

September 2009

PO Box 142
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The Brunswick Voter



Items of Interest

- What's Happening at Home?
- Honoring the United States Constitution
- Theater at Monmouth to Present "As Maine Grows"

Save the Date

~Constitution Day, Thursday, September 17; Display at Curtis Memorial Library All Month.

~As Maine Goes, Tuesday, September 29, Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Room, 7:00 p.m.

~Brunswick Candidate Forum, Wednesday, September 30, Maine Street Station, 16 Station Avenue, Second Floor, 6:30 p.m.

~Election Day, Tuesday, November 3.

~League of Women Voters of Maine Board Meeting, Thursday, November 12, University of Maine at Augusta, 10:00 a.m.



Brunswick Candidate Forum on Tap for September 30

Brunswick, ME - The League of Women Voters of the Brunswick Area has invited all candidates for Brunswick School Board and Town Council to participate in a forum at Maine Street Station, 16 Station Avenue, Second Floor, on Wednesday, September 30, at 6:30 p.m. There are races in District 3, District 4 and At Large.

James Corey and Susan Stoddard are competing for the School Board seat being vacated by Eileen Murphy in District 3. Incumbent Corinne Perreault is running for the seat in District 4. Incumbent Michelle Small is running for the At Large seat.

Suzan Wilson is challenging incumbent Hallie Daughtry for the Town Council seat in Dis-

trict 3. Jason Bergquist and John Perreault are competing for the seat in District 4 being vacated by Karen Klatt. Klatt is challenging incumbent Joanne King for the At Large seat.

The forum will be televised live on Brunswick TV3 and taped for rebroadcast.

Order of Ballot Questions Announced

Augusta, ME - On Thursday, September 3, Maine Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap drew envelopes from a vase to determine the order of citizen-initiated referendum questions on the November 3 ballot.

Under Maine law, people's veto questions are listed first, citizen-initiated referenda second, bond issues third, legislatively-initiated referenda fourth, and resolutions to amend the state Constitution fifth. Because the only category with more than one question was citizen-initiated referenda, it was the only category

subject to this special drawing process.

The complete list of questions on the November 3 ballot appears below:

Question 1 (People's Veto Question): "Do you want to reject the new law that lets same-sex couples marry and allows individuals and religious groups to refuse to perform these marriages?"

Question 2 (Citizen Initiative): "Do you want to cut the rate of the municipal excise tax by an average of 55% on motor vehicles less than six years old and exempt hybrid

and other alternative-energy and highly fuel-efficient motor vehicles from sales tax and three years of excise tax?"

Question 3 (Citizen Initiative): "Do you want to repeal the 2007 law on school district consolidation and restore the laws previously in effect?"

Question 4 (Citizen Initiative): "Do you want to change the existing formulas that limit state and local government spending and require voter approval by referendum for spending over those limits and for increases in state taxes?"

(Continued on page 2)

What's Happening at Home?



Bath, ME - On Wednesday, September 2, the **Bath** City Council unanimously gave final approval to an updated Comprehensive Plan, which contained an amendment continuing an existing policy not to extend city-subsidized public water and sewer across Whiskeag Creek into rural north Bath.

On Wednesday, August 12, the **Brunswick** Town Council voted 7 to 2 to negotiate a permanent Manager contract with Interim Town Manager Gary Brown. The public vote followed an August 5 executive session at which the Town Council voted 5 to 4 to pursue contract negotiations with Brown. The press and public

vehemently criticized the Council for violating Maine's Freedom of Access Act.

In **Freeport**, two Town Council seats, three Sewer District seats and one Water District seat will be on the November 3 ballot. Nomination papers are due by Wednesday, September 9.

The **Georgetown School Board** is seeking parent input about the possibility of adding grades 7 and 8 to Georgetown Central School, and negotiating tuition and transportation deals with Brunswick High School and Lincoln Academy in addition to Morse High School.

Regional School Union 5

adopted its second budget at referendum on Tuesday, July 28. The \$22.7 million budget passed by a vote of 1,058 to 786. In Durham, the vote was 117 for and 330 against; in Freeport, 883 for and 113 against; in Pownal, 58 for and 343 against.

James Morris and Donald Russell have taken out papers to run for a seat on the **Topsham** Board of Selectmen being vacated by Michelle Derr. Nomination papers are due by Friday, September 18. Dorothy Gardner is seeking reelection to a seat on the **SAD 75** Board of Directors representing the Town of Topsham. As of this time, there are no other candidates.

Seven Questions on November 3 Ballot



(Continued from page 1)

Question 5 (Citizen Initiative): "Do you want to change the medical marijuana laws to allow treatment of more medical conditions and to create a regulated system of distribution?"

Question 6 (Bond Issue): "Do you favor a \$71,250,000 bond issue for improvements to highways and bridges, airports, public transit facilities, ferry and port facilities, including port and harbor structures, as well as funds for the Life-Flight Foundation that will make the State eligible for

over \$148,000,000 in federal and other matching funds?"

Question 7 (Constitutional Question): "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to increase the amount of time that local officials have to certify the signatures on direct initiative petitions?"

The first five questions have been discussed in other newsletters. The League of Women Voters of Maine urges a vote of No on 1. It takes no position on the other six questions.

