

# League of Women Voters

South Bend Area

LWW

"The Voter"

Spring, 2011

## Community Forums Well Attended

The League of Women Voters of the South Bend Area did its part in making sure voters were informed on the issues before going to the polls on May 3. The League, along with IUSB's American Democracy Project, the campus political science club and several neighborhood groups hosted six community forums in the weeks leading up to the primary. Voters got a chance to hear from mayoral candidates as well as candidates for the Common Council. Although all six forums were well attended the Democratic Mayoral candidates forum drew the largest crowd. A special thanks to League First Vice President Elizabeth Bennion for her tireless work in organizing the forums.

## State Convention in South Bend

League members from around the State will gather in South Bend this coming weekend for the League of Women Voters State Convention. The event will take place May 14th and 15th on the Indiana University South Bend campus. Unfortunately, registration for the entire convention including the workshops and meals has closed but League members who haven't registered can attend the keynote speeches only. On Saturday Dr. Elizabeth Bennion will speak at Wiekamp Hall at 1:30 about "*Women in American Politics: Past, Present, and Future.*" Sunday's keynote speaker is LWVUS Liaison, Patricia Donath. Patricia will speak at 12:30 in Wiekamp Hall on "*The Power of the Vote.*"

*If you have registered for the convention and would like to volunteer to work at the registration table and/or sell buttons/T-shirts and/or serve as floor monitors for the plenary sessions please contact Marti Heline at [mheline@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mheline@sbcglobal.net)*

## Want to Get More Involved?

### Help plan and host candidate and issue forums

Contact Political Education: Chair, Elizabeth Bennion, [ebennion@iusb.edu](mailto:ebennion@iusb.edu), 520-4128

### Help raise money for the League

Contact Fundraising Chair Kelly Sanford, [kelsanford@gmail.com](mailto:kelsanford@gmail.com), 237-0475

### Submit story ideas for the newsletter

Contact Newsletter Chair Amanda Ceravolo at [aceravolo@ywcancin.org](mailto:aceravolo@ywcancin.org), 233-9491



## President's Ponderings

While attacks on voting rights in the form of voter I.D. laws and stricter voter registration regulations spread across the country, the League of Women Voters continues efforts to educate and mobilize voters in new ways. First Vice President, Dr. Elizabeth Bennion, and I traveled to Washington D.C. last month for a conference sponsored by the LWVUS to learn about strategies to empower the voters of tomorrow. Close to 20 local and state League members from across the country gathered with leaders of national organizations such as Rock the Vote, Project Vote, Voto Latino, in addition to election officials and former legislators at the Pew Charitable Trusts and listened to presentations and participated in discussions about what strategies work when we try to empower youth with the vote.



Data show that roughly 90% of the students who are registered will, in fact, vote, and that a high percentage of them will continue to do so into adulthood. Engaging voters at an early age only promotes a more informed citizenry and supports the League's mission of a more engaged democracy. I would encourage you all to browse the handbook the National League has provided as a resource. [You can download it by clicking here.](#) Its guidelines and suggestions are a compilation of actual league experiences across the country and it provides valuable assistance for making a project like this a success. I hope to make it a goal of our League to implement such a program for the 2012 election.

Lisa Plencner  
LWVSBA, President

## Meetings & Events

### **Lunch with the League - May 13, 11:30am**

Sara Stewart, Executive Director, Unity Gardens, Inc.

"The Unity Gardens - Gardens That Build a Community"

South Bend Chocolate Cafe

Speaker begins at 12:00 noon, come as early as 11:30 A.M. to order lunch.

This event is free and open to the public.

### **E-Waste Recycling Fest - May 13 & 14 - 9:00am - 2:00pm**

*From member Kathleen Petitjean:*

The IU South Bend Center for a Sustainable Future will host the annual E-Waste Recycling Fest May 13 (for businesses and organizations) and May 14 (for the general public). Electronic items will be collected free of charge and will be responsibly recycled.

Location: IUSB parking lot at 20th and Vine St.

For more information, visit the event [web page](#) or contact Carissa Hipsher, event coordinator, at [csfuture@iusb.edu](mailto:csfuture@iusb.edu), (574) 520-4429.

### **LWVIN Convention– May 14 & 15**

Indiana University at South Bend

(See above for more information)

### **Planning for the Future; Will Government Cutbacks Affect You? - May 17,**

*From member Linda Wolfson:*

This program, sponsored by the United Way of St. Joseph County, is open to the public, and you are invited to attend.

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Location: Humphreys Multimedia Room. St. Joseph County Public Library – Main Branch.

Additional information will be posted [www.lwvsouthbend.org](http://www.lwvsouthbend.org) when available.

### **Annual LWVSBA Business Meeting– June 9, 5:30pm**

*Mishawaka Avenue, South Bend*

*More details to come!*

Location: *Thyme of Grace - 2714*

Want to know more about the League of Women Voters South Bend Area?  
Visit us online at:

[www.lwvsouthbend.org](http://www.lwvsouthbend.org)