



THE MAINE VOTER

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Dear League Members and Friends,

Civic participation in our communities is essential. Unless we establish common values, we cannot move our communities and our state forward. The League of Women Voters engages communities in the nonpartisan dialogue necessary to reach agreement about those values.

On the national level, the League is committed to fighting dark-money interests on the issues of voting rights, campaign finance reform, congressional redistricting and climate change. On the state level, the League is committed to fighting for sound election policies. These include Clean Elections, true early voting and ranked choice voting. Our state and local Leagues also believe in helping people become informed voters.

Election season will soon be upon us. Once again this year, the League is working to produce unbiased information about candidates and issues by printing more than 20,000 copies of a 7th edition of the Easy-to-Read Voter Guide, which will be distributed throughout the state. As always, it will be written at a grade-school reading level to make the contents accessible to as many voters as possible. The Guide will be distributed through partner organizations including libraries, adult education offices, literacy volunteer programs, schools and social service agencies, and it will be posted on our website.

In addition, the League intends to work with other nonpartisan organizations to hold forums for candidates for city councils, school boards, state legislature and, we hope, for governor and U.S. Senate and House. For communities that would like to host their own forums, the League can provide an easy-to-use checklist and format and may be able to provide a moderator.

Our founders understood that a full, fair discussion of the issues was in the best interest of our nation. We continue to fight against measures that are unnecessary incursions on a citizen's right to vote – and those that allow silent money to dominate the public debate.

Although we have a committed corps of volunteers, we can always use more to make our work broader and better. The more voters we register, the more information we disseminate and the more policymakers we engage in discussions, the better our democracy will be. If you are a member, please contact someone on the Board and ask how you can volunteer. If you have not yet joined, please do. Your time and effort will make a difference.

Barbara McDade
President, LWVME

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EDITED BY MICHELLE SMALL

MAINE CLEAN ELECTIONS INITIATIVE

MCCE LAUNCHES PETITION DRIVE

Maine's Clean Elections system has been the envy of the nation for 14 years. Established by citizen-initiated referendum passed in 1996, the Clean Elections Act is the nation's first full public funding system for state candidates. It has allowed good candidates from all economic backgrounds to run for office without relying on big money from wealthy donors, and at its peak was used by more than 80 percent of legislative candidates.

Unfortunately, adverse court rulings, budget raids and acts or omissions by the governor and the legislature have weakened the Act, and the result has been inadequate funding, lower participation, and a suspension of the program for gubernatorial candidates this election year. That is why Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) is launching a new initiative this year to strengthen finances for publicly funded candidates, and increase transparency and improve accountability for all campaigns.

The centerpiece of the initiative is a replacement for the matching funds system that was repealed in the wake of an adverse 2011 U.S. Supreme Court decision in a case arising in Arizona. Matching funds kept Clean Elections viable for candidates who faced high-spending opponents, and the new supplemental funding system will do the same, but without violating the Court's decision. The initiative includes measures to expose so-called "dark money" given to non-profit organizations to spend in political campaigns and increase accountability by imposing higher penalties for campaign finance violations. Finally, the initiative provides a new funding mechanism, calling for cuts to inefficient corporate tax giveaway programs to pay for the strengthened Clean Elections system.

The League of Women Voters has worked closely with MCCE and the legislature to make the necessary changes to the Clean Elections Act, but those efforts have been thwarted by gubernatorial vetoes and the failure to include full funding in successive budgets. For more than a decade, public financing worked well for the vast majority of candidates, but today almost half of legislative candidates and all of the gubernatorial candidates are raising private money instead. Nationally, special interest money is playing a bigger role in elections, and this trend threatens Maine elections, too.

While most people cannot write large campaign checks, all people deserve equal representation in our democracy. That is why the Clean Elections initiative is so important. Volunteers began collecting petition signatures on Primary Election Day in June, when they gathered more than 11,000. However, they must gather at least 70,000 by next January, so MCCE is looking for more help – particularly at summer events like fairs, farmers' markets and festivals and at the

polls on Election Day in November. The League is a lead partner in this important effort, and every League member is encouraged to get involved to put the initiative on the ballot in November 2015. If you want to sign a petition or collect signatures in your town, contact BJ McCollister at bj@mainecleanelections.org or 207-831-6444.

-Alison Smith

Alison, who lives in Portland, serves on the Board of Directors of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, is a long-time member of the League of Women Voters of Maine and has worked in support of Maine's Clean Elections Act since 1995.

NOM LOSES ANOTHER ROUND

FIVE YEARS AND NO DISCLOSURE

At long last the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) has been ordered to file reports showing how it raised funds to influence a 2009 people's veto campaign concerning same-sex marriage in Maine. Soon the public will learn the sources of over \$2 million in undisclosed contributions. Or maybe not.

