



# Knox Voter

The League of Women Voters of Knoxville / Knox County  
P.O. Box 31825, Knoxville, TN 37930-1825 [www.discoveret.org/lwv](http://www.discoveret.org/lwv) 865-546-8961

## April 2009

### **Announcing the LWV-KKC Annual Meeting: May 19 5:30 p.m. Why Should You Attend?**

*Because every League member has a stake in the LWV-KKC Business Meeting*

The first item on the Annual Meeting's agenda is the business meeting. It offers members the opportunity to elect new officers and board members; approve the 2009-10 budget; review and approve the 2009-10 Local Program; and examine the Bylaws to see that they still meet the needs for governance of LWV-KKC. Members may also recommend new program areas, or additional study on existing programs during the business meeting. This year's Board has not recommended new programs or bylaws changes, so it is very important that members examine them in the 2008-09 Yearbook to approve or amend the Board's recommendation. The business meeting is of vital importance to establishing the operational framework for the coming year. After all, as dues payers, you are due your say!

*Because friendship, fun and food builds a stronger more cohesive League*

All three of these are plentiful at the Annual Meeting!

*To hear an inspiring informative speaker*

The Annual Meeting concludes with a program that is relevant to LWV-KKC. This year's program will be presented by Blount County Commissioner Wendy Pitts Reeves. She has served on the Tennessee Economic Council on Women; Board of

Directors, Blount County Chamber of Commerce, and as President of the AAUW of Blount County. She has been a tireless advocate for women, and has developed mentoring programs to help adolescent girls. Wendy's a sought after speaker, and you won't want to miss the opportunity to hear her.

Mark your calendars to attend the LWV-KKC Annual Meeting May 19, 5:30 PM at the Beck Center. As you know, space is limited, so send in the enclosed registration form to reserve your place, today!  
~ Nan Scott, President

**Meeting Reservation Form on page 5**

### **Annual LWV Meeting Speaker: Wendy Pitts Reeves**

We are very pleased to have Wendy Pitts Reeves join us as our keynote speaker for the Annual Meeting on Tuesday evening, May 19 at 5:30 pm at the Beck Cultural Center. Wendy recently completed her six year term as the East Tennessee Representative to the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, appointed by the Speakers of the House and Senate. The topic of her talk, "When Women are at the Table, the Conversation Changes," is about the findings of a 2007 statewide study published by the Council, "Achieving an Equally Gendered Government: The Economic Impact of Women's Political Participation in Tennessee." The Council found that the unequal economic status of women in Tennessee can be related to a lack of female voices at the political bargaining table. Ms. Reeves will share some of her insights as a Council on Women member and the Council's

recommendations for increasing women's political participation around the state.

Ms. Reeve is a Blount County commissioner, elected to her post in 2006. She has completed two terms on the Blount County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, where helped start a Women in Business Focus Group. She led that group to offer the Chamber's first Career Development Day for economically disadvantaged women in the fall of 2002. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker, she founded Cove Mountain Counseling, an association of independent practitioners that offers counseling, coaching and consulting in Maryville. She was the President of the Maryville Chapter of the American Association of University Women, through which she chaired Tennessee's first Sister to Sister Summit in 2001, an event focused on empowering adolescent girls that has since been repeated annually with great success. In the summer of 2003, she was invited to present a paper about that work at the Seventh International Women's Policy Research Conference in Washington, D.C.

~ Jamey Dobbs

## **Nominating Committee Proposes Nominees for Election at May 19 Annual Meeting**

### Officers:

President: Jamey Dobbs

First Vice-President: Emily Woodle

Second Vice-President: Barbara Nicodemus

Secretary: Leslie Terry

### Directors: Robin Brown

Lisa Carroll

Barbara Chandler

Laura Cole

### 2010 Nominating Committee:

Sandra Dimick, Chair

Terry Shupp

Nan Scott

Barbara Nicodemus and Robin Brown are nominated to fill one year positions created by resignations from the Board. Additional nominations from the floor for all positions will be invited.

## **2010 Budget**

Included in this VOTER is the proposed budget for FY 2010 which runs July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Changes in the budget include proposed dues increase to \$55 per year, with the continued allowance for a \$25 fee for a second member at the same address and for those who are unable to afford the full dues. (We don't require any documentation. If you don't think you can pay the full amount, just return your dues reminder with a \$25 check instead of a \$55 one.)

