

THE VOTER

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

KENTUCKY BY THE NUMBERS

Poverty, ignorance, obesity hurt state's future

The good news is that Kentucky has made progress in education — moving up to a ranking of 35 from 43 in 1991 as best educated among states.

But in his Sept. 14 presentation to LWV of Berea and Madison County, the director of Kentucky's Long Term Policy Research Center said the state's future would be brighter if three steps were taken:

- 1) narrow the achievement gap between kids of different socioeconomic backgrounds;
- 2) increase the number of college degree holders;
- 3) encourage healthier lifestyles.

Michael Childress used data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress to show how much stronger Kentucky would be if the big difference between test scores for more-advantaged and less-advantaged kids was eliminated.

NAEP assessments are conducted periodically in mathematics, reading, science, writing, the arts, civics, eco-



Michael Childress proposed three goals to brighten the state's future in Sept. 14 meeting with LWV.

nomics, geography, and U.S. history.

Over half of the state's children qualify for the school lunch program, Childress said, adding that in narrowing the stark differences in socioeconomic status between its children, the state would move to a ranking of sixth among the states.

One strategy then is to get less-ad-

vantaged kids performing at the same level as more advantaged kids.

Childress said school leadership is a key factor in narrowing the achievement gap among more and less advantaged children. "Leadership is key to shaping school cultures that engage and challenge young people academi-

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Local league begins energy consensus study Oct. 12

LWV will explore energy policy options for Kentucky, as part of our 2009 state consensus study on energy efficiency and renewable energy.



Jason Bailey

The two-part program begins 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 12 at the Community Room of the Public Library in Berea with "The Future of Clean Energy Policy in Kentucky."

Jason Bailey, policy director for Mountain Association for Community

Economic Development, will provide a primer on energy efficiency and renewable energy standards, including why they are important energy policy component; what has worked in other states; and what methods may work well in Kentucky.

Bailey joined MACED's staff in 2007 after working as a research consultant to the organization for several years. From 1998-2005, he was a staff

person and then co-director of the Democracy Resource Center, a former MACED affiliate. His work included policy analysis and public education on Kentucky's budget, tax system and economic development policies, as well as research on a variety of state and local issues.

Bailey has a master's in public administration with a specialization in

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Energy, public policy on Oct. 12 agenda

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public finance from New York University.

In Fall 2008 Gov. Steve Beshear and Energy and Environment Secretary Len Peters released a 7-point energy strategy for Kentucky. (See it below.)

Given the League of Women Voters' concerns about the impacts of climate change, rising costs of fossil fuels and

energy security, the LWV of Kentucky decided to convene a consensus study examining energy efficiency and renewable energy policy in our state.

The study will foster more informed engagement on energy policy issues in Kentucky's 2010 legislative session and beyond.

— Elizabeth Crowe

KENTUCKY'S ENERGY POLICY

Strategy 1

Improve the energy efficiency of Kentucky's homes, buildings, industries and transportation fleet.

Goal: Energy efficiency will offset at least 18 percent of Kentucky's projected 2025 energy demand.

Strategy 2

Increase Kentucky's use of renewable energy

Goal: By 2025, Kentucky's renewable energy generation will triple to provide the equivalent of 1,000 megawatts of clean energy while continuing to produce safe, abundant and affordable food, feed and fiber.

Strategy 3

Sustainably grow Kentucky's production of biofuels

Goal: By 2025, Kentucky will derive from biofuels 12 percent of its motor fuels demand, while continuing to produce safe, abundant and affordable food, feed and fiber.

Strategy 4

Develop a coal-to-liquids industry in Kentucky to replace petroleum-based liquids

Goal: Kentucky will develop a coal-to-liquids industry that will use 50 million tons of coal per year to produce four billion gallons of liquid fuel per year by 2025.

Strategy 5

Implement a major and comprehensive effort to increase gas supplies, including coal-to-gas in Kentucky

Goal: Kentucky will produce the equivalent of 100 percent of our annual natural gas requirement by 2025 by augmenting in-state natural gas production with synthetic natural gas from coal-to-gas processing.

Strategy 6

Initiate aggressive carbon capture/sequestration projects for coal-generated electricity in Kentucky

Goal: By 2025, Kentucky will have evaluated and deployed technologies for carbon management, with use in 50 percent of our coal-based energy applications.

Strategy 7

Examine the use of nuclear power for electricity generation in Kentucky

Goal: Nuclear power will be an important and growing component of the nation's energy mix and Kentucky must decide whether nuclear power will become a significant part of meeting the state's energy needs by 2025.

LWV_EVENTS

■ **Monday, 7 p.m. Oct. 12**
MEMBER MEETING "The Future of Clean Energy Policy in Kentucky"
Jason Bailey, Policy Director, Mountain Association for Community Economic Development
Public Library Community Room, Berea

■ **Monday, 6 p.m. Oct. 26**
BOARD MEETING

■ **Monday, 7 p.m. Nov. 9**
MEMBER MEETING
Energy Meeting: Part 2
Public Library Community Room, Berea

VOTER DEADLINES

Oct. 28 for November Voter

The Voter is published monthly September through May by the League of Women Voters of Berea & Madison County.

