



JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

January's general meeting will be on the topic of subsidized housing. This will be the first in a series of informational meetings about subsidized housing in Champaign County, This meeting will focus on explaining how subsidized housing operates.

Speakers will include: Tonya Crawley, Director of Housing Choice Voucher Program at the Housing Authority of Champaign County, Darlene Koeppel from the Regional Planning Commission, and John Roska, an attorney with Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance.

Please plan to attend and invite anyone from the community that is interested in this topic. This meeting will be a little longer than usual.

www.lwvchampaigncounty.org

JANUARY 2013 MEETING

How Does Subsidized Housing Work?

Where: Urbana City Council Chambers

When: Thursday, January 10, 2013

Brown Bag Lunch: 11:30

Program: Noon-1:30 PM

There will be opportunity for questions.

2012: A great year for Mock Elections

On October 16, 17 and 18, LWVCC, with the active cooperation of County Clerk Gordy Hulten and the eight high school teacher coordinators, held Mock Elections with eight of the nine public high schools in Champaign County. The Clerk arranged for voting booths, real ballots and tabulators; and the in school coordinators worked with curriculum, school schedules and encouraging teenagers to be active civically in order to have a day that resulted in so many of them voting. 3100 of the 6400 students at these schools participated, for a total turnout of 49%, not counting absentee students.

The following are quick snapshots, definitely not complete descriptions of the wonderful experiences all of us had in the rush of these mock elections. It is always fun to be in the high schools and feel the energy of the kids, while being thankful for the teachers and staff who are professionally engaged with them each day.

On Tuesday, October 16, we held elections at Centennial, Central and Fisher high schools. At Centennial, everything went rather smoothly with some backup due to too few (cardboard) voting booths and one tabulator.

Since there were about 60-80 voters scheduled for each of periods 4, 5 and 7, we needed more booths, and we will ask for more equipment next time. Turnout was about 53% of the juniors and seniors. *continued on page 2*

**League of Women Voters of Champaign
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Do you have friends or acquaintances who might be interested in the League? Share your newsletter! We will add them for three months to the mailing list for *the Voter*. Email lwv.il.cc@gmail.com or call Sue Phillips at 359-8818 or Margaret Olson at 344-6390 with the name of anyone who might be interested.

**LWVCC STUDY - CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM NEEDS**

The Champaign County Board recently approved the contract of a consulting firm to evaluate the county's incarceration needs. This study will include facilities, policies, and alternatives. With all the discussion regarding the old and new jails and the contracting of the consulting firm, it seems like a good time for the League to conduct its own study regarding a wide range of criminal justice issues.

Please consider joining this important study. For more information please contact Michelle Petty at pettyml@gmail.com or 217-766-9677.

Mock Elections

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Librarian Cynthia Helms kindly loaned us her student intern to help identify the students checking in; Chelsea helped expedite the process. She is a lovely young lady who will graduate in May and attend a college in Tennessee on a basketball scholarship.

Teacher Tiffany Gholson-Johnson at Central did an extraordinary job. Central held the election in the library and she used an adjoining small auditorium with stadium seating, a DVD projector and screen for the signing in. She utilized a short DVD on the history of voting rights in America, which emphasized the effort that was needed for each subsequent group to obtain that right. She also gave her own pep talk and explanation of the process. Since the students were seated in rows, she paced their progress to the polling place by calling one row at a time. Turnout was about 90% of the 11th and 12th and 45% of the 9th and 10th grades. This school also had an African American student group very engaged with this mock election.

Lois and Ernie Gullerud returned to Fisher Junior/Senior High School, where they had served in 2010. With the leadership of Robert Lindsey the teachers and the 190 students at Fisher were very enthusiastic participants. Turnout was 73%. The smaller schools like Fisher offer another good atmosphere to provide the education for the students by virtue of their going through the voting experience exactly like the 18+ year olds in their community do.

The election at St. Joseph/Ogden High went very well also. Social Science Coordinator Marshall Schacht had plenty of student volunteers. Mr. Schacht engaged the students in a discussion of the voting process and the Presidential debate. He encouraged them to express their own reactions to the debate and to the arguments of the two candidates.

