



THE

VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Berea & Madison County

Vol. 41 No. 4 Jan/Feb 2008

<http://lwvbmcciclub.org>

Population & Planning

7 p.m. Feb. 11
Richmond City Hall

What data reveal about our future

Citizens concerned about growth in our community can find information at our Feb. 11 meeting featuring Ron Crouch, director of the Kentucky State Data Center. Crouch's background in analyzing data and developing information enhance the understanding and use of such growth statistics. He averages around 150 presentations per year across the United States.

At 7 p.m. Feb. 11, Crouch will focus on trends in Richmond, Berea and Madison County based on population and Census data. The meeting in city commission chambers at

Kentucky's competitive future ... will be determined by its investment in a diverse population. Kentucky must increase the educational level of those "at risk" for its own competitiveness.

Proficient students are critical to economic prosperity

—Ron Crouch

Immigration responses go to LWWUS

Our league met Jan. 17 to discuss and respond to a list of questions posed by national. LWWUS collected last input on its national immigration study Feb. 1.

The discussion was lively and thoughtful as we ranked methods for reforming the immigration policy. Items that we could agree upon were recorded and sent to LWWUS electronically to join the responses of other leagues around the nation.

The national study committee will analyze

the responses and create a position statement to be approved by the national board. Members have the opportunity at each annual meeting or convention to decide whether or not to re-adopt these positions. Many thanks to **Jeanne Nakawaza, Jenny Bromley, Mary Bell and Elizabeth Crowe** for planning our study this year.

Richmond City Hall is open to the public. Crouch has developed Census profiles including population pyramids by race and Hispanic origin, population trends by age by race and Hispanic origin, and tables indicating trends on demographic, social and economic variables.

LWV continues to explore ways to keep citizens informed and involved in the economic, social and land use changes in our area. We have made a special effort to invite local neighborhood associations as well as our elected officials in Berea, Richmond and Madison County. Be sure to bring your neighbors and co-workers to this important and informative session.

To learn more, go to ksdc.louisville.edu

MEMBERS' CORNER

Tribute to crusader Joan Perry

Many local league members and Madison Countians were saddened to hear of the death of Joan Perry on Jan. 15. Joan was a true crusader for social justice and environmental causes at the grassroots level and a valuable member of LWV of Berea and Madison County. She was instrumental in the successful campaign for a public library system in the county.

Local officials and Frankfort legislators perhaps cringed when Joan showed up at meetings, her arms full of carefully researched notes, but many appreciated her persistence and passion. She was invited to join the county administration under County Judge-Executive Harold Botner during which time she brought about many positive changes.

Joan was a passionate and effective lobbyist for the environment here in Kentucky and in Florida, where she and husband Jerry moved after his retirement from EKU.

I visited briefly with Joan last year when she returned to Kentucky for a session of treatments. She was the same inquisitive Joan, poring over newspapers each day for information to support causes of local, state and national concern. If there is a heaven, I suspect Joan is advocating on our behalf there.

Our thoughts and prayers are with, Jerry; daughter Jessica of Richmond; sons David and wife Cecilia of Charlotte, N.C., and Sean and wife Laura of Berea.

— Libby Fraas

Here is an excerpt from a story about Joan from *The (Anna Maria Island) Islander*, Jan. 22, 2008:

Joan Shaw Perry, 68, of Holmes Beach, died Jan. 15.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., Mrs. Perry moved to Holmes Beach in 1995. She was an active member of Christ Episcopal Church, Bradenton, and its Daughters of the King. She served on the board of directors of ManaSota-88, was a member of the Sierra Club and served as president of the Kentucky Conservation Committee. She was a member of Save Anna Maria Inc.

Bunny Garst, one of the founders of SAM, worked with Mrs. Perry. "She was an absolutely remarkable woman," she said. "She was extremely bright, and her death will be a great loss to the community. We'll all miss her."

Manatee County Commissioner Carol Whitmore remembered Mrs. Perry's bids for public office in Holmes Beach. "She held us all accountable in government regarding growth and the environment," Whitmore said.

It's LOBBY time in Frankfort

The House Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments voted Feb. 5 on House Bill 70, which places an amendment on the ballot in November to restore voting rights to felons who have served their terms. LWVKY is planning several events to lobby for restoration of voting rights.

