



THE

VOTER

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

Planning should embrace growth as well as 'what makes us special'

Planner Steve Austin projected a trick-or-treat vision of what the future holds for the Bluegrass region, including Madison County, during the LWV's What's Your Vision? forum Oct. 20 in Richmond city hall.

On the frightening side?

- **Traffic congestion** 80,000 new households are expected in our region. Estimating 10 car trips per household, that adds 800,000 new car trips per day to our streets and roads. That congestion includes an alarming increase in truck traffic on roads that were built to get people to work and schools.

- **Urban sprawl** Population in the Bluegrass region is expected to grow by almost 200,000 by 2020, erasing city and county boundaries as residential development swells. Individual communities have less individual identity as a result, Austin noted. He projected a photo taken from a satellite showing a swath of light connecting the communities of Richmond and Berea. "Our physical separateness is diminishing," Austin said. "From a satellite picture, that's one community."

- **Revenue imbalances:** The increase in residential growth places greater demands on public services such as schools, police and fire. Austin noted that some communities are re-examining the costs of accommodating houses for new residents who work and pay payroll taxes elsewhere.



Forward-thinking communities are demanding more pedestrian-friendly plans, Steve Austin said.

One Bluegrass community has halted residential growth until the imbalance between jobs and people is corrected. "It ought to shock everyone in the state of Kentucky and in this region that Georgetown does not feel like they have enough jobs to pay for growth," Austin said. "They have 12,000 of the best paying jobs in the world, but don't feel they have enough to pay for the services required for new houses."

- **Quality of life** "Our region is completely car-dominated. We don't really support our local businesses or downtowns; we don't really cooperate on the things that make us special as a region; we are sacrificing our heritage."

Preserving the Bluegrass

Solutions to the problems of growth and development are not just for government officials to ponder, Austin said. In fact, Bluegrass Tomorrow, the non-profit organization which he leads is a coalition between citizens and business. It evolved 16 years ago following Toyota's location in Georgetown, where Austin was a city planner, Bluegrass Tomorrow embraces a vision for Fayette, Scott, Woodford, Clark, Jessamine, Madison and Bourbon County

See *Quality of life* Page 5

Big turnout for how-to-be a candidate workshop

Editor's Note: Herald-Leader Frankfort Bureau reporter Ryan Alessi attended the Nov. 12 workshop and wrote this story published in the Nov. 14 issue. A portion of his story is reprinted here with permission.

By Ryan Alessi

RICHMOND - In 1980, Judith Faulkner made her first foray into politics—a bold though unconventional run for Pennsylvania's lieutenant governor.

Though she couldn't recall details of that campaign of 25 years ago, Faulkner, 57, said the same passion and curiosity about public service has led her to consider running for Berea City Council next year.

"One goal of an office-holder in a small community is to forge dialogues that provide a fertile ground for diversity"—not only with respect to race, but also perspectives and ideas, said Faulkner, who is black.

It was that brand of idealism that brought Faulkner and nearly 30 other Central Kentuckians to the Madison County Public Li-

See *How-to-be a Candidate* Page 6

FREE make-your-own invitation to Dec. 11 party inside!

Director's Corner

Holiday lists begin with thanksgiving

One of the perks of being editor of the VOTER is to sneak in photos of your family members. Sorry about this personal lapse, but certainly much of what League members do is inspired by thinking about the kind of future we want for our children and our grandchildren.

Our theme this year, Madison County 2025: What's YOUR Vision? was certainly part of that inspiration, and we have learned much this fall about land use planning in Berea, Richmond and Madison County.

The presentation and comments at our forum on Oct. 20 really got me thinking about the kind of landscapes we want to pass on to future Madison Countians. I hope that we have demonstrated the importance of public involvement in decisions that affect where we live, work and play.

As we fall into the wonderful busy traditions of the holidays, I thought it appropriate to pass along some words

of THANKS.

- to members **Liz Crowe, Jeanne Hibberd, Joe Gershtenson** and the EKU Center for Kentucky History & Politics, for the excellent Candidate Workshop Nov. 12.

- to Berea Mayor **Steve Connelly**, Richmond Mayor **Connie Lawson** and Magistrate **Billy Ray Hughes** and other officials who shared their experiences with a bevy of potential candidates.

