



# SC Voter

Post Office Box 8453 • Columbia, SC 29202 • Phone & Fax: (803) 251-2726

Website: [www.lwvsc.org](http://www.lwvsc.org)

Volume 66, Issue 2

Winter 2016

## VOTES IN SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTED

# Thanks to League Efforts Across the State



Our local Leagues concluded another busy and productive season of voter registration and get out the vote activities.

Working across SC, we were not surprised by the statistics recently released by the South Carolina Election Commission on voter registrations in South Carolina and covered by The State Newspaper in an article on October 12, 2016.

Since 2012, South Carolina's voter registrations are up by nine percent, while our population increased by 6% during the same time period. Not only are more South Carolinians registering to vote, there are also shifts in the diversity of voter registrations:

- 43% increase in Hispanic voter registration
- 34% increase in Asian registration
- 10% increase in white registration
- 5 % increase in African-American registration

More women are registered to vote in South Carolina than men – 1.7 million compared to 1.4 million.

South Carolina voters tend to be older this year with those over 65 making up almost a quarter of the electorate at 24% and those aged 45 – 64 comprising 35 % of registered voters, Twenty-five to 44 year olds are 32% of our registered voters, and voters under 25 years of age make up 8% of the South Carolina electorate.

Horry County has registered the most new voters since 2012 with 35,000 new registrants. Greenville, and Charleston each added more than 20,000 voters to their rolls since 2012. With three busy League's in these counties, we know these numbers would not be possible without your efforts.

We are equally proud of all the League efforts across the state to get ready for the election.

**LWV of the Charleston Area** gave out thousands of voter registration cards with the QR Code for [SCVotes.org](http://SCVotes.org) to register voters across the region. They even had a booth for three days at the Southern Women's Show. Barbara Zia, a former national LWV Board member, LWVCA president, and LWVSC president, spoke at a Charleston League forum on "The League and the Nonpartisan Challenge." The Charleston League developed a wonderful [Election Central for Voters 2016](#) page on their website with all of the links and information voters



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## Co-Presidents' Perspectives:



**Julie Hussey**  
*Co-President, LWVSC*

One glass ceiling was shattered in the 2016 Presidential election when a woman was the candidate of one of our major parties. Nearly one hundred years since women got the right to vote and we finally had our first female candidate for President of the United States. Though the League does not endorse candidates or parties we recognize this historic event. Yes, we have come a long way and the League is very proud of the role we have played in promoting women to be active on the political scene. Winning the right to vote was the first step in a long journey to equality for women. Though we have yet to elect our first woman as President, in fact a woman did receive the most popular votes for President in this past election.

This election with the first woman candidate for President, after the eight-year term of our first black President, has been an amazing period and has brought out the best and the worst in us. Change generally does not come easily and frequently brings a cultural backlash with it. This election has brought forth an anger and angst in our country of those who feel left behind economically and culturally and has exposed legitimate grievances that must be recognized.

We must now deal with the aftermath of a very divisive and ugly election season.

Our country went into this election very divided and we come out of this election still very divided and even dangerously so. From hacking and publication of one political party's private email by a foreign government, to a candidate's insistence that our elections are rigged, to puzzling FBI release of damaging information in the middle of the campaign, this election season was beyond description. As they say "you can't make this stuff up". We have to wonder if the United States is seeing its reputation as the world's exceptional democracy diminished.

Trust in the institution of government and in our press has been badly eroded over the past several years. We have witnessed the denigration of traditional journalism and an online media environment where facts and truth take a backseat to the number of clicks and blogger hype. More and more our citizens live in alternative universes with no agreement on a coherent set of facts and assumptions. We cannot allow incivility and outright lying to become the new normal.

