

VOTER

League of Women
Voters of Indiana
County, Pennsylvania



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

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LWVUS Urges Local Leagues to Study Issues for Consensus

Delegates at the 2010 national convention adopted two studies: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education and Privatization: The Policy Agenda to Transfer Government Functions, Services and Assets to the Private Sector. Following League tradition, it is up to us at LWVIC to study these issues and weigh in with our opinion so that the League can reach a consensus and take a unified position on these important issues.

(Consensus is usually reached by group discussion using responses to specific questions.) **LWVIC is currently seeking committee members to study both of these issues and guide our local members through this process.** The information below will assist us in these studies.

Role of the Federal Government in Education – Consensus due November 30, 2011

Study materials can be found on the [lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) website under For Members-Projects and Programs-Role of the Federal Government in Public Education http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Public_Education&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=167&ContentID=16957

(In addition, see the article on page 3—The History of the Federal Government in Public Education—to learn more about this issue.)

Privatization: The Policy Agenda to Transfer Government Functions, Services and Assets to the Private Sector – Consensus due late March 2012.

Materials are still being developed by LWVUS Study Committee and should be available beginning in September 2011. Once they are available, the study materials will be located on the [lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) website under For Members-Projects and Programs- Privatization: The Policy Agenda to Transfer Government Functions, Services and Assets to the Private Sector.

LEAGUE ACCELERATES AWARENESS OF ECONOMIC and ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF MARCELLUS DEVELOPMENT

More than 1,000 people viewed the League of Women Voters' Marcellus Shale display during the PA Oil and Gas Expo at Kovalchick Convention Center in Indiana, PA on Thursday, July 21, 2011. The League booth included informational hand-out materials, a large display on best water management practices for Marcellus Shale, a laptop demonstrating water monitoring data, and a display featuring the natural resources clause of the Pennsylvania Constitution. Ten members of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County spoke with more than 100 visitors to the League's booth, including landowners, schoolteachers, industry reps and Expo vendors.

The History of the Federal Government in Public Education: Where Have We Been and How Did We Get Here?

Where Have We Been?

From the very beginning of our Republic, a well-educated citizenry was thought to be essential to protect liberty and the general welfare of the people. Even before the Constitution was established, the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 included responsibilities of the nation for an education system. Education has long been considered a national concern by the federal government. Through federal action, education has been encouraged and financially supported from the first Northwest Ordinance in 1785 to the present. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution granted Congress the power to lay and collect taxes to provide for the general welfare of the United States. It is under this “general welfare” clause that the federal government has assumed the power to initiate educational activity in its own right and to participate jointly with states, agencies and individuals in educational activities.

During the first century of our new nation, Congress granted more than 77 million acres of the public domain as an endowment for the support of public schools through tracts ceded to the states. In 1841, Congress passed an act that granted 500,000 acres to eight states and later increased land grants to a total of 19 states. The federal government also granted money, such as distributions of surplus federal revenue and reimbursements for war expenses, to states. Though Congress rarely prescribed that such funds be used only for schools, education continued to be one of the largest expenses of state and local governments so the states used federal funds whenever possible for education.

Two of our constitutional amendments played an important role in public education. In 1791, the 10th Amendment stated, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” Public education was not mentioned as one of those federal powers, and so historically has been delegated to the local and state governments.

In 1868, the 14th Amendment guaranteed rights to all citizens by stating, “all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens in the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.”

Included below is a brief historical overview of federal involvement in public education.

| Event | Date | Explanation |
|---|-----------|---|
| Land Ordinance & Northwest Ordinance | 1785/1787 | Requirement of a system of public education to be established in each township formed under a specified formula. Regulated monies raised via taxes and selling or renting land. |
| Land Grants | 1841/1848 | Congress granted 77+ million acres of land in the public domain as endowments for support of schools. Federal government also granted surplus money to states for public education. |
| Early philosophy – first six presidents | | Discussion of a national university and urging of federal involvement in public education. Seen as critical to preparation for citizenship in a republican form of government. |
| First Morrill Act otherwise known as the Land Grant Act | 1862 | Donated public lands to states to be used for the endowment to support and maintain at least one college with specific purpose of teaching branches of agriculture, mechanic arts and industrial education. |

