

# Lighthouse

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND/ BLUFFTON AREA



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## NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING 10:00 A.M WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012 HILTON HEAD PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT MEETING ROOM 21 OAK PARK DRIVE (OFF MATHEWS DRIVE, HILTON HEAD ISLAND)

Topic: **“State of Education in the State of South Carolina with an Emphasis on Beaufort County Schools.”**

The League State Education Committee plans to provide materials to assist local Leagues in reaching consensus on their two-year study “Evaluating and Retaining Effective Teachers in Our Public Schools.” Unfortunately, preparation of the materials has been delayed, and they will not be available in time for our meeting on November 14.

Therefore, the Education Committee of the LWVHHI/BA has decided to use the occasion of our November meeting to discuss the general “State of Education in the State of South Carolina with an Emphasis on Beaufort County Schools.” First, an overview of how teachers are currently supposed to be assessed by the ten performance standards set by the state evaluation ADEPT and SAFE-T will be provided by the Education Committee member Beth Fox, who counts more than 20 years experience in the Beaufort County Schools as both a teacher and an administrator. Moreover, she will explain how the evaluation must be judged by a trained team of assessors as well as the teacher being evaluated. Pamela Hollinger will then facilitate a discussion of the plethora of issues as presented by various Education Committee members.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the state consensus questions will be distributed with the promise of the electronic forwarding of all background materials the State League provides, with the hope that we will be able to schedule a consensus meeting in the spring or fall of 2013.

## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

**Wednesday, December 12, 2012  
MOSS CREEK CLUBHOUSE  
11:30 a.m.**

**Guest Speaker: Wm. Weston J. Newton**

Celebrate the holidays by enjoying good food, socializing with Leaguers and guests, and listening to an excellent and knowledgeable speaker. It should be very interesting to hear what Mr. Newton has to say as he concludes thirteen years of service on the Beaufort County Council, including ten years as chairman, and gets ready to start representing the new District 120 in the S.C. House of Representatives. Members and guests are invited to attend.

For reservation information, please see page 6.

## From the President



Thank you to our forum moderators Sally McGarry, Joan Kinne-Shulman, Pamela Hollinger, and Kevin Schoneman who did an outstanding job this past month. With careful timing, we managed to hold forums for all contested races in the Hilton Head/Bluffton area with the exception of the U.S. House of Representatives District 1 race. Next time!

Needless to say, we were busy, but I think we have raised our profile a bit, especially in the Bluffton area where they do not know us as well. I'd also like to thank our timekeepers, Barbara Swift, Greg Hollinger, Dot Law, and Katie Miller. Janet Law and Julie Wittig also deserve our thanks for pitching in. It truly takes a village to organize and staff the forums!

The voter photo identification law was upheld in federal court with the understanding that those who are unable to obtain the required photo ID are able to sign a form stating such and cast a ballot. In any case, the federal court deemed it too close to this year's election to go into effect, and so we will not be under new rules until sometime next year. We await instruction from the board of elections as to how to proceed with voter registration efforts.

In this month's issue you will find the invitation to our yearly holiday luncheon. Please take a moment to send in your reservation before you get too busy with Thanksgiving and the other holidays. Join us for another lovely meal and an informative session with Weston New-



LWVHHI/ BLUFFTON  
President  
Karen Wessel

ton.

Lastly, a special thank you goes to Fran Holt, who penned our recent letter to the editor regarding our league's support for the Critical and Rural Lands Referendum.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our November 14 general membership meeting.

Karen Wilber Wessel  
President, LWVHHI/BA

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## LWVHHI/BA ADVOCATES FOR LAND PRESERVATION REFERENDUM

Our League board followed up on what we learned at meetings and on the September 12 bus tour by voting unanimously to support the Rural and Critical Lands Program Countywide Bond Referendum and to advocate on its behalf. This decision was based on the determination that the program is consistent with national, state and local League positions on natural resources. Action has included Karen Wessel's promotion of the referendum when interviewed by WHHI, distributing information at candidates' forums, writing letters to the editor and tentatively planning on placing ads in local newspapers. We have also asked Garrett Budds, Conservation Director for the Beaufort County Open Land Trust, to explain the program and answer any questions following the **County Council District 7 Forum scheduled for 7:00 p.m., October 30, at Bluffton Town Hall. VOTE FOR THIS REFERENDUM** and tell your friends and family to do so too.

