



Westport Voter

November 2006

Visit our website: www.lvwwestportct.org

Members and friends are invited to attend the

Post Election Coffee

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

10:00 AM

at the home of
Claudia Saunders
8 Tiffany Lane

(off Clapboard Hill Road)

RSVP: Luisa Francoeur
227-5593



SAVE THE DATE



Holiday Luncheon Fundraiser

Thursday, December 14th

11.30 - 1.30

At the home of Jackie Cutrone

78 Cross Highway

RSVP - Jane Eyes 227 - 0782

Holiday Food Drive - We will be collecting non-perishable items for a local food pantry.

Voting Eligibility and Citizen's Rights

The LWVUS strongly urges its members to take action to oppose H.R. 4844, recently passed by the House of Representatives, because it would disenfranchise large numbers of legal voters. H.R. 4844 would create new barriers to voting by citizens by requiring every voter to provide government-issued, current and valid photo identification at the polling place in 2008. By 2010 every voter would have to provide photo ID that includes proof of citizenship. H.R. 4844 discriminates against legal voters and discourages voter participation. Photo ID requirements disproportionately

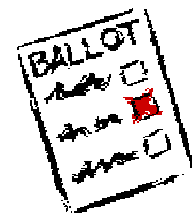
impact those who are least likely to have current photo ID: the elderly, young people, people of color, rural voters, individuals with disabilities and frequent movers. At the polls, acceptance of the ID would be determined by poll workers and election officials. Such tests and devices have historically resulted in discrimination and disenfranchisement of eligible voters. The type of voter fraud addressed in H.R. 4844 is a rare problem. There is no question that election misconduct exists, but there is little evidence of voters misrepresenting their identity at the polls.

The proof of citizenship required by H.R. 4844 in 2010 is like a 21st Century poll tax. Obtaining proof of citizenship can be difficult and imposes real costs in both time and money. If H.R. 4844 were enacted,

many Americans would have to pay to obtain proof of their citizenship.

Voting is the most fundamental expression of citizenship. Much of the last century was spent breaking down barriers to citizen voter participation – from literacy tests to the poll tax. We must continue to protect eligible voters from discrimination, and must not allow new barriers to be erected in the 21st Century.

Tell our senators today to oppose H.R. 4844.



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, community-based political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. It was founded in 1920 as an outgrowth of the 72 year struggle to win voting rights for women.

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Greetings everyone,

With the elections behind us, we focus our attention on our late fall activities: the Post-Election Coffee on November 15 and the Holiday Lunch on December 14. Look for details elsewhere in this Voter. Our pre-election focus has been on educating voters through our Voters Guide and Candidates' Forums, and getting out the vote through our banner over Main Street, providing voter registration information on our website, and, on Election Day, passing out our popular "I Voted -- Did You?" stickers to voters exiting the polls.

This year we also enlisted local stores to have their employees wear stickers on Election Day encouraging customers to vote. Our well-regarded middle school and high school civics programs were also presented this fall--it has been a busy month!

Happy Thanksgiving, and we'll look for you at the Post-Election Coffee and the Holiday Lunch!

Eileen and Laura

Overrun with Running Shoes?

One World Running, a group based in Boulder, Colorado, provides running shoes for those in need both here and abroad. New and gently used shoes are cleaned and shipped to Third World countries. Shoes too worn for reuse are shipped to Nike for recycling into running tracks and playground surfaces. In addition, Connecticut Recyclers Coalition sponsors a spring collection of all brands of athletic shoes for shipping to Nike; Fairfield and Darien are the nearest drop off sites. Start putting them aside now and watch for a reminder in the spring. For more information go to www.boulder-running.com/oneworldrunning and www.ctrecyclers.org.



LWV WEBSITES

www.lwvwestportct.org
www.lwvct.org (Connecticut)
www.lwv.org (US)



MEMBER HANDBOOK

The lime green 2006-07 Member Handbook was mailed to all members the first week of October. If you did not receive your copy, please email or call Kitty Graves to let her know—kgraves@optonline.net or 227-0506. Also, please check your listing to make sure it is accurate.

Gremlins snuck into the computer and wreaked a little havoc. Please correct your copies as follows:

Cohen-Fitzgerald, Nitzy

Ford, Claire

Green, Deborah

Hallas, Nancy & Joel

McBride, Ellen

645 Springer Road

Fairfield, 06824

292-3399

Book Group News

The group will meet on November 27 at 1:30 PM to discuss *Just Revenge* by Alan Dershowitz, at the home of Jane Eyes, 4 Orchard Lane. Please contact Jane to let her know you will attend the discussion, 227- 0782 or

Upcoming discussion:

December 18 - An open book discussion, be ready to list your five or ten all time favorite books.

Multiple copies of the group's selections are available at the Westport Public Library. If you have questions about joining the group, email or call Helene Crawford: 227 2572 or



Welcome New Members

Arlene Bogner

35 Old Mill Road
 454-3530

Doris E. Forest

5 Cypress Pond Road
 227-7744

Jennifer Boyd-Mullineaux and Daniel Mullineaux

85 Turkey Hill Road South
 259-8095



Westport LWV Needs You!!!!

