



“The Voter”

October 2011 Newsletter

published by LWVDDH

120 N Military Dearborn, MI 48124 313-278-6476 www.lwvddh.org

After the right to vote was established for American women, in 1920, the League of Women Voters worked to inform the influx of new voters. LWV has since become a resource for ALL voters. Men and women with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints still rely on our non-partisan candidate guides and forums as well as our well-studied positions on local, state and national



**Consensus Mtg
Thursday @ 7pm
October 20th**

Education reform has been a popular topic for decades, even for centuries, and yet we are still seeking solutions to improve the educational system for students in the US. Poor academic achievement compared to other nations is a major concern and a variety of programs have been attempted to improve achievement. Some programs address inequalities based on socio-economic status, gender, race, disabilities, lack of resources, staff training, inefficiencies...the list goes on.

We have studied the role of the federal government in addressing the spectrum of needs to direct our national League in forming a position on this issue. Your voice is needed to sort through the questions.

**Please come to our meeting on
Thursday evening October 20.**

**Meet at 7:00 pm in the lounge of
Christ Episcopal Church.**

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Privatization of Public Services

Thursday @ 7pm on November 17th

What should be considered if a public service, asset or function is proposed for privatization? What can be expected? What is promised? How can we ensure a good result for good of the community? *Meet with us on Nov. 17th at 120 N. Military, where Christ Episcopal Church kindly offers us affordable office space and use of their lounge.*

From trash removal to toll roads, parks to prisons, public functions blend with the private sector in a variety of ways across our nation. For example, Dearborn has contracted for trash removal and recycling for several years. In some communities, each resident contracts for themselves and may have a different company than their neighbor, even a different pick up day. Just recently, a private company began mowing the city parks in Dearborn. Public funding of high speed rail has been approved, expecting to boost our region. Meanwhile, the debate over expanding a private international bridge or accepting a new publicly-funded one continues.



Maybe you aren’t familiar with privatized prisons, but what have you experienced with private, public and blended governance of community functions, assets and services?

So that we can offer our consensus to this national study, plan on participating. Find suggested reading and links on our blog, <http://lwvddh.blogspot.com/>, “Privatization Study”.



Watch the Forums.

View the Candidates and the Ballot Proposal Presentations on local access channels or online.

Forums will be broadcast on government access cable TV channels at various times. See back page for show times or check our blog post for schedule and links to online video. <http://lwvddh.blogspot.com/2011/10/forum-video-showtimes.html>

MEMBERSHIP

Open to any U.S. citizen.
Dues are \$60 per year payable
July 1st to LWVDDH.

Print and mail membership
form as well as online payment
is available on our website,
www.lwvddh.org

MEETINGS

Many of our meetings are held
at Christ Episcopal Church,
host to the local league office:
120 N. Military at Cherry
Hill, Dearborn, MI.

Handicap Accessible.

Check this newsletter and our
online calendar to confirm
location and details for
upcoming events.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The LWV, a non-partisan
political organization,
encourages the informed and
active participation of
people in government, works
to increase understanding of
major public policy issues,
and influences public policy
through education and
advocacy.

"The Voter Newsletter" is included
in membership. Others can
subscribe for \$10 per year. We are
also transitioning to an email alert
for those who opt out of the printed
newsletter. Contact us at 313-278-
6476 or lwvddh@mailcity.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...Mary Bugeia

Thanks to the cooperation of many of you, we accomplished a great deal during
September and continue more in October.

- Voter Service activities under the leadership of Betsy Cushman were our main priority preparing for the November 8th Election. **VOTER GUIDES** were published and available in locations around the cities, as well as on our website. Two public **FORUMS** were conducted to provide an opportunity for residents to participate as well as watch on cable TV at later dates.
- A Forum for **Dearborn Heights**, moderated by Jenni Dunn, was held September 28 in their Council Chamber, with explanation of a millage ballot issue; candidates for City clerk; City Council candidates; and District #7 School Board candidates.
- A Forum for **Dearborn**, moderated by Mary Bugeia, was held October 4th in their Council Chamber covering Dearborn School Board candidates; and information about the three Dearborn ballot proposals.
- The **LWV-Unit at Henry Ford Village** under the leadership of Agnes Dobronski, held a forum with Mayor O'Reilly who explained the three Ballot Proposals for Dearborn.
- Giving attention to our LWV-US national study on the **Federal Role in Education**, we held two meetings. September 15 we watched a movie called "Waiting for Superman", a two hour documentary about education in America. September 21, the meeting was chaired by Kathy Gapa who presented the history of the federal government involvement in the education system. We discussed categories of federal spending and student achievement incentives and criteria attached to receiving federal funding.

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October 20, at 7 pm we will meet in the lounge at the Episcopal Church to consider consensus questions regarding the study. **This is a very important meeting and I urge you to come and help us respond with the widest range of experience and opinion.** Previous newsletters and meetings have explored this topic. You can still find more information at LWV.org, by entering "education" in the search box and scrolling through the links.

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When we complete this education study, we need to turn our attention to the next LWVUS study of "Privatization of Public Services". Attend our first meeting to consider this important issue, which is already impacting our city and state on Thursday, **November 17 at 7:00** pm at Episcopal Church.