Making Democracy Work is the new national League initiative. It could not have been introduced at a better time and who better to do this work than the League of Women Voters. We have done this work



**JoAnne Day**  
*Co-President, LWVSC*

for almost one hundred years. We have a reputation for integrity, facts and truth. We work at all levels of government, local, state, and national. As the national League rolls out the details of this plan we will once again embrace these ideals and bring them to our communities.

***League members – this is our time!***  
*JoAnne and Julie*

### KNOW YOUR STATE

- UPDATED EDITION -



The most recent edition of LWVSC's *Know Your State: South Carolina Government* publication came out in 2009. A lot of water has passed under the state's bridges since then, so before reprinting, there has been an update in 2014. The update not only has the most recent numbers for state and local revenue, population, and student enrollment, but also reflects changes in photo ID for voters, Common Core Standards, the new on-line public school, the demise of the Budget and Control Board, and other legislative changes. This informative 72-page booklet is a great gift for speakers, school and public libraries, newcomers to the state, and a great reference for our members. The retail price is \$10, but Leagues can buy copies for \$7 and resell them at full price or give them to anyone you think might need a copy. You can order copies by emailing [league@lwvsc.org](mailto:league@lwvsc.org) or calling 803-251-2726.

## VOTES COUNTED:

*continued from page 1 -*

need to prepare themselves to vote, as well as information on school board candidates, the Charleston League's stance on a local referendum, and information specifically for college students.

**LWW of the Clemson Area** hosted primary candidate forums for seven races in May and June and candidate forums for the Clemson City Council and for the Pickens School Board District 3. To make certain voters were able to get candidate responses even if they could not make it to the forums, the Clemson League posted candidate's answers to the forum questions and even shared a video taken at the School Board election on the Clemson Area League website. Clemson also used the week of National Voter Registration Day to register voters at Tri-County Tech, Clemson University, Southern Wesleyan University, high schools in Oconee, Pickens and Anderson Counties.

**LWW of the Columbia Area** members registered voters at a wide variety of locations including high schools, several college campuses, a retirement center, the COMET Transit Center, housing authority properties, churches, Columbia College, and even a neighborhood canvas and grocery store event with USC law students. The Columbia League also used their September Public Policy luncheon to hear from Chris Whitmire, the SC Election Commission's Director of Public Information and Training, about election security, Voter Education Month, absentee voting, and plans for Electronic Voter Registration in 2018.

**LWW of Darlington County** visited Darlington High School, Lamar High School, and they would have registered votes at Harstville High School, but Hurricane Matthew got in the way. Get out the vote efforts in Darlington County included personally calling 100 voters they registered in the spring to remind them to vote in the June primaries. Multiple attempts to share the national League's bullet points on the importance of this election with two local newspapers might not have received the coverage they deserved, but at least the effort was made.

**LWW of the Florence Area** hosted a forum for the at Large Council seats, the 4th District Council seat, and the Sheriff candidates which they promoted as a Facebook event. They are also using their personal knowledge of the process and their Facebook page to spread the word about Absentee voting.

**LWW of Georgetown County** updated their website to include all of the races and candidates on ballots in Georgetown County, as well as the details of the County's bond referendum for schools. They provided links to more information about national, state, and local elections as well as information about absentee and in person voting. After winning a LWVUS voter registration grant earlier this year and registering student voters in the county, the Georgetown League sent text reminders to those students encouraging them to preview their sample ballot, call the Georgetown County Board of Voter Registration & Elections or check out the Georgetown League's website with questions, and of course to join the League.

**LWW of Greenville County** actively participated in the Community Voter Empowerment coalition with the Greenville NAACP, Freedom Fighters Upstate SC, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Greenville(SC)Alumnae Chapter, Epsilon Tau Omega and Pi Zeta Omega Chapters of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Zeta Beta Omega Sorority, and the Hispanic Caucus. Not only did this group host community efforts to register voters, they spent the month before the election encouraging voters to get out and vote. The Greenville League hosted a school board candidate forum and has been effectively using their facebook page to count down the 29 days before the election with fun election and get out the vote facts.