■ **Saturday, Feb. 9 at 2 p.m.** at Hunter Presbyterian Church in Lexington

is a spokesperson training workshop. Former felons from across the state will share stories about not being able to vote

■ **Thursday, Feb. 28. Restoration of Voting Rights Focus Lobby Day** is Based out of Room 111 in the Capitol Annex in Frankfort.

LWV_EVENTS

- **7 p.m. Feb.11**
Member Meeting:
Population & Planning
Richmond City Hall
- **Feb. 14**
LWVUS birthday
- **March Member Meeting TBA**
- **March Board Meeting TBA**
- **April Board Meeting TBA**
- **Annual Meeting TBA**

VOTER DEADLINES

March 1 for March Voter
April 1 for April Voter
May 1 for May Voter

The Voter is published monthly September through May by the League of Women Voters of Berea & Madison County.
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Copies of the Voter are on the Web at
<http://lwvbm.iclub.org>

■ **Thursday, Feb. 14 I LOVE MOUNTAINS Rally and lobby Day** - Join Kentuckians for the Commonwealth in a rally at 11:30 a.m. in the Capitol rotunda to oppose mountaintop removal and support legislation to stop the dumping of mining wastes into our headwater streams (HB 164). Register at <http://www.kftc.org> or call **606-632-0051** for more information.

Happy Birthday to LWV

The League of Women Voters celebrates its 88th birthday Feb. 14, with a renewed commitment to help Americans get involved in their democracy in 2008.

“We stand on the shoulders of generations of incredible volunteers who have proudly served the League and made a measurable impact in their communities,” said national League president Mary G. Wilson.

“We take seriously our legacy of providing trustworthy and balanced resources to citizens and lawmakers. I believe our democracy is stronger because of it.”

“Our members are living out that legacy in every state in our union, making sure voters are registered, educated, and confident in the political process. We encourage all Americans to contact their local League or visit our election web site www.VOTE411.org to get involved in this historic election.”

SPECIAL THANKS!

(Donations received since July 1, 2007)

\$500+ Program Support
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\$'s General Support
Lisa Abbott
Joy Hager
Joyce Henderson
Billy Ray Hughes
Carol Lamm
Cheyenne Olson
Ann Stebbins

Annual Fund Goal: \$1,885
Raised to Date: \$1,395
Goal Remaining: \$ 490

There's still time to help league educate voters

Board member Jeanne Hibberd continues to organize and report on league's efforts to raise funds to support our many voter education efforts in the community.

These include publication of *A Citizen's Guide to Local Elected Officials* and organizing local candidate forums and voter registration drives.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. Join us in making democracy work!

To make a contribution to the League of Women Voters of Berea and Madison County, please send a check to LWVBMC, P. O. 254, Berea KY 40403 or contact Jeanne Hibberd at 986-1512. You may also use the donation forum below.



Support the League of Women Voters

Thanks for your support for our candidate forums, voter registration and voter education materials. Make check payable to League of Women Voters (LWV).

Mail to P.O. Box 254, Berea KY 40403.

DONATION amount _____

Interested in MEMBERSHIP? Please join now.

Yearly Membership Dues: *Individual \$40 ; Family or Household \$60 ; Student \$5*

MEMBERSHIP Dues _____

CONTACT INFORMATION Renewal New

Total _____

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

E-mail address: _____ Phone number: _____

THE LEAGUE REPORTS...

Concerned citizens bring comments to zoning board

The Richmond Planning and Zoning Commission met at Richmond City Hall to a room that was filled to capacity with concerned citizens who were there to express their sentiments about zoning changes that might occur in their neighborhood.

After the roll call, the commissioners Mary Lillian Abney, Eugene Estelle, Michael Fore (Mr. Fore left early for another commitment), Clark Pergrem, David Rush, Chair, Richard Thomas and Neen Wiggins approved the minutes for Dec. 18 and January 15.

Mr. Rush asked, after each presentation for a zone change, if there was anyone from the audience who wanted to speak in favor of or 'against' the rezoning.

The first order of business concerned KK & RR LLC organized by Joseph P. Robertson of 210 S. Estill Ave. in Richmond seeking a change of 1.5 acres on Red House Road to be rezoned from R-1c to B-3. The commission voted to give a positive recommendation to this change. There were no comments from the audience for or against the zone change.