For the last five years NOM has fought tooth and nail to resist disclosing its donors as required by Maine law. NOM's attorneys have waged multiple challenges not only in front of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices ("Ethics Commission"), but in at least five separate judicial venues all the way up to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and the United States Supreme Court, filling volumes of legal binders. Although NOM has lost at nearly every juncture, to date the organization still has not provided the information required by Maine law.

The most recent chapter of the NOM saga occurred at the Ethics Commission on May 28, 2014. The Commission concluded that NOM had committed multiple violations of state reporting law and ordered NOM to file documents detailing its financial activity during the 2009 people's veto campaign. The Commission's action was the culmination of years of subpoenas, document demands and witness interviews constituting the most extensive investigation the Commission has conducted in recent memory.

In reaching its decision the Commission concluded that NOM reached out to small donors and major donors around the country and solicited funds for the express purpose of funding the Maine ballot campaign. The contributions NOM received should have been reported under Maine law, according to the Commission, but NOM failed to register as a Ballot Question Committee and file the reports that would have allowed the public to know its funders.

Ethics Commission staff members have information showing the identity of the donors, but to date they have

only identified NOM contributors by pseudonyms. For example, the staff's investigative report indicated that "Donor #11" gave NOM \$2.475 million, including funding specifically solicited for the Maine people's veto. In 2009 NOM received a total of \$5.54 million from just 14 major donors (although not all of that money was earmarked for use in Maine).

One result of NOM's protracted legal battle is that the penalty structure for NOM's violations has been amended not once but twice while the litigation has been grinding its way through the courts. This complicated the Commission's task in determining the appropriate sanction, but after grappling with related questions Commission members imposed seven separate fines totaling \$50,250.

All of the commission votes on the NOM matter were unanimous. Commission chair Walter McKee said that NOM's arguments before the Commission made "a mockery of our disclosure laws."

NOM board chair John Eastman, meanwhile, stated that NOM was the victim of selective prosecution and that the organization will appeal the latest ruling. Under Maine law NOM has until June 27 to challenge the agency action in Superior Court.

It is unclear whether NOM will be able to come up with any plausible arguments that have not already been made – and rejected – over the past five years. NOM contends that its donors are entitled to secrecy because they fear persecution and harassment. However, legal experts say that no court has accepted such arguments in a case like this absent hard proof of very specific threats. In a decision that has been criticized for other reasons, eight Supreme Court justices in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010) agreed that "transparency enables the electorate to make informed decisions and give proper weight to different speakers and messages." NOM has yet to make any inroads against that important principle. So stay tuned.

-John Brautigam

John, who lives in Falmouth, is an attorney, a former State Representative who served as House Chair of the Insurance and Financial Services Committee, and a member of the League of Women Voters of Maine.

[On June 25, 2014, after this article was written, the Maine Ethics Commission voted to stay the portion of its order requiring NOM to file a consolidated campaign finance report for 2009 until after NOM has an opportunity to obtain a stay from the Superior Court pending resolution of the appeal of the Commission's determination. However, the Commission refused to stay the portion of its order that required NOM to pay a fine of \$50,250. – Editor]

MFOIC FILES AMICUS BRIEF

DOES FOAA APPLY TO COURT RECORDS?

The Maine Supreme Court invited the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition (MFOIC), to which the League of Women Voters belongs, to submit an *amicus* (or friend of the court) brief in the case of *Asselin v. Superior Court*. Shawn Asselin, who is incarcerated at the Maine Correctional Center in Windham, is appealing the Superior Court's denial of his request for public records - including pictures and videos - pertaining to the prosecution of Alexis Wright and Mark Strong in connection with the Zumba/prostitution scandal in Kennebunk.

MFOIC takes no position in its brief on whether Mr. Asselin should be given the materials he has requested, as it is unclear how this particular public records request is designed to advance the objectives MFOIC seeks to promote. What MFOIC does argue is that the question before the Supreme Court - whether Asselin is entitled to the records under Maine's Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) - should be answered in the negative, because FOAA does not apply to the judiciary.

Instead, Mr. Asselin's public records request should be evaluated under the First Amendment and common law standards that govern public access to judicial records. MFOIC also argues that the Superior Court's two-word explanation of its decision denying the public records request ("request denied") is inadequate, and that the Supreme Court should remand the case to the Superior Court with instructions to conduct the proper analysis and explain the reasons for its decision.

-Sigmund Schutz and Jonathan Mermin

Sig and Jon practice law in the Portland office of Preti Flaherty. Sig, among other things, represents the news media in state and federal freedom of information matters; Jon concentrates his practice on appellate cases.

NATIONAL CONVENTION IN DALLAS

RARE NOMINATION FROM THE FLOOR

The 51st National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States was held in Dallas, Texas, at the beginning of June. Women, and a few men, from 47 states and the District of Columbia were in attendance. Maine sent two delegates, Ann Luther and Cathie Whittenburg.

The five-day convention was packed full of caucuses, workshops and training sessions starting at 7:30 in the morning, followed by plenary sessions, guest speakers and evening caucuses. Delegates debated and voted on the 2014-16 LWVUS program, budget and bylaws amendments and elected the 2014-16 LWVUS officers and board of directors.