**LWW of Hilton Head Island/ Bluffton Area** visited nine locations to register 100 voters in person and share voting information with many more. Efforts were concentrated on young people at area high schools, local college campuses, the local farmer's market, a movie theater, and the library. Partnerships with other organizations increased their visibility at

events such as Burgers and Brews. They also hosted a forum at the Bluffton Town Hall for candidates running to represent Districts 6 and 9 on the school board.

**LWW MAL Unit for Horry County** registered almost 100 voters at events churches and neighborhood events, farmers markets, and local colleges and provided voter information for a 100 more individuals. Horry County also continues to host forums on hot topics for the county, such as a recent forum on plastic bags.

**LWW of Spartanburg County** reached out across the county on National Voter Registration Day with a drive at a supermarket parking lot, the main branch of the public library, and a church site, specifically chosen near Wofford College to target college-aged voters.

**LWW of Sumter County** collaborated with other local organizations to reduce the stress of voter registration. League members with more than 70 volunteers assisted at weekly forums, community meetings, organizational meetings, three colleges, six high schools, adult education classes, and the Federation of the Blind monthly meeting to register 370 individuals via hard copy forms but also [scvotes.org](http://scvotes.org). Not only did they register voters, they provided voter education, they called new registrants to remind them to vote, and they gave rides to voter wishing to vote absentee in person. Working with all of these partners and the Sumter Election's Commission, their theme was "Alone We Go Fast, Together We Go Far."

**LWW of South Carolina** has fielded multiple calls from citizens across the state, and even out of state, asking questions about their voter registration status, absentee in person options, write-in options, and information about candidates.

Across the state, in person, on the web, through social media, with phone calls and texts, all of these interactions with voters are wonderful reminders of how the League of Women Voters supports democracy and is counted on as a tool to making our democracy work. Thanks for your work.





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# Education Update: *Abbeville and Special Needs Scholarships*

By Jane Pulling, LWVSC Education Director

In 2013, the legislature passed a proviso to allow tax deductions to persons who contributed to scholarships for special needs children to attend private schools. The vehicles to which these tax deductible contributions were made was called "Scholarship Granting Organizations or SAGs." This was bad idea from the beginning. These SAG's had few structural requirements and very little oversight. Not surprisingly they got into trouble pretty quickly. Accusations were made that parents of special needs children were pressured into donating with promises that they would in turn receive scholarships.

This past session, the legislature corrected that mistake by disbanding the Scholarship Granting Organizations and placed the program under the supervision of the State Department of Revenue. It is still a proviso, meaning that the ability to make such tax deductible contributions is a part of the budget bill and must be passed annually. Great effort was made by Sen. Larry Grooms and others to pass the measure as a bill, but this failed. We can expect to see a similar bill introduced again this session as the sponsors make no secret of the fact that they would like to expand eligible students to include almost all students, thus broadening public tax dollars spent on private schools.

The League opposes all use of public tax funds to support private and or religious education. League members should monitor any bills offered in support

of expanding either tax credits or students eligible for such scholarships.

In June of 2016, after the end of the legislative session, the attorneys for the plaintiff districts in the Abbeville case filed with the SC Supreme Court saying that the State had not fulfilled its obligations under the Court's order handed down in 2014. The plaintiff districts said the State made 19 pages of recommendation which produced only eight bills and only four of those passed. The legislature also filed a report, asking the Court to dismiss the case, claiming that they had met their obligations. Who was correct? By numbers alone, the plaintiff districts have a point.

Only four bills passed and none of those bills sent significant monetary relief to poor districts. One bill sets standards for what high school students should know and be able to do upon graduation. One calls for the design and implementation of a survey to determine what would attract new teachers to work in poor districts. The other two bills require the State Department of education to provide technical assistance to struggling districts and to review and assist lower performing districts--both of which the SDE was already doing. While the legislature did increase the base student allocation to \$2,350 that amount is still \$450 below funding required by the Education Finance Act.