The second zone change was a request to have land of 3.8 acres at Red House Road owned by Mike and Anna Land, annexed and zoned, B-1(Neighborhood Business). Hillcrest Nursery has been on this land for the last 40 years.

A number of residents spoke against this change. One resident stated that the business that would be going into this space will add additional traffic which will in turn add to the noise pollution that the neighborhood is already afforded at this time. Another comment addressed the issue of the sewer pump that at the present time overflows often and this speaker didn't see this situation getting better but only worse.

Safety was another issue addressed. There aren't any sidewalks in the Hillcrest subdivision at this time and along with the extra traffic in terms of people walking and children playing this would add an extra burden on the neighborhood. The

lowering of home prices would most likely occur if a convenience store was built on this property, the resident said.

The commissioners expressed the possible need for a flood assessment and traffic survey. The commissioners voted for a change to B-1.

Another 'contested issue' was the request to annex 13.6 acres belonging to Thomas Clouse III of Jack's Creek Road. Clouse had requested an R-3 land use for apartments to be built on this property. The property is at the corner of Jack's Creek (KY 1156 and US 25 (Lexington Road) and has been subdivided by the Clouse family

over the past few years.

Over a dozen citizens who live on and around Jack's Creek spoke to the commissioners concerning, traffic in terms of the speed limit, and the disregard of motorists to keep to 35 mph, the high flow of traffic along with congestion occurring at Jack's Creek and Lexington Road. The value of the single-family dwellings will more than likely decrease said another citizen. Three petitions were presented to the commission against the asked for zone change. R-1b was recommended by commissioner Wiggins which is the same as the sub-division, Hartland in this area.

The opponents were reminded that the city commission would have the final word on annexation and zoning.

The next item pertained to Clover Leaf Farms - Duncannon Lane and a request that 154 acres on Duncannon nearby the Richmond Industrial Park be rezoned to B-3 (Industrial Business) from I-2 (Industrial Park). The owner is planning on building warehouses on part of the land which would be comparable to industry. There was no comment for or against from the audience.

**Richmond Planning & Zoning
Wednesday, January 23, 2008
Reported by Cecile L. Schubert**

Magistrates review land use regulations

The meeting went well this morning. We passed out copies of the "A Citizen's Guide to local Officials 2007" I saw a number of the Magistrates and other county officers reviewing this booklet closely. I would suggest that we pass out (not just make available) a copy of this booklet to each legislative body when we visit them this month. Apparently some were not aware of this booklet or

**Madison County Fiscal Court
Tuesday, January 8, 2008
Reported by Leigh Jones**

else had not looked at it closely.

The fiscal court did not have a long agenda but did approve the 1st and 2nd readings of several ordinances mostly amending sections of their current policies.

One, however, was amending Land Use Regulations provid-

Board considers revival of Observer Corps

At its Jan. 8 meeting, LWV board discussed reviving a local league tradition, the Observer Corps.

Many years ago, LWV members were part of an Observer Corps which attended every meeting of local government and reported on what happened in the monthly Voter newsletter. The effort helped both members and interested citizens keep track of decisions made by city and county officials.

During our local visits in January, many officials asked us to come to every meeting, not just the first meeting of the year.

Board members Jeanne Hibberd and Annriette Stolte are exploring the possibility of training and reviving a group of observers who may help with this effort.

If you have some interest in being a part of such a group and can attend one or more meeting per month, contact Jeanne Hibberd <jmhibberd@hindmansettlement.org> 986.1512 or Annriette Stolte <annriette@mis.net> 986.9032.

February 2008 MEETING DATES

Check your calendar to attend one or more of these local government meetings. Ask a friend, co-worker or neighbor to join you. If you would like to share a report about the meeting and/or your observations, please e-mail to Voter editor Libby Fraas <libby.fraas@eku.edu>.

