



THE

# VOTER

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

Vol. 41 No. 1 September 2007

<http://lwvbmcc.iclub.org>

## U.S. immigration topic of fall meetings for LWV study

By ELIZABETH CROWE

Following the lead of LWVUS, our local league will study immigration issues and policy, emphasizing its impact on Berea, Richmond and Madison County.

The first meeting is 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27 at the Madison County Public Library in Richmond. The topic is "U.S. Immigration: Exploring Myth, Fact and Values."

Panelists will be **Michael Rivage-Seul** of Berea College's Peace and Social Justice studies; **Freddy Peralta** of Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant Rights and Reform; and **Sandra Anez Powell**, of Kentucky River Foothills.

For more information, please contact Harriet Bromley at 623-5007 or e-mail her at [harriettbromley@bellsouth.net](mailto:harriettbromley@bellsouth.net).

### Reaching consensus

From September to February, LWV of Berea and Madison County will engage in a league "study" process on the topic of immigration. It is important for all league members to participate so



that the national LWV can establish policy recommendations. "Studies" are a process used by league to arrive at consensus on major sociopolitical issues, to enable leagues to advocate policy on the local, state and national levels.

LWVUS adopted the national study and has posted questions and information for members to study before reaching consensus. See the June 2007 National Voter or Web site for information.

The purpose of the immigration study is to help communities understand the

### SCHEDULE

- Sept. 27, 7-9 p.m.: Member meeting, open to the public. Madison County Public Library, Main Street, Richmond.
- September: Distribute immigration materials to members
- September - October: Set-up of immigration resource displays at Madison County Public Libraries
- Oct. 23, 7-9 p.m. Member meeting, open to the public.
- November (TBA) we plan to organize immigration-related films and discussion in November.
- December (TBA): Member holiday gathering and review of consensus questions.
- January (TBA): Members only meeting, final consensus discussion.

implications of immigration at the local, state, and federal level. As part of this project, league members and leaders will explore the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current feder-

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## Candidate forums highlight Oct. schedule

Have you been preparing yourself to vote in the November election? LWV is asking members to submit questions for the candidates to be used in LWV-sponsored candidate forums prior to the Nov. 6 general election.

Locally, LWV of Berea and Madison County is plan-

ning an October forum for the two candidates vying for the 25th Judicial District seat—a new judgeship for Madison and Clark counties.

Earl Ray Neal and David Perdue will be on the ballot. Both candidates participated in our May 7 forum in Richmond co-sponsored with the EKU Center for Kentucky

History and Politics.

The time and date of the forum will be included in the next Voter.

State LWV and the Kentucky Broadcaster's Association are co-sponsoring an Oct. 16 forum with Gov. Ernie Fletcher and his Dem-

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Among current immigrants, family unity is one of the most powerful motivators. During the past 10 years, more than 200,000 persons per year were admitted to the U.S. as beneficiaries of family preference visas. However, many legal permanent residents ("green card holders") are not so fortunate. These individuals, who themselves have waited many years to enter the U.S. legally, often precede their spouses and children to the U.S. in order to find work and housing and save money for the rest of the family. They soon learn that family preference category visa quotas and backlogs can delay the legal reunification of their family in the U.S. for years. The spouse or minor child of a legal permanent resident from Mexico can expect to wait more than a decade to receive a visa to enter the U.S.

## LWV, Berea College students lead immigration discussion

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al immigration policy, and the impact of immigration in American society. Our work will build up to a consensus decision by February 2008.

An initial study committee, comprised of League members **Harriet "Jenny" Bromley, Mary Bell, Jeanne Nakazawa** and me have put together a plan for our local League study, which follows. Assisting with this plan is a political communication class at Berea College, led by Professor Billy Wooten, through a Berea College service learning grant.

League studies can be a lot of work, but are a very important function of the organization, a great way

to help us and our community members understand important issues, meet each other and new members, and can also be a lot of fun.

We are fortunate to have many people in our county and region familiar with the root causes and impacts of immigration and who can assist us through this study process.

To prepare for our Sept. 27 meeting, please check out the LWVBMC Web site at <http://lwvbmc.iclub.org> for a link to short background papers on aspects of the immigration issue. If you do not have Internet access, you'll soon be able to check out these materials at the public library or contact me at 985.0641.

## LWV forums on agenda

*Continued from Page one*

ocratic challenger, Steve Beshear. The 8 p.m. forum will be held at the Capital Plaza Tower Hotel Ballroom in Frankfort and broadcast locally. There will be a limited studio audience, but the event will be presented live on radio and via Web delivery.

Local member Cecile Schubert is fielding questions from LWV members and the public for both events. You can send question directly to Cecile at [cecileL@adelphia.net](mailto:cecileL@adelphia.net) or call her at 623.5832 or to our local LWV e-mail address at [lwvbmc@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvbmc@yahoo.com). Please formulate your questions and send to us by the first week of October.



