

The Rhode Island Voter

The newsletter of the
League of Women Voters of Rhode Island
172 Taunton Ave., Suite 8,
East Providence, RI 02914



October 2012

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State Candidates Forums Set Throughout the State

The LWV Rhode Island and the LWV West Bay, the LWV South Kingston/Narragansett, and LWVRI Members at Large living in East Providence are all planning candidates events this fall.

The LWVRI has been working with ABC-6TV and RI Public Radio this election year to co-sponsor RI Congressional candidates forums, but as the *Voter* goes to press, it appears that only one of those debates will be held. Incumbent Congressman David Cicilline (Dem) and challengers for Congressional District #1, Brendan Doherty (Rep) and David Vogel (Ind) are scheduled to participate in the forum on Tuesday, October 23, 7-8 P.M.

"As sometimes happens," says LWVRI President Derry Riding, "the best laid plans go awry. The League and its media partners worked hard to reach agreement with everyone, but getting everything to mesh hasn't happened as of this date. We really appreciate that our partners hung in there to try to make these events a reality and that the District #1 debate will go on as scheduled."

The District #1 debate will be televised live on Channel 6 and broadcast on RI Public Radio. The moderator will be John DeLuca of ABC 6. Panelists are Mark Curtis of ABC 6, Scott MacKay of RI Public Radio, and *Providence Journal* columnist Froma Harrop.

The LWV South Kingston/Narragansett will hold events for school committee, town council and for RI state senate and representatives. The forum for So. Kingstown School Committee and Town Council was held September 26. The forum for RI District 35 & 36 State Senate and District 33 & 34 RI State State Assembly will be Wednesday, October 3, and the forum for RI District 37 and 38 State Senate and District 35 and 36 RI State Assembly will be Wednesday, October 10. The series will end on October 24 with a forum for Narragansett School Committee and Town Council Candidates. (See page 8 for full schedule.)

LWV West Bay is also planning events for Warwick and East Greenwich. Plans are pending as the *Voter* goes to press, but check the LWVRI Web site for the final schedule.

On the East Bay, LWVRI Members at Large plan to present forums in East Providence on October 15 and October 17, for candidates for State, Town Council, and School Committee offices. The October 15 forum will be held at the Cape Verdean Progressive Center, 329 Grosvenor Avenue. Candidates for East Providence Wards 1 and 2 will be invited to participate. The forum on October 17, covering East Providence Wards 3 and 4 will be held at the Riverside Congregational Church, 15 Oak Avenue.

In Barrington, candidates for state representatives in District 66 & 67 and Town Council and School Committee will meet on Oct. 17 from 6:30-8:30, with a "Meet and Greet" from 6-6:30 at Barrington Town Hall 283 County Road. (State Senate candidates in the area are running unopposed.) Scott Pickering, General Manager for the East Bay Newspapers will be the moderator.



Candidates Charles Tsonos, Robert Britto, Sam Lovett, Katherine Kazarian with LWV moderator Marie Hennedy (at the podium), at September 4 forum for House of Representatives (District 63) Democratic primary, East Providence.

LWVRI Holds Forum for Candidates in East Providence

The LWVRI presented the only forum for East Providence Primary Candidates September 4 at Weaver Library. This forum for primary candidates was particularly important as the winner of Senate District 14 will have no opponent in the general election. The overflow crowd was attentive as the candidates answered audience questions presented by moderator Marie Hennedy.

The candidates appreciated the opportunity to present themselves to East Provi-

dence voters, and the audience appreciated the opportunity to see the candidates in action. The forum was also broadcast on Cox and Verizon cable. The event was organized by East Providence members Mary Chace, Susan Escherich, Joan Moore, and Robin Covington. LWV Providence members Joan Retsinas, Barbara Riter, and Christine Townsend kindly helped time and staff the voter registration table.

A busy, election year in process for the League – and, there's something for everyone!!

by *Derry Riding LWVRI President*

I am in the midst of the throes and throws of retirement. After 23-plus years working for Rhode Island in Statewide Planning, I have an incredible amount of important and obsolete files to review, which is extremely tiring, I have found. And it seems, there is an election going on now, too! So, I do apologize for my limits in following all the League activities and thank all of those who have stepped in and lent me a hand.

It is wonderful to see the numbers of local debates in the works—including debates in towns like East Providence where the League has not had debates in years. We're not really sure when forums were last held there and the response of the community was wonderful. Congratulations to all of you for a job well done and for your hard work.

The Rhode Island League has signed on to the Vote411 for the State level elections. The website is Vote411.org. We hope that by the time you receive this you will be able to sign in with your address and find information about where you vote, who the national and state level candidates are, and candidates' answers to questions posed by the League.

