

# THE VOTER



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA

## Calendar

### August 23

Southern Regional  
Workshop  
Ivy Tech, Bloomington  
See page 5

### September 13

Northern Regional  
Workshop  
Indiana University,  
Kokomo  
See page 5

### September 27

State Board Meeting  
United Way Building,  
Indianapolis

### October 10-11

Lake Michigan ILO  
Annual Meeting,  
Chesterton, Indiana  
See page 3

### February 21

Presidents Day  
Location TBA

### May 15-17

State Convention  
Location TBA

Check out the  
LWVIN website:  
[www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org)



JULY 2008

## Indiana Voter ID Law



Yes this law is still on the books and all the registered voters of Indiana must show an acceptable voter ID to cast their ballot in the November 2008 elections. However, because it is a law does not make it a good law. The law was contested on the federal level by the ACLU of Indiana and the Democratic Party of Marion County. Even though this complaint went through the federal courts and was upheld in April 2008 by the Supreme Court of the United States as being constitutional on the federal level, the opinions issued by the justices opened up questions for states to review on many levels. Therefore, the LWV of Indiana and Indianapolis filed a complaint on June 20, 2008 in the Marion County Superior Court with an amended filing on July 14, 2008 against Marion County Election Board with two counts (complaints). The first count states that the Voter ID is unconstitutional since it mandates an additional eligibility requirement to vote in Indiana which is not in the Indiana constitution. The second count makes claim that there are uneven requirements for voters to cast their ballot. If voting in person the voter ID must be presented however, if voting absentee by mail, the voter ID is not required.

There is much discussion around the state regarding the need for this law to prevent fraud and protect the security of our elections. The research, however, shows that in-person voter fraud is negligible and has never been identified or prosecuted in Indiana. The LWVIN website will soon have a resource page to follow this lawsuit and provide resources on the issue of voter ID.



### Save the Date

August 23 and September 13  
Southern and Northern Regional Workshops  
See page 5 for more information

## Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI)



The LWV of Southwestern Indiana awarded Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall Shepard its first "Making Democracy Work" Award at a presentation May 28 in the Wedgwood Room of the Old Courthouse in downtown Evansville before a distinguished audience. Chief Justice Shepard said he was particularly touched to be honored by the League of Women Voters.

"They encourage everyone to think about the greater good of the community, and these are times when sometimes it is easy to lose sight of that," Shepard said. "So it is important for civil discussion and collaboration toward building a stronger community, and I am honored to be associated with a group like that."

LWV of Cass County conducted its MRI poll on citizenship and the Vote Centers pilot project at the Cass County Community Sale June 7 at the 4-H grounds and during the Cass County Fair in July where Leaguers also registered voters.

LWV of Vigo County experienced a net membership increase of 25.9% since August, 2007!



## From the President, Joanne Evers

Dear League of Women Voters of Indiana,

Hello to all! I do hope you are enjoying your summer. Your State Voter comes to you to help you plan for August and the coming fall events. Election years are busy for all of us, but I do hope you take time to participate in the Fall Regional Workshops that are replacing the Every Member Workshop. Please learn more about them inside the Voter and register soon. All members are invited.

Our State Council in April and the LWVUS National Convention provided good company and networking opportunities Leagues from across the country. I extend my thanks to the 14 Indiana delegates who attended the LWVUS Convention in Portland, OR. We certainly had an opportunity to get to know each other and learn more of the operation of the League on the national level. We had an active delegation in the planning and presentation of national by-law changes, involvement in the health care caucus, and the presentation on the preservation of Great Lakes.

We are preparing for the 2009 General Assembly so the Legislative Action Network needs you to step up and get involved. The Position Review Committees authorized by the 2007 State Convention have been faithfully reviewing their assigned positions and are now in the process of submitting their work to the state board. Do remember to complete the position review of the remaining eight positions this fall and return your local League response by December 31, 2008.

