



# THE VOTER

**Newsletter of the  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF THE WILLIAMSBURG AREA**

*Celebrating our 48<sup>th</sup> Year*

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P.O. Box 1086, Williamsburg, VA 23187-1086

November 2011

[www.lwvwilliamsburg.org](http://www.lwvwilliamsburg.org)

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## **The League of Women Voters of Greater Williamsburg Fall Breakfast Lecture**

**Tuesday, November 15, 2011 8:00AM**

**Our speaker will be Gordon Morse**

Past Associate Editor of the Virginian-Pilot and editorial writer for the Daily Press

**The Capitol Pancake and Waffle House**

*(please notice change of venue)*

802 Capitol Landing Rd., Williamsburg

Breakfast buffet \$10.00 per person including drinks, tax and gratuity

*Open to League members and their guests only*

**RSVP by November 10 to:**

Nancy Clarke, 757-229-2536, [njcpriebe@gmail.com](mailto:njcpriebe@gmail.com)

Val Nelson, 757-229-1904, [iiimnnaldy@aol.com](mailto:iiimnnaldy@aol.com)



## **Holiday Celebration**

Help usher in the Holiday Season with your League friends!

Friday, **December 2, 2011** from 5:00-7:00PM

Location: Port Anne Clubhouse

(Directions: South Henry St. (Rte. 132) to William Way, into Port Anne, Bear left to clubhouse)

\$5 per person – pay at the door

RSVP by November 30 to Shirley Smith 757-208-0353 [shirley.smith@us.army.mil](mailto:shirley.smith@us.army.mil)

**Please join us and bring a friend!**





## Note from the President

*Kathy Pickering, President*

Several of us attended the State League workshops on Saturday, September 17. There were several excellent programs and workshops, including Advocacy, Marketing through Social Media, Presidents Workshop and Voter Service. The luncheon speaker was Kathy Gilstrap from the University of Richmond, talking about Fund Raising. Attending were: Mary Swain, Linda Rice, Barbara Worthen and Kathy Pickering.

Many thanks to Shirley Smith for organizing our Kick-Off reception and welcome for new members on September 23. Thirty-six members attended, and we heard briefings from Barbara Worthen on Voter Service, Sharon Kiefer on Education, and Shirley Smith on Special Events.

Also many many thanks to Barbara Worthen for all her hard work on organizing the four Candidates' Forums in October. These were recorded and are being replayed on Cox's Channel 48 frequently until November 8. To re-cap, they were:

- October 19 – Senate District One – Mickey Chohany (R) vs John Miller (D) (inc.)
- October 20 – JCC Roberts District – Jack Fraley (R) vs John McGlennon (D)
- October 26 – JCC Berkeley District – Mary Jones (R) (inc) vs Carlton Stockton (D)
- October 27 – House of Delegates, 83<sup>rd</sup> District – Mike Watson (R) vs Robin Abbott (D) (inc)

**Now, don't forget to vote on Tuesday, November 8!**

Other dates to remember:

- \*\*Tuesday, November 15: Breakfast meeting, with speaker Gordon Morse
- \*\*Friday, December 2: Holiday party
- \*\*Thursday, December 8: Pre-session Roundtable at the Capitol. (Note the date change from Dec 7.
- \*\*January 19: Education Committee Open Meeting with Dr. Steve Staples.

I hope all of you are having a great Fall.

*Kathy*

Kathy Pickering, President, LWV-WA

## Where do you Vote THIS year and Who is on your ballot??

Many changes have been made to voting districts and voting locations within the City and both York and James City County.

“Over 85 percent of James City County voters are directly affected by the redistricting plan through one or more of the following changes: Virginia State Senate District; Virginia State House of Delegates District; James City County Local Election District; or Polling Place.” June 24, 2011, Press Release: “*James City County Voter and Election Redistricting receives Department of Justice preclearance*”

Williamsburg City has redistributed voters between their two voting locations and “because of the redistricting by the State of Virginia in 2011, beginning with the November 8 General Election, the City will be located in the 93rd House of Delegates District and the 1st Senatorial District of Virginia.” *Williamsburg City government web site.*

For information please check with your local registrar. You can verify your voting location, registration status, see sample ballots and identify which candidates are on your ballot.

