

VOTER

League of Women
Voters of Indiana
County, Pennsylvania



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

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LWVIC Board of Directors, 2014-15

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Voter Registration Events to be Held

With National Voter Registration Day coming up on Tuesday, September 23, our League is doing our part to encourage and enable people to vote.

Help empower your fellow citizens this fall by working at one or more of the following nonpartisan voter registration drives. No experience is necessary; all you need is a willingness to meet the public and help them fill out voter registration forms. Instructions will be provided! **Please help your League with this important task.**

Saturday, August 30 Farmer's Market	9:00 am-noon	Indiana County
Friday, September 4 chian Folk Festival	4:00 pm-9:00 pm	Northern Appala-
Saturday, September 5 an Folk Festival	10:00 am-9:00 pm	Northern Appalachi-
Wednesday, September 10	11:00am-4:30 pm	WyoTech
Saturday, September 13	10:30 am-2:30 pm	Giant Eagle
Wednesday, September 17 Farmer's Market	3:30 pm-5:30 pm	Indiana County
Tuesday, September 23	11:00 am-5:00 pm	HUB, IUP
Wednesday, September 24 YMCA	Noon-2:00 pm and 4:00 pm-6:00 pm	

Sign up for a one or two hour shift by calling or emailing Karen Ross at 724-349-0348 or ross.bert1@gmail.com.

If you are unable to donate any time, consider picking up voter registration forms at the courthouse or from Karen. Carry them with you and encourage people to register. You can also encourage your social networks, email contacts and friends and family to register to vote or update their registration if they've moved, changed their name, or changed their political affiliation recently. The last day to register for the fall election is October 6. With hotly contested governor's and local state representative's races, there will be much interest, so let's capitalize on this and work hard to register voters.

Plan to Attend Candidate's Night

A Candidate's Night for the PA House of Representatives of the 55th (a new district covering Saltsburg), 60th, 62nd, and 66th House districts is being organized for October 21 at 7:00 pm at the Oak Place Community Center. (Candidate's are currently being contacted and encouraged to participate.)

This is a **nonpartisan event** in which all candidates are invited to answer questions posed by audience members. **We need volunteers** who can help greet attendees, collect questions from the audience, screen these questions, keep the time, and promote this event. We will provide training for these tasks.

Mark your calendar and contact Sherene Hess at lwvic@verizon.net or 724-762-4162 if you can help.

Agriculture Position Announced

The LWVUS Board approved the new Position on Federal Agriculture Policies in May of this year. This position is based on the input of 543 state and local Leagues, **LWVIC among them**. The Position follows and can be found on <http://www.lwv.org/content/lwvus-position-federal-agriculture-policies>.

The League believes that government should provide financial support for agriculture that includes disaster assistance, crop insurance, need-based loans and incentives to adopt best management practices. Support should be extended to specialty crops, such as fruits, vegetables and nuts, to new production methods, such as organic, hydroponic, and urban practices, and to farms that supply local and regional markets.

Subsidized crop yield insurance should be linked to implementation of best management practices with the subsidy denied for marginal or environmentally sensitive land. The premium subsidy for crop insurance should be available for a wide range of crops, such as fruits, vegetables and specialty crops. Government should limit the amount of the premium subsidy received by larger farms.

The League supports policies that increase competition in agricultural markets. Antitrust laws should be enforced to ensure competitive agricultural markets. Alternative marketing systems such as regional hub markets, farmers' markets and farmer cooperatives should be promoted.

Clean air and water regulations should apply to all animal and aquaculture production and processing facilities, and not just to the very large confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Such regulations should be designed in a manner that takes into account environmentally sound technologies and the scale of the operation being regulated. Small size operations should not be granted automatic exemption from regulation.

The League believes that government regulatory agencies dealing with animal and aquaculture production should have adequate authority and funding to 1) enforce regulations and 2) gather information that supports monitoring the impacts of all animal feeding and aquaculture operations on human and animal health and the environment.

Government should fund basic research related to agriculture. Government funded research should also address the impact of new technologies on human health and the environment prior to widespread adoption of products developed with such technologies. Assessment of products developed with new technologies should be conducted as transparently as possible, while respecting intellectual property rights. Research should be funded to support the con-

tinuation of diversified and sustainable agricultural systems, such as seed banking and promoting and preserving genetic diversity.

To provide adequate safety of our food supply, government should:

- Clarify and enforce pre-market testing requirements for foods and food additives developed using any new chemical technology, such as genetic engineering or nanotechnology;
- Require developers to monitor all such new food products developed after releasing to the market;
- Require developers of such new food products to provide data and other materials to independent third parties for pre- and post-marketing safety assessment;
- Fund independent third party risk assessment examining how long term and multiple exposures to such new foods affect human health and the environment;
- Withdraw marketing approval and require recall if such products are shown to be unsafe;
- Require post-market monitoring of human health and environmental impacts for pharmaceutical applications used in animal and aquaculture production;
- Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to the treatment of disease;
- Promote crop management practices that decrease dependency on added chemicals; and
- Fund, employ and train sufficient personnel for assessment and compliance functions of regulatory agencies.

The League supports government developing and requiring more informative and standardized definitions on product labeling. Food labeling and advertising should display only approved health and safety claims and an accurate representation of the required ingredient and nutrition lists. The League supports consumer education about labeling of foods developed using any new technology.

LWV Education Fund Clearinghouse Open to the Public

Visit clearinghouse.lwv.org and educate yourself about important government, international relations, natural resources, and social policy issues. According to the website, this League clearinghouse, “contains studies and research conducted by League members. Visitors may download and print the documents. League members may submit documents for this site. The purpose of this site is to share League study documents among some 800 national, state and local Leagues and with the public. Leagues can save time by not reinventing study materials and see how other Leagues have approached a tough issue. Leagues can also gain inspiration for program planning.”

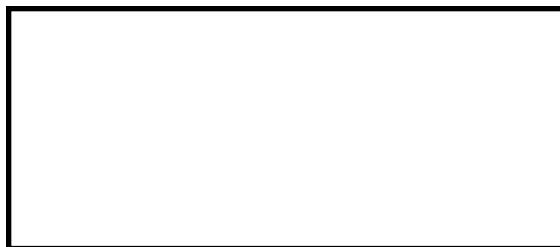
This clearinghouse contains documents on such important and timely subjects as individual liberties, privatization, military policy and defense spending, global climate change, land use, resource management, education, and human trafficking. Whatever your interest might be, there is a resource for you. Visit clearinghouse.lwv.org, and be inspired to change your world.

August 26th is the 94th anniversary of the 19th amendment that granted women the right to vote. The League of Women Voters of Indiana County is marking this historic occasion through its ongoing work to engage and empower all voters to participate in elections this year.

Check out VOTE411.org or smartvoter.org for more specific election information this fall.

A newsletter of the
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CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Monday, September 15, 7:00 pm—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, PASEC meeting room, (1005 Oak Street, 2nd floor)

Tuesday, September 23—National Voter Registration Day

Monday, October 6—Last day to register before the fall election

Tuesday, October 21, 7:00 pm—Candidate's Night, Oak Place Community Center (1055 Oak Street)

Tuesday, October 28—Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot

Tuesday, November 4—General election

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.