As you plan your local candidate forums, the Indiana Debate Commission is also working on the gubernatorial debates for the upcoming election cycle. Consider writing the candidates for governor to encourage them to participate in these debates.

So much is happening on the state level for the League of Women Voters including plans to conduct additional surveys at the elections, board training for the local Leagues, membership recruitment training, increased communication between the state board and the local League boards and the list goes on. Carefully read this issue of the state Voter and learn more about the events and progress that is being made for the citizens of Indiana and then consider how you can get involved.

Best wishes,

*Joanne*



Raise funds for the league while you travel!  
Book your trips with Travel Concepts International, Inc.  
Cultural Tours to Better Understand the World and Its People  
1-800-762-4216  
[www.tci-travel.com](http://www.tci-travel.com)

### Looking for a few good Leaguers! Share your expertise

**Serve as a director** on State Board for one or two year appointments. Up to seven directors can be appointed.

**Serve LWVIN on off-board committees** including:

- Representative to the LWVUS Liberty and Security Network
- Representative to the Lake Michigan Interleague as an alternate,
- Representative to the Health Access and Privacy Alliance
- Chair of the Natural Resources Committee,
- Serve on the Rules Committee
- Serve on the LWVIN budget committee



Contact Joanne for further discussion at [jeverson@lwvin.org](mailto:jeverson@lwvin.org)

### Estate Planning?

Please consider a gift of support to the League of Women Voters of Indiana. The League has drawn vital support from the estate plans of members and friends who wish to ensure that the organization continues to flourish. If you are interested in learning more, call 317-241-8683 or email [info@lwvin.org](mailto:info@lwvin.org).

### The LWVIN Legislative Action Network Update

Thanks to Paulette Vandegriff and many individuals across the state for having LWVIN visible and heard in the 2008 General Assembly. LAN is continuing for the 2009 General Assembly.

The State Study Committees have been identified and are starting to schedule meetings. The primary topics Paulette will cover this summer are immigration and the Kernan-Shepard Report on the reorganization of local government. Please be advised that the issues presented in the Kernan-Shepard Report will not be studied as one topic but will be broken down and placed into many different committees. Look closely at the financial related committees for these topics.

- <http://www.in.gov/legislative/interim> will take you to the study committee calendar.
- <http://www.in.gov/legislative/index.html> will take you to the home page for the General Assembly; go to the right box labeled "What's New" and click on Legislative Council Resolution 01 – New Interim Committees for the list of committees and topics to be discussed.

Each local League president needs to assign a contact person to receive the updates from Paulette during the session and the action alerts from Joanne as they arise. Please let Paulette know who this person is by contacting her at [pvandegriff@lwvin.org](mailto:pvandegriff@lwvin.org).

**SUMMER-FALL 2008** is a key time for LWV membership recruitment. The November general election is attracting great interest and providing many voter service opportunities. All League members are encouraged to personally invite friends and associates to come to League events and join the LWV.

### Lake Michigan Interleague Organization Annual Meeting



Indiana will host the Annual Meeting of the Lake Michigan Interleague Organization October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Chesterton Indiana. League delegates are from the four states that surround Lake Michigan. On Friday afternoon the delegates will tour the Port of Indiana, one of only four major ports on Lake Michigan, as well as tour a newly opened public beach that was built on a brown field and/or a major steel mill. In the evening Representative Scott Pelath will address the group. John Goss, Executive Director of the Indiana Wildlife Federation and Kay Nelson, Environmental Affairs Director for the Northwest Indiana Forum will share ways the environmental community, business leaders, and governments can work together to protect the Great Lakes. After a morning business meeting, attorney Kim Ferraro, Executive Director of the Legal Environmental Aid Foundation, will speak on: **Toxic Pollution Impacting the Great Lakes: What You Need to Know**. In the afternoon Jeanette Neagu will share ways Leagues can work to protect the Great Lakes. Delegates also will have time to tour Coffee Creek, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the Indiana Dunes State Park or International Friendship Gardens. Please contact Jeanette Neagu, [jvneagu@lwvin.org](mailto:jvneagu@lwvin.org) if you want more information.