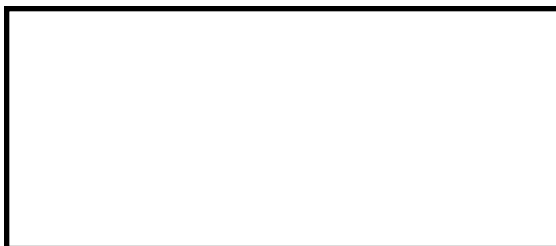
(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2 The History of the Federal Government in Public Education)

| Event | Date | Explanation |
|---|-----------|---|
| The original Department (Office) of Education established | 1867 | Began to collect data – information on schools and teaching that would help states establish effective school systems. |
| Second Morrill Act | 1890 | Gave the Office of Education responsibility for administering support for the original system of land-grant colleges. |
| Smith-Hughes Act | 1917 | Promoted vocational schools |
| Lanham Act | 1941 | Eased the burden on communities affected by presence of military and federal installations: payments to school districts. |
| Impact Aid laws | 1950 | |
| GI Bill | 1944 | Provided post secondary education assistance to GIs returning from World War II. |
| George-Barden Act | 1946 | Provided funding for agricultural, industrial and home economics training for high school students |
| National Defense Education Act | 1958 | In response to Soviet Sputnik. NDEA included support for loans to college students in science, mathematics and foreign languages. |
| Elementary and Secondary Education Act | 1965 | Established comprehensive set of programs including Title I of federal aid to disadvantaged. |
| Title IX | 1972 | Prohibited discrimination in education based on gender. |
| Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act | 1973 | Prohibited discrimination based on disability. |
| Department of Education cabinet level agency | 1980 | Recognized the important role of public education in our country. |
| Educational Testing Service (ETS) and NAEP | 1983 | Federal government transferred responsibility for administering the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) to ETS: the nation's report card. |
| Nation at Risk | 1983 | Report indicating that the USA was falling behind in education achievement. |
| President G.H. Bush | 1989-1992 | “Indian Education Bill of Rights” K-12 Drug awareness model Advisory committee on Hispanic education America 2000 education reform program Work began on national standards |
| President W. Clinton | 1993-1999 | Academics 2000 offered grant to states / local school districts for innovation. Teach for America. |
| President G.W. Bush | 2001-2008 | Reauthorization of ESEA –No Child Left Behind. |
| President Barack Obama | 2009 - | President Obama's Blueprint for Reform – Reauthorization of ESEA. Race to the Top: Grants awarded to states with innovative ideas that accepted the Common Core Standards. |

A newsletter of the
League of Women Voters
of Indiana County,
Pennsylvania
PO Box 672
Indiana, PA 15701

Phone: 724 465-5056
Email: lwvic@yourinter.net



CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

August 26—Women's Equality Day. It took 72 years of unremitting campaigning for US women to finally win the right to vote. This **Anniversary of Women Winning the Vote**, is celebrated as Women's Equality Day. (<http://www.nwhp.org/>)

September 12, 2011, 7:00 pm—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, Karen Ross's home (341 Ann Circle (off Lucerne Road), Indiana)

October 10, 2011, 7:00 pm—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, Beth Marshall's home

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 LWVIC's activities.

Resources at Your Fingertips

Just in case you didn't realize it, when you joined LWVIC, you also became a member of both LWVUS and LWVPA.

Both the national and the state Leagues have tremendous resources at your disposal. Check out the links below to learn more.

LWVUS Website: provides access to tools, information and links to all state

and local Leagues with Websites.
www.lwv.org

LWVUS listserv: provides opportunities for information, guidance, and inter-League communication.
<https://member.lwv.org/Login.asp>

LWVPA Where We Stand: delineates League positions on current issues.
<http://www.palwv.org/lwv/pubs/WhereWeStand.pdf>

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.