On September 20, 2016, the SC Supreme Court commended the legislature

and the Governor for their efforts, but elected to retain oversight of the case and directed the legislature to report again on progress in June of 2017.

Some key legislators, including Speaker Jay Lucas and Senate Pro Tem, Hugh Leatherman, have maintained all along that the Court has no jurisdiction in this case. and that they are interfering with legislative prerogative. Two justices, including the current Chief Justice, Constance Pleicones, dissented in the 2014 ruling. However, the Court was unanimous in its ruling to retain oversight of the case, with one abstention.

What does this mean for League members? The LWVSC has been a strong supporter of the plaintiff school districts in this case, filing an *amicus* brief on the original lawsuit, believing that all of South Carolina's children deserve an excellent public education. League members are encouraged to keep abreast of legislation related to the case during the session this year and to contact their legislators regarding specific bills and the overall necessity to improve public education, especially for children in our poor, rural districts. It has been now 23 years since the original lawsuit was filed. A child in the 2nd grade then would be 30 years old now according to Carl Epps, plaintiff's attorney. And yet another generation of children are still suffering.

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## Tax Reform Now?

By Holley Ulbrich, LWVSC Director State & Local Taxation

The legislative committee on Tax Reform seems to be considering some previously unmentionable ideas, along with the usual array of candidates. These ideas include broadening the base of the sales tax, most often by eliminating exemptions like baling twine, eliminating the sales tax cap on cars, boats and planes, and taxing electricity. I put in my usual plea for taxing more services (lawn care, personal services, dog grooming, and other

semi-luxury purchases) and working with other states to eliminate the Congressional ban on taxing internet sales. All those are worth mentioning to your legislators, although taxing electricity should not include sales of electricity to industry. That tax gets passed on to the final consumer.

Of far greater interest were opening shots in revising Act 388. In case you have forgotten, that was the 2006 legislation that raised the sales tax by a penny and

used the revenue to fund property tax relief (for school operations only) on owner occupied residences. The extra sales tax isn't covering the cost, and the General Fund gets hit for making up the difference. Repeal is next to impossible, because once the General Assembly gives a tax break, it's very hard to take it back. But they can tweak it. The danger

**TAX REFORM NOW:**  
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# Preparing for Health Care Consensus

At the LWVSC Convention on April 26th, 2015 delegates voted to conduct a study (2015-17) of healthcare in support of development of state-level positions for advocacy. Since our needs and experience with healthcare may be vastly different a series of healthcare conversations around the state were held and coordinated by members of the Healthcare Caucus formed at the 2015 state convention.

## What is the reason for this study?

- 1,000-1,300 South Carolinians will die in the coming year due to a failure to expand Medicaid services. The governor has vowed never to expand the program.
- The state remains medically underserved with fragmented care. Unlike some issues advocated by the League, healthcare touches every citizen in the most personal way.
- Medical care costs continue to climb faster than wages. The current trajectory is unsustainable. Current plans, including the ACA, will not arrest soaring prices.
- Repeated assaults on reproductive rights, in the form of "personhood" and "TRAP" legislation, continually threaten to interject politicians between patients and doctor

## How does our League participate?

- Let your members know as soon as possible that they will be participating in a statewide consensus to help formulate a state-level position on health care issues. Informative articles in the VOTER will help, drawing on the supporting materials provided and other

resources. You may also want to include the consensus questions in your VOTER.

- Recruit a resource person from within or outside the League to review these materials and be available at your meeting to provide background information and answer questions. There are also reports from the focus groups of League members around the state on the LWVSC website.
- Schedule a meeting of members to respond to the consensus questions. A brief preliminary presentation on the historical timeline of the Medicaid expansion controversy would be helpful (see attached materials). Most of the time, however, should be spent on reviewing background materials and responding to the questions.
- Be sure everyone has a chance to speak and that minority views are not only treated with respect but also reflected in the consensus report.
- Identify an experienced League member to facilitate the consensus process and a recorder to take notes, so that the two of them can prepare a consensus report to send to state board by **March 1, 2017**.

