



The Lexington Voter

March 2009

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members:

At the 2008 national LWV convention, the delegates voted to adopt a new study, *"The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President."* Under proposed legislation, all of each state's electoral votes would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in that state (and the District of Columbia).

The ruling would take effect only when enacted, in identical form, by all states possessing a majority of the electoral votes--that is, enough electoral votes to elect a President (270 of 538).

The League's current position on this issue is as follows: **"The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system--from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels**

and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information."

This study will determine if we want to amend the position based on a National Popular Vote Compact. As a local affiliate, we must come to a consensus and return our local League's responses to National by May 2009. Therefore, we will hold a meeting on **Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church** to discuss this issue and come to consensus on the questions that National has posed for us pertaining to the study. I urge all members to attend this meeting and voice your opinion on the issue before us. Mark you calendars now!

More information about this issue may be found on the National League website at www.lwv.org/NPV. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Lexington League at 494-3203. Leave your name, address and phone number and we will mail you a copy of the study material.

Tammy Fagley

MEMBER NOTE: *One of our Board members and past President, **Nikole Wolfe**, will be leaving us and moving to Bowling Green to take on new employment. We all wish her the best of luck and thank her for the time and effort she has given to the LWV Lexington.*

First Director of Markey Cancer Center Provides Suggestions for Improvement of Health Care Systems

The Feb. 10 *Dinner and Democracy* featured Dr. Gilbert H. Friedell, founding director of the Markey Center, UK professor emeritus, and now head of the newly formed Friedell Committee for Health System Transformation. Dr. Friedell's work throughout a long and distinguished career has focused on reaching out to the medically underserved. Now he has drawn on his years of experience to shape the work of the Committee for Health System Transformation. This committee is a statewide, independent, non-partisan, non-profit citizens' committee whose goal is to improve the health and health care of all Kentuckians.

Dr. Friedell explained various views of health systems and pointed out that all approaches rely on a basic understanding that any changes in individual behavior require community support. In other words, individuals are responsible for their own health but so are families, schools, places of employment, religious communities, etc. Public policy has its impact by targeting both the community and the laws within which the community operates.

The Friedell Committee has adopted ten principles to use as benchmarks for evaluating our current health system as well as for evaluating progress over time as it is re-invented. More information about the work of the committee can be obtained by calling Carolyn Dennis at 1-502-868-1397.

REMINDER: The next (and last) *Dinner and Democracy* will be Tuesday, March 10.

CONVENTION HOSPITALITY

The LWV KY Convention will be held during the spring meet at Keeneland Race Track which means overnight lodging will be more costly than usual. Several Lexington members have volunteered to house members from across the state so that no one is prohibited from attending because of costs.

If you would like to host a member in your home on **Friday evening, April 17**, please contact Cindy Heine at 272-3500 or Cindy.Heine@InsightBB.com.

Inauguration Poll...Check out the national LWV website at www.lwv.org. There you will find interesting information on many current topics including an opportunity to cast your vote to prioritize national issues. The question is "Other than the economy what issue should the Obama administration and 111th Congress focus on first?"

As of the last week in February, the poll reflected member concerns to be:

- #1 Health care at 48%
- #2 Other at 17%
- #3 Government Reform at 15%
- #4 National Security at 7%



Congratulations to the LWV on its 89th birthday!

Dinner and Democracy **Scheduled for March 10**

Make your reservations now for the last of this year's ***Dinner and Democracy*** evenings scheduled for Tuesday, March 10. At that time Rep. Bill Farmer (R) 88th District and Rep. Ruth Ann Palumbo (D) 76th District will discuss the issues and activities of the current state legislative session.

The event, which will be held at Faith Lutheran Church will begin with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be followed at 6:30 p.m. by the program. Faith Lutheran Church is located at 1000 Tates Creek Road. Cost of admission is \$10.00. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 494-3203.

Dinner and Democracy is provided four times each year to keep members informed on major topics and to provide them with opportunities to question experts.

**Agenda for LWV Lexington
Annual Meeting
Friday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m.
Faith Lutheran Church
1000 Tates Creek Road**

- 1. President's Welcome**
- 2. Election of Officers**
- 3. Approval of 2009-2010 Budget**
- 4. Discussion of Program for the Year**

(This meeting will be held during the reception break at the Kentucky LWV Convention.)

State Convention Keynote Speaker Well Known in Kentucky

Contained in this mailing is a registration form for the **Kentucky League of Women Voters State Convention to be held April 17 and 18 at Faith Lutheran Church here in Lexington. It is a special honor for the local League to host this meeting.**



The keynote speaker **Dorothy S. Ridings** has spent her entire career as reporter, editor, publisher. She has taught journalism at U of L and the University of North Carolina. Having also spent many years in the world of non-profit foundations she is now president and CEO of the Council on Foundations, a national association of 2,000 foundations and corporations that will make charitable grants of about \$10 billion this year.

Ridings, who was president of the national League from 1982-1986, will draw on her long association with the LWV to talk about "History of the League and KIDS VOTING." This is a do-not-miss opportunity. Complete the registration form and mail it today!



We have all heard about the recently signed Recovery Act. Now test the administration's commitment to accountability and transparency. Check out www.recovery.gov for the details and distribution of funds.

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed, active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Return Service Requested

Lexington League of Women Voters
PO Box 22045
Lexington KY 40522

Calendar

LWV of Lexington Website: www.lwvlexington.com

Phone: 859-494-3203

NOTE: Board meetings are open to all MEMBERS; programs are open to the public

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| Saturday, March 7 | 10:00 a.m. | Board Meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church |
| Tuesday, March 10 | 6:00 p.m. | <i>Dinner and Democracy</i> at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Road |
| Saturday, April 4 | 10:00 a.m. | Member Meeting (to form consensus on national proposal) at Faith Lutheran Church |
| FRIDAY, APRIL 17 | 5:30 p.m. | <i>LWV LEXINGTON ANNUAL MEETING</i> |
| FRI/SATAPRIL 17-18 | ***** | <i>STATE LWV CONVENTION IN LEXINGTON</i> |

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