Earl Ray Neal of Richmond and David Perdue of Winchester are the choices in the Nov. 6 election for the 25th district judge position.

LWVKY is also hosting an Oct. 17 forum in Louisville between candidates for attorney general—Democrat Jack Conway and Republican Stan Lee. The forum is scheduled to start at 6:45 p.m. and last until 8 p.m. Co-sponsors include the Young Professionals of Louisville, the

Junior League of Louisville, and the Marriott hotel.

The non-partisan nature of the LWV's candidate forums are recognized as a valuable source for voters to learn about issues and the candidates and as an important alternative to TV advertising.

## LWV\_EVENTS

- 7 p.m. Sept 27  
**Member Meeting: US Immigration Policy**  
Madison County Public Library, Richmond
- Oct. 16 LWVKY  
**Governor Forum**
- Oct. 23 TBA  
**Member Meeting**
- Nov. 6 Election Day

### VOTER DEADLINES

Oct. 1 for October Voter  
Nov. 1 for November Voter  
Dec. 1 for December 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  
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**Mail information to**  
LWV of Berea & Madison County  
P.O. Box 254, Berea, KY 40403.

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



## Have YOU paid your member dues?

*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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

## M E M B E R U P D A T E S

### Local league plans year's work, sets member goals

Local league held its first board meeting of the 2007-08 year on Aug. 15 at the home of Leigh and Pat Jones in Berea. New board members Jeanne Nakazawa and Mary Bell were given an orientation to LWV activities. The board heard a positive report on membership from LWV member Elise Andre, who reported 83 paid members.

Vice president Yvonne Riding submitted her resignation to the board because of other commitments leaving that officer position open.

LWV member dues are \$40 for individuals and \$60 for family memberships. The membership dues are collected locally and then sent to the national and state leagues to support LWVUS and LWVKY. Member dues pay for the *National Voter*, the quarterly magazine of LWVUS and other materials and programs. Members also have access to the huge amount of information on the national LWV site at <http://lwvus.org>.

The board would like for all members to work on recruitment to bring the local league membership to over 100. Board members are asking local members to volunteer for the Pottery Festival in Richmond and the Spoonbread Festival Sept. 14 and 15 in Berea to help recruit members and register voters.

Contact Elizabeth Crowe at 985.0641.



Members Elise Andre and Mary Bell enjoyed swimming and a pot luck supper at the home of Leigh and Pat Jones in Berea during the board's planning meeting on Aug. 15. The board has set a goal of expanding membership to 100 by year's end.



Congratulations to member **Mae Suramek** and husband on the birth of son **Jack** on July 23.

Change **Elise Andre** email to [eliseandre@yahoo.com](mailto:eliseandre@yahoo.com)

Change **Terri Blanton** email to [t.blanton@roadrunner.com](mailto:t.blanton@roadrunner.com)

Please welcome new members **Mario Nakazawa, Barbara Wade, Sue Hays, Linda Fagan, Joy Frazier, Anna Lou Ritchie.**

# Support sought for Web, voter education

LWV of Berea and Madison County is seeking monetary support from local individuals, organizations and businesses to continue its voter education efforts including candidate forums. Sponsors will also help fund printing of *A Citizen's Guide to Local Officials*, which lists important elected and appointed officials in Richmond, Berea, and Madison County and is a great gift for newcomers to our community.

Donations to support the Citizen's Guides and candidate forums are tax-deductible and should be made payable to **LWVKY Education Fund**. The state



league places funds designated solely for voter education in a special tax-deductible account and handles donor acknowledgment.

General support of local LWV activities which may include lobbying on issues is also needed. For a \$250 contribution, sponsors can be recognized on our popular Web site at <http://lwvbmc.iclub.org> and our newsletter. Mail contributions to LWV, PO Box 254, Berea, KY 40403.

## Help history recall women's contributions

In 1978 the Kentucky Commission on Women initiated a campaign to bring attention to the outstanding contributions women make to Kentucky. The scope of this effort included Kentucky women who have significantly aided the development and

advancement of the Commonwealth, but have generally been omitted from historic accounts.

2007 inductees included Beulah Nunn. As a self-described "professional beggar" for the state, she established the Kentucky Mansion Preservation

Foundation, Inc. and raised needed funds for renovation including the renovation of White Hall, home of emancipationist Cassius Clay in Madison County. KCW is accepting nominations for 2008 inductees. Visit the Web site at <http://www.women.ky.gov/>

### 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](mailto:lwvbmc@yahoo.com) to volunteer.



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

**Sept. 27 meeting**  
**U.S. immigration**  
**what are the**  
**facts?**

