

VOTER



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

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LWWIC Board of Directors, 2007-2008

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Next Board Meeting of LWWIC:

October 10, 2007

noon at

Diane Duntley's home

204 Greenview Ct.

724-349-2718

All members and guests are welcome

WHAT'S HAPPENING? GET THE FACTS ON GLOBAL WARMING-

The College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Indiana University of Pennsylvania is inviting the public to a free lecture and question period on global warming presented by Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel, a practicing climate scientist affiliated with the Union of Concerned Scientists. The presentation will be held on **October 11 2007** at 7:00 pm in Eberly Auditorium on the campus of Indiana University of Pennsylvania. There is convenient parking adjacent to Eberly. The hope is to use this event to demonstrate the critical impact that scientific investigations will play in the future of our lives. Dr. Ekwurzel will be presenting new data on the

impact of climate change on Pennsylvania. Her presentation is lively, complete with compelling visual aides and will allow time for audience questions. This event is **FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**. Hope to see many of you at this event.



An Introduction to Municipal Government

The Newly Elected Officials Course

includes comprehensive and informative sessions addressing the complex tasks of running a municipality and prepares newly elected officials to deal with policy matters and the governmental process as well as legal and fiscal responsibilities. Program instructors include experienced leaders from local, county and state government, professors from area colleges. The course covers:

- ◆ The legislative process
- ◆ Scope of municipal powers
- ◆ Working with the media
- ◆ Understanding finances and the budget
- ◆ Personnel law
- ◆ Police and public safety
- ◆ Municipal staff and hiring
- ◆ Infrastructure
- ◆ Planning, zoning and development
- ◆ Leadership and ethics

For more info, call the Local Government Academy at 412-237-3139 or visit

localgovernmentacademy.org

LEAGUE ASKS QUESTIONS OF LOCAL CANDIDATES

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County will be compiling a Voters Guide with information about local candidates for County Commissioner and district Attorney. Candidates will answer a series of questions sent to them and we will publish the questions and answers on our website about October 15. The website is: www.palwv.org/indiana.

These are the questions we will be asking the candidates.

District Attorney -

1. How do you perceive the role of District Attorney?
2. What are your goals for the district Attorney's office in the next three years?
3. Underage drinking and the sale and use of illegal drugs are a problem in our county. what are your views on incarceration versus other alternatives for convicted offenders?

County Commissioner -

1. What are the issues you consider most important for the county to address in the next three years?
2. Real estate in the county was last reassessed in 1968. What are the positive or negative factors in doing a reassessment within the next three years?
3. In light of the concerns generated when White Township supervisors agreed to timbering in White's Woods, how would you address community concerns about timbering in Pine Ridge and other county parks?

READY. SET. VOTE. 

CANDIDATES NIGHT—OCTOBER 25, 2007

On October 25, at 17:00 p.m. at Oak Place Center, 1001 Oak Street, Indiana, the League of Women Voters of Indiana County will host a candidates forum for District Attorney and County Commissioner candidates.

live by our local ra-
live

Candidates Night
Thursday, October 25, 2007
7:00 p.m.
Oak Place Community Center
1055 Oak Street, Indiana, PA

The public is invited and the event is broadcast radio stations. Questions will come from both the audience and from the radio audience who can phone in their queries.

We expect all six candidates for these positions to attend. As part of our ground rules, no substitutes for the candidates will be permitted. This is always a lively and informative evening. League members and their families and friends should plan to come and participate.

AN INTERESTING EVENING

This is not a League event, but an interesting and timely topic. The Pittsburgh ACLU is hosting an evening event called Voices of Freedom on October 10 at 5:30 pm at the Frick Art and Historical Center in Pittsburgh. Four people will discuss their own stories of their fight for civil liberties. The stories will cover most of the issues current in civil rights discussions.

Gerrymandering and Why PA Needs Redistricting Reform

Gerrymandering: to divide (a territorial unit) into election districts to give one political party an electoral majority in a large number of districts while concentrating the voting strength of the opposition in as few districts as possible (From Merriam Webster on-line dictionary)

The League of Women Voters of PA recently testified on Capitol Hill about the need for redistricting reform in Pennsylvania. You can read LWVPA President Andrea Mulrine's full testimony online at www.palwv.org. Following is an excerpt from her statement.

The League believes that redistricting should

advance the fundamental purposes of representative democracy and government accountability by giving the people a meaningful choice in electing their representatives. Redistricting as practiced in Pennsylvania has met neither of these criteria. The process has been an insider's game. The result has been described as a "bipartisan incumbent protective gerrymander". By at least one measurement, Pennsylvania is the second most gerrymandered state in the country. Gerrymandering reduces electoral competition because legislators choose their voters rather than voters choosing their legislators. Until this last election, when voter anger over the 2005 legislative pay raise prevailed, Pennsylvania had one of the highest rates of legislative incumbent reelection in the

country. It should not take a major scandal to produce competitive elections. The League believes that the redistricting process should be assigned to an independent commission. The process must be transparent and provide a meaningful opportunity for interested parties and the public to participate effectively.

Read the full testimony on line at www.palwv.org.



"Deformed Districts of Democracy" in Pennsylvania-The Shape of PA's Congressional and Legislative districts today

A newsletter of the
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We're on the
Web!

www.palwv.org/indiana



UPCOMING CALENDAR



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.

October 9 – Last day to register to vote or to change your address.

October 10 – Board meeting. **Noon.** Diane Duntley's home.

October 15 – Voters Guide on League Website.

October 16 - Immigration Study meeting—7:00 pm Susan McClure's
home

October 25 – LWVIC Candidates Night. Oak Place. 7:00 pm

November 6 – Election Day - Please go out and Vote

November 7—Board meeting. Noon. Diane Duntley's home

December 1 - Interclub Luncheon. AAUW to host—More information
later

January 19, 2008—Immigration Study Consensus meeting.

Breakfast meeting at Fire Mountain, 9:00 am. SAVE THE DATE!

Fall, 2007 On-Line Voters
Guide available at:
www.palwv.org/indiana