For Williamsburg City Voter Registrar

Phone: 757-220-6157

Web:

<http://www.williamsburgva.gov/Index.aspx?page=45>

For James City County Voter Registrar

Phone: 757-253-6868

Web: <http://www.jccgov.com/voter/index.html>

For York County Voter Registrar

Phone: 757-890-3440

Web:

<http://www.yorkcounty.gov/Default.aspx?alias=www.yorkcounty.gov/voting>

In addition, the Virginia State Board of Elections' web site has a great deal of information. See <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov> follow the link directly to Voter Information at [http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter\\_Information](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter_Information)

**Please encourage your friends and neighbors to verify their voting locations!**



**Candidates**

There are many sources of information on the candidates for this November’s election, including the candidates campaign web sites that provide background and position information.

The following are candidates for November 8 General Election: *(the candidates are listed in the same order they appear on ballots within their specific race.)*

**VA Senate – 1<sup>st</sup> District**

- Mickey P. Chohany (R)  
Campaign Phone: 757-377-4471  
Web Site: [www.mickeyforsenate.com](http://www.mickeyforsenate.com)
- John C. Miller (D) (incumbent)  
Campaign Phone: 757-634-3113  
Web Site: [www.senatorjohnmiller.com](http://www.senatorjohnmiller.com)

**VA Senate – 3<sup>rd</sup> District**

- Thomas K. Norment, Jr. (R)  
Campaign Phone: 757-259-7810  
Web Site: [www.senatornorment.com](http://www.senatornorment.com)
- NO CHALLENGE

**VA House of Delegates – 93<sup>rd</sup> District**

- Michael B. “Mike” Watson (R)  
Campaign Phone 757-645-5298  
Web Site: [www.watsonfordelegate.com](http://www.watsonfordelegate.com)
- Robin A. Abbott (D) (Incumbent)  
Campaign Phone 757-220-3713  
Web Site: [www.robinabbott.com](http://www.robinabbott.com)

**VA House of Delegates – 96<sup>th</sup> District**

- Brenda L. Pogge (R)  
Campaign Phone: 757-223-9690  
Web Site: [www.brendapogge.com](http://www.brendapogge.com)
- NO CHALLENGE

**JCC – Commissioner of Revenue**

- Bruce C. Goodson (R)  
Campaign Phone 757-880-3142  
Web: [www.goodson.org](http://www.goodson.org)
- Richard W. Bradshaw (D)  
Campaign Phone: 757-566-4117  
Facebook: Bradshaw-for-Commissioner

**JCC – Board of Supervisors, Berkeley**

- Mary K. Jones (R)  
Campaign Phone: 757-871-5334  
Email: [maryjones@cox.net](mailto:maryjones@cox.net)
- Carlton A. Stockton (D)  
Campaign Phone: 757-258-8727  
Web: [www.stocktonforsupervisor.com](http://www.stocktonforsupervisor.com)

**JCC – Board of Supervisors, Roberts**

- Jack L. Fraley, Jr. (R)  
Campaign Phone: 757-253-0903  
Email: [jlfraley@cox.net](mailto:jlfraley@cox.net)
- John J. McGlennon (D)  
Campaign Phone: 757-220-0568  
Web: [www.johnmcglennon.com](http://www.johnmcglennon.com)

**York - Board of Supervisor District 1**

- Walter “Walt” Zaremba (R) (incumbent)  
Campaign Phone 757-253-0477  
Facebook: Walt-Zaremba-Board-of-Supervisor
- Tony Joseph Jr. (D)  
Campaign Phone: 757-746-9095  
Web: [www.TonyJ4VA.com](http://www.TonyJ4VA.com)