### Local League Liaisons

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots organization, and the local League is the most important segment of that organization. The LWVIN Board is committed to providing education, training and services to build and maintain the health and vitality of local Leagues. As part of this endeavor, a **Local League Liaison** (LLL) has been assigned to each local League to assist as a communication link between local and state boards. LLLs for 2008-2009 are:

- Anderson-Lorraine Jensen
- Bloomington-Monroe County-Pat Harris
- Brown County-Albrecht Holschuh
- Calumet Area-Gail Pebworth
- Cass County-Sandy Grant
- Elkhart County-Joanne Evers
- Greater Lafayette-Sandy Grant
- Greencastle-Sheridan Hadley
- Hamilton County-Lorraine Jensen
- Indianapolis-Karen Kay Leonard
- Knox County-Albrecht Holschuh
- LaPorte County-Jeanette Neagu
- Montgomery County-Carrie Sosbe
- Muncie-Delaware County-Karen Kay Leonard
- Porter County-Jeanette Neagu
- Southwestern Indiana-Gail Pebworth
- South Bend Area-Nikki Hutchison
- Vigo County-Pat Harris



## 2008 LWVIN State Council Muncie, Indiana Great Success!

LWVIN State Council was held on April 25 & 26 in Muncie, IN. The LWV of Muncie-Delaware County hosted a visit from "Eleanor Roosevelt" along with a scrumptious dessert.

The program included visits from the Tippecanoe County Clerk, Linda Phillips and the Wayne County Chief Deputy Clerk, Joann Stewart who provided information and reviewed their experience with the Vote Center. The vote centers have been well received by the voters.

Our guests who spoke on the environment and alternative energies included Jesse Kharbanda, executive director of the Hoosier Environmental Council and Paul Cummings, Program Manager for Renewals and Energy in the State Office of the Energy and Defense Development. Both are working to increase knowledge and use of renewable resources in Indiana. Our speakers were well informed and opened up doors of investigation for all of us.

The Plenary sessions were interesting and helpful and the members were actively engaged. Direction to the Board included great ideas that all focuses on communication and shared information. The State Board appreciates these ideas and will strive to achieve them as the year progresses.

### Election Reform Committee

The Election Reform Committee monitored the polling places in five counties for the May primaries. The Leagues of Porter, LaPorte, Cass, Tippecanoe and Montgomery Counties participated in the project. Surveys were completed by voters, poll workers and watchers. The completed reports from the data collected will be shared with the Election Boards of each of the participating counties. Results indicate areas of concern but also how pleased voters in Tippecanoe and Cass Counties were with the new Vote Centers.

Based on questionnaire results, the committee completed recommendations to improve the voting process and will send the recommendations to all the County Election Boards in the State on behalf of the LWVIN.

Surveys are being modified for the Fall Election and all Leagues are encouraged to participate in this important statewide effort to assure all votes are counted and the polling places operate properly. If you have any questions or want to learn more about recommendations or participating in monitoring in the Fall please contact Jeanette Neagu, Chair at [jvneagu@lwvin.org](mailto:jvneagu@lwvin.org).



### Indiana Debate Commission

The work of the Indiana Debate Commission (IDC) is continuing. Deb Lawrence, LWV of Indianapolis, serves on the IDC board of directors and acts as a resource as well as maintains the interests of the League of Women Voters.

Deb attended the LWVIN board meeting in July and explained that the Commission members have been traveling around the state visiting possible sites for the gubernatorial debates. Several locations have been identified. Dates for three debates are being offered to the candidates for governor. They will need to agree to participate and agree on the dates. Once this is accomplished the dates and sites will be released to the public.

