

# VOTER

League of Women Voters of  
Indiana County, Pennsylvania  
[www.palwv.org/indiana](http://www.palwv.org/indiana)



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## PA Governor's Conference for Women

The Fifth Annual Governor's Conference for Women will be held at the DL Lawrence Convention Center on October 2 this year. League members from Indiana County have attended since the inception of the conference and bring back glowing reports of the speakers and topics discussed.

Several members are already planning to attend and there is a possibility that LWVIC could have a table at the luncheon.

Check it out at [www.pagovernorsconferenceforwomen.org](http://www.pagovernorsconferenceforwomen.org). Registration fees are \$125 per person until September 2. The price then goes up to \$150 per person. Contact Sherene Hess if you are interested to see who will be going.

Since its inception in 2003, the Pennsylvania Governor's Conference for Women has grown dramatically and attracts many of the world's top women leaders as keynote speakers. Past attendees have benefited from the talent and wisdom of Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State; Sandra Day O'Connor, former Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; Indra Nooyi, Chairman and CEO of PepsiCo; and Doris Kearns Goodwin, presidential historian and best-selling author.



## Redistricting Reform is the #1 Priority for Spring, 2008 Contact Your State Senators & Representatives!

### League Position in Brief:

Support apportionment using standards based substantially on the population in all voting districts, with additional consideration given to compact and contiguous territory and with respect given to municipal boundaries.

### Why now?

Pennsylvania is one of the most gerrymandered states in the nation. If change is to be effective by the next round of redistricting after the 2010 census, a constitutional amendment is needed. Timing for passage of an amendment requires that the first piece of legislation be passed by June, 2008. *If that does not occur, redistricting reform will have to wait until after the 2020 census.*

Visit our [Redistricting 2008](http://www.palwv.org/issues/2008Redistricting.html) page for complete information and supporting documentation.  
<http://www.palwv.org/issues/2008Redistricting.html>

## The LWVUS Announces It's Immigration Position

The National League of Women Voters announced its position on Immigration Policy after tabulating the results of its recent study and consensus.

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the US on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the US.

To complement these goals, the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportuni-

ties, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

### Criteria for Legal Admission to the US:

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the US:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the US;
- Education and training needs of the US;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

### Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment. The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the US; and Increased personnel at borders.

### Garage Sale Report

The figures are in, and the results are just fabulous! Our total comes to \$1441.15 for the Yard/Bag Sale.

A great big 'Thank You' to all who donated items, all who worked to organize the sale, and a special thanks to 3 spouses that worked extra hard for us: Jim Reber, Don McClure and Don Lancaster. Great job!!!!

Great in '08!



## Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the US

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by

paying taxes, learning English, Studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.

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### LWVIC Activities Pause for the Summer

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County will be pausing its activities for a few months as its members become more involved in family and vacation activities. The next Voter will appear in early September with information on the resumption of our active schedule for the rest of 2008 and Winter and Spring of 2009. Hope everyone has a good summer and is ready to leap back into the fray in September!

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### Final Note for Spring

Spring is in the air. Bird watchers are eager for spring migrations to be underway. It seems a good time to renew acquaintance with a beloved species that at times seems to be headed for the endangered list.

The following description was written in 1996 by Dr. David Brill, avid birdwatcher. He identified this species on long solitary walks while his wife, Marilyn, was President of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania.

### Leega-Wimman Vulture – (votaries Pennsylvania)

The markings and morphology of this rare bird are so variable that identification in the field is nearly impossible. Its most reliable physical feature is the feet, often described as “sensible”.

Although somewhat solitary by nature, they occasionally flock in large numbers, most commonly around the second Tuesday in November in such hot spots as Harrisburg, PA and Washington, DC. In such circumstances, its normally hyperkinetic behavior becomes a frenzy.

Despite an abundance of natural enemies and an extreme scarcity of males, the species’ population is stable and may be slowly increasing. This may reflect its amazing persistence and that its enemies have learned to be circumspect.

Its nest is unkempt and it spends little time there. Its young are well cared for, but learn independence early. A preferred nesting material is paper from shredded government documents. An eclectic feeder, its preferred fare is controversy, but it has been observed to eat everything from diet drinks to chocolate cake with equal gusto. There are occasional, but reliable reports that it consumes scotch whiskey. It has been known to attack and maul careless legislators and bureaucrats despite its size disadvantage.

The species is almost never silent and has an incredible repertoire of groans, cackles, snorts, squawks, shrieks and guffaws. Its call is a single note repeated frequently, likened to “*vote, vote, vote.*” For reasons not clearly understood, it can be flushed by a recording of a ringing telephone.

Identified and described, May, 1989.

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## CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS



**May 15** – Board Meeting, Diane Duntley's Home, Noon.  
Lunch at 11:30 am

**June** - National League of Women Voters Convention, Portland, ORE.

**August** – Board Retreat, Reeger Farm Market

**October 2** – Fifth Annual PA Governor's Conference for Women  
Pittsburgh

**Jan. 29, 2009** – Workshop for School Board and other local candidates

*Know someone who  
may be interested in  
membership? Let Olga  
Platt know at 724-  
465-2073 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.