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**Fall Breakfast Lecture**

Valerie Nelson, member LWV-WA

**Tuesday, November 15, 2011**  
8:00 AM

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## Education Committee

Judith Snoke Montgomery LWV and Sharon Kiefer  
Williamsburg LWV

*As the sun sets on **No Child Left Behind**, what might we expect the morning to bring?*

No Child left behind will reach the end of its authorization in 2014. By that date, schools failing to reach the mandated standards are expected to close, some staff, to be fired. Some underperforming schools and administrators have already been eliminated. Stringent penalties for failure to meet annual progress standards have led to test prep cramming and outright cheating in some school systems. Criticism of the program itself holds that its skill-based instruction has focused on reading, math, and test preparation at the expense of content especially in science, literature, history, foreign languages, and the arts. This may be the cause of the decline in reading scores between fourth and eighth grades. Assessments have relied heavily on normative, multiple choice testing. The students are ranked by score rather than by competence. In addition, there is actually no national standard for curriculum or assessment. The financing of public education has historically been a local responsibility with state funding to balance inequities in local ability to raise money through taxation. There is relatively little Federal money available, only about 10.2 percent of all spending on education is Federal. Federal money tends to support specific programs, which it may not fund fully. Our schools have most likely never been adequately financed to meet all community needs for early childhood education, special needs children, or English language learners. Indeed, social equity may be a prerequisite of successful outcomes. This can impact both the curriculum content and the adequacy of funding across the nation. The Obama administration introduced the Race to the Top in 2009 – a competition for \$4.5 million earmarked for educational innovation. Among the criteria were:

- \*\*\*Demonstrate significant commitment to education reform in all areas,
- \*\*\*Lift the cap on the formation of charter schools,
- \*\*\*Adopt and implement the Common Core Curriculum.

Common Core Curriculum is being developed by the National Governors Association in conjunction with

teachers, parents and academics. Its development is funded in part by the Gates and Mott Foundations. Virginia and Texas have not joined the initiative, which is in its earliest days of development and implementation in forty-four states at this time.

As a project of state governors seeking eligibility for federal funding, it has multiple objectives: enhancing national competitiveness through academic rigor; introducing competitive career ladders for teachers; changing current tenure and salary policies; promoting accountability, including assessment of teachers and principals; supporting school charters, including profit-making enterprises; revitalizing teacher training and textbook production; and above all, cutting costs. In short, something for everyone in the game: educators, entrepreneurs, public officials, and politicians. Traditionally, who pays the piper – in this case the governors – calls the tune. The Common Core Curriculum initiative draws together a number of not necessarily complementary strands in American education. The curriculum is based on educators' faith in the power of a rich and varied curriculum with more books, and fewer high stakes tests. Its development and administration is in the hands of the states in a nation often divided over the content of science and history curricula – a nation where the individual states are financially distressed. It supports the formation of charter schools although they have yet to show a distinct advantage over public schools. Its supporters advocate changes in personnel measures that will certainly be resisted by teacher groups. As parents, taxpayers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders, this is a program to watch because this is our future.

The LWV of the Williamsburg Area, as part of the National League study, is currently studying scope of the federal role in education as well as tracking the legislative process currently taking place in Congress regarding the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind. The League Education Committee is holding an open meeting on January 19, 3:00pm at the Williamsburg Library. Dr. Steve Staples, Adjunct Professor of Education, College of W&M and former Superintendent of York County Public Schools, will discuss NCLB as well as the current content of the reauthorization legislation now in Congress.



### LWV-WA Candidate Forums

Many thanks to Barbara Worthen and her team for organizing and executing the Candidate Forums. These forums provide a way for the voter to hear candidate's positions. We were able to provide Forums for several races this year. The photo above was taken at the Forum for JCC Board of Supervisor race for Roberts District. The photo includes the moderator Jeanne Zeidler (former Mayor of Williamsburg and long-time league member) the two candidates, Jack Fraley and John McGlennon plus Chair of Voter Services Barbara Worthen. This Candidates Forum is airing daily on JCC TV (Cox Cable Channel 48) at 9 a.m., 12 noon, and 7 p.m. until Election Day, Nov. 8. It is also available on the County's You Tube channel, [www.youtube.com/jamescitycounty](http://www.youtube.com/jamescitycounty).