Delegates voted to concur with the LWV New Jersey Human Trafficking position that states: "We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools."



Also approved was a motion to adopt a comprehensive three-part program combining study and review of key, specific structures of American democracy, consisting of: a study of the process of amending the U.S.

Constitution; a review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of 40 years of change; and a review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress.

Delegates approved a resolution calling for LWVUS to support a carbon emission price that will increase in stages as part of a program to improve energy efficiency and replace fossil fuels with renewable energy fast enough to avoid serious damage to the climate system.

In a rarely seen move, LWV Florida President Deirdre Macnab was nominated from the floor to challenge Elisabeth McNamara for LWVUS president. Macnab ran a vigorous campaign, starting before the convention, criticizing the League's decline in membership and the lack of diversity on the board. And while Macnab's challenge generated lively debate, in the end the delegates voted for the recommended slate and Elisabeth McNamara.

-Cathie Whittenburg

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

WELCOME TO KATE GINN!

Q: How would you introduce yourself to someone at a cocktail party?

A: I'd say that I'm Kate, a mom of four. I have two bio children and two step children. I used to be a social worker, but I ended that career when I got married, to focus on helping our new family blend together. In the past I've been an artist, a cook and a writer. I am contemplating returning to college for an MFA. My interest now is mainly illustration and fiction writing. I'm thinking: children's books.

Q: What is your favorite hobby? Why?

A: I have plenty of hobbies, but the one I like best is cooking! I find it relaxing and challenging. Sometimes I'll spend an entire afternoon cooking, piling cookware in the sinks. People will stop in, and feel so sorry for me being "stuck" in the kitchen. But I do it because I love it!



Kate Ginn of Scarborough joined the League of Women Voters in March.

Q: What is the last film you watched? Do you recommend it? Why or why not?

A: My eldest daughter and I recently watched the award-winning film, "Wadjda." It's a foreign language drama from 2012, entirely shot in Saudi Arabia, and directed by a woman. Wadjda is a ten-year-old girl who wants to ride a bicycle, in spite of it being considered inappropriate for women and girls to do so. (It's also considered inappropriate for women to direct films in Saudi Arabia, so Haifaa Al-Mansour had to give directions to her male cast via walkie-talkie while parked in a van across the street!) Anyway, it's a great movie, full of tension and hope. It's also beautifully filmed. And it made me totally want to ride a bike.

Q: What interested you in the League of Women Voters?

A: I'm interested in any organization working to promote equality and participation in the democratic process. My step-mother [Barbara McDade] had been suggesting for quite a while that I join the League, and I finally took her up on it.

Q: What surprised you most about the League?

A: I'm sure others have also been exactly as surprised by this, but I thought the League literally was exclusively for women until I learned it has welcomed men since the 1970s.

Q: What is the most important skill you have to share with the League?

A: Hmm. Well, I have a degree in Political Science. I had a feeling that might come in handy one day. Just let me know if you want my expert opinion on President Carter or asymmetrical conflicts.

Q: Setting aside your personal preferences, if you were a Vegas odds maker and money depended on the outcome of the 2014 Maine gubernatorial election, which candidate would you favor to win?

A: Now I feel badly for not disclosing earlier that I am a Vegas odds maker. Spoiler alert: Michaud wins, in spite of polls proclaiming a "dead heat"!

NEWS FROM THE PORTLAND LEAGUE

ANNUAL MEETING HELD MAY 21

It is official! The League of Women Voters of the Portland Area has been rejuvenated and is going strong after 10 years of lying low. On May 21, the Portland League held its first annual meeting in a decade, electing officers and the board of directors, amending the by-laws and electing new and continuing members of the Emily Farley Education Fund Advisory Committee.

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Barbara Kaufman
 Vice President – Lorraine Glowczak
 Secretary/Treasurer – Polly Ward
 Director – Kim McCollister – 2-year term
 Director – Karla Wight – 2-year term
 Director – Valerie Kelly – 1-year term
 Director – Tammy Wing – 1-year term

EMILY FARLEY FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3-year terms – Lorraine Glowczak, Polly Ward
 2-year terms – Barbara Kaufman, Jana Lapoint
 1-year term – Nancy Masterton

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair – Anne Schink
 Board Member – Karla Wight
 Non-Board Member – Elaine DiGiovanni

The meeting began (and ended) with a celebration of our three years of hard work and accomplishment, complete with food, drink and laughter. In between the celebrations, the formal meeting also included program planning and membership development proposals for the coming year.

The program for the 2014-15 year will include a celebration of the end of the two-year agriculture study with keynote speaker Melissa Coleman, author of *My Life is in Your Hands*, at an event at the Bayside Bowl in Portland on September 22 at 6:00 p.m. In addition, the Portland League will continue voter registration efforts and hold at least one Portland area candidate and issue forum, if possible.

