

La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 78 League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter Nov. 2004

THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

The next time our newsletter is published, our country will have chosen a President. Many groups and corporations are promoting voting this year. Tonight, October 21st, we stopped at our local Culvers and as we waited in line to order, I noticed a yard sign by Culvers urging people to vote. People on the radio are talking about voting and discussions are happening between people in the streets, at work and in our neighborhoods. Although this has been a long pre-election period, the interest in voting has warmed the League cockles of my heart. Will this be sustained in future years?

There are many strong feelings from the various perspectives but as the sun rises on November 3, 2004 we will be back to working on bi-partisan efforts to solve the issues in our country. The American people will again focus on issues, which means the ACTION part of League will be dusted off, and you will be asked to educate your representative about why League will be supporting or opposing specific legislation.

Many of our members have been contributing to this busy year and if we all were to quit work to focus on League, we could do more. The list of involved League members has grown ensuring a long list of accomplishments for our annual meeting. If you want to get more active in League, please let me know, and I will find you a job!

Work will start soon on the nomination committee for our next slate of officers. Do not hesitate to tell us if you are interested in having lunch once a month with dynamic women who have an endless desire to talk about issues and democracy.

Sincerely,

Kay Adams
President of League of Women Voters-La Crosse Area

THE TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS (TABOR)...THE ISSUE THAT HAS PROMISED TO RE-EMERGE!

Join us for two exciting General Membership Meetings that will deal with TABOR. We are fortunate to have scheduled Joe Heim, Ph.D. of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Political Science Department to speak at these meetings. The first meeting will be an objective overview of TABOR, its meaning, implications, pros and cons. The second meeting will deal with alternatives to TABOR. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend both these important meetings!

The TABOR meetings will be held Wednesday, November 17th and Thursday, December 16th at Doc Powell's. Lunch at 11:30 with speaker from noon to 1:00 p.m. The fare will be the excellent soup, salad, hot dish and dessert buffet.

Please contact Roxanne Reynolds at (608) 526-5871 or roxannereynolds@centurytel.net with your reservations for both meetings. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

LEAGUE DUES

League dues are still a bargain—only \$45.00 from July 1st until June 30, 2005. If you would like to check if you have paid for this current year, please call me (788-5160). What an important

year for League. Please send your check to me at 2102 South 29th Street or LWV, P.O. Box 363, La Crosse, WI 54602-0363.

Thank you!

Dee Peacock





This election season the League of Women Voters of the la Crosse Area sponsored 7 billboards in the city and surrounding communities. This is one of the four designs used to stimulate area citizens' appetite for voting!

VOTER SERVICES

By Catherine Kolkmeier

As you can imagine, October has been a tremendously busy month for Voter Services, and it has resulted in some great media coverage for League. Earlier this month, I was invited to speak to the advisory committee for Riverfront about how the voting process applies to people with disabilities. In short, unless a judge has taken away your right to vote, you have that right! Thank you to Teri Lehrke for giving me a crash course on the subject before my presentation.

Ellen Rosborough (Voter Services Chair for LWV Wisconsin) and I have been involved in several candidate forums. In conjunction with the Vernon County Broadcaster and the Westby Times, we moderated a forum for the 96th Assembly and 32nd Senate races in Viroqua. Working with WKBT-News Channel 8, WLSU Public Radio, and the La Crosse Tribune, we moderated a forum for the 96th and 94th Assembly and 32nd Senate races that was broadcast on both radio and television. This week, on October 27th, we are assisting with a forum for the 3rd Congressional District at 7:00 p.m. at UW-L's Cleary Center to be broadcast Saturday and Sunday on WXOW-Channel 19. To participate in the audience, call WXOW at 791-8234.

Finally, we have been working to find volunteers within the city of La Crosse to work at the polls and help out poll workers. The League will also be distributing "I Voted Today" stickers within the city of La Crosse and parts of Onalaska this election day. If you want to help at your polling station on election day or help La Crosse County collect ballots that night, please call me at 796-9090 ASAP. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered—your help is so much appreciated!

Keep your eye out for the new League billboards promoting voting this year, and don't forget to vote November 2nd!!