The Board did not want to raise dues in these times. However, the LWV-US raised its per-member-payment (PMP) from \$26.80 to \$29.20 and the State raised its PMP from \$17 to \$18. This means that we have to send to these organizations a total of \$47.20. Our local league could not survive on the remaining \$2.80. The increase to \$55 is the least expensive option available to us. In addition, we reduced our expected stock dividends due to the economic situation.

The Board is committed to being more active next fiscal year and hopes that you will join with us. Consistent with a more broad approach, we have slightly increased the allocations for meeting expense and committee expenses. Finally, the allocation of mailing expenses increased due to the planned mailing increases announced by the USPS.

This budget will be offered to us all for consideration and a vote at the Annual Meeting. Please consider it carefully now so you will be able to accept or suggest amendments at that meeting.

~ Joanne Deeken

## **LWV-US!**

That's the theme of the 2008-2010 LWVUS Nominating Committee. It means that the leadership of the LWV is *us* – League members just like you and me who are committed to insuring the continued success of our organization. The goals of this Nominating Committee are to promote that idea and to build a slate for 2010-2012 that reflects the values, concerns, and diversity of Leagues large and small across the country.

What can you do to help the Nominating Committee insure that the LWV leadership is *us*? Your most important contribution will be to act as our eyes and ears in the leadership search. We can't personally recruit everywhere so we're relying on members like you. Please make us aware of leaders

in your area and nominate them for positions on the LWVUS Board or Nominating Committee. You can even nominate yourself!

The postmark deadline for nominations is September 30, 2009. A hard copy nomination form and an on-line form will be available on the [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) website soon. For more information you can join the Nominating Committee discussion list on the LWVUS web site or email us at [nominatingcommittee@lwv.org](mailto:nominatingcommittee@lwv.org).

We look forward to *hearing from you!*

~ Robbie Davis, Chair

LWVUS Nominating Committee

URL: <http://www.lwv.org/Nominations>

## Climate Change

As I sit on my deck drying my hair the old fashioned way, off the electrical grid, having just hung my laundry on an outside line, I am enjoying my "no drive day". I am wondering if I, as an individual, can impact a phenomenon as huge as global climate change, or is it even really happening?

The October, 2008, issue of LWV National Voter summarizes much of the current data on climate change, and the lead article is followed by Pamela Person's article, **THERE IS NO FREE LUNCH, BUT THERE ARE COST EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS.**

The October 21, 08 FRONT LINE television presentation summarized much of the current observable data as well. The pictorial history of the glacier on the Himalayas showed that over 40 percent ice reduction since 1921, with a prediction that all will be gone by 2035. This means severe social and ecological ramifications for the entire globe. The documentary also stated that one-half of the world population is dependent on water supplied by glaciers, and many places on earth are already experiencing water shortages. Sea levels are increasing at a faster rate than predicted with "climate change refugees" already a reality. Many coast line cities as well as critical marsh areas are threatened by sea water warming and rising levels.

This documentary also made a connection between global climate change and the increase in green house gas emission from the burning of fossil fuel. The increase in human population and the industrial revolution has escalated the amount of

green house gases thus the effect of warming the planet.

What are governments, organizations, and individuals to do?

Believe it or not, there is still a lot of awareness to be raised. A recent poll revealed that less than 30 per cent of US population polled listed climate change as a serious problem. A recent comment by an individual in an interview about the recent "lights out" in the Nashville, Tennessee area was that she "would not turn her lights out for one hour for any cause."

A similar attitude was put forth in the January 2009 WASHINGTON REPORT published from the office of Congressman John Duncan, (R,TN). Six scientists were quoted as stating that global warming did not exist, and certainly did not merit "drastic measures and harsh economic penalties." Some believe that if warming ever existed, it was now over, and that there is no current evidence or observations of significant climate change from other than natural causes.

The Knox County LWV's January meeting featured Dr. Amiee Classen whose presentation left little doubt about the scientific fact of global climate change.

Given this variety of information it does seem that a life style that reduces, reuses, and recycles can not hurt...This 2009 Earth Day can reemphasize care and wise management of the base of our existence and quality of life. ~ Rebecca Judy

## National Popular Vote Compact

Come to the April 21 meeting to discuss the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV). Resident political scientists and League members, Lois Russell and John Stewart, will present information about the NPV before a discussion of questions posed by the LWVUS. Pro and con information is elsewhere in this issue.

The national League consensus questions include these subjects that are reworded for conciseness:

1. Amending the Constitution
  - a. Is it acceptable to change an element of the Constitution through a process other than amendment?
  - b. Use of a compact among states is a novel way to change the Constitution—is this a good idea?
2. Congressional Consent

Requirement of congressional consent is or is not of sufficient concern to block implementation of the plan?

