

# VOTER

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



Volume XXVII, Issue 7 November, 2008

## LWVIC Board of Directors, 2008-2009

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Susan McClure

Olga Platt

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Mary Beth Sweeney

## NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT STUDY

The League of Women Voters of the United States has adopted a new study for the next year. The study will look at the proposed National Popular Vote Compact proposal. Under this plan, states would formally join an interstate compact, which would mandate that all their electoral votes would go to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The compact would go into effect when enough states have joined to guarantee the 270 electoral votes needed to elect a president.

The plan was originally proposed after the bitter 2000 presidential election. So far, four states have adopted the compact proposal. Nine other states are considering it.

The League has a position, which supports the abolishment of the Electoral College and direct election of the president. This would require a Constitutional amendment that has been difficult to achieve. The compact proposal would require only action by the states.

The deadline for submitting consensus form is May 1, 2009.

Your newsletter editor misstated the goal of the study in the last issue. My apologies.

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## NEW BOARD SCHEDULE AND CONGRATULATIONS TO SHERENE

Our Board meeting schedule has been amended to change the time to 7:00 pm instead of noon, still at Diane Duntley's home. We needed to change the time because our president, Sherene Hess has recently accepted a full time job at the Penns Corner Resource Conservation and Development Area in Westmoreland County. As an employee of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, she will be the Coordinator and will be working to connect conservation groups, decision makers, the business community and state and federal agencies whose aim is resource conservation and community development. Sherene will continue on as our president, much to our delight.

The new time for Board meetings may be more convenient for many of our working members. Remember that you are always welcome.

The December meeting will be festive with lots of holiday refreshments and a lively discussion of our future activities. RSVP for the December meeting to Diane Duntley – [diane.duntley@gmail.com](mailto:diane.duntley@gmail.com).

**NOTE:** This is the only meeting where you will need to announce you are coming.

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### Board Resignation

Ann Rea, our Secretary, resigned from the Board of Directors in September to take an active part in the presidential election process. She may return to the board after the election when she is no longer active in partisan politics.

Since the League is a nonpartisan organization, board members must resign from the board when taking part in any activities that support a candidate or party.

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## January Workshop: A Civic Opportunity

Yes, we can all take a deep relieved breath that the election is over. No more robo calls and negative ads for a while. However, the 2009 election is the most important one for our local officials. These are the people who run our schools, manage our sewage, water, garbage, and library services, keep our secondary roads passable, and affect our lives in hundreds of ways.

Our recent League study on local officials showed that Indiana County, a rather small place, needs 900 people to fill its elective and appointive offices. Many of these are unpaid jobs. Most of the elective positions will be up for election in 2009.

In an effort to encourage civic participation, the LWVIC is sponsoring a workshop at the Rustic Lodge on January 31, 2009, for citizens who are interested in running for local office. There will be two tracks, one for those interested in school board positions and one for everyone else.

Put the date on your calendar, talk to your friends and acquaintances, spread the word. Also, think about whether you personally want to get more involved with your local government.

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## FINANCING NEEDED

The LWVIC is accepting donations from individuals, business, and organizations for expenses related to the Civic Participation Workshop in January.

Anyone wishing to donate should make their check payable to:

LWVUS Education Fund

and in the memo section of the check: League of Women Voters of Indiana County

Checks should be mailed to our treasurer:

Sandy Whitson  
402 Elm Street  
Indiana, PA 15701

Education Fund Donations are tax  
deductible contributions

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## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

### WHAT HAVE THEY DONE FOR US?

We occasionally fell isolated from our national office. Not all of us read our National Voter cover to cover to find out what is going on.

Here are just a few of the activities of the LWVUS in the past year.

- Lobbied both presidential candidates to disclose fundraising practices.
- Asked the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reverse a decision not to allow voter registration at VA facilities.
- Sent an *amicus* brief to the Supreme Court asking that minority communities not be forced to meet rigid numerical quotas to protect fair voting districts.
- Lobbied the US Election Assistance commission against regulations, which would undermine election administration efforts of local governments, and opposing the short length of its public comment periods.
- Lobbied against the FISA Amendments Act, which authorized broad surveillance of citizen's international communications.
- Lobbied for a new law amending the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Lobbied for legislation to fight global climate change.
- Voiced concerns about legislative ethics committee decisions, which weakened ethics rules.
- Sent a letter to the Secretary of health and Human Services opposing draft regulations, which could "significantly limit women's access to basic reproductive health services."
- Lobbied congress to extend clean energy tax incentives set to expire in 2008.

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#### New Member

The LWVIC welcomes Lillian Adami as a new member. If you see her, tell her we are happy to have her as a member!

A newsletter of the  
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of Indiana County,  
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*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.*

### CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 11**—Marcellus Shale Study Committee, 1:00 pm  
Mary Beth Sweeney's home, 295 Elm St., Indiana

**November 17**—LWVIC Board Meeting, **7:00 pm**—Diane Duntley home

**December 15** –LWVIC Board Meeting, **7:00 pm**—Diane Duntley home  
Refreshments—Please RSVP

**January, 2009** –Public Meeting on the Electoral College.  
Date to be determined

**January 31, 2009**—Local Candidates Workshop—Rustic Lodge

**May 2, 2009** –Yard Sale (start getting your “stuff” together)

**May, 2009**—Annual Meeting

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.