The picture below is from the VA Senate District 1 Forum and shows challenger Mickey Chohany and Senator John Miller.

Our forums are well attended and much appreciated by the community. The League works hard to provide a non-partisan environment where voters can evaluate their candidates. We are proud of our contribution to the election process.



Photos by David Scherer- LWVWA Publicity



### Constitutional Conversations

The Williamsburg Area League of Women Voters is a co-sponsor in the upcoming *Constitutional Conversations*. This is a non-partisan, community-based education project organized by William and Mary's Student Division of the Institute of Bill of Rights Law. Below you will find the dates and titles of the events. These events will be hosted at the Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland Street and will begin at 6:30pm.

For additional details visit the web site <http://constitutionalconversations.org>.

November 3, 2011 *Are Judges Political? Judicial Review and Theories of Constitutional Interpretation*

December 1, 2011 *The Federal Legislative Power*

January 19, 2012 *The Federal Executive Power*

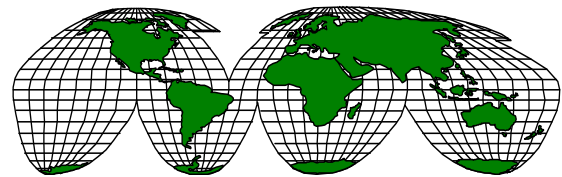
February 2, 2012 *The Structure of the Constitution's Protection of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties*

March 1, 2012 *The States and American Federalism*

April 5, 2012 *Economic Liberties*

May 3, 2012 *Workshop Wrap Up*

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### Great Decisions Registration Forms

The Great Decisions Lectures are scheduled for Tuesday mornings in February and March. This lecture series always sells out quickly. League members who have renewed for the 2011-2012 year will receive registration forms for the lectures by December 1<sup>st</sup>. To ensure receipt of tickets, please return registration form, with payment quickly



## Mark Your Calendar!!

For full calendar of events see [www.lwvwilliamsburg.org/calendar.html](http://www.lwvwilliamsburg.org/calendar.html)

### 2011

- November 3            **Constitutional Conversations, *Are Judges Political? Judicial Review and Theories of Constitutional Interpretation***, Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm
- November 8            **General Election**
- November 15          Breakfast Meeting, 8:00am, The Capitol Pancake and Waffle House
- December 1            **Constitutional Conversations, *The Federal Legislative Power***, Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm
- December 2            LWV-WA Holiday Party, 5:00pm
- December 7            LWVWA Board Meeting, 4:00pm
- December 8            Pre-session Women’s Roundtable, Richmond

### 2012

- January 11            VA General Assembly Convenes, Richmond
- January 19            LWV-WA Education Committee - Open Meeting: “No Child Left Behind and Pending Legislation”, Dr. Steve Staples, Williamsburg Library, 3:00pm
- Constitutional Conversations, *The Federal Executive Power***, Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm
- February 2            **Constitutional Conversations, *The Structure of the Constitution’s Protection of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties***, Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm
- February 7, 14, 21, 28 **Great Decisions Lecture**, Williamsburg Library
- March 1                **Constitutional Conversations, *The States and American Federalism***, Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm
- March 6,13,20,27    **Great Decisions Lecture**, Williamsburg Library
- April 5                 **Constitutional Conversations, *Economic Liberties***, Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm

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**LWV of the Williamsburg Area serves the people of greater Williamsburg and surrounding areas.** The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government at all levels. We do this in two ways: one is through Voters Service activities that provide nonpartisan information and programs to the public; the other is through our advocacy activities on issues we have studied.

### Who are the members?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages. Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

### Why should I join?

Through participation in League projects, you will

- contribute valuable service to the community
- gain knowledge and experience through the study and discussion of timely and important topics
- discover new interests, develop new skills and learn about crucial issues in your community
- make professional contacts and develop lasting friendships as you meet others in League who share your interests