The IDC board of directors is seeking new members especially, women, minorities and professionals outside of the media. The board often meets by conference call so travel is not always necessary. If you are interested in applying to serve on the IDC, please contact Joanne at [jervers@lwvin.org](mailto:jervers@lwvin.org). You can learn more about IDC at their website:

<http://indianadebatecommission.com>

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sandra Grant  
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Karen Kay Leonard  
Indianapolis

### League of Women Voters of Indiana 2008 Regional Workshops

The League of Women Voters of Indiana invites you to attend a special workshop for all League members. Mark your calendar for one or both of the 2008 Regional Workshops. To make it more convenient for you to participate, the workshop is offered on two dates in different parts of the state. Choose one that is most convenient for you.

Southern Indiana

*Saturday, August 23*  
Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington  
200 Daniels Way, Bloomington, IN 47404  
Location: Main Building C 100 A-B (Use Front Door)  
Parking: Campus Parking Lot  
Directions: Can be found at [www.bloomington.ivytech.edu](http://www.bloomington.ivytech.edu)

Northern Indiana

*Saturday, September 13*  
Indiana University Kokomo  
2300 S. Washington Street, Kokomo IN 46902  
Location: Kelly Student Center, Room 130 (#8 on Campus Map)  
Parking: Kelly Student Center Parking Lot (D on Campus Map)  
Directions: Can be found at [www.iuk.edu](http://www.iuk.edu)

The program will include networking time to share ideas and to hear what other Leagues are planning to educate and assist voters to acquire Voter IDs. Enjoy a working lunch with Paulette Vandegriff, LAN Coordinator, while you learn about the Legislative Action Network and how to increase the LWVIN presence at the Indiana State House.

AGENDA

- 9:00 – 10:00 AM Registration, Continental Breakfast, Displays
- 10:00 – 10:15 AM Welcome and Introductions and Update on Position Review Committees
- 10:15 – 10:30 AM Poll Monitoring Project & Opportunities for All Leagues to Participate
- 10:30 – 11:00 AM Voter ID Update & Discussion: *How Local Leagues Can Help Citizens Obtain Acceptable Voter ID Prior to the 2008 General Election*
- 11:00 – 11:45 AM Local Government Reform
- 11:45 – 1:00 PM Lunch
- Legislative Action Network (LAN)
- Paulette Vandegriff, LAN Coordinator and Member at Large
- 1:00- 1:45 PM Workshop Sessions
- Membership—Recruitment, Involvement, Retention
- Increasing League Visibility: Including Use of Websites
- 1:45-2:30 PM Workshop Sessions
- Money Matters: Funding the League & Use of Education Fund
- Observers Corps: “The Eyes and Ears of the League”
- 2:30 PM Voter Service Opportunities for November 2008: *Sharing Ideas from Across the State*
- 3:15 PM Final Remarks

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### **We Need Your RSVP**

**You can now register online. Go to [www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org) OR**

Email your response to [event@lwvin.org](mailto:event@lwvin.org) with the following information and put: LWVIN 2008 Regional Workshop in the subject heading or clip and mail the registration form to: LWVIN – 2008 Regional Workshop, 3921 N. Meridian Street, Suite 225, Indianapolis, IN 46208-4066.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Workshop Dates: 8/23/08                      9/13/08

Name of League: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$25.00 per person to be paid for at the workshop. The fee includes materials, continental breakfast and lunch. Do Not Send Money

RSVP By:     ◀     August 15 for the August 23 workshop  
                  ◀     September 5 for the September 13 workshop



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## League of Women Voters of Indiana

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to all woman and men who are ages 18 year or older and are U.S. citizens. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

Activities are funded through membership dues and donations. If you would like to help fund this important work, please send a donation to: LWVIN, 3921 North Meridian Street, Suite 225, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46208-4066. Checks should be made out to LWVIN. Donations to our Education Fund are tax exempt. Checks for the Fund should be made out to LWVIEF.

For additional information, visit [www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org).

Submissions to The Voter can be sent to  
Sheridan Hadley at [shadley@lwvin.org](mailto:shadley@lwvin.org)  
Deadline for Next Submission: October 9, 2008

Editors: Carrie Sosbe and Sheridan Hadley