The State Legislative elections will have a real impact on what will become the focus in the legislature in the upcoming 2013 legislative session. There are seven ballot issues, including the Constitutional Amendments on the issue of gambling at both Twin River and Newport. There are three bond issues which the LWVRI Board voted to endorse: no. 5 on Clean Water, no. 6 on Environmental Management (Open Space and Recreation) and no. 7 on Affordable Housing (Number 7). Take time to familiarize yourself with these issues in the Secretary of State's Voter Information Handbook. This year, the efforts to update the Access to Open Records finally came to fruition: we will need to continue to follow any proposed changes to the act.

The Voter ID bill is in-force right now. The Secretary of State has done an admirable job of publicizing the act and is going around the state providing voter identifications. During Election Day on November 6th, the League will be among many organiza-

tions watching to see the impact of Voter ID on the electorate. If you want to volunteer to monitor a polling location please contact us at the State League Office – 434-6440 or call any board member. The Voter ID bill passed, in spite of much opposition by the League and others.

After the fall election we will begin the search for a lobbyist for the upcoming legislative session. If you know of anyone who might be interested in the League's issues and lobbying please let us know.

We do need and appreciate the support you provide by coming to events, or even suggesting other events. We value your membership: your moral and financial support is vital to the continuation of the League. If you know of others who might support the League, please contact any of us.

In closing, the League isn't all about working and local meetings: join us for the play at 2nd Story Theater on November 8 (see page 3 and 7 for more information.) I'll be there and look forward to seeing many of you!

Join Us at the Theater

The fall theater party fund-raiser has become a LWVRI tradition. Please join us for the 2012 event on Thursday, November 8 at 7 p.m. when 2nd Story Theater presents "An Inspector Calls," at the Bristol Statehouse. The Theater says "JB Priestley's 1945 mystery/morality play only improves with age. In an industrial city where a young girl commits suicide, a respectable family is subjected to an inquiry in connection with the death, with each member implicated in her undoing. This gripping classic has one of the best surprise endings of all time."

Priestly wrote "An Inspector Calls" after the Second World War, and set it in 1912, just before the First World War. It pits the working classes against the aristocracy portrayed by the Croft family in whose home the play takes place. Tickets are \$35 each or 2 for \$60—bring a friend!—and reservations are due October 25. Use the form on page 7 or order you tickets on line at www.lwvri.org. This play is proving popular and only a few seats are remaining. Reserve today!

For more information, contact Joanne DeVoe, 247-3004 or joanned@qis.net.

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island

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www.LWVRI.org 401-434-6440

Derwent Riding, President

Patty MacLeish, *Voter* Editor Jane Marchi, Copy Reader

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

Membership in the League is open to any citizen of the United States. Non-citizens may become associate members. Annual dues of \$45 include automatic membership in local, state and national Leagues; join at www.LWVRI.org or call 401-434-6440 and help promote informed citizen involvement in government.

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**CHECK IT OUT TODAY—AND
TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS!**

VOTE411.ORG
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Is the Rhode Island's Voter ID necessary?

Rhode Island's voter ID law, passed in 2011, is considered one of the "better" vote ID laws. The League, however, is opposed to Voter ID laws because it believes that democracy only works as well as its elections processes and that all eligible voters should have an equal ability to vote. Right now voting rights are under attack, and Leagues throughout the nation are fighting back against restrictive voter ID laws and voter registration systems as well as shorter early voting periods. Voting is a right, and voter ID laws are impediments to exercising that right.

Those who support voter ID laws claim that it is needed to prevent fraud. Last spring, the LWVRI asked LWV West Bay member Carolin Goldman to gather information to determine the affect of Rhode Island's new law. Carolin with the help of Hollie Courage and Roseanne Bootz has been exploring the question. The focus was to understand how the law operates, how much it costs taxpayers, how other aspects of the law will affect voting, and the amount of fraud adjudicated.

Carolin made a report to the Board in September of her findings thus far. Regarding the cost, Carolin noted that it is hard to tease out the exact cost because the Secretary of State's office does not have a separate budget line for staff cost to visit sites and prepare the IDs. The machinery to make the IDs and other costs related to it are about \$102,000 for this year. This year the staff visited more than 59 sites. This amount can change with each budget of the Secretary of State in those years of elections. The bottom line, however, is that the full, exact amount being spent on preparing the IDs is not known.



Signing Up New Voters Statewide

Leagues throughout the state have been registering voters for the upcoming election. The LWV Newport County's Susan Wells and Jill Kassis (pictured above) were at the Aquidneck Farmer's Market on a rainy Saturday