To report ideas or corrections, contact Voter Editor Libby Fraas <libby.fraas@eku.edu>

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Copies of the Voter are on the Web at <http://lwvbm.org>

OBSERVER CORPS

Reports on local Government Meetings available on our Web site

Energy a hot topic for events in Lexington, Frankfort

LEXINGTON — The League of Women Voters of Lexington will kick off its Dinner and Democracy Series Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Bates Creek Road in Lexington.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. with a program to follow. The cost is \$10 (\$5 cost/\$5 donation).

The program on Energy Efficiency will feature **John Twitchell** and **Jonathan Miller**. Twitchell is vice president of Generation and Transmission, East Kentucky Power Cooperative. EKPC is a member of the UK Center for Applied Research consortium seeking cost-effective technologies to reduce and manage carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired plants.

Miller, secretary of Kentucky's Finance and Administration Cabinet, works with the Clean Energy Corps, a broad-based coalition of public and private sector partners promoting energy-efficient homes, growth of green collar jobs and financing for green construction and renovation.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Reservations are needed and can be made by calling 859-494-3203.

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Division of The United Nations Association (UNA) will celebrate United Nations Day with a noon luncheon in Frankfort on Oct. 23.

Co-Sponsors include YMCA Kentucky Youth Association, Kentucky Federation of Business and Professional Women, American Association of University Women, UNA/Frankfort, UNA/Lexington, UNA/Louisville, Frankfort Rotary Club, Rotary District 6710.

The event will be at The Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort.

The keynote address will be presented by **Energy & Environment Cabinet Secretary Dr. Len Peters** on the topic "Economic Development & Climate Change."

Please RSVP by Oct. 19 (502) 267-6883. Send \$25 check for each lunch. Make Check Payable to KDUNA (KY Division of The United Nations.)

Members can update own contact information on lwwv.org web site

Members can update their own contact information by selecting any webpage from the "For Members" menu on our national website and then selecting the "Update Your Information" menu item.

Login with your personal email address and password, and you will be taken to your "My League" (Your Profile) webpage to change any of your personal contact information.

Select the "Submit Changes" button when you are finished. Using the menu on the left-hand side of the page, you can also subscribe or unsubscribe to any League-sponsored list and/or indicate the issue areas that are of interest to you."

Seeking Board Member

Due to increased responsibilities at work, Denise Hagan has reluctantly resigned from our board. Vice President Cecile Schubert is hoping a member will step up to complete our 2009-2010 board. Contact Cecile at 623.5832 or cecileL@roadrunner.com.

Annual dues now due!

Our roster boasts 61 members. With the new fiscal year beginning in July, many members will need to renew their membership for 2009-2010. Nineteen members renewed at the annual meeting in April, making a good first show. Renewal letters will go out soon to the remainder of the membership or please use the form below to mail in your dues!

— Jeanne Nakawaza



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?

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: _____

Today's Date _____

Degree = healthier, wealthier, wiser

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cally, enrich them socially, and value them individually,” Childress noted. One focus is on changing the role of principal from administrative manager to instructional leader.

States that rank high in the NAEP data include Connecticut, Kansas, Vermont and other states where a larger percentage of the population have bachelor’s degrees. Those states also tend to have higher per capita incomes and lower obesity and smoking rates.

In addition, Childress noted, states with a higher percentage of college degree holders enjoy less crime, have more volunteerism and charitable giving and have a higher percentage of citizens voting.

Childress noted that the average Kentucky adult is around 20 pounds too heavy. As a state, Kentucky ranks 47th on the chronic disease index (Cancer, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, stroke, mental disorders, and pulmonary conditions).

These costly medical conditions can be prevented by healthier lifestyles, he said.

Election Calm before 2010 ‘storm’

In case you haven’t noticed, there are no races on the ballot this November. But brace yourself for a plethora of local, state and national candidates coming to a polling place near you next May.

As the countdown for the January 2010 filing date approaches, here are some of the openings.

- U.S. Senate, to follow retiring U.S. Sen. Jim Bunning;

- U.S. House, all six House districts in the state, including 6th District held by U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler;

- State Senate, even-numbered districts including 34th District held by state Sen. Ed Worley;

- State Officers (governor, lt. governor, secretary of state, attorney general, auditor, state treasurer, commissioner of agriculture)

- State House, all 100 statehouse districts including 81st held by Rep. Harry Moberly

Jr.; 36th held by Rep. Lonnie Napier and 73rd held by Rep. Don Pasley.

- County Offices: Judge Executive, Magistrates, County Clerk, County Attorney, Jailer, Coroner, PVA, Sheriff

Non-partisan races for district judge and the mayor of both Richmond and Berea and positions on the Richmond City Commission and Berea City Council will also be on the ballot in 2010. Two seats on the Madison County School Board and two on the Berea Community School board are also up for election.

The publication “Declaring Your Candidacy” has useful information including candidate filing procedures, sample forms for attaining ballot access, and qualifications for each elective office.

Copies are available on the Office of the Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.ky.gov/elections.

2009-10 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 numbers listed above or by sending an e-mail to lwvbm@yahoo.com to volunteer.



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



Brainstorming an energy/
environmental policy for Ky.
Oct. 12 and Nov. 9