Discussion included trying a new flexible membership

meeting approach to include morning, noon and evening gatherings to accommodate schedules and diversity. Strategies for increasing membership were also discussed, including a proposal by Kim McCollister and Tammy Wing to conduct a local League study on student loan debt and its impact on the local economy.



Karla Wight and Anne Schink were honored and recognized for their exceptional efforts to rejuvenate the Portland League.

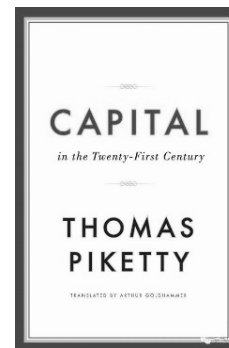
The League of Women Voters of the Portland Area is ready for the adventure that will take place in this next year. Please join us in our efforts to make democracy work for everyone!

-Lorraine Glowczak

DOWNEAST LEAGUE READING GROUP

CAPITAL IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Capital in the Twenty-first Century by French economist Thomas Piketty has provoked a lot of comment and controversy since its publication in English earlier this year. Coming in the wake of the documentary, *Inequality for All*, featuring Robert Reich, Piketty's *Capital* gives the public access to vast amounts of data about and economic analysis of the history of the distribution of wealth and income under capitalism.



Downeast League members and friends began a four-session study of the book on Wednesday, June 25, at the home of Ann Luther in Trenton. The second session will take place on Wednesday, July 30, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Ann's home. We will read with an eye on how growing inequality affects the surge of big money in politics.

Members and non-members alike are welcome to join the book group. Call 460-9587 for more information and directions.

This fall, the Downeast League will turn its attention to organizing candidate forums and other voter education work.

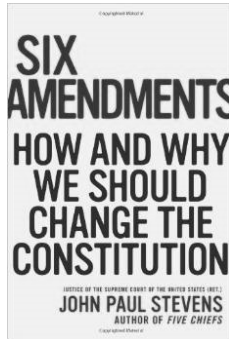
-Martha Dickinson

BANGOR LEAGUE BOOK DISCUSSION

JOHN PAUL STEVENS'S SIX AMENDMENTS

The League of Women Voters of Bangor invites members and friends to a Dinner and Book Discussion on Thursday, July 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Seasons Restaurant, 427 Main Street, Bangor (order off the menu, separate checks). We will be discussing the book, *Six Amendments: How and Why We Should Change the Constitution*, by retired Supreme Court justice John Paul Stevens. RSVP to Barbara McDade at bmcdade@bpl.lib.me.us.

Library Journal says of the book, "Former Supreme Court justice Stevens has written a timely title discussing six changes he believes should be made to the Constitution. These revisions, he says, will decrease government gridlock, end corruption, and lessen gun violence. Each chapter of the book tackles a different subject that is currently of interest to the public and the Court. ... The author does not ask for any completely new amendments to the Constitution but suggests additions to the text that clarify his view of the framers' intent. While Stevens offers his opinions throughout the work, he is careful to provide legal footing and history for all the viewpoints he expresses."



-Barbara McDade

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATON DAY

CALLING ALL LEAGUES

Dear League Presidents and Voter Service Chairs,

Election Day 2014 will be here before we know it, and we both know more is at stake than who gets elected – it's about every voter having the opportunity to participate – and to accomplish that, we need your help.

We at LWVUS are excited to take part once again in National Voter Registration Day, a nationwide, nonpartisan effort to register thousands of voters on one single day – Tuesday, September 23, 2014 – and we hope you'll join us!

On September 23, 2014, thousands of volunteers from hundreds of organizations will unleash a nationwide field effort to register voters where they are – on their way to work, on campus, in the community, out shopping and

online. By doing this, we're helping to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to register and participate in this year's election!

Now we need your help. We're asking every state and local League to pledge its support for National Voter Registration Day by hosting one of their fall registration drives on



Maggie Duncan

September 23rd. National Voter Registration Day has been a huge success with nearly 300 participating local Leagues in the last two years. The League was the single-largest partner on the ground for both National Voter Registration Day 2012 and 2013, helping to build our organization's visibility among tens of thousands of new voters and thousands of partner organizations. It has also led to dozens of local and regional news stories covering the League's great work.

This year, we want as many Leagues as possible to participate! Our goal for 2014 is to have 350 local Leagues hold voter registration drives, and we need your participation in order to get there. Make sure you're part of the National Voter Registration Day effort by signing up your League as a partner at www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org. Once you've signed up, you'll start receiving updates and instructions for participation, free stickers and posters, free media templates, training opportunities and more. If you have any questions along the way - we're here to help.

This election isn't just about politics; it's about the future of our country. We know you and your League colleagues are dedicated to making sure every eligible voter has a chance to participate. Voter registration is the key to making sure Americans of all backgrounds — especially young people, new citizens and those living in traditionally underrepresented communities — have their say this November.