Here are the questions we will be answering, with opportunities to comment or qualify answers on the actual form.

- Do you support expanded health insurance covered for uninsured South Carolinians??  
 Yes  No  No consensus  
If yes, which of the following are your priorities? (Check all that apply)  
 covering low income individuals

- basic health care
- mental health care
- access to health care in rural areas
- prescription drug coverage
- co-pays based on income
- children
- Other (\_\_\_\_\_)

If no, what are your concerns?

- cost
- Other (\_\_\_\_\_)

- Should the state of South Carolina take responsibility for providing at least basic health care to its citizens through:  
 a) Medicaid expansion  
 b) developing its own plan  
 c) encouraging insurers to offer more affordable options  
 d) Other (\_\_\_\_\_)  
 e) None of the above
- Should the League support efforts to address lifestyle health issues such as obesity and tobacco use by (check all that apply)  
 supporting policies to address food deserts, nutritional education and physical activity  
 discouraging the use of tobacco products  
 Other (\_\_\_\_\_)
- How important is it for the League affirm its commitment to reproductive rights, including family planning, access to abortion and sex education?  
 very important  
 somewhat important  
 not important

## TAX REFORM NOW:

*continued from page 4 -*

is the tweaking will take the form of offering some kind of break for rental and commercial property, which will increase the flow of red ink.

Ideas? Perhaps they could institute a cap on the share of a property's market value—say, \$300,000—that gets the

relief. Or maybe redistributing some of the "bonus" money—a guarantee of at least \$2.5 million per county—so that all of it goes to poor school districts and all poor districts get something, which is not the case right now. But the best idea of all may be to broaden the base of the sales tax to cover more services, so that not only the first five cents of the sales tax generates more revenue, but also the Act 388 6th

penny, reducing the drain on the General Fund. It would also mean more revenue to local governments with optional sales taxes, who have taken a hit from chronic underfunding the aid the state traditionally gives to cities and counties.

Talk to your legislators before the go back into session, and ask what tax reform they would support. And don't hesitate to add some of these ideas, or your own!



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# The LWVSC and Advocacy Coalitions

By Lynn S. Teague, LWVSC VP Issues and Action

The LWVSC participates in state issue advocacy in many ways. One of our most important roles is as a member of coalitions formed to address specific issues.

**“Making Democracy Work”** is our national theme, and we try to shape the LWVSC approach to advocacy around that theme. Voting rights and elections are always front and center for us. Our other most basic issues are often those that are not perceived as “sexy” by the public but go to the heart of our system of government: ethics, money in politics, redistricting, judicial election reform, and regulatory reform. We are often the lead group in addressing issues in these areas at the State House. Sometimes we are the only organized advocacy group addressing an important issue. If there are other groups involved, we are usually in a leadership position.

However, we are often participants in coalitions and partnerships that help us broaden our reach to some of the other areas that of interest to the League. These include health care, the environment, education, the school-to-prison-pipeline, and violence prevention. We are not usually the lead organization in these groups. Specialized organizations, often with very capable paid staff, are usually better prepared than LWVSC to take on leadership in these areas, with access to research and media outreach that are beyond our capabilities. They are also more likely to be recognized as spokespeople for their issues than is LWVSC.

The connection between LWVSC and other organizations varies from the very formal and controlled to loosely defined partnerships. Several of our more active affiliations include:

**WREN:** The Women’s Resources and Empowerment Network has been organized very recently, but incorporates the South Carolina Coalition for Healthy Families, of which LWVSC has long been a member organization. Planned Parenthood also participates in this coalition. The goals of this coalition include equal access to affordable high-quality healthcare, sound sex education for our children, and the freedom to make informed responsible life decisions.