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Membership Form – League of Women Voters of Champaign County

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Include this email address in the League Membership Directory? YES NO (please circle one)

Please circle the type of membership: Individual Dues* \$65.00 Student Dues* \$5.00
Household Dues* \$97.5 #NEW Member Due \$32.50 #New Household Dues \$48.75

Please make checks payable to LWVCC, and mail to: Sue Phillips, 1018 W William, Champaign, IL 61821

#Dues for new members, for one year, are half the amount paid by continuing members.

*Dues and donations are not tax deductible as charitable contributions from your federal income tax return. You may, however, make a tax deductible contribution to the Education Fund (of LWVCC) by writing a separate check made payable to "LWVIL Education Fund". Please include "Champaign County" on the memo line of your check.

Check your Voter mailing label for the month your membership dues are payable.

Mock Elections

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There were about five regular voting booths and five cardboard booths. They had a very good turnout and the student volunteers encouraged everyone in the lunch hour periods to come and vote. Two seniors came by and asked to serve at the tabulators. By noon all our volunteers were able to leave. Turnout was 72%.

That afternoon, elections were held at Heritage High School in Broadlands. The 160 students there live in Broadlands, Allerton, Longview and the surrounding rural areas. Teacher Kami White at Heritage was also very organized and had 4-5 student volunteers. She handled the tabulator position. Since everything was moving so smoothly without her help, the League volunteer left about 2:15. Turnout was 95%.

Urbana Social Science Chair Michael Pollock invited all of the English teachers to bring their classes to the cafeteria. Turnout was a fun fast 70%. Our take away from UHS was that we needed more of our volunteers in the morning because the students were not able to be involved in registration. We had some scrambling but everyone voted!! Urbana was one of two schools that took advantage of Ms Susan Short's International students at Parkland. She had initiated the contact with the League in order to involve the student in both the mock elections and the candidate forums we were running

At RTHS voter turnout was 36%, but this was the first time for them and was only held in the Government classes. The Government teacher and Social Science department head were very enthusiastic and have great ideas about how to involve many more of the students the next time.

Mahomet Seymour High School had a short day for its elections. However, Mr. Hersom was his usual organizing self, bringing in the crowds and using his class students to register the students. The election was held in the gym/auditorium and if there had not been a short day many more students would have been voting since they normally vote during gym class and there were no gym classes. A short term problem with a tabulator was solved as soon as the County Clerk's office could get there. Meanwhile the students found out about Ballot Boxes and the importance of holding on to their ballots from the time they get them through the time they are officially deposited by them. Turnout at MSHS was 88% of the Juniors and Seniors.

Our thanks go to our League members, the International Student Scholars from Parkland and other community volunteers. We were especially pleased that we were able to entice brand new members to this voting activity. And, we are looking forward to the Fall 2014 Mock Elections sponsored by Illinois Student Vote.

Essential to both this Mock Election set and the candidates forums was our Voter Services chair Carole Rebeiz. Thank you Carole!

League of Women Voters of Champaign County
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BOARD MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

TIME: 12PM-1:30PM

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, JANUARY 10TH

TIME: NOON-1:30PM, PROGRAM

11:30 BROWN BAG LUNCH

LOCATION: URBANA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOPIC: HOW DOES SUBSIDIZED HOUSING WORK

BOARD MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, JANUARY 17TH

TIME: 12PM-1:30PM

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

www.lwvchampaigncounty.org

LWVCC Volunteer Opportunities

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

We need Committee Chairs for:

Action

Budget

Contact Corrie at 359-4959 or

corrieproksa@gmail.com, if you are interested or
have questions about what this volunteer
commitment requires.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM NEEDS STUDY COMMITTEE

If you are interested in participating in the Jail
Study Committee, please contact Michelle Petty at
217-766-9677 or pettym1@gmail.com.

OBSERVER CORPS BOARD WATCHER
Urbana Park District
Urbana Planning Commission

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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