

# VOTER

League of Women  
Voters of Indiana  
County, Pennsylvania



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

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Volume XXXII, Issue 2, February, 2014

## Legislative Breakfasts to be Held

Each year LWVIC organizes meetings with our state legislators. These meetings are typically held in February and are **open to all members and their guests.**

This is a great opportunity to learn where our legislators stand on specific issues, to get a sense of what legislation might be introduced in a new session, to plant seeds of interest on issues that our legislators might not be familiar with, and to help our League build relationships with these leaders.

Questions are developed by LWVPA and forwarded to our legislators by LWVIC, and questions cover a range of topics.

This year's legislative breakfasts have been scheduled. **Representative Dave Reed** will meet with League members on **Monday, February 10 at 9:00 a.m.** at Eat'n Park in Indiana. **Senator Don White** will meet with League members on **Friday, February 21 at 9:00 a.m.** at Eat'n Park in Indiana.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Aida Shotts at [abshotts@gmail.com](mailto:abshotts@gmail.com) or 724-354-3482.

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## Voter ID Law Struck Down

Recently, Commonwealth Court Judge Bernard L. McGinley struck down the voter ID law that would have required voters to present a photo ID at the polls. The Pennsylvania League believes that this law would have disenfranchised hundreds of thousands of voters and worked diligently to prevent this law from becoming a permanent part of our voting landscape.

## Hess Appointed to State Committee

Congratulations to LWVIC President Sherene Hess who was recently appointed to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Water Resources Advisory Committee.

This committee provides technical advice to DEP on environmental, economic, and social impacts of existing, new or proposed regulations, policies, and control techniques or technologies affecting water resources management including but not limited to surface/ground water quality and quantity issue.

## LWVIC Seeking Nominations for Environmental Leadership Award

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County is currently seeking nominations for the Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Award. The award recognizes grassroots citizens, groups or businesses who show exemplary leadership and active participation in policy issues that involve protecting or preserving our environment and will be awarded for the third time this spring.

Candidates for the award should demonstrate grassroots leadership in the following areas:

- Preservation and/or protection of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment
- Grassroots activism to preserve or protect our precious natural resources

This leadership can take a variety of forms including but not limited to the following:

- New or innovative technology to prevent degradation of our environment
- Activities that show a direct positive effect on our environmental resources
- Activities of notable stewardship of the environment
- Activities that reduce pollution in order to protect our water, air and land
- Activities in particular that reduce water pollution from both point and non-point sources
- Development of policies to achieve water quality essential for maintaining species populations and diversity

Nominations can be submitted by citizens or groups, or individuals can self-nominate. **The deadline for application submission is April 2014.** Contact Sherene Hess, president of the LWVIC to obtain an application. Address: 234 Geesey Road, Indiana, PA 15701. Email: [lwvic@verizon.net](mailto:lwvic@verizon.net). Phone: 724-762-4162.

### Agriculture Consensus Questions Available

The LWVIC Agriculture Study Update committee will be holding a consensus meeting this spring in preparation for a revision to the LWVUS agriculture position. Consensus questions have been published and study information is available at <http://www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-consensus-questions>.

In an effort to begin to educate ourselves, the LWVIC recently held "A Snapshot of American Agriculture: What are the Current Issues?" - a panel discussion involving Mr. Rick Ebert, a dairy farmer and member of the Indiana County Farm Bureau, Mr. Kim Miller, a beef farmer and current state president of the PA Farmers Union, Mr. Bill Reeger, a commodity farmer in Indiana County, and Ms. Maggie Robertson, an organic vegetable farmer from Clarion County. All of the panelists stressed their desire to be good stewards of the land while feeding the people and making a living—all key concerns in our current agricultural landscape.

Keep your eyes tuned to the Voter for information as to the time and place of the consensus meeting.

## Redistricting Maps Available

Redistricting maps for the state of Pennsylvania are now available at the following site: [www.redistricting.state.pa.us/Maps/](http://www.redistricting.state.pa.us/Maps/).

PA legislative districts are currently using previously drawn lines because of recent court challenges. The newly drawn districts were approved by the courts and go into effect on December 31, 2014. Legislators running for office this year are running for seats in the newly drawn and approved districts. The link above will provide a Google map tool to identify the redrawn boundaries for your municipality in the upcoming 2014 legislative election.

Following are the changes for Indiana County:

The **60<sup>th</sup> Legislative District** has shifted westward. Only the southwestern corners of the county will be in the 60<sup>th</sup> which consists of Blacklick, Conemaugh, and Young townships as well as Saltsburg Borough.

The **62<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District** covers the central and eastern sections of the county including Armstrong, Brush Valley, Buffington, Burrell, Center, Cherryhill, Washington, White, and Wheatfield townships as well as boroughs within these townships of Blairsville, Clymer, Creekside, Homer City, Indiana, and Shelocta.

The **66<sup>th</sup> Legislative District** covers the northern section of Indiana County and shifted downward with the addition of Rayne and Green townships to Banks, Canoe, Grant, Mahoning, and Montgomery as well as boroughs within these townships of Glen Campbell, Marion Center, Plumville and Smicksburg.

## Public Comments Needed

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently published a new proposal that would create a federal carbon pollution standard for all new power plants built in the United States.

According to Elisabeth MacNamara (LWVUS), "The unlimited dumping of carbon pollution is the chief cause of climate change. Reducing the amount of carbon pollution from power plants is a life-saving measure that will protect our children, our nation and the world from the devastating effects of climate change."

A comment period is open for 60 days, so League members need to take this opportunity to make their voices heard and submit their public comments to the EPA. Visit <http://www.lwv.org/blog/game-changer-%E2%80%93-epa-needs-hear-you> for more information and to send your comment.

A newsletter of the  
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## CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, February 10, 9:00 am**—Legislative Breakfast with Representative Reed, Eat'n Park

**Monday, February 17, 7:00 pm**—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, PASEC meeting room, (1005 Oak Street, 2nd floor)

**Tuesday, February 18**— First day to circulate and file nomination petitions for candidates

**Friday, February 21, 9:00 am**—Legislative Breakfast with Senator White, Eat'n Park

**Monday, April 21**— Last day to register before the primary

**Saturday, May 3**— LWWIC Annual Garage Sale (527 Shryock Avenue, Indiana) **(May 10, Bag Sale)**

**Tuesday, May 20**— Primary election

**June 6-10**—LWVUS Convention, Dallas, Texas

Know someone who may be interested in membership? Let President Sherene Hess know at 724-762-4162, and she will send a brochure & short letter describing LWWIC's activities.

### Our Mission Statement

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*