We look forward to working with you to make this election year a successful one for voters and for the League! Thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Maggie Duncan
Elections Program Manager
League of Women Voters

P.S. Check out the resources available on www.VOTE411.org and on our website. LWVUS is proud to serve on the official advisory committee charged with planning and promoting this historic day of voter engagement, but we can't do it without you.

Questions specifically pertaining to National Voter Registration Day should be directed to Elections Program Manager Maggie Duncan at mduncan@lwv.org.

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES

MAINE HAS FEW RESTRICTIONS

Unlike some states, Maine has made no attempt to impede the efforts of nonpartisan, non-profit organizations to register voters. In fact, state law is silent on the subject of voter registration drives. Yet, Maine does have a deadline for registration via mail or third person that organizations should be careful to observe.

Organizations can obtain the green voter registration applications by filling out the Request for Voter Registration Applications form at <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/reg-card-request-form-11-08.pdf> and mailing or faxing it to the Secretary of State. Each organization is entitled to 1,000 applications per week up to a total of 5,000 prior to each election. The Secretary of State is willing to mail the applications if the organization is unable to pick them up in Augusta.

Any United States citizen who is 17 years of age or older may register to vote in the Maine city or town where s/he resides. A 17-year-old may vote in a primary election if s/he will turn 18 by the date of the general election.

Of course, Maine residents have the right to register in person at their city or town registrar's office every business day year round and until the polls close on Election Day. However, if they wish to register by mail or at a registration drive, their registrar must receive their applications at least 21 days – October 14 this fall - in advance of the next election.

Maine residents may also print a voter registration application from the Secretary of State's website (<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/reg-card-11-08.pdf>) and mail it to the registrar's office. New voters should mail proof of identity along with the application. A photocopy of a driver's license, state ID, military ID, passport, certified birth certificate, signed Social Security card, utility bill or bank statement should do the trick.

Any resident who picks up an application at a voter registration drive within 30 days of an election – October 5 this fall - must be advised that the registrar's office might not receive the application prior to the 21-day deadline, but that s/he may register in person as late as Election Day. The Secretary of State advises that organizations should bundle all completed applications by city or town and deliver them to the appropriate municipality within five days. (The United States Postal Service delivers First-Class Mail in one to two business days within Maine.) Each bundle should indicate that the applications were collected as part of a

voter registration drive and include contact information for the organization.

Ultimately, the decision to accept or reject an application rests with the registrar. However, s/he must notify the applicant of that decision in a timely fashion. As a practical matter, if the registrar questions the applicant's identity or residence, then s/he may request proof prior to or on Election Day. New voters who did not register in person should be prepared to demonstrate identity and residence when they go to the polls.

-Michelle Small

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE PLANS

NOVEMBER ELECTION JUST AROUND CORNER

The November election is right around the corner, motivating the Voter Service Committee of the League of Women Voters of Maine to think about voter registration, the Easy-to-Read Voter Guide, candidate debates and issue forums, as well as ongoing efforts to welcome new citizens during Naturalization Ceremonies in both Bangor and Portland. For more information or to help financially support any of these efforts, please contact Barbara at kaufman.barb@gmail.com.

Voter Registration: We expect that all local Leagues will be holding at least one voter registration drive this fall. We are available to help any organization, institution or League members-at-large to plan voter registration events in their areas.

Voter Guide: A small subcommittee will research, write and edit the state League's annual nonpartisan Easy-to-Read Voter Guide. Sarah Robinson, Editor, and Michelle Small are right now identifying the statewide ballot initiatives and candidates in preparation for writing this fall's edition. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to help publish and distribute this Guide, please contact us or go to http://www.lwvme.org/about_edfund.html

Candidate Debates and Issue Forums: The Committee has spent hours trying to reconcile the League's policies for nonpartisan, equitable debates and forums with other organizations who are sponsoring gubernatorial and senate debates. That coupled with the difficulty in getting firm and timely commitments from some candidates, usually the incumbents, have provided challenges that go beyond League policy. When candidates shy away from face-to-face debates that follow known and fair formats, it is yet another challenge to voter education and civic engagement efforts. This behavior creates a hole that special interest advertisers are only too happy to fill.

However, most legislative and local candidates are happy to participate in debates. If you would like help organizing a

local debate or forum in your town or city, please contact us. We are also available to assist high school groups wishing to organize these events for their communities as service-learning projects.

Naturalization Ceremonies: In the Portland area, the local chapter will be researching the most effective way to connect with both those soon-to-be and newly naturalized citizens to help ease the voter registration process and discover any other barriers that stand in the way of voting. In Bangor, the League is frequently invited to participate in naturalization ceremonies and aid in voter registration. If you are interested in learning more about involvement in Naturalization Ceremonies, please contact us.

For more about elections and voting, please see <http://lwvme.org/elections.html>

-Barbara Kaufman

RESULTS OF PRIMARY ELECTION

LOW VOTER TURNOUT JUNE 10

Maine's statewide primary election for Democrats, Greens and Republicans was held on Tuesday, June 10. Many towns and cities also had school budget validation referenda and other local issues on their ballots.