Voter Services 2006 Candidates Forum, Voter's Guide & Get Out the Vote

The 2006 LWV Forums have concluded. It was a busy year including LWV Westport's participation as co-sponsor of the regional LWV 4th Congressional Debate at Wilton High School, assistance in providing volunteers for the U.S. Senate Debate in Stamford, and of course our own Local Candidates' Forum.

Our Local Candidates' Forum (State Senate, District 26, State Representatives District 133 and 136) was held at Town Hall on October 22. Enid Oresman of Darien was the moderator. Questions from the audience ranged from affordable housing and local zoning to universal healthcare. The Forum was broadcast live and subsequently rebroadcast on channel 79. Special thanks again to Town Hall for broadcasting the event and Luisa Francoeur and Jo Ann Davidson who have been producing the programs and training timers for the Forums for years.

The 2006 Voter's Guide gives the public a written document and is in fact allowed into the polling booth. Once again, the Voter's Guide was generously sponsored by the *Westport Minuteman* newspaper and distributed town wide in the October 26, 2006 issue. A number of LWV volunteers were involved in the project. A non-partisan committee worked together to come up with questions for the local candidates and another committee worked on getting the guide to print. Additional copies were distributed to the Senior Center, Library, and Town Hall. It is also on the LWV website. A special thanks to Kitty Graves and Jo Ann Davidson for their efforts.

This year we had a new campaign to get out the vote. Katy Goldschmidt with her committee of hard working women approached various high traffic businesses here in Westport to have all employees wear a large "VOTE" sticker on election day. We hope this will create "buzz" in all who pass through our community to remember to go out and vote!

Lisa Shufro and Pippa Bell Ader took on the responsibility of distributing the LWV "I Voted" stickers at the polling places.

We want to thank each and every one of you who participated in setting up, timing, writing letters, ushering, screening questions, distributing flyers, and of course showing up.

Sally Galan and Jackie Gordon

LWV responds to Gorham Ave Amendment

On September 21st, at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, LWV Westport responded to Amendment 562. The League opposed this proposed amendment on the grounds that it is inconsistent with the LWV Planning and Zoning Position. The League did state that it supports increasing the number of affordable housing units in town, but in ways that are more in keeping with Westport's character and existing zoning.

TAKE ACTION !

Join with the LWVUS Grassroots Lobbying Effort

The LWVUS takes action by asking local league members to contact elected representatives in Congress regarding pending legislation affecting a national position, for example voting rights, lobbying reform or an environmental issue. We are looking for a few good women and men from our league to do this. We are asking that you respond to the LWVUS e-mail Action Alert that would be sent to you. If you feel you can only give the time to respond to a specific issue that is near to your heart, that would be helpful too. To sign up for these Action Alerts, just go to www.lwvwestportct.org. At the bottom, right hand corner there is a LWV United States Action Center link. On this link, towards the top of the page, is the Grassroots Lobby Corps link. Complete this and you will receive LWVUS Action Alerts on your e-mail.

Please let one of us know when you sign up for this service. It helps us keep track of our grassroots lobbying efforts. Questions? Interested in working with Program/Advocacy on formulating LWV Westport action? Contact:

Pippa Bell Ader 221-1555 or bellader@optonline.net

Alison Rivard 254-2079 or cassiewest@optonline.net

LWV Westport in the Schools

Our thanks to the eighteen LWV members who helped teach the middle school civics program to more than four hundred 7th graders at Bedford and Coleytown middle schools last month. Both students and teachers were very enthusiastic about these visits. - *Jane Fraser and Yvonne Senturia*

Thanks to all the presenters who helped out with the high school civics program, The Power of One. The LWV was able to make presentations to ten American Government classes before Election Day. Although most of the students in these classes are not old enough to vote in this election cycle, we hope to have instilled in them the desire to exercise this right (and privilege) as soon as they get it. We reached approximately 220 students, and were actually able to register 20 of them to vote. We'll be back, to cover the spring American Government classes and register any other eligible students at our annual voter registration drive. If you are interested in becoming a presenter, please contact Lisa Shufro at 221-1350

November Action Committee Meeting

The November Action Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16th at the home of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road, from 11:15-12:15. The Observer Corps meeting and time will remain unchanged, from 9:00-11:00 at the Parks and Recreation building.

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Individual Dues: \$50 Household (limited to 2): \$75

Membership year: July 1 through June 30

Send check made payable to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTPORT

P.O. Box 285

Westport, CT 06881- 0285

Contributions to LWV Education Fund are tax deductible; LWV dues are not.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- NOV** 15 **Post Election Coffee** - 10 AM
At home of Claudia Saunders, 2 Tiffany Lane
- 16 **Observer Corps** - 9 AM
Parks and Recreation
Action Committee - 11:15 AM
At home of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road
- 27 **Book Group** - 1:30 PM
At home of Jane Eyes, 4 Orchard Lane
- DEC** 6 **Board Meeting** - 9 AM
At home of Laura Gallagher, 7 Sandhopper Trail
- 13 **Budget Study** - 10:30 AM
At home of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road
- 14 **Holiday Fundraiser** - 11:30 - 1:30
At home of Jackie Cutrone, 78 Cross Highway
- 21 **Observer Corps** - 9 AM
Action Committee - 11:00 AM
Parks and Recreation

All League meetings are open to all members.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WESTPORT

Westport Voter
P.O. Box 285
Westport, CT 06881-0285

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 110
WESTPORT, CT 06881

Post Election Coffee
November 15