- to the **Richmond Register**, particularly reporter **Ronica Brandenburg** for excellent coverage of land use issues this year and for helping spread the word about LWV events.

- to Richmond City Manager **David Evans** for not only providing a place for our forums but also for taping them for replay over Adelphia Cable Channel. Thanks also to **Adelphia** for that access.

Aack...! Like every other holiday list, there's not enough time ...or space... to finish. So thanks to all members and friends of the League this year.

— *Libby Fraas*



Libby Fraas with grandbaby Sophia, now 6 months old.

WELCOME our newest member

Our newest member is **Steve Boyce** of Berea, who joined in September. Steve and his wife, Patty, are retired from Berea College, where they both taught math among other duties. They have lived in the Berea area for 36 years.

Originally from Indianapolis, Steve and Patty have three children and two grandsons. They have been active in

Berea Faith Community Outreach, which includes such programs as the food bank, rent and utility assistance for the poor, and help for transients. Steve also is a volunteer with Kentuckians for the Commonwealth.

Their address is 300 Dole Road, Paint Lick, Ky. 40461. Phone: 986-9210.

JOIN LWV NOW Send your name, address, contact information and \$40 check to Treasurer: Pat Jones, 226 Peach Bloom Hill, Berea, Ky. 40403.

LWV_EVENTS

Dec. 11, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
HOLIDAY PARTY
Bill & Annriette Stolte
400 Jackson St.
Berea

January Meetings
Members will attend the first meeting of 2006 of our city, county and school bodies. Schedule tba in December Voter. Please volunteer for at least one meeting.

February
A trip to the General Assembly and a meet-the-candidates reverse press conference are in the works. Feb. 14 is National League birthday!

March
Voter registration drives and a possible poll worker training workshop are in the works.

April 7-8 State Council
State LWV to hold its meeting in Berea hosted by our League.

April Annual Meeting

VOTER DEADLINES

Dec. 1 for Dec. Voter
Jan. 16 for Feb. Voter

The Voter is a monthly publication of the League of Women Voters of Berea and Madison County.

To report ideas or corrections, contact Voter Editor Libby Fraas <libby.fraas@eku.edu> or call 859 624-1292.

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

Invite a friend to LWV's Dec. 11 holiday party

The second Sunday in December is shaping up to be a wonderful end-of-year celebration of all things League. Please use the **make-your-own invitation** on this page to deliver a personal invitation to a friend, co-worker or neighbor. Or perhaps you might invite some official or person who has helped the League over this year or in years past.

Not only will you and your guests get a chance to socialize with members and friends of League, but you'll also have a chance to meet state League President Caty Mercer of Louisville.

Mercer will attend the event at the home of Annriette and Bill Stolte at 400 Jackson Street in Berea. Directions can be found in the invitation below.

In addition, students from Berea College who have been working on the "Visionary Women of Berea" project will unveil the booklet they have been researching this fall—the biographies of notable women in Berea

and Madison County.

Berea's Women's Studies and CELTS departments with the League have supported the learning-services project. The "Open House" will be from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. giving you a chance to bring your spouse, friends and most importantly, new members to meet and greet.

And of course, be prepared to enjoy some holiday fare. Our board has volunteered to bring some of their favorite holiday appetizers and sweets.

Come to think of it, with all our important forums this fall, I have missed the wonderful food and camaraderie that usually ended a LWV meeting in years past.

So this is an opportunity to welcome our state president, to learn what Berea students have been working on, to meet and greet fellow Leaguers, and, most importantly, to share holiday greetings.

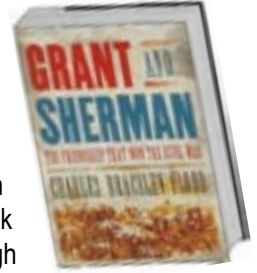
See you there.

— Libby Fraas

MEMBER UPDATE

Kathy and Bracelen Flood have been appearing at book fairs

from California to Texas and of course in Kentucky promote Bracelen's latest book, *Grant and Sherman: The Friendship that Won the Civil War*. An audio version of the book is also available through publisher HarperCollins. A book signing is scheduled at



Eastern's campus bookstore at noon Dec. 6 and at the University Book Store on Lancaster Avenue from 1 to 3 p.m. Dec. 13.

