joined the League three years later to learn about current issues.

“I thought studying and reaching positions to lobby could be effective and make a difference,” Reva said.

What gave Reva the most satisfaction were “the passage of the ERA amendment and the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990.”

Reva was a member of the Hardin County League until she moved to Colorado earlier this year to be closer to family. She served locally in all positions except secretary, saying she did not have a talent for that. She worked nationally on fund raising in Kentucky.

Reva’s advice to League

members is to inform themselves — and others — regarding current issues to help the League of Women Voters remain a viable organization.

State League Co-president Terry Naydan called Reva Hart a mentor to younger members who joined the League.

Terry’s fellow co-president, Nita Smith, remembered seeing Reva at state conventions and being impressed by Reva’s ability to run a meeting with grace and patience!

“We thought we would always have access to her wise counsel, but alas, she has moved to Colorado to start a new chapter of her life,” said Terry. “We wish her well and recognize our debt to her.”

League Turns 100 in 2020

By **NITA SMITH**

It won't be long until we will be singing 100th happy birthday to the League of Women Voters for the passage of the right for women to vote!

The 19th Amendment giving women the vote was ratified on Aug. 18, 1920. The League of Women Voters was founded shortly before that, on Feb. 14, 1920.

We are asking each local league to start a committee to plan a local event to commemorate and celebrate the League of Women Voters’ centennial. Many leagues are planning an entry in their local Fourth of July parades and activities.

This monumental occasion could be a topic for those Leagues to sponsor essay contests for students. Many Kentucky women believed and worked towards our right to vote, and perhaps your league’s book group could choose a biography and share the review in your local league’s *Voter* newsletter.

We look forward to your ideas!



State League Co-presidents Terry Naydan and Nita Smith recently drove to Bell County for a meeting, lunch and meet-and-greet with local League members. Seated in front, from left to right, are Terry Naydan; Meryl Ward, Bell County member and state board member; and Bell County League President Susan Leo. Nita Smith stands immediately behind that trio. Joining the Bell County League were (seen in the middle of the last row) Middlesboro Mayor Bill Kelley and state Representative Rick Nelson.

LET'S CLEAN UP THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE ME\$\$!

By **GEORGE SCHUHMAN**

Members of the League of Women Voters and the general public are of the opinion that there is too much money in politics. Unlimited spending to influence elections is allowed, and much of that is “Dark Money” from anonymous donors. Spending money is likened to freedom of political speech, and billionaires get to speak much more effectively than the rest of us. Add to that the fact that the Federal Election Commission, with a partisan split of three-to-three, deadlocks on any significant enforcement or regulatory action.

The League of Women Voters’ position on campaign-Finance reform was adopted in 1982, long before our present problems, and the League has been hampered by an inability to support or oppose current campaign practices.

This issue of the Voter includes the League’s brand new Position on Money In Politics (MIP) adopted in April by the national League’s Board and ratified at our national Convention in June to culminate a two-

year process of study and consensus involving all the state and local leagues. It is reproduced in full below and deserves close attention because its provisions enable State and Local Leagues to support or oppose a broad range of proposed legislation or regulations that address the finance of political campaigns.

Highlights include (1) enhancing “political equality” for all citizens, (2) public financing of elections, (3) broadening the definition of “political corruption” beyond bribery to include forms of undue influence that distort the results of the political process, and (4) proposing a range of spending limits on the persons and entities spending money to influence the outcomes of elections.

The new Position on MIP is designed to have language that will be useful to address current campaign practices and durable to address the foreseeable future. We should be aware of the aspirational nature of the MIP Position and the way it fits into the issues of campaign finance reform being raised in the current Presidential race.

LWVUS Position on Money in Politics

(As announced by the national Board in April.)

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should:

- Enhance political equality for all citizens;
- Ensure maximum participation by citizens in the political process;
- Protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns;
- Provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices;
- Ensure transparency and the public’s right to know who is using money to influence elections;
- Enable candidates to compete equitably for public office;
- Ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public; and



