

VOTER

League of Women Voters of
Indiana County, Pennsylvania
www.palwv.org/indiana



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Researchers examine correlation between political speeches, voting

Although politicians are often criticized for making empty promises, when it comes to their voting records, their words may carry more weight than previously thought, according to findings by two Penn State information technology scientists.

The researchers used a computer model to compare voting records from the 110th Congress -- Jan. 3, 2007 to Jan. 3, 2009 -- to each senator's floor statements on the issues to determine whether the two matched up.

They did this by creating a computer-based regression model to scan the floor speech text and compare it to each senator's DW-Nominate score, a measure of how conservative he or she is based on voting record.

Read the full story on Live: <http://live.psu.edu/story/43370/nw3>

Sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and Penn State Cooperative Extension, upcoming webinars will cover topics such as legal issues, post-leasing considerations for landowners, wastewater disposal options and economic impacts.

Read the full story on Live: <http://live.psu.edu/story/43044/nw69>

From the Penn State Sci-Tech Newswire (12.10.2009)

Great Decisions 2010

Update your knowledge about controversial foreign policy issues by attending the Great Decisions Lecture/Discussion Series on Tuesday mornings from 9:30—11:30 a.m. in February/ March.

Expert speakers from IUP present on selected topics in the comfortable setting of St. Andrew's Village Community Room. A briefing book on issues and questions is prepared by the nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association (see www.fpa.org)

This year's eight topics include: **Special envoys, Kenya & R2P, Global crime, U.S-China security relations, Global financial crisis, Russia and its neighbors, The Persian Gulf, Peacebuilding and conflict resolution.**

For further information and registration brochure, contact Rick McFerron at IUP Continuing Education (724-357-2292).

Upcoming Penn State Webinars

The Penn State series of upcoming workshops addressing issues related to the state's Marcellus shale gas boom will be held at 1 p.m. on the following dates:

-- Jan. 21, 2010: "Post Leasing -- Considerations of What Happens Next, Lessons Learned to Date." Presenter: Thomas Murphy, Penn State Cooperative Extension energy-development educator.

-- Feb. 18: "Underground Injection Wells as an Option for Disposal of Shale Gas Wastewaters: Policies and Practicality." Presenter: Karen Johnson, chief, Ground Water and Enforcement Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3.

-- March 18: "The Impact of Marcellus Shale: What Do the Economic Impact Studies Imply?" Presenter: Timothy Kelsey, Penn State Cooperative Extension state program leader for economic and community development.

Previous webinars -- which covered topics such as water use and quality, gas-leasing considerations for landowners and implications for local communities -- can be viewed at <http://naturalgas.extension.psu.edu/webinars.htm>

For more information, contact Joann Kowalski, extension educator in Susquehanna County, at 570-278-1158 or by e-mail at jmk20@psu.edu.

Family Fun Fest

The theme of the March 20, 2010 Family Fun Fest is:

" Spring F.L.I.N.G."

F.L.I.N.G. stands for:

Fitness, Laughter. Invention (or creativity), Nature and Going Green.

More information on this in the next Voter.



Every Body Must Count!

Gearing up for 2010 census, the Indiana County Complete Count Committee has set its sights on accurate representation of all county residents. Census data determine our representation in Congress as well as redistricting of the state legislature and voting districts. The federal government also uses population data to allocate over \$400 billion annually, amounting to more than \$4 trillion over ten years. Such funds are distributed to states and communities for

- Title 1 grants to school districts and educational agencies
- Head Start programs
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) grants
- Public transportation
- Road construction
- Programs for the elderly
- Emergency food and shelter
- Empowerment zones and job programs

Our communities miss out on such funding opportunities when our residents are undercounted. In 2000, only 67% of Indiana County households mailed in their census forms! Shooting for a goal of 100% in 2010, the Complete Count Committee asks us all to raise awareness and generate compliance as well as to alleviate concerns about confidentiality.

Residents who are skeptical about confidentiality need to know that it is illegal for the Census Bureau or its employees to share personal information with any other government agency—not law enforcement, IRS, Welfare, FBI, Immigration, etc. No court of law—not even the President of the United States—can access individual responses from census forms.

The LWVIC is taking an active role in the Complete Count Committee, and we can all do our bit by spreading the word. We hold fast to the ideal that every voice counts. When it comes down to representation and funding, it's every BODY that counts!



A newsletter of the
League of Women Voters
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We're on the
Web!

www.palwv.org/indiana



CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

January 6, 2010—10:30 am Marcellus Shale Committee—Clarice's house

January 11, 2010— 10:00 am Marcellus Shale Committee—Mary Beth's House and 7:00 pm Board Meeting

January 16, 2010— Member meeting on Marcellus Shale Study. Fire Mountain Breakfast. 9:00 am

February 8—Board Meeting

February 13—Consensus meeting—Marcellus Shale Study. Fire Mountain Breakfast—9:00 am

March 8—Board Meeting

March 20— Family Fun Fest

April 12—Board Meeting

May 10—Board Meeting

NOTE 1: BOARD MEETINGS—held at Diane Duntley's home and start at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted—All Members Welcome

NOTE 2: MARCELLUS SHALE MEETINGS—The discussion will start at 9:00 am. Come early for breakfast.

Know someone who may be interested in membership? Let President Sherene Hess know at 724-465-5056 and she will send a brochure & short letter describing LWVIC's activities.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women of voting age.