Our league is going to focus on a Youth Registration Project over the next several months. Urged by LWVUS to conduct such a campaign, we have submitted a grant application to possibly win \$1,000 for our efforts. Thank you Barbara Adams for writing the grant and Joe Borrajo for accepting the challenge to lead this project.

LWVUS has requested that we each make a "promise pledge" to promote clean air, and to contact our legislators to urge them to protect the environment. Find out more at <http://peoplenotpolluters.org/>. Can you help us promote this pledge? Contact us by phone or email (see left) to get more involved.

*We look forward to seeing you at our meetings on:
October 20th and November 17th.*

LWV US EDUCATION STUDY 2011-12 CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. The current role of the federal government in public education is

- much too small
 too small
 about right
 too large
 much too large

2. What should be the role of the federal government in public education? (rank order)

- a. To ensure that all students preK-12 receive a quality education.
 b. To develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so that they achieve adequate yearly progress.
 c. To mandate Common Core Standards for all students K-12.
 d. To monitor state efforts for funding
 e. To measure teacher effectiveness through test data.

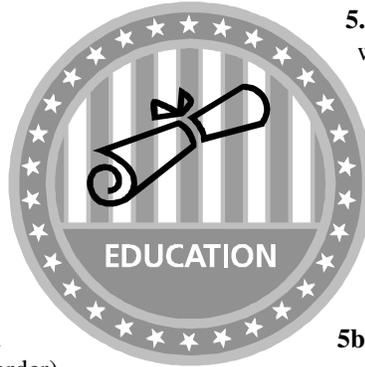
3. A quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy.

- Strongly agree
 Agree
 No consensus
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT

4. Currently the governors and state education officers have developed Common Core Standards that are national but not federal. Should the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding? (choose one)

- a. Special grant programs such as Race to the Top
 b. All programs under Elementary and Secondary Education Act where the needs qualify for funding.
 c. All programs receiving federal funding from any source
 d. All of the above
 e. None of the above



5. Should there be a national assessment aligned with the common cores standards?

Yes or No

5a. If Yes, Should implementation be voluntary or federally mandated? (choose one)

1. Voluntary
 2. Mandated
 3. Mandated, if fully funded

5b. If No, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (choose one)

1. Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.
 2. Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the Stanford Achievement Test or Iowa Test of Basic Skills.
 3. Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically

6. National standards should lead to: (choose one)

- a. A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.
 b. A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.
 c. A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
 d. No national curriculum.

7. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (rank order)

- a. Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
 b. Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
 c. Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
 d. Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.
 e. Provide diagnostic information on each child.

8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (choose one)

- a. Data should be "norm referenced" (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.
- b. Data should be "criterion referenced" and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.
- c. Data should be used to determine "cut" scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.

9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (choose one):

- a. Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
- b. Reward schools that achieve high scores
- c. Rank teachers based on student test score data
- d. Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
- e. Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.

FUNDING AND EQUITY

10. In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need. All/Any Schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive grants are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain federal requirements, such as Race to the Top.

Which would be appropriate: (choose one)

- a. Non-competitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements
- b. A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants
- c. Competitive grants only
- d. No federal funding

11. If the federal government's role is the concern of the "common good" then: (choose one)

- a. Mandates only should be sanctioned.
- b. Mandates and funding should both be provided.
- c. Funding should be provided through grants only.
- d. A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.
- e. No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available.

12. Equity in public education means equitable access to: (rank order)

- ___ a. high quality teaching/learning
- ___ b. adequate and current learning materials
- ___ c. clean and well maintained physical facilities
- ___ d. food and health care
- ___ e. safe and secure neighborhoods
- ___ f. secure housing

13. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered "categorical" rather than for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs.

- ___ Strongly agree
- ___ Agree
- ___ No consensus
- ___ Disagree
- ___ Strongly disagree

14. The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children?

- ___ Strongly agree
- ___ Agree
- ___ No consensus
- ___ Disagree
- ___ Strongly disagree

15. Federal support for early childhood education programs (e.g.Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health as needed.

- 15a.**
- ___ Strongly Agree
 - ___ Agree
 - ___ No consensus
 - ___ Disagree
 - ___ Strongly Disagree

15b. This funding should be extended to:

- ___ all children
- ___ only those with special needs
- ___ special needs first



We will be reaching consensus on these questions at our meeting on October 20th. Please plan on attending.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Patti Mack.....Dearborn
Wayne Sherman....Westland
John Dingell...Dearborn

HANDBOOKS have been distributed to all who paid their dues!!! The Annual Meeting minutes were included. **Please review.** If there are any corrections, please notify the secretary...Mary Jo Durivage. If there are no changes, then the minutes stand approved.

Many thanks to all who have paid their dues promptly! Those who have not yet paid, will have a red dot on their address label.

by Carolyn Buell, Membership Chair

"2012 Youth Voter Registration Project"

Get involved with League and encourage the next generation of voters! Meet people who are making a difference in a short term project. Betsy Cushman, Barb Adams, Tony Perry and Joe Borrajo are working on this project. We are building volunteer teams now for the 2012 registration activities. Call 313-278-6476 or email lwvddh@mailcity.com to add your name.