Date & Time	Government body	Place
Tuesday, Feb. 12 9:30 a.m.	Madison County Fiscal Court	Madison Co. Courthouse
Tuesday, Feb. 12 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26 Noon	Richmond City Commission	Richmond City Hall Commission Chambers
Tuesday, Feb. 12 6:30 p.m.	Berea Planning & Zoning (work session)	Berea City Hall 212 Chestnut St.
Tuesday, Feb. 26 6:30 p.m.	Berea Planning & Zoning (business session)	
Thursday, Feb. 14 6 p.m.	Madison Co. School Board	Madison Central High School Lecture Lab, Health Bldg.
Tuesday, Feb. 5 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb.19 6:30 p.m.	Berea City Council	Berea Police & Municipal Bldg. 314 Chestnut St.
Monday, Feb. 18 7 p.m.	Berea School Board	Berea Community School Theater
Tuesday, Feb. 5 6 p.m.	Madison Co. Planning Commission (work session)	Madison Co. Courthouse Fiscal Court Room
Tuesday, Feb. 19 6 p.m.	Madison Co. Planning Commission (business session)	
Tues. Feb. 19 5:30 p.m.	Richmond P & Z Commission (work session)	Richmond City Hall Conference Room
Wed., Feb. 27 5:30 p.m.	Richmond P & Z Commission (business session)	Richmond City Hall Commission Chambers

LWV REPORTS (continued)

FISCAL COURT REPORT Continued from Page 4

ing for commercial zoning around Interstate exits 95 & 97. This was being passed to control future commercial around these interchanges to provide improved visual aesthetics. Fiscal Court also passed 1st readings of ordinances on two zoning changes recommended by the Planning and Zoning Committee. It was pleasing to note the individual magistrates very strong concerns about sewage problems which might developed from these zone changes.

MADISON SCHOOL BOARD REPORT Continued from Page 6

in emergency," he said, but warned there is no room in the budget to provide teacher raises without state funding.

Betsy Bohannon, who was elected chair of the board, announced the February meeting will be held in the Lecture Hall of the H. Douglas House Athletic/Academic Building on the Madison Central High School Campus, commonly known as the health building. Bohannon welcomed Jenny Bromley and Libby Fraas from the league and noted that several "green" suggestions made in our 2007 visit were adopted by the district.

Caudill's legacy honored by board

Madison County School Board members acknowledged the legacy of past superintendents and paved the way for new leadership for the school system in their first meeting of 2008.

The resignation of acting superintendent Glenn Marshall was accepted by the board and was followed by the appointment of Tommy Floyd as interim superintendent until a search produces a permanent candidate. Floyd, a former principal at Somerset High School, was hired in 2006 by former superintendent Mike Caudill.

Caudill died Dec. 21 after a long battle with leukemia. The board honored his contributions by voting to name the new middle school on the Robert R. Martin bypass in Richmond after the late superintendent.

The board also discussed filling the vacancy left by the resignation of long-time District 1 board member Pat Baldwin. Her district includes Deacon Hills, West and North Richmond. The last year of her term will be filled by a person appointed by the Kentucky State School Board based on nominations or applications turned in by Jan. 16. A similar procedure led to the appointment of Glyndon Greene to fill the vacancy left by District 3 representative Jimmy Lakes last year.

Board members accepted the 2008 comprehensive district Improvement Plan

which includes measures to raise the district from its Tier 3 ranking as defined in the No Child Left Behind Act. It will take two years of making Adequate Yearly Progress on reading and math performances to be removed from Tier 3 status. A copy

**Madison County School Board
Thursday, January 10, 2008
Reported by Libby Fraas**

of the plan highlighting deficiencies and plans for improvement is on the district's Web site:

Comprehensive District Improvement Plan <http://www.madison.kyschools.us/dist/docs/CDIP2008.pdf>

In accepting its finance report, the board was informed that its December balance was lower than usual because of a delay in the collecting of property tax bills. Marshall noted that the district loses about \$40,000 in interest per month when the tax collection is postponed.

Marshall also addressed the school budget citing two areas of concern. The first is an ongoing revenue shortfall where operating costs are running more than receipts. Marshall believes the gap can continue to be met by attrition of positions and delaying some district improvements without reaching into the capital outlay funds. Even a second concern, the threat of state budget cuts, can also be handled in the short term of one or two years, Marshall calculated. "We have a \$5 million balance and capital outlay money that can be used

Continued on Page 5

2007-08 BOARD

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We need you!
Members are needed to help with fund raising, voter registration drives and meetings. Contact LWV by phone number listed above or by sending an e-mail to lwvbmc@yahoo.com to volunteer.



LWV of Berea & Madison County
P.O. Box 254
Berea, KY 40403

**Feb. 11 meeting on
Population & Planning**