

## League Leaders Update

OCTOBER 2009

From Barbara Zia, LWVSC President ([ziab1@comcast.net](mailto:ziab1@comcast.net); 803-251-2726)

### Voters Service/Citizen Education

Energy Forum, 10/22. LWV members are cordially invited to attend *From Carbon to Efficiency--How energy efficiency will create jobs and lower bills in South Carolina*. This community forum is hosted by Francis Marion University and LWVSC: Thursday, October 22, 7 – 8:30 pm, Francis Marion University Lowrimore Auditorium at the Cauthen Educational Media Center. (Map: <http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Florence&state=sc&address=4822+East+Palmetto+Street>)

Presenters include: Suzanne Watson, Director of Policy, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy; State Senator Paul Campbell; Mike Couick, President and CEO, South Carolina Electric Cooperatives; Ashlie Lancaster, Policy Director, South Carolina Energy Office; Stephen Wukela, Mayor of the City of Florence.

You are invited to a *Meet and Greet* at 6 pm just before the forum in Media Center Room 101 C. This is an opportunity to talk informally with presenters and conservation leaders from across the state.

2010 Census. Attendees at the August League Leaders Day got to meet and hear from Doris Greene and Bob Gabbard who coordinate community outreach for the U.S. Census in South Carolina. Contact Doris at 704-615-5462 if you are interested in organizing a Complete Count Committee or informational meetings about the U.S. Census—its importance for our state and how it will work.

2010 Debates. We are in discussion with SC AARP and SCETV about the possibility of partnering on televised gubernatorial debates for the party primary and general elections. We'll keep you informed as plans develop. Local Leagues that cover Congressional districts may want to partner on debates for candidates for U.S. House of Representatives. Some important 2010 South Carolina election dates are:

March 16, noon—Filing opens for party primary candidates

March 30, noon—Filing closes

June 8, 7 am-7 pm—Primary Election Day

November 2, 7 am-7 pm—General Election Day

Download the complete election calendar at [www.scvotes.org/2009/03/27/2010\\_election\\_calendar](http://www.scvotes.org/2009/03/27/2010_election_calendar).

Financing Education in South Carolina--A Citizen's Guide is available for free download at <http://selfcenter.clemson.edu/>. This updated publication is authored by Holley H. Ulbrich and Ellen W. Saltzman, the Jim Self Center on the Future at the Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs. It outlines K-12 public education finance and school governance in South Carolina and current policy issues.

### STUDY & ACTION

Democracy Challenged: The Power of Big Money in Politics, 10/28. LWV members are invited to a presentation by former Assistant Secretary of State Hodding Carter III on October 28, 7 pm, at The Riley Institute at Furman University Shaw Hall, Younts Conference Center, Greenville.

[Click here for a map](#) and directions. The event is free of charge and open to all of our members. Carter, a board member of Americans for Campaign Reform, will deliver an address about the corrosive effects of big money on our government and the urgent need for public funding of federal elections.

LWVSC Study: School District Structure and Authority. Chair Holley Ulbrich ([holleyu@nctv.com](mailto:holleyu@nctv.com)) and the study committee ask local Leagues and members to assist with information gathering in the coming months:

1. Answer the informational questions for the school districts in your service area--How big is the school board, at-large/single member district mix, terms, fiscal authority, role of legislative delegation, sharing across districts in multi-district counties, etc? Fill one out for each district in your service area.

2. Solicit opinions from people who are involved—elected and appointed school officials, legislators, parents, League members, Chamber of Commerce—to determine if there is any desire to change. Use this solicitation as an opportunity to educate people on how things are right now without trying to steer them in a particular direction.
3. Share your findings with your members in an informational meeting and with the statewide committee on the school district study by February 15, 2010.

Study materials, including background information and the School District Survey and School District Interview, can be found at <http://www.lwvsc.org/schoolgovernance.html>. Contact Holley for more information.

LWVSC Water Supply Study Committee held a productive organizational meeting on October 10. The primary focus of the study will be on quantity of surface and ground water. Water quality will also be considered but to a lesser degree. The study scope includes:

1. General Overview of Water Resources in SC
2. Intra-State Water Withdrawal Issues
3. Inter-State Water Issues (including ALCOA-FERC Licensing Renewal)

Committee members are in the information gathering phase of the study and will produce issue papers that will be posted on the LWVSC website and published in the *SC VOTER* beginning in winter 2010. Contact study co-chairs Joan Kinne-Shulman ([RJShulman@hargray.com](mailto:RJShulman@hargray.com)) or Mullen Taylor ([Mullen.Taylor@mgclaw.com](mailto:Mullen.Taylor@mgclaw.com)) for more information or to join the committee.

Legislative Day. The 2010 Legislative Day is set for Tuesday, February 23, at the Marriott in downtown Columbia. Our partners will once again be S.C. AAUW and the S.C. School Improvement Council. The focus will be on legislative action and policies that affect children and education in our state. So save the date. Details will follow soon.

LWVSC Speakers Bureau. State League specialists are available as resources and speakers/panel members in their areas of specialization. Let me know your needs ([ziab1@comcast.net](mailto:ziab1@comcast.net)), or you can contact specialists directly. We will soon be sending you a list of available speakers and topics.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership Updates. Please update your membership records in the national database so that your League's roster is as current as possible. This will ensure that new members receive the state and national *VOTER* and that your League's 2010-2011 membership count is accurate. We applaud those of you who are regularly updating your League's membership records. Leagues have until January 31, 2010, to make roster changes. Please contact [membership@lwv.org](mailto:membership@lwv.org) or Janie Shipley, LWVSC Member Service ([janrel@mindspring.com](mailto:janrel@mindspring.com)) if you have questions or need assistance with the database.

## **ORGANIZATION**

Save the Date: 2010 LWVSC Council. This state-wide biennial gathering of League leaders will take place on April 24 in Columbia. We cordially invite you and your members to join us. Details will follow.

Know Your State, LWVSC's newest publication, is a helpful guide to South Carolina government. At a special Members-Only price of \$5, *KYS* makes the perfect gift for the holidays and for speakers at League events. You may want to consider purchasing copies to sell at events as a fundraiser. Contact Peggy Appler to place an order ([dappler@homesc.com](mailto:dappler@homesc.com) or 843-688-5171).

The LWVSC Board will meet on November 14, 10-3:00, at Laurel Suggs' office, 1600 St. Julian Place, Columbia. All League members are welcome to attend.

Thank you for the work you are doing for the League and for our state.