Question 6 includes \$8 million for Brunswick Naval Air Station redevelopment, \$9.5 mil-

lion for infrastructure for the University of Maine System, \$5 million for infrastructure for the Community College System, \$1 million for infrastructure for the Maine Maritime Academy, \$6 million for marine wind energy research, and \$6.5 million for the Land for Maine's Future Board, among other things.

Question 7 gives petitioners 10 extra days to file citizens' initiative petitions. However, it requires petitioners to file petitions with municipal clerks two days earlier and gives clerks five more days to certify signatures.

Honoring the United States Constitution

Washington, DC - Thursday, September 17, is the 202nd anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. Fittingly, there are more than 200 ways to celebrate this occasion. For ideas, go to www.constitutioncenter.org.

Brunswick's Curtis Memorial Library has assembled a display of books about the Constitution that can be borrowed. The display is against the Library's main staircase throughout the month of September.

In recent years, many interesting and provocative books have been written about the United States Constitution. Here are just a few titles.

All Deliberate Speed: Reflections on the First Half-Century of Brown v. Board of Education by Charles J. Ogletree (2004) - Harvard Law professor Ogletree presents an objective analysis of the progress and limitations of the two Brown decisions: the first ruling that separate but equal, i.e., segregation, was inherently unequal; the second urging desegregation with all deliberate speed. Ogletree follows the legal case history in pursuit of Brown, including its limited successes, its failures, and what appears to be resistance to, if not reversal of, Brown's objective. [Booklist]

Freedom for the Thought That We Hate: A Biography of the First Amendment, Anthony Lewis (2008) - In Lewis's telling, the story of how the right of free expression evolved along with our

nation makes a compelling case for the adaptability of our constitution. Although Americans have gleefully and sometimes outrageously exercised their right to free speech since before the nation's founding, the Supreme Court did not begin to recognize this right until 1919. Freedom of speech and the press as we know it today is surprisingly recent. Lewis tells us how these rights were created, revealing a story of hard choices, heroic (and some less heroic) judges, and fascinating and eccentric defendants who forced the legal system to come face-to-face with one of America's great founding ideas. [Amazon]

The Godless Constitution: A Moral Defense of the Secular State, Kramnick and Moore (2005) - This book is a ringing rebuke to the religious right's attempts, fueled by misguided and inaccurate interpretations of American history, to dismantle the wall between church and state erected by the country's founders. The authors, both distinguished scholars, revisit the historical roots of American religious freedom, paying particular attention to such figures as John Locke, Roger Williams, and especially Thomas Jefferson, and examine the controversies, up to the present day, over the proper place of religion in our political life. [The New Statesman]

Gun Control on Trial: Inside the Supreme Court Battle Over the Second Amendment, Brian Doherty (2009) - Journalist Doherty tells the full story behind the landmark District of Columbia v. Heller ruling. With exclusive access throughout the case, Doherty delved into the issues of this monumental case to provide a compelling look at the inside stories. The story stretches back to long before the decision struck down D.C.'s restrictive gun ban and forward to the future of the political and legal battle over gun control in America. [Amazon]

The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court, Jeffrey Toobin (2007) - New Yorker legal writer Toobin surveys the Court from the Reagan administration onward, as the justices wrestled with abortion, affirmative action, the death penalty, gay rights and church-state separation. Despite a Court dominated by Republican appointees, Toobin paints not a conservative revolution but a period of intractable moderation. The real power, he argues, belonged to supreme swing-voter Sandra Day O'Connor, who decided important cases with what Toobin sees as an almost primal attunement to a middle-of-the-road public consensus. By contrast, he contends, conservative justices Rehnquist and Scalia ended up bitter old men, their rigorous constitutional doctrines made irrelevant by the moderates' compromises. [Publishers Weekly]



We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, ... do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



League of Women Voters of Brunswick
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Please deliver to:

*The League of Women Voters is where
hands-on work to safeguard democracy
leads to civic improvement.*

LWVME and LWVUS are now on Facebook!

Attend As Maine Grows on September 29!

Theater at Monmouth to Present *As Maine Goes*

Brunswick, ME - Many Mainers will remember *Taxing Maine*, the award-winning play about the history of state taxes that toured 34 Maine sites in 2006.

Now, the Theater at Monmouth's David Greenham and Dennis Price are back, this time to tackle the many issues facing our state as we move into the future in an audience-engaging performance and discussion that will surely bring chills and thrills to and may raise hackles across the state.

The League of Women Voters of the Brunswick Area is sponsoring a presentation of *As*

Maine Goes in the Morrell Room of the Curtis Memorial Library on Tuesday, September 29, at 7:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

Using different historical characters, humor, little known facts, thought-provoking stories and current material gathered from the general public, the play will explore the issues of growth and development in Maine.

Following each performance, the actors will engage the audience in a discussion of the play, giving audience members an opportunity to reflect on and share their thoughts about the issues that

were examined in the performance.

The Theater at Monmouth is located in beautiful Cumston Hall, which has been listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings since 1976. Each summer, it performs plays in repertory.

The five plays scheduled for the Theater's 2010 season are two Shakespeare plays, *A Comedy of Errors* and *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*, Mark Twain's *Is He Dead?*, George Bernard Shaw's *Misalliance* and Oscar Wilde's *The Canterville Ghost*. For more information, go to <http://theateratmonmouth.org/>

