

# VOTER



A newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County, Pennsylvania

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October 2006

LWVIC Board of Directors, 2005-2006

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JoAnne Ferraro

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Beth Marshall

Olga Platt

Clarice Reber

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**Next Board Meeting  
of LWVIC:**

November 16, 2006

11:30 a.m. at

**DianeDuntley's home  
204 Greenview Ct.**

**724-349-2718**

**All members and guests  
are welcome**

## Candidates Night Thursday, October 26, 2006 7:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m. Oak Place Community Center 1055 Oak Street, Indiana, PA

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County will hold its annual Candidates Night on Thursday, October 26, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Oak Place Community Center, 1055 Oak St., Indiana.

The group has invited the house representative candidates from the 60th, 62nd and 66 districts to answer question from the audience and from the radio listeners. Radio stations 1450 WDAD-AM and 1160 WCCS-AM will broadcast the forum from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The remaining time will be an opportunity for the candidates and public to mingle.

Those candidates who have agreed to participate are: from the 62nd district, Rep. Dave Reed, Cynthia Spielman; from the 60th district, Rep. Jeff Pyle, Ron Covone; and the 66th district, Rep. Sam Smith, Samy ElMasry and Janet Y. Serene.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. There is parking across from the center.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that encourages everyone to become an informed voter. They offer an on-line voters guide. The site has information provided by the candidates attending Candidates Night.

Fall, 2006 On-Line Voters  
Guide available at:  
[www.palwv.org/Indiana](http://www.palwv.org/Indiana)



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA COUNTY, PA NON-PARTISANSHIP POLICY REVISED OCTOBER, 2006

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization. The League neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates for office at any level of government. At the same time, we work to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

All members are expected to respect the League's nonpartisan stance when they are speaking for or representing the League, but every member is expected to be active in the party of her/his choice. Since the nonpartisan character of the League of Women Voters is essential to its effectiveness in achieving full community support, we hereby adopt the following criteria which **apply only to board members during their term of office**:

1. No board member may engage in partisan politics by serving as a candidate or by actively supporting candidates for public office. Specifically, actively supporting a candidate is considered to mean:
  - a. Sponsoring a social event in honor of a candidate;
  - b. Circulating an endorsement petition. However signing a petition is encouraged;
  - c. Placing a candidate's campaign signs on your property;
  - d. Participating in a voter registration drive sponsored by a party or candidate;
  - e. Adding your name to any political endorsement or advertisement in print, radio, TV, or on the Internet;
  - f. Filling a visible role in a candidate's campaign;
  - g. Donating money to a political party or a candidate beyond the limit where your name must be listed as a contributor.
2. When a board member anticipates becoming active in support of a political party or a candidate s/he should present a letter of resignation to the board. The member shall remain off the board from the time of the candidate's filing until the election is over. Another member may be appointed by the board to fill the resigning member's position, or that person may be reappointed to the board after the election is over. A news release should be issued at the time a board member resigns under these circumstances.
3. When situations occur which are not covered by this policy the board member should bring the question before the board. If an answer is required before the next board meeting a decision should be made by the president in consultation with the other officers.

**All members:** Any member who has a prominent political affiliation in the community, or a close family member prominently identified with a political party or candidate should not represent the League before the public at candidate forums in the role of moderator, question screener or time-keeper.

ADOPTED: October 10, 2006

At this time, three board members have submitted resignations in adherence to our non-partisan policy: Sandy Whitson, Celinda Scott, and Lori Rittle.

## HOW DO YOU WANT TO PAY FOR YOUR SCHOOLS?

The Taxpayers Relief Act of 2006 (Act 1) requires every school district in PA to appoint a Local Tax Study Commission to make a recommendation to the school board about reducing school real estate taxes by increasing the Earned Income Tax (EIT), sometimes called the 'wage tax', or imposing a new Personal Income Tax (PIT) to be collected by the school district. LWVIC nominated Sara Steelman for the Indiana Area study commission, and she was appointed. Nancy Fricke is an alternate.

The so-called 'relief' anticipated will benefit primarily senior citizens and farmers. If the EIT is increased, all wage earners, including high school and college students and the working poor, will pay higher taxes. The PIT is based on the PA state income tax, which taxes only seniors' investment income, not Social Security or pensions. The school board will decide which option it prefers and voters will approve or disapprove via a referendum in the **May 2007 Primary**. If voters turn down the referendum, the current taxes will continue. There will be a **PUBLIC HEARING** for residents of the Indiana Area School District on Wednesday, October 25, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., at the East Pike Administrative Building.

**Interested in Running for School Board? Do you know someone who'd make a good school board director? Then this workshop is an opportunity not to be missed!**

**School Board Workshop—  
Saturday, January 20, 2007**



This workshop has been developed by the Educational Policy and Leadership Center, Harrisburg, PA.

The workshop is intended for potential school board candidates, current board members, and interested citizens. It will focus on concerns of rural school districts in west-central Pennsylvania (Routes 119 and 219 corridors).

The topics covered will include:

- ◆ How school boards operate;
- ◆ How state and federal policies affect the work of school boards;
- ◆ How to get on the ballot and run a campaign for school board.

Downloadable reservation forms will be available shortly at [www.palwv.org/indiana](http://www.palwv.org/indiana) or call 724-349-2718. The registration fee of \$30 covers tuition, information packet, continental breakfast, and buffet lunch. Make checks payable to LWVIC and send to LWVIC, P.O. Box 672, Indiana, PA 15701 by Friday, January 12, 2007.



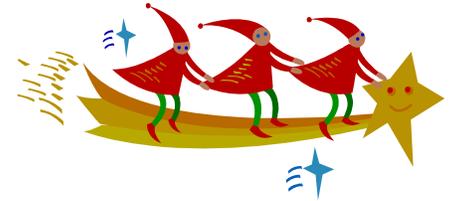
**For more information visit  
[www.palwv.org/indiana](http://www.palwv.org/indiana)**

A newsletter of the League  
of Women Voters of  
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### Calling for a couple of Santa's Elves



This isn't the usual opportunity for League projects. We are looking for a couple of members to take on a one-time project and get involved in a League responsibility that is different.

The League has been sharing with several other groups of women in an annual Inter-Club luncheon, the first Saturday of December at Rustic Lodge. This year it is the turn for League to host the luncheon. We need to arrange menu, theme, entertainment, and program.

Do you have ideas for centerpieces for about 8 to 10 tables? Most of the Board members are better at words than crafts. We need different talents.

And have you said "I'm too busy to take on a year round role as a Board member or committee member." But perhaps you could say "I could take on a one-time project and help League in a defined way."

The responsibility to host this luncheon won't come back our way for about six years, so it is a "safe" project! Call Sherene Hess (724 465-2595) or email (lwvic@yourinter.net) for further information or to sign up for your gold star!

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.