# STATE AND COUNTY REFERENDA ON NOVEMBER 6 BALLOT

## State Amendment 1

Beginning with the general election of 2018, must Section 8 of Article IV of the Constitution of this State be amended to provide that the Lieutenant Governor must be elected jointly with the Governor in a manner prescribed by law; and upon the joint election to add Section 37 to Article III of the Constitution of this State to provide that the Senate shall elect from among the members thereof a President to preside over the Senate and to perform other duties as provided by law, to delete Sections 9 and 10 of Article IV of the Constitution of the State containing inconsistent provisions providing that the Lieutenant Governor is President of the Senate ex officio, and while presiding in the Senate, has no vote, unless the Senate is equally divided; to amend Section 11 to provide that the Governor shall fill a vacancy in the Office of Lieutenant Governor by appointing a successor with the advice and consent of the Senate; and to amend Section 12 of Article IV of the Constitution of this State to conform appropriate references?

**Explanation**—A ‘Yes’ vote will require, from 2018 onward, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor to run on the same ticket and be elected to office jointly. As a result, the Lieutenant Governor will no longer preside over the Senate and the Senate will elect their presiding officer from within the Senate body.

A ‘No’ vote maintains the current method of electing the Governor and Lieutenant Governor separately. The Lieutenant Governor shall continue to serve as President of the Senate.

## County Referenda

### Change in Form of Government Countywide Referendum

Should the form of Beaufort County’s government be changed from that of a Council Administrator form of government as set forth in S.C. Code of Laws Title 4, Chapter 9, Article 7 (1976, as amended) to that of a Council Manager form of government as set forth in S.C. Code of Laws, Title 4, Chapter 9, Arti-

cle 9 (1976, as amended) and provide for the appointment of the County Treasurer and County Auditor?

**Explanation**--A vote of YES means the voter is in favor of changing the current form of government to a Council Manager form of government, which provides for the appointment of the County Treasurer and County Auditor.

A vote of NO means the voter is opposed to changing the current form of government, and wishes to retain the current Council Administrator form of government, which provides for the election of the County Auditor and County Treasurer.

### Rural and Critical Lands Program Countywide Bond Referendum

Shall Beaufort County, South Carolina issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed \$25,000,000, representing a borrowing that at no time shall exceed 1 mill in debt service repayment, for the purpose of land preservation, by purchasing open land, development rights

*(Continued on page 7)*



Visit our web Site

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

## Membership

Thank you to **Kim Likins** and **Jan Billingslea** for renewing their membership with the League. A special welcome back also goes to **Claudia Kennedy** and **Harold Hadley** for rejoining our league. We’ve missed you both and are delighted to have you back. Thank you all for continuing to support LWV.

We’re always in recruitment mode so I hope you are spreading the word about the LWV and inviting folks you know to join us. Please continue to share our newsletter (via email) with a friend who might be interested in joining the League. Also, be sure to pick up a membership brochure at the next meeting so

you will have one on hand to give to a prospective member. We’re holding steady at 102 members and I know with your help that we can top that number. Go League!

November 14th is our next membership meeting and I hope you will save the date and make plans to attend.

These monthly meetings are a great way to be informed on current issues. Join in the discussion and express your views. Your opinion counts.

**Pamela Hollinger**, Education Committee Chair, will lead us in a discussion of some important education issues. More details about the meeting are on page 1.

The annual holiday luncheon is scheduled December 12. Please mark your calendar and make your reservation soon. Last year many of you invited a guest to the luncheon. We had a great turnout and wonderful time. Further details about the annual holiday party are included in this issue.

Finally, if you would like to volunteer to help at the membership table on November 14th or at any other monthly meeting to welcome members and guests, please let me know (706-3735 or [wittig4@hargray.com](mailto:wittig4@hargray.com)). You will definitely get to know the

membership by saying hello and welcoming folks to our meetings.

**Be sure to vote  
on November 6, 2012.**

Have a Happy  
Thanksgiving.

Julie Wittig  
Membership Chair

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

## Save All Votes LWVSC Voter Campaign

Register & Vote!  
Your Future Depends on It.