**Close the Gap:** This coalition focuses specifically on closing the Medicaid gap in South Carolina. Because our state has not accepted this extension of health care insurance help to lower income residents who do not qualify for Medicaid, about 123,000 South Carolinians lack assured access to primary care and the economy of all of our state suffers from the absence of the federal funding that would be made available through this aspect of the Affordable Care Act. This is a formal coalition in which participant organizations agree to stay “on message” and work together toward this specific goal.

**Stop the Blank Checks:** This coalition includes many organizations, but is led by the Sierra Club, the Small Business Chamber of Commerce, and the League of Women Voters as something of a de facto executive committee. The goal is reform of regulatory law affecting utility rates in our state. The LWVSC interest in this goes back to our core values of insuring that government functions as it should on behalf of citizens.

## 2017 SC Conservation Coalition:

We are linked with many other organizations interested in environmental issues in a strong long-term coalition led by Conservation Voters of South Carolina. It is through this coalition that we are often involved in environmental issues, including the nuclear waste issues in which we have long taken a particular interest.

We are members of other coalitions including the SC Disability Voting Coalition (insuring that our elections are fully accessible to those citizens who have disabilities) and the Give Kids a Chance Coalition (directed toward stopping the school-to-prison pipeline).

Beyond the official groups, we work with other organizations in less formal contexts. For example, we have never established a named coalition around ethics reform but AARP of South Carolina, the Coastal Conservation League, and the AAUW have provided extremely important help in our on-going efforts in ethics reform. In gun violence issues, Moms Demand Action keeps in touch with LWVSC. We have often partnered with organizations such as the ACLU, NAACP, and the Progressive Network on issues related to voting and elections.

Through these partnerships, we are able to extend our reach further than would be possible otherwise. We take advantage of the immense resources available to organizations such as AARP and Sierra Club to make our voices heard.

We strongly encourage local Leagues to consider coalitions with other local groups to address their local issues. A notable example at present is the Greenville League’s excellent work with a broad array of local groups to encourage voter registration and voting. Together we can do far more than we could alone!



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# SAVE THE DATE: *LEAD January 28, 2017*

The LWVSC Board is planning another **great Leadership, Education, and Advocacy Day** for the last Saturday of January with the focus of Making Democracy Work at the Statehouse and across SC.

Mark January 28th on your calendar from 9 am until 3 pm. We will return to The South Carolina Education Association building on Zimalcrest Drive.

**Lynn Teague** will be back to get us ready for the new legislative session. **Patrick Dennis**, Speaker of the House's Counsel and former Chief Counsel of the House Judiciary Committee, will share his years of insight on how the SC legislature works. **Amy Armstrong**, the Executive Director and General Counsel of the South Carolina Environmental Law Project will share the latest on natural resource

advocacy in South Carolina. Listening to your suggestions from last year's LEAD, we will ensure plenty of time for program planning and idea sharing sessions among Leagues that are looking for Make Democracy Work programming and common ground issues at the state level.

Ready to register? Sign up today for just \$20 per person to cover a continental breakfast, lunch, and materials.

## **- LEAD DAY 2017 -** **MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: *Ready for 2018!*** ***Join Us!* January 28, 2017 in Columbia**

- WHO:** All League members are welcome and urged to attend!
- WHEN:** Saturday, January 28, 2017 - 9:00 a.m. – Gathering and light breakfast, 9:30-3:00 Program
- WHERE:** South Carolina Education Association, 421 Zimalcrest Drive, Columbia, SC 29210
- REGISTRATION:** Reserve by Friday, January 25, 2017 BY EMAILING REGISTRATION TO: Jeanette Roveri: [jeanetteroveri@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanetteroveri@hotmail.com) or mail to Jeanette Roveri, 60 Annapolis Way, Sumter, SC 29154  
Contact Julie Hussey with any questions – (843) 224-1096 or [copresidentlwvsc@gmail.com](mailto:copresidentlwvsc@gmail.com)