3. Enforcement

Is there sufficient enforcement to implement the plan and what about the possibility that the courts will be bought into the process? Do these concerns override the viability of the plan?

4. Uniformity

Is the uniformity of voting systems more important than popular election of the President?

5. Popular Election of the President

Is popular election of the President more important than abolition of the Electoral College?

6. Achievability

Questions about the difficulty of passage of both the NPV Compact and abolishment of the Electoral College.

## Support for the National Popular Vote Compact

Because the League already supports direct election of the president, arguments against the Electoral College (EC) are not included in the material supporting the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact).

**Constitutional Issues** The NPV Compact is a way to assure that every person's vote counts equally and that the person receiving the most votes is the winner of the presidency. The same result would be achieved by constitutional amendment but the U.S. Constitution is difficult to amend. The NPV Compact is a viable way to attain the same goal as amending the Constitution to eliminate the EC.

A constitutional amendment is not needed to effectuate the NPV Compact because states already have the right to implement changes in how electors are appointed.

The NPV Compact is a compact between states—a method of concerted state action that has long been sanctioned by the Constitution and the courts.

**Evaluating Fairness** A candidate can be elected president by receiving the most electoral votes even though he or she did not receive the most popular votes. This is not a result voters expect or desire. As

election campaigns are now waged, major emphasis and resources are concentrated in key EC battleground states because that is where elections are won or lost. The NPV Compact would eliminate the emphasis on battleground states and would be more apt to assure campaign strategies that appeal to a broad spectrum of the electorate which would foster greater voter participation.

The argument that the plan would negatively impact states' rights is countered by poll results showing that most voters want their individual vote to count, rather than allotting them to electors representing the state as a whole.

Any claim that the NPV Compact is an unprecedented disregard for the U.S. Constitution ignores the reality that voting rights have been changed through state action many times. Women's suffrage, for example, was instituted by twenty states before passage of the constitutional amendment that made the right universal.

**Mechanical Considerations** Those opposed to the NPV Compact cite mechanical issues that might lead the NPV to fail, but the Compact includes provisions that address issues of enforcement, winning levels and recounts.

**Other Issues** The Voting Rights Act and the NPV Compact are in harmony, assuring equality of votes throughout the United States.

**League Issues** Opponents say that the NPV Compact conflicts with the League's support of uniform voting standards. Supporters of the Compact advocate its passage in all states, which would result in uniform voting standards. It is true that the NPV Compact could be in effect for an interlude when not all states had signed on to it. The same could be demonstrated for other laws, such as the Equal Rights Amendment. Nonetheless, it must be remembered that uniform voting standards are not now in effect. The NPV Compact could help assure that every vote would be counted equally. Further, implementation of a method which assures direct election of the president by popular vote is in keeping with the League's long-held position.

**To prepare for the consensus meeting, please read the complete version of this paper (available at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) by the LWVUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee.**

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## Opposition to the National Popular Vote Compact

There is little respect for the Electoral College (EC). The League opposes it and most voters want a direct popular vote. But is the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) an appropriate way to achieve that result?

**Evaluating Fairness** Voters supporting the candidate who receives the majority of votes in their state want their state's electors to support their choice. Adoption of the NPV Compact may require a state elections official to direct its state's electors to cast their ballots in support of a candidate who was not favored by the voters of that state.

Passage of the NPV Compact will result in the emphasis of presidential campaigns shifting from the battleground states to areas of large concentrations of population. So, while some voters are disenfranchised by the EC, others might be disenfranchised by the NPV Compact. Because the Compact requires entry into a contract with other states which binds state elections officials to direct electors to vote in a certain way, regardless of the outcome of the election in their state, states' rights are diminished.

In addition, one can question the advisability of a method that bypasses the normal constitutional amendment process in this manner.

**Constitutional Issues** Many constitutional scholars argue that this plan will lead to extensive litigation involving challenges to the NVP Compact on issues such as the scope of constitutional powers, the Compact itself, the need for congressional approval, the concerns of non-compacting states, and constitutional protections of state interests and their role in elections.

**Mechanical Issues/Flaws** The methods for enforcement of this plan are unclear. Opponents question the power and timing to withdraw from the Compact and the power to enforce compliance. Others express concern about an onslaught of lawsuits between compacting and non-compacting states, as well as procedures in close elections.