REMINDER: OCTOBER 28 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON MEETING

Woody Wiedenhoef, Associate Superintendent for Business Services of the La Crosse School District, will speak to us on school funding at Fayze's on October 28. There are many proposals to reform school funding in Wisconsin but first we need to understand the basics of our funding formulas now. He will explain revenue caps, the qualified economic offer (QEO) and the need for the September referendum.

Some questions to think about on a state level. Why do reserve funds grow even as services are being cut? Why are kindergarten programs growing while administrators lay off staff? Residential property taxes now make up nearly 70% of all property taxes and despite a cap on school revenue they have continued to climb while school aids take up a larger share of the state budget. School aids and corrections are the only state budget items that have increased significantly as a percent of the total budget from 1985-2002. Other budget items have stayed the same or decreased.

Come and hear our local expert explain the fiscal challenges for education in La Crosse and in Wisconsin.

Call or e-mail Roxanne Reynolds with any last minute reservations (608) 526-5871 or roxannereynolds@centurytel.net. It will be a salad and sandwich lunch with your choice of Reuben: \$5.25, Fayze's Clubhouse: \$5.25, Chicken Deluxe: \$4.49 or Fish Sandwich: \$4.99. Prices do not include tax or gratuity. The lunch begins at 11:30 and the meeting at noon.

This is our state support position on education.

Financing Education

Support a system of school financing that ensures equal educational opportunity and access for each child, in which the state assumes a significant funding share, and provides for increased payments for children with special needs. Monitor the use of vouchers and revenue caps. (See LWVWI Education; LWVUS Equality of Opportunity)

VOTING:

The Last Presidential Election

Votes cast for President: 105,397,000

Percentage of the voting age population that voted:

US: 51.2%

Wisconsin: 66.1%

Source: US Census Bureau. *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 2003

Women and Presidential Voting

"For most of the presidential elections since women gained the right to vote, men have proved more likely to vote than women. In 1964, for example, 72 percent of voting-age males participated, versus only 67 percent of voting-age females. But by 1980, the two sexes had reached a statistical tie. Then women began to tip the balance the other way. By 2000, women led men: 56 percent to 53 percent."

Source: Laurent Belsie. "USA: Men Lag Women at the Voting Booth." *The Christian Science Monitor*, Feb. 28, 2002, p. 4.

BE PATRIOTIC-VOTE!

NOVEMBER 2ND

LEAGUE CONTACT INFORMATION

League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area:
<http://www.lwvlacrosse.org/>

La Crosse Area League Phone: 791-1191

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin: <http://www.lwvwi.org/>

League of Women Voters (National): <http://www.lwv.org/>

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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Senator Herbert Kohl
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E-MAIL AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Senate District 32 Sen. Mark Meyer
(608) 787-6574
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen32/sen32.html>
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Assembly District 94 Rep. Michael Huebsch
(608) 786-3512
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Assembly District 95 Rep. Jennifer Shilling
(608) 788-9854
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Assembly District 96 Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud
(608) 874-4231
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm96/asm96.html>
e-mail: Rep.Johnsrud@legis.state.wi.us

La Crosse County web site (information on
Board of Supervisors and Committees):
<http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/Default.htm>

State Legislative Hotline:
(800) 362-9472

Wisconsin State Legislature (including Wisconsin Blue Book): <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>

To check on the voting record of elected officials, go to:

Project Vote Smart
<http://www.vote-smart.org/>

League of Women Voters
DemocracyNet: <http://www.DNet.org/>



SEND CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING *LA CROSSE WISCONSIN VOTER* TO THE EDITOR AT ANITALARRY@CENTURYTEL.NET

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 2004
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LA CROSSE AREA

*School Funding: Membership Meeting
Fayze's, 135 S. 4th.*

Thurs., Oct. 28 at noon (Lunch 11:30 a.m.)

GENERAL ELECTION

TUES., NOV. 2

*Board Meeting
Doc Powell's, 200 Main St.*

Wed., Nov. 10 at noon

*TABOR: First Program with Joe Heim
Doc Powell's, 200 Main St.*

Wed., Nov. 17 at noon (Lunch 11:30 a.m.)

*Board Meeting
Doc Powell's, 200 Main St.*

Wed., Dec., 15 at noon

*TABOR: Second Program with Joe Heim
Doc Powell's, 200 Main St.*

Thurs., Dec. 16 at noon (Lunch 11:30 a.m.)

Note: Board meeting times/location are subject to change; refer to agenda or contact LWV President.



League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area
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