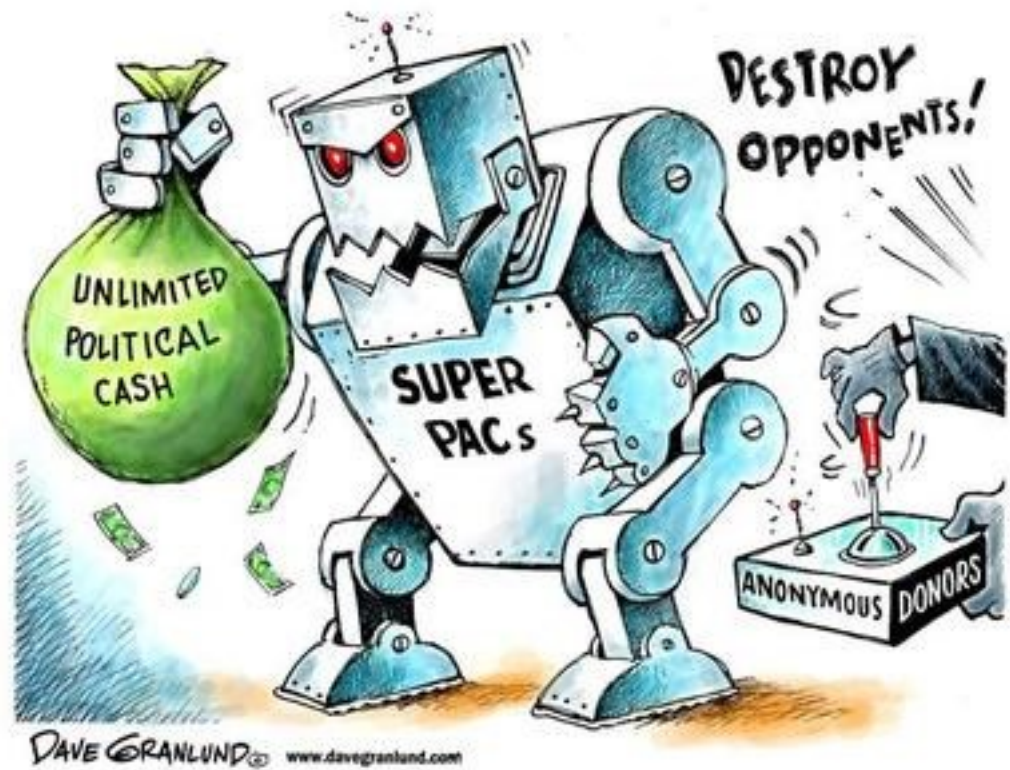
Schuhmann

George Schuhmann is a member of the League of Women Voters of the United States’ Money in Politics Committee.

- Combat corruption and undue influence in government.

The League believes that political corruption includes the following:

- A candidate or officeholder agrees to vote or work in favor of a donor's interests in exchange for a campaign contribution;
- An officeholder or staff gives greater access to donors;
- An officeholder votes or works to support policies that reflect the preferences of individuals or organizations in order to attract contributions from them;



- A candidate or office holder seeks political contributions implying that there will be retribution unless a donation is given; and
- The results of the political process consistently favor the interests of significant campaign contributors.

In order to achieve the goals for campaign finance regulation, the League supports:

- Public financing of elections, either voluntary or mandatory, in which candidates must abide by reasonable spending limits;
- Enhanced enforcement of campaign finance laws that includes changes to ensure that regulatory agencies are properly funded, staffed, and structured to avoid partisan deadlock in the decision-making process;
- Abolishing Super PACs and abolishing spending coordinated or directed by candi-

- dates (other than a candidate's own campaign committee); and
- Restrictions on direct donations and bundling by lobbyists, which may include monetary limits as well as other regulations.

Until full public financing of elections is enacted, limits on election spending are needed in order to meet the League's goals for protecting democratic processes. Among the different entities that spend money to influence elections, the League supports the following comparative limits:

- Higher spending limits for political parties, genuinely non-partisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote organizations and activities, and candidates spending money raised from contributors;

- Mid-level spending limits for individual citizens (including wealthy individuals), Political Action Committees (with funds contributed by individuals associated with the sponsoring organization, such as employees, stockholders, members and volunteers), and candidates spending their own money;
- Lower spending limits for trade associations, labor unions and non-profit organizations from their general treasury funds;
- Severely restricted spending by for-profit organizations spending from their corporate treasury funds; and
- No limits on spending by bona fide newspapers, television, and other media, including the Internet, except to address partisan abuse or use of the media to evade campaign finance regulations.



League of Women Voters of Kentucky

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Calendar

Sunday, Oct. 31, 8 p.m.:
Televised U.S. Senate de-
bate, "Kentucky Tonight,"
KET.

Tuesday, Nov. 8: General
Election.

Nov. 17, 5:30 p.m.: Co-
presidents Terry Naydan
and Nita Smith address the
American Association of
University Women
(AAUW). **Woodford
County Library, 400
Northside Dr., Midway.**