The plan, allowing the election of a president by a plurality of votes, does not improve on the current system; neither the present system nor the NPV Compact requires that the president be elected by a majority.

**Other Issues** The Voting Rights Act requires pre-clearance for legislative changes. This, too, has

the capacity to engender lawsuits to ensure compliance.

**League Issues** This proposal does nothing to achieve the goal of uniform standards of voting. The NPV Compact is effective when passed by states representing 270 electoral votes, effectively negating the impact on presidential elections of the voters in states which represent the other half of electoral votes. A system which assures no voter disenfranchisement is a better way to assure that every person's vote counts.

The League has long supported the abolition of the EC. Although the NPV Compact purports to foster the same result, it creates additional concerns. Amending the U.S. Constitution is a difficult process, and we should seriously consider supporting the normal amendment procedures to abolish the EC versus this specific "work-around."

**To prepare for the consensus meeting, please read the complete version of this paper (available at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) by the LWVUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee.**

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**Yes, the Annual Meeting looks great, count me in!**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guests:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$25**

**\$** \_\_\_\_\_ **total enclosed**

**Phone reservations to Faith Tapp 705-6018**

**Please address checks to: LWV-KKC**

**Mail Checks to: Faith Tapp**

**3558 Pebblebrook Way**

**Knoxville, TN. 37921**

**NOTE: Space is Limited, Reservation Deadline is Thursday, May 14**

## L WVKKC Officers for 2008-2009

**President:** Nan Scott ('09) , 315 Oak Park, Kvl 37918 s

Ph: 357-4177 [Eliza7@knology.net](mailto:Eliza7@knology.net)

**1st VP Membership:** Mary Whaley ('09) 2449 Brooks Rd.

Kvl 37914 524-4680 [kwhaley@fastech1.com](mailto:kwhaley@fastech1.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP Programs:** Anne Hart ('09) 800 Westborough, Kvl

37909 Ph: 693-8509 [Mizhart@aol.com](mailto:Mizhart@aol.com)

**Secretary:** Nancy Stewart ('09), 6611 Ridgerock La Kvl

37909 584-3834 [nancys@knology.net](mailto:nancys@knology.net)

**Treasurer:** Joanne Deeken ('10) 3533 Greywolfe Dr., Kvl

37921 [jdeeken@utk.edu](mailto:jdeeken@utk.edu)

## LWVKKC Directors for 2008-2009

**Voter Service:** Theresa Pepin ('10) 2309 Wagon Kvl 37920

[pepin05@comcast.net](mailto:pepin05@comcast.net)

**Immigration:** Judy Griffith ('09) 5700 Pinellas Dr Kvl

37919 558-8231 [griffjudy@aol.com](mailto:griffjudy@aol.com)

**Programs:** Sandra Marrs Dimick ('09) 6811 Stone Mill Rd

Kvl 37919 584-1988 [smarrsd@ntown.com](mailto:smarrsd@ntown.com)

**Citizen Education / Website:** Jamey Dobbs ('09) 2509

Lakefront Dr. Kvl 37922 691-6728

[jameydobbs@yahoo.com](mailto:jameydobbs@yahoo.com)

**Arrangements:** Faith Tapp ('09) 3558 Pebblebrook Way

Kvl, 37921 Ph: 705-6018 [gtapp99@comcast.net](mailto:gtapp99@comcast.net)

**Climate Change:** Rebecca Judy ('09) 3309 Mount Vernon

Dr. Kvl 37920 Ph: 573-4297 [rajudy@comcast.net](mailto:rajudy@comcast.net)

**Health Care:** Mary Drew ('10) 1120 Glenmora Grove Way

37923 Ph: 692-8799 [coolmama25@comcast.net](mailto:coolmama25@comcast.net)

### Offboard:

Rachel Craig: Membership database

Lucy Gibson: Newsletter Editor

Nancy Larson: Observer Corps

## Membership Form – Clip it for a friend!

I want to join the League of Women Voters. Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_, payable to LWVKKC.  
(Membership in the League is open to all citizens 18 years or older.)

Regular dues: \$50    Second household member: \$25    Limited income dues: \$25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E: Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ (evening/home): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and your check to: Rachel Craig, 2222 Island Home Blvd. Knoxville, TN 37920



## LWV Knoxville - Knox County 2008-2009 programs

Date	Time	Event	Location
Apr. 21	5:30 p.m.	Meeting: National Voter Compact	Church of the Savior
May 7	5:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	
May 19	5:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting	Beck Cultural Center



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