The pro/con of voter picture identification.

Pro: Driver's license/picture ID as a voting requirement prevents voter fraud.

Con: Picture ID denies the right to vote to those who don't have a driver's license/state ID.

Be it resolved: The voter-registration card, issued to all new voters by city clerks, shall include the photograph of the registered voter. The most logical solution is really that simple. Can we have simplicity in the complicated world of partisan politics?

Yours in an inclusive democracy,
Joseph Borrajo

Recommended Reading: [Stealing democracy: the new politics of voter suppression](#), Spencer Overton.

WW Norton & Company, 2007, [Publishers Weekly](#).

A law professor and election reform activist, Overton makes concrete proposals for restoring power to voters. Citing relatively low voter turnout and lack of centralized election oversight, the author notes how the United States "deviates from democratic norms" of other established democracies...



GREAT LAKES SUMMIT in DETROIT includes a wide representation of organizations to discuss the future of our fresh water lakes.

Detroit Public TV is providing extensive coverage of Great Lakes Week. Tune in to Detroit Public Television or greatlakesnow.org.



Many of us enjoy the dunes on Lake Michigan, but we depend on our own the Lake Erie Basin for things like industry, drinking water, agriculture and recreation. On October 19th, Carolyn Buell, Kathy Gapa and Mary Bugeia will attend the Lake Erie Basin Committee meeting in Ohio. It is an excellent opportunity to share information about the status of the lake and its tributaries, learning about the quality of the water, its fish habitat, industry impacts on the quantity and quality of the waterway. Learn about our Great Lake at <http://www.great-lakes.net/lakes/ref/eriefact.html>

UM Dearborn Sustainability Week

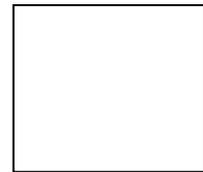
Oct. 17-Oct. 20

The week kicks off with a "Water Expose" from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Oct 17th in Kochoff Hall, UM D. Chris Sullivan and Jenni Dunn will host the LWVDDH table with Tap vs Bottled Blind Taste Test. Students and Staff at UM Dearborn actively promote sustainable practices that protect the environment. Stop by! Meet interesting people! Get involved! See the week's events at <http://www.umd.umich.edu/sustainabilityweek/>

HFCC Student Civic Conference

Several members will be participating in the HFCC Student Civic Conference on November 11th starting at 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. Students conduct workshops on numerous local and global concerns such as world hunger, climate, energy, economy, health and social concerns. Elected officials are invited to speak. This event give the students a chance to study issues and vote on priorities. It gives the League a chance to reach young voters. If you are interested in helping at our table, please call the office phone 313-278-6476 or send an email to lwvddh@mailcity.com.

League of Women Voters
Dearborn & Dearborn Heights
120 N. Military
Dearborn, MI 48124



Calendar of Events

October 17 – 20: UM Dearborn Sustainability Week
Expo on Water: Oct. 17th 9am-1pm
October 17: LWV Oakland Area Luncheon
with Speaker on Human Trafficking
October 19: Lake Erie Basin committee
October 20: LWVDDH - Education Consensus
November 3: Board Meeting
November 8: VOTE! 7 am to 8 pm.
November 9: City Senior Expo
November 9: Inter Service Club - luncheon
November 11: HFCC Student Civic Conference
November 17: LWVDDH – Study Up! Privatization

Voting Counts!

Does voter turnout matter to you? Encourage those who might sit this one out. Give someone a ride and go out for coffee afterwards. Both Dearborn and Dearborn Hts have important ballot proposals as well as candidate choices for school boards and city government. Get informed. Read our non-partisan voter guide online, watch the forum videos, read the newspaper and hear what others think about the decisions you will be making for our communities on Nov. 8th.

Watch the Forum Videos on your city channel. Check our website blog for updated viewing times and links to online video. **Times shown below are on CDTV WOW channel 10, Comcast channel 12,**

Dearborn Hts

AT&T channel 99 in Dearborn Heights.

City Council Forum - 1 & 7 am/pm Daily
Headlee Override Forum - 2:30 & 8:30 am/pm Daily
D7 School Board Forum 12:30 am/pm Sat/Sun
The City Clerk Forum - 6 & 12 am/pm Daily

Dearborn Millage and Civil Service Ballot Proposals

Mon/Wed/Fri 6 & 10* am, 2*, 6, 10 pm *These times vary
Tue/Thurs 7 & 11 am, 3 & 11 pm
Sat. 8 am, 12 & 4 pm / Sun. 8 am, 12 pm

Dearborn School Board

Mon. 11 am, 3 pm
Tue. 12 & 4 pm
Wed. 11 am, 7 pm
Thu. 8 am, 4 pm
Fri. 6 am, 2, 6, 10 pm
Sat. 9 am, 9 pm
Sun. 8 am, 12 pm



Comcast Public Service channel 18 also showing Dearborn Forums:

October 15 and 16 - at 9am, 12pm, 3pm, 6pm
Nov 5 and 6 - at 9am, 12pm, 3pm, 6pm