Due to a lack of contests on the ballot, turnout for the election was low. With results of 97 percent of precincts available, the *Bangor Daily News* reported that 80,716 of 960,850 registered voters – or 8.4 percent – had cast ballots.

There were no contests in the primaries for the two statewide offices that will be on November's ballot. In the governor's race, incumbent Paul LePage of Augusta was unopposed in the Republican primary, and 2nd District Congressman Mike Michaud of East Millinocket in the Democratic primary. Independent candidates Eliot Cutler of Cape Elizabeth and Lee Schultheis of Freeport also delivered between 4,000 and 6,000 petition signatures to the Secretary of State's office by June 2 to qualify for the November ballot. In the race for U.S. Senate, newcomer Shenna Bellows of Manchester was unopposed in the Democratic primary, and incumbent Susan Collins of Bangor in the Republican primary.

Likewise, there were no contests in the primaries in Maine's 1st congressional district. Republican newcomer Isaac Misiuk of Gorham and incumbent Democrat Chellie Pingree of North Haven will appear on the November ballot. Independent Richard Murphy of Sanford also qualified for the ballot by submitting between 2,000 and 3,000 petition signatures.

The only high profile primary contests occurred in Maine's 2nd congressional district, where there is an open seat. In the

Democratic primary, State Senator Emily Cain of Orono defeated State Senator Troy Jackson of Allagash by a margin of 71 to 29 percent. In the Republican primary, which proved to be a contentious race, former State Treasurer Bruce Poliquin of Oakland defeated former State Senate President Kevin Raye of Perry by a margin of 56 to 44 percent. Independent Richardson Blaine of Belfast also qualified for the ballot.

There were five contested primaries – four Democratic and one Republican - for the Maine Senate and 21 – 12 Republican and nine Democratic - for the Maine House. One Senate primary and one House primary led to recounts; both races involved Democrats. In Senate District 33 in York County, State Senator John Tuttle increased his lead over State Representative Andrea Boland. Going into the recount with a lead of 841 to 821, Senator Tuttle gained three votes while Representative Boland gained one because human counters were able to determine voter intent in four instances where an optical scanner could not. In House District 50 in Brunswick, newcomer Ralph Tucker's lead of 442 to 432 over newcomer Jackie Sartoris did not change following the recount.



At 18 percent, voter turnout in Portland was higher than in most other municipalities due to a referendum about transferring 35 city-owned parcels of land to the control of the Portland Land Bank Commission. By a 51.5 to 48.5 percent margin, voters approved the measure and effectively blocked the sale of Congress Square Plaza to a private developer.

-Michelle Small

CAP-AND-TRADE VERSUS CARBON TAX

COMPARING TWO APPROACHES

On June 9, delegates to the 2014 LWVUS Convention approved a motion made by LWV of New Castle County Delaware, to adopt the following resolution: "The LWVUS should support a price on carbon emissions that will increase in stages, as part of an overall program to improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, fast enough to avoid serious damage to the climate system."

Policymakers evaluating strategies for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have two general approaches to consider. A cap-and-trade system curbs emissions by limiting the quantity of a pollutant (e.g., carbon dioxide [CO₂]) that can be emitted and then allocating a corresponding number of tradable emissions permits to sources covered by the program. A carbon tax curbs emissions by raising the price of fossil fuels based on their

carbon content. Each approach has advantages and disadvantages, and a well-designed system of either type will be more effective than a poorly designed system of the other type.

CAP-AND-TRADE

With this approach, a regulatory body sets a cap on emissions of a particular pollutant from a designated group of polluters. The total emissions allowed under the cap are divided into individual permits, each representing the right to emit a certain quantity of the pollutant. The permits are then allocated to the sources covered by the program. (There are a variety of allocation methods, including free distribution to the capped entities, an auction, or some combination of the two.) At the end of the compliance period, each regulated source must report all emissions and surrender an equivalent number of permits to be retired from the system.

At the beginning of the compliance period, each source is allocated a certain number of permits and may buy additional ones at auction or from other sources that are willing to sell them. At the end, it must surrender one permit for each metric ton of greenhouse gasses it emitted.

Since the total number of permits is limited by the cap, the permits take on financial value and can be traded on the open market. Companies that are able to reduce their emissions at low cost can sell their surplus permits to companies for whom the cost of reducing emissions is high. Each company has the flexibility to choose how to meet its emissions target, but market incentives encourage companies to invest in new technologies or employ conservation measures to lower the cost of reducing emissions. Over time, the emissions cap is tightened to achieve more aggressive pollution-reduction targets, requiring companies to adjust their strategies to comply with the new levels.