Identification Needed to Vote in  
South Carolina in 2012

### **The new SC Voter Photo ID Law is NOT in effect for the 2012 General Election.**

Those voting in-person must provide one of the same forms of ID required in previous elections:

- S.C. Driver's License, or
- S.C. DMV ID Card, or
- S.C. Voter Registration Card (without photo)

**If you don't have your ID when you Vote in person in 2012 ask to vote a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots are counted on the Thursday after the election. To make sure your vote is counted, go to your county election office with identification. Ask the poll manager for information.**

#### **Please Note:**

If you registered to vote by mail, are voting for the first time, and did not submit proof of identity with your registration application, you'll need to show additional ID to vote. This ID may include a driver's license, current utility bill, paycheck, or bank statement that shows your name and address in the county where you are registered to vote.

### **Beginning in 2013, Photo ID**

Beginning in 2013, the new law requires that in-person voters show one of the following forms of ID, which cannot be expired: a passport, military ID card, a driver's license or photo ID card issued by the S.C. DMV, or a photo voter registration card obtained from the voter's county election office.

However, South Carolina's new law allows voters who do not have one of these forms of ID to vote in person! Voters with the non-photo voter registration card used prior to 2013 can still use that to vote. They must sign an affidavit at the polling place and state the reason that they have not obtained a photo ID. Act R54's "reasonable impediment" provision allows a broad interpretation of acceptable reasons for not having a photo ID (for example, I was working; I am unemployed and looking for work; I didn't have transportation or money to get to the county office; I was taking care of my family). Election officials must accept a voter's reasonable impediment unless there is evidence that it is false.

### **How to Obtain a Free S. C. Voter Photo Identification Card From the County Voter Registration and Elections Office:**

A voter may obtain a free photo voter registration card by presenting a current non-photo voter registration card at his or her county Voter Registration Office. Alternatively, a citizen who is already registered may verbally confirm his or her date of birth and the last four digits of his or her Social Security number, or present any photo ID, utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows his or her name and address.

*Continued on next page.*

This card will not expire, and may be used as long as the photo is recognizable.

### **How to Obtain a Free S. C. Voter Photo Identification Card From from the SC Department of Motor Vehicles:**

A citizen obtaining a free photo ID through the S.C. DMV must present a certified birth certificate and social security card to any DMV branch. Additional documents may be required. A photo ID obtained through the DMV must be renewed every 10 years.

Go to [www.scdmvonline.com](http://www.scdmvonline.com) or call 803-896-5000 for details.

### **Voting on election Day**

Polling places are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day. Anyone in line at 7 p.m. will be allowed to vote. A voter's polling place and districts are found on the blue voter registration card or at [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org).

### **Absentee Voting**

Many citizens can vote absentee, which does not require photo ID. There are 11 acceptable reasons for voting absentee, in person at a voter's county election office, or by mail. See [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org) for further information on this option. The basic process is as follows:

- Request an absentee ballot application from your County Voter Registration Office. Make the request in person, by phone, mail, email, or fax, any time during the year of the election.
- Return the completed application to your county voter registration office as quickly as possible, and no later than 5:00 PM on the 4<sup>th</sup> day prior to the election. You may return the application by mail, email, or fax.
- You will be mailed an absentee ballot.
- When you receive the ballot, mark it as you want to vote. Follow instructions on the ballot exactly. Anyone who knows you may sign as the witness.
- Return the ballot to your county voter

registration office, in person or by mail. The ballot must be received at the county voter registration office by 7 P.M. on the day of the election.

- Use the correct address for your county voter registration office and include your name and address as written on your voter registration card.
- Don't delay applying for your absentee ballot. Apply several weeks or even months ahead of time!

### **How to register to Vote in SC**

IF you are a U.S. citizen, a permanent resident of your county, and 18 years of age on or by Election Day, you may register, at least 30 days before Election Day:

**In person:** Visit your County Voter Registration Office to complete forms and provide identification. Contact information is in the Blue Pages of the phone book and at [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org).

**On-line:** You may register on-line at [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org).

**By Mail:** Call your County Voter Registration Office for a form, or download a form from [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org) and submit by mail.

**At a DMV or Department of Social Services and other public assistance agency branch offices:** Complete the voter registration application and show proper ID.

Your S.C. Voter Registration Card without photo will be mailed to you. The card will state where you are assigned to vote. Once Voter Photo ID is available through your county election office, you can go there to exchange the non-photo card for a photo ID.

