

THE VOTER

DECEMBER, 2012

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MURFREESBORO/RUTHERFORD COUNTY

LOCAL LWV NEWS

Federal Role in Public Education Position

The LWVUS Board approved a new Education position at the March 2012 Board meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 377 Leagues across the country who participated in the Education Study.

The League of Women Voters believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12. A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.

The League believes that the role of the federal government should include the following:

- Provide leadership and vision to promote a quality education for all children;
- Provide broad common standards developed by educational experts upon which states and local education agencies can build;
- Provide a suggested curricular structure or framework as a guide to state and local education agencies to develop their own curricula;
- Provide a national assessment that clearly informs teachers, parents and students about how well individual students have mastered criteria established at the national level;
- Provide a national assessment that informs districts how well their populations compare to other populations similar to theirs; and
- Provide a combination of competitive grants and non-competitive funding to states and local school districts to achieve equity among states and populations.

The League of Women Voters believes that an equitable, quality public education is critical for students. While the League recognizes that there are instances where the federal government's involvement is the only way to achieve universal change, we also recognize the primary responsibility for public education resides with the states. In accordance with the League of Women Voters' position for Equal Rights, we continue to support equity in public education for all through:

- Broad guidelines for accountability, leaving implementation to the state and local education agencies;
- Adequate funding sources that support the broad goals of national standards; and
- Mechanisms for local and state funding with adequate federal support for mandates that require less burdensome, compliance-based reporting and regulations.

The League believes that the federal government should be primarily responsible for funding any programs mandated by the federal government on local education agencies. Although the League recognizes equity in education depends on meeting basic human needs of children and of their families, the costs associated with providing equitable access to safe neighborhoods and secure housing do not belong in the education budget. Major programs of federal funding for public education should be targeted towards children living in poverty and/or children with special needs. The federal government has the responsibility to monitor and support access to the following:

- High quality teaching and learning, supported by quality current learning materials and well maintained educational facilities; and
- Access to health care needs (i.e., hearing, vision, dental, immunization, school-based health clinics at the secondary level, etc.) and nutritionally adequate food (i.e., school-based meals under "free and reduced meal program").

(Continues on page 2)

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF
MURFREESBORO/
RUTHERFORD
COUNTY**

P.O. Box 4108
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
league@lwvrutherford.org
www.lwvrutherford.org

Officers and Directors for
2012-2013

Co-Presidents: Leslie Collum
Amy Greene

Secretary: Mary Elaine Hargis

Treasurer: Suma Clark

Directors: Catherine Corbitt
Kaylene Gebert
Shirley Brackin
Faye Johnson
Judy Powell

Nominating Committee Chair:
Carolyn Strang

Past President:
Charlotte Molloy



*Making Democracy
Work.*

The League of Women Voters believe that the first five years of a child's life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life. Additionally, the League believes quality, developmentally appropriate and voluntary early learning experiences should be available to all children, with federally funded opportunities going first to children of poverty and/or with special needs. The League believes that the federal government should support the following:

- Early childhood education programs that include funding for parent education and involve child development, health, nutrition and access to other supportive services such as mental health care for all children and their families;
- Research that documents quality early childhood education programs; and
- Research that demonstrates the importance of linking state and local community partnerships with effective early childhood education programs and services.

LWVUS

Since Governor Haslam has decided to not operate a state-based healthcare exchange, there is more urgency for us to get the word out that Tennessee should expand Medicaid.

Amy Greene,
Co-President

UPCOMING LOCAL LEAGUE EVENTS

January 14 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center, Legislative Update—Rep. Brenda Gilmore

February 11 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center, Panel on Basic Human Needs

March 18 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center, Chamber of Commerce Update

April 15 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center, Water/Sewer Update

May 20 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center

(We are still confirming speakers and topics, be aware that some of the topics may be moved to another date.)

NEW WEBSITE:

www.lwvrutherford.org

NEW EMAIL:

league@lwvrutherford.org

Reminder: Membership fees are due—\$50

If you have already paid your 2012 dues, thank you! If you haven't sent your money in yet, please send to Suma Clark at:

LWV of Murfreesboro/Rutherford Co.

P.O. Box 4108

Murfreesboro, TN 37129

If you are unsure if you have paid or not, email or call Suma—895-3525 or sclark@mtsu.edu