Besides being a student, **Kristin Lawson** is also president of the ECU Campus Greens. Her group hosted a showing of the film *WAL-MART: The High Cost of Low Price* on campus Nov. 17. The film by Robert Greenwald attacks the "feel-good" image Wal-Mart presents in its commercials. Employee benefits, exploitation of labor conditions in China and other countries and corporate indifference to environmental concerns are some of the movie's themes as it takes a no-holds barred look at the giant company. For more information, <http://www.walmartmovie.com/>.

CUT ON DOTTED LINE

FOLD

DELIVER



You're
invited

News from State LWV

Lexington LWV takes position on water issue

The Lexington LWV recently completed a study of public vs. private ownership of the local water utility. The resulting position statement is available on their Web site: <www.lwvky.org/Lexington_LWV/lwvlex.htm> .

Here are some excerpts
“The overriding issue for the members was the importance of local control versus control by an international conglomerate. The League believes that there should be public accountability for both the operations of and use of revenue from the water utility.

- The local urban county council should have oversight of this valuable resource.
- Basic water should be made available to the poor. The procedures for access should be clear and funded.

CONCLUSION: The League

of Women Voters of Lexington favors public ownership of Lexington’s water utility. We further conclude that under any ownership, local citizens should maintain oversight of water resources.

State LWV exploring voting rights for felons

All local presidents will soon receive a packet from state League requesting participation in a mini-study. The goal is to seek consensus regarding a proposed revision of our current policy position on the restoration of voting rights for convicted felons. The outcome will determine the League’s ability to participate with a coalition of organizations lobbying the 2006 legislature for changes to Kentucky law.

State Board meets Jan. 21

Next state board meeting is Jan. 21, 10 a.m., Frankfort. Visitors are welcome. Suburban Park, Bldg. D Suite 103, 1009 Twilight Trail, Frankfort.

— Joan Peoples

CANDIDATE WATCH 2006

This issue of the VOTER includes a copy of our 2006 *A Citizen’s Guide to Local Officials*. You’ll find a handy pocket guide to both elected and appointed officials who run our three major governments in Berea, Richmond and Madison County.

This education project is one of the many long-standing services our local LWV provides the community.

The guide also includes the names and contact information about our state legislators and Congressional representatives.

Hang on to it during the upcoming year. It’s good through December 2006, when the results of local and statewide elections may herald changes.

To keep an eye on who is running in next year’s election, bookmark the Secretary of State’s Web site <http://www.kentuckyregistrar.net/>

According to the Web site, these candidates have already filed for the May primary: The filing deadline is Jan. 31.

- Circuit Clerk, Linda Spurlock Cates
- County Attorney: Marc Robbins
- County Clerk: William E. Gabbard
- Sheriff: Nelson O’Donnell
- District 2 Magistrate: Roger Barger

CUT ON DOTTED LINE FOLD DELIVER

Directions to 400 Jackson St., Berea

From I-75 North, enter Berea at Exit 77 and turn right on to Hwy 595. Continue straight through two stoplights to the four-way stop sign in front of **Boone Tavern**. Make a left on **Hwy 21 (Prospect Street.)** At the bottom of the hill, take a left onto **Forest Street** and follow to the first cross street at the top of the hill. Turn right onto **Jackson Street**. We are the eighth house on the right: a large, white house with black shutters and a swing on the porch. The number 400 is visible from the street.



LWV Holiday Party
Sunday, Dec. 11
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Annriette & Bill Stolte
400 Jackson Street
Berea

Quality of life is what makes region special

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that surpasses an individual community.

Bluegrass Tomorrow has as its goals building places that will be great places to live for the next 50 years. "Of particular concern is not destroying the qualities that make us special," Austin said. The thoroughbred industry is one of the ways we show the world who we are, Austin noted, showing a list of logos and labels where local communities like Richmond have used horses or bluegrass as part of their branding.

"What Kentucky chose for its state quarter was a picture of the Bluegrass. The picture on our drivers license is not Paducah or Pikeville, but the Bluegrass. We can't afford to lose it. If we lose what makes us special, we'll have to change our slogan."