### **IMPORTANT**

### **Special for College Students and Ex-offenders**

Please see Column on page 7 for special information on voting in 2012.



# STATE AND COUNTY REFERENDA ON NOVEMBER 6 BALLOT



*(Continued from page 3)*

and conservation easements in all areas of Beaufort County, in order to alleviate traffic congestion in high growth areas and to protect water quality, natural lands, wildlife areas, farmland, parkland, recreational areas, coastal areas, rivers and wetlands, provided that all expenditures shall be prioritized based upon an official criteria and ranking system established for the County, and subject to an annual independent audit and provide that an amount not to exceed twenty percent (20%) of the amount borrowed may be spent on improvements, outside the scope of general property maintenance, to those lands which have been acquired by Beaufort County, South Carolina under previous rural and critical lands programs and all such lands acquired under the current proposed borrowing?

**Explanation**—A vote of YES means the voter is in favor of the question, i.e., that Beaufort County shall issue general obligation bonds not to exceed \$25,000,000 for the purpose of funding open land preservation. A vote of NO means the voter is not in favor of the question, i.e., Beaufort County shall not issue general obligation bonds not to exceed \$25,000,000 for the purpose of funding open land preservation.

## **Special Voter Information for College Students**

You may register to vote in the county where you reside while attending college, or at your prior address. If you register at your prior address, be aware of absentee ballot regulations and procedures.

You must use a street address. Ask for dorm address at your college registration office.

To vote in elections in 2013 and beyond, you can use your student ID to register but not for voting.

Go to [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org) to download a voter registration form to mail in, to register on-line, or to change your voting address.

## **Special for ex-offenders**

South Carolina residents who have completely served their sentences, including probation or parole, CAN register to vote.

To register, the applicant must submit a new voter registration application to his or her county voter registration office. Go to [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org) for information.



League Forum at the Bluffton High School for Candidates for the County Board of Education



Monthly  
Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2012—2013

**BOARD MEETINGS**

Board meetings are held at 9:45 AM, on Thursday mornings at

The Savannah Bank  
852 Wm. Hilton Pkwy, Hilton Head Island

Thursdays: 2012—Nov. 8, Dec. 6  
Thursdays: 2013—Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar. 7, Apr. 4,  
May 2

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

**OFFICERS**

President:	
Karen Wessel	682-3397
Vice-President, Program Chair:	
Fran Holt	837-3436
Treasurer:	
Dot Law	842-5462
Secretary:	
Caroline McVitty	681-6124

**BOARD**

Fund-raising: Vacant	
Education: Pamela Hollinger	706-9928
Government Issues/Observer Corps:	
Joan Kinne-Shulman	842-9246
Hospitality: Katie Miller	681-6448
Membership: Julie Wittig	706-3735
Newsletter: Joan Kinne-Shulman	842-9246
Public Relations/Publicity:	
Dee Ann Dowlen	341-2318
Voters Services: Vacant	

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**November 14, 10:00 A.M., State of Education in State of South Carolina with Emphasis on Beaufort County Schools.** Location: Hilton Head Public Service District Meeting Room, 21 Oak Park Drive (off Mathews), Hilton Head Island.

**December 12, 11:30 A.M., Holiday Luncheon** followed by talk by guest speaker **Weston Newton**, outgoing Chairman of the Beaufort County Council and only candidate for Representative in the SC House of Representatives, District 120. Location: Moss Creek Clubhouse.

For reservation details see page 6.

**January 9—10:00 A.M. Mayor Drew Laughlin** will speak on **The State of the Town of Hilton Head Island.**

Location: Hilton Head Public Service District Meeting Room, Hilton Head Island.

**February 13—10:00 A.M.** Program to be announced. Tentative Location: Hilton Head Public Service District Meeting Room, Hilton Head Island.

**March 13—10:00 A.M. Mayor Lisa Sulka** will speak on **The State of the Town of Bluffton.** Location: LowCountry Presbyterian Church, Bluffton.

**April 10—10:00 A.M. Elaine Faithful** of the S.C. Coalition for Healthy Families or **Stacie Thompson** of the New Morning Foundation will speak about **effective advocacy and state legislation affecting families.** Location: LowCountry Presbyterian Church, Bluffton.

**May 8—11:30 A.M. Annual Meeting and Luncheon.** Speaker to be announced. Location: Port Royal Clubhouse, Hilton Head Island.