*Join League members from across South Carolina for a fun and educational way to kick off another great League year. Turn your attention from elections to governance and issues as we hear some excellent speakers, plan for state program, and network with other Leagues!*

### **2017 LEAD DAY REGISTRATION FORM**

**FEE:** \$20 per attendee (includes light breakfast, lunch and materials)

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LEAGUE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Reserve by Friday, January 25, 2017 to: Jeanette Roveri, 60 Annapolis Way, Sumter, SC 29154.

Or email your registration to [jeanetteroveri@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanetteroveri@hotmail.com)

Payment may be made in advance or at the door. Checks should be made out to "LWVSC"

Total enclosed for all attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate number of meatless entrees desired \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Julie Hussey with any questions: **843-224-1096** or [copresidentlwvsc@gmail.com](mailto:copresidentlwvsc@gmail.com)





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Post Office Box 8453  
Columbia, SC 29202

## The SC Voter

Winter 2016  
Volume 66 Issue 2

Established in 1951, the League of Women Voters of South Carolina is a nonpartisan, political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a League member. All members receive the National Voter, the SC Voter, and a newsletter from their local League.

Co-Presidents: JoAnne Day  
Julie Hussey

Editors: Holley Ulbrich & Laurel Suggs

Published by: *The League of Women  
Voters of SC*  
PO Box 8453  
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## Another Attempt to Bring Nuclear Waste to SRS

By Suzanne Rhodes, LWVSC Off Board Specialist, Nuclear Waste Issues

President Obama stopped consideration of Yucca Mountain geologic repository for spent fuel and defense waste and appointed a Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) to make recommendations for interim and future management of nuclear wastes. BRC recommendations included interim storage at willing sites, to begin with spent fuel at about 20 closed reactors. Progress has been very slow.

The National Academies and the General Accountability Office (a research arm of Congress similar to the Congressional Budget Office) rejected the separation (reprocessing) of spent fuel because of the possibility of plutonium proliferation; they also established that the cost of reprocessing exceeds the value of the recovered product.

Three years ago LWVSC published its Issue Brief\* on nuclear waste in South Carolina. A few months later an Aiken group (SRS CRO) published a report

promoting interim storage of commercial regional spent fuel adjacent to SRS and suggested reprocessing jobs.

A few of you may recall that in the 60's – the heyday of nuclear power -- an international consortium began to build a commercial facility adjacent to SRS to separate plutonium from spent fuel. It is incomplete and closed.

Sixty's dreams linger. Tom Clements learned this summer that SFR (Spent Fuel Reprocessing) Group requested NRC approval to move commercial spent fuel from the state's four nuclear power plants to an area near SRS. The utilities in South Carolina have already prepared for onsite storage in spent fuel pools and dry casks. An SCE&G executive Tom spoke with was reportedly unaware of SFR Group. NRC suggested a meeting and the SFR Group would have to "pay to play" with NRC; if they do we will learn more about them.

Haley's office has said: "South Carolina

will not become a permanent dumping ground for nuclear waste regardless of where it would be housed or who would house it." The LWVSC, SRS Watch, and Sierra Club were invited to participate at the October Bonnie Raitt concert in North Charleston. We spoke with dozens of interested citizens and collected 75 letters to the Governor supporting her position to oppose more wastes.

The proposed liquid high level waste trucking from Canada to SRS is on a temporary hold because of short-cuts in the permitting process; the proposal to ship German commercial wastes to SRS also has been slowed. We will continue to actively oppose such proposals and encourage closing of the old SRS waste tanks. I am happy to answer questions and/or meet with interested groups. [suzrhodes@juno.com](mailto:suzrhodes@juno.com)



Website: [www.lwvsc.org](http://www.lwvsc.org)

Join the League today!