"We can grow; we're going to grow; we should grow, but at the same time we can keep the great things that make us special—our landscape and our heritage. Those things are not mutually exclusive. We can do both: We can prosper and at the same time grow our quality of life."

Austin said the scope and scale of global competition for economic development and for workers is so immense, we can't afford to not work together. "In today's economy, people with knowledge and skills can work from anyplace," Austin said. "Places with a higher quality of life will attract the smartest, most skilled individuals."

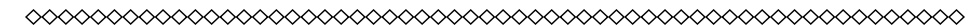
Some ways to protect or revive quality of life?

- Reclaim undervalued and underutilized places, the "greyfields" left behind by big-box stores moving a half-mile down the road.

■ Does this landscape say Bluegrass to you?



South Bluegrass Junction at Exit 90 is the view many travelers get when they stop at Richmond. Despite having streets named Keeneland and Churchill, the area bears little resemblance to the image of the Bluegrass projected in our slogans and advertising.



- Preservation and re-use of historic buildings.

- Development of "greenbelts" to create long-term boundaries between communities.

- Balancing farmland and development with agreements such as "purchase of development rights." Farmers are paid the difference between the value of their land as a farm and the value if it was sold for development.

- People-friendly communities that encourage rather than prohibit pedestrian travel; mixed use development to encourage walking or shorter car trips to shop, schools, etc.

For more about Bluegrass Tomorrow, visit their Web site at <http://www.bluegrasstomorrow.org/>.

Advice from Marionneaux
Ron Marionneaux, who was consul-

tant for all three governments in their comprehensive planning revisions this year, also spoke at the LWV forum.

Land use decisions in Madison County have tended to embrace bigger not better, or quantity not on quality, he noted.

"A perception we need to change is to go from 'my interest' to community interest. As long as you have people who are more interested in making money and doing good for themselves than promoting the general interests of the community, the best laid plans will go astray," Marionneaux warned.

Marionneaux urged planning commissions to look at the big picture especially regarding transportation.

"Too much planning is a piecemeal approach. A lot of time is spent on a development plat and very little time on planning principles."

Candidate workshop draws diverse crowd

Continued from Page One

brary in Richmond for a seminar on running for public office.

The forum, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Berea and Madison County and Eastern Kentucky University's Center for Politics and History, drew an eclectic group of citizens who said they're eager to ramp up their public participation.

The attendees ranged from college students to community activists with more than a touch of gray.

They included an EKU student running for Magoffin County clerk, and his friend who is helping him; a farmer who is wading into what could be a wild race for Garrard County judge-executive; a hopeful candidate for Family Court judge in Eastern Kentucky; an aspiring campaign manager; and several Berea College students who said they want to know more about public service.

For showing up, they received from elected officials and campaign experts a mix of encouragement, advice and cautionary tales about the workload and financial pressures of running.

"It's just like having a baby," Richmond Mayor Connie Lawson said, noting

that the election season is roughly nine months long. "And by the last two weeks you're thinking, 'I don't care if it's a boy or a girl, a yes or a no -- just get me out of this.'"

Berea Mayor Steve Connelly told the group that the key lesson he learned after being trounced by Republican state Rep. Lonnie Napier of Lancaster in 1984 was to not shade responses to appease certain groups.

After that, "I vowed to say what I think, no matter what you think people want to hear," Connelly said.

That advice resonated with David Wilson, a Democrat seeking to run for judge-executive in Garrard County.

Wilson, a 47-year-old farmer and former state mine inspector, said he intends for residents to know precisely where he stands.

Participants also received political advertising wisdom from Tom Skidmore, a Berea-based ad executive who has worked with nearly two dozen judicial, local and state candidates in recent years.

"If you can't look your friends in the eye and ask them for money, you won't get elected."

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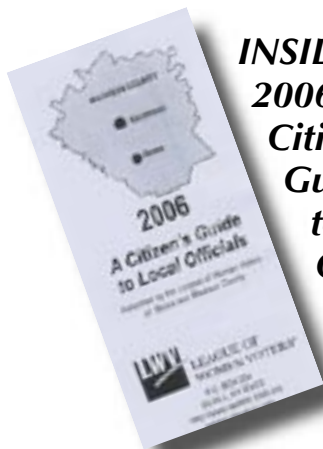
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Citizen's
Guide
to Local
Officials