CARBON TAX

As typically envisioned, a carbon tax would be imposed on fossil fuel suppliers at a rate that reflects the amount of carbon that will be emitted when the fuel is burned. The tax would be included in the price of the coal, oil and natural gas supplied to wholesale users and ultimately passed on to consumers in the price of electricity, gasoline and other energy-intensive products. Coal, which generates the greatest amount of carbon per unit of energy (BTU), would be taxed at a higher rate per BTU than oil or natural gas. By raising the price of carbon-based energy, the tax would create incentives to reduce energy use, stimulate demand for more energy-efficient products, and promote a shift to cleaner fuels and renewable energy.



A federal carbon tax would affect all sectors of the economy. Tax proponents suggest that it be levied at the wholesale stage as far "upstream" as practicable - namely at the point at which the fossil fuel passes from the producer to the next entity in the supply chain. Electric power generators, for example, would pay the tax on the coal, oil or natural gas they purchase and then pass the cost on to retail electric utilities "downstream," which in turn would pass it along in the rates they charge their customers.

A carbon tax could be revenue-neutral: all revenues could be rebated directly to every citizen (tax-and-dividend) or could be used to reduce existing taxes (tax-and-shift). Alternatively, revenues could be invested in development and deployment of new clean-energy technologies (tax-and-invest) and/or in energy efficiency programs (tax-and-caulk).

The carbon tax can be set to reflect what economists call the social cost of carbon (SCC), "the present value of additional economic damages now and in the future caused by an additional ton of carbon emissions." Estimates of SCC vary widely, reflecting uncertainty about future climate change scenarios and disagreement as to how to value the impact of projected climate damages.

The tax rate could also be designed to achieve a given stabilization target. An analysis of three energy-economic models estimates that a carbon price trajectory consistent with stabilizing atmospheric CO² at 450 parts per million would require that the price on emissions reach \$25-\$70 per ton of CO² by 2020 and continue rising to \$127-\$230 per ton of CO² by 2050.

The Carbon Tax Center proposes a revenue-neutral "starter" tax of \$10 per ton of CO², increasing by \$10 per ton each year for 20 years. Each \$10 per ton charge would raise the price of gasoline by 10¢ per gallon and the price of electricity by an average of roughly 0.66¢ per kilowatt hour. It also would generate \$55 billion in revenue and would reduce CO² emissions by about four percent.

PROS AND CONS OF CARBON TAX

A carbon tax is a market-based policy instrument that creates incentives to reduce carbon emissions. It is a price-based instrument; it fixes the price of carbon-based energy and allows emissions levels to vary according to economic activity.

Emissions certainty

A carbon tax does not guarantee achievement of a particular emissions target. It allows the quantity of emissions to fluctuate as the demand for energy rises or falls. Allowing emissions to vary from year to year gives firms the flexibility to abate less and pay more in taxes when

abatement costs are unusually high (and vice-versa when abatement costs are low). The tax could be designed to rise steadily over time to achieve a certain stabilization target (e.g., a concentration of atmospheric CO² of 450 parts per million by 2100).

Price predictability

The advantage of a carbon tax is that it can fix the price of carbon emissions. It creates a permanent incentive to reduce emissions, and if set at the appropriate level, it encourages investment in alternative fuels and energy-efficient technologies that have high up-front costs.

Environmental effectiveness

Several issues must be addressed in designing a carbon tax system, such as whether a credible commitment has been made to keep the tax in place, whether exemptions will be granted to certain sectors or industries, and how revenues will be used. Basically, however, the effectiveness of the tax depends in large part on whether the tax rate is set high enough to create real market incentives that lead to development and adoption of climate-friendly technologies. An economy-wide tax that is scheduled to rise steadily over time sends a consistent and long-term price signal that encourages investment in clean energy technologies and energy efficiency.

Equity

A carbon tax raises the cost of products like electricity and gasoline. These price increases would disproportionately affect lower-income households inasmuch as they spend a larger percentage of their income on energy products than do higher-income households. The way in which the system handles any revenue it raises would determine the extent to which it is able to reduce this disparity.

A carbon tax directly raises substantial revenues. If the revenues were rebated equally to all citizens or used to reduce regressive taxes (e.g., the federal payroll tax), it would return more money (in rebates or tax savings) to lower-income households (and to people who take steps to reduce their energy consumption) than they would pay in carbon taxes. In contrast, wealthier households, which use more energy on average (flying, driving, living in big houses), would pay more in carbon taxes than they would receive in rebates or tax savings.

Simplicity and transparency

A carbon tax could build on the well-developed administrative structure of existing taxes, such as the current excise taxes on coal and petroleum. A tax based on BTU heat units - already standardized and quantifiable - would fairly reflect the carbon content of each type of fuel. The

underlying premise of a carbon tax - that the price of energy and energy-intensive products should include the environmental costs associated with their production and use - is transparent and readily understood.

-Eleanor Revelle

Eleanor Revelle, who lives in Evanston, Illinois, is the Chair of the LWVUS Climate Change Task. This article is an abridged version of one she wrote for the Task Force in 2008.

SEVEN QUESTIONS ON BALLOT **ONE CITIZEN INITIATIVE AND SIX BOND ISSUES**

One citizen initiative and six bond issues will appear on the November 4 ballot. According to Maine statute, questions must be arranged on the ballot as follows: "people's veto questions; initiated measures; bond issues; constitutional amendments; and other legislatively proposed referenda. Within each group, questions must be arranged in a random order determined by a selection process conducted in public." Last year, Attorney General Janet Mills drew sealed envelopes containing the questions from a bowl in Secretary of State Matt Dunlap's office to determine ballot order.

The citizen initiative, which will be the first question on the ballot, is worded as follows: "Do you want to ban the use of bait, dogs or traps in bear hunting except to protect property, public safety, or for research?" Its chief proponent and opponent are the ballot question committees Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting with a website at <http://fairbearhunt.com> and the Maine Wildlife Conservation Committee with a website at <http://savemainesbearhunt.com>. Proponents argue that these three methods of bear hunting constitute animal cruelty. Opponents argue that these three methods are necessary to control the bear population and that bear hunting brings tens of millions of dollars into Maine's economy annually, supporting hundreds of jobs.

According to the Maine Ethics Commission website, the proponent, Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting, reported \$462,881 in cash on hand as of May 27, 2014, out of a total of \$761,454 in cash raised. Its largest cash contributors have been the Humane Society of the United States (\$550,000), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and the Humane Society Legislative Fund (\$150,000), a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization, both based in Washington, DC. For more information, see www.mainecampaignfinance.com.

The opponent, Maine Wildlife Conservation Committee, reported \$624,838 in cash on hand as of May 27 out of a total of \$779,458.64 in cash raised. Its cash contributions in excess of \$11,000 have been \$136,384 from Friends of Maine Sportsmen, \$16,529 from Maine Trappers and \$11,915 from Maine Guides, ballot question committees based in Maine, \$75,000 from U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, another ballot question committee based in Ohio, \$62,805

from Maine Trappers Association, \$50,000 from North Maine Woods and \$15,000 from Phippsburg Sportsmen’s Association, Maine non-profit corporations, \$20,000 from Ballot Issues Coalition, a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization based in Washington, DC, and \$15,000 from Seven Islands Land Company, a Maine for-profit corporation.

To date, the bond issues, which will be the second through seventh questions on the ballot, have no organized support or opposition. Their order is unknown until the Secretary of State conducts a random drawing later this summer. In no particular order, the questions are worded as follows:

▶ Do you favor a \$3,000,000 bond issue, to be awarded through a competitive process and to be matched by \$5,700,000 in private and public funds, to modernize and expand infrastructure in a biological laboratory specializing in tissue repair and regeneration located in the State in order to increase biotechnology workforce training, retain and recruit to the State multiple biomedical research and development groups and create a drug discovery and development facility that will improve human health and stimulate biotechnology job growth and economic activity?

▶ Do you favor a \$10,000,000 bond issue to ensure clean water and safe communities across Maine; to protect drinking water sources; to restore wetlands; to create jobs and vital public infrastructure; and to strengthen the State's long-term economic base and competitive advantage?

▶ Do you favor a \$7,000,000 bond issue to facilitate the growth of marine businesses and commercial enterprises that create jobs and improve the sustainability of the State's marine economy and related industries through capital investments, to be matched by at least \$7,000,000 in private and other funds?

▶ Do you favor a \$10,000,000 bond issue, to be awarded through a competitive process and to be matched by \$11,000,000 in private and other funds, to build a research center and to discover genetic solutions for cancer and the diseases of aging, to promote job growth and private sector investment in this State, to attract and retain young

professionals and make the State a global leader in genomic medicine?

▶ Do you favor a bond issue to provide \$4,000,000 in funds to insure portions of loans to small businesses to spur investment and innovation and to provide \$8,000,000 in funds to make flexible loans to small businesses to create jobs, revitalize downtowns and strengthen the rural economy?

▶ Do you favor an \$8,000,000 bond issue to provide funds to assist Maine agriculture and to protect Maine farms through the creation of an animal and plant disease and insect control facility administered by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service?

-Michelle Small

CALENDAR

07/03/14	Naturalization Ceremony, Gracie Theatre, Husson College, Bangor, 10:00 a.m.
Fridays Starting 07/11/14	Gathering Signatures for Maine Clean Elections Initiative, Brunswick Farmers’ Market, The Mall, Brunswick, 10:00 a.m.
07/24/14	Dinner and Discussion of Stevens’s <i>Six Amendments</i> , Seasons Restaurant, 427 Main Street, Bangor, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
07/30/14	Discussion of Piketty’s <i>Capital</i> , Part 2, Ann Luther’s Home, Trenton, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
08/16/14	LWVME Board Retreat, Searsport
09/22/14	Reading by Author Melissa Coleman from <i>My Life Is in Your Hands</i> , The Bayside Bowl, Portland, 6:00 p.m.
09/23/14	National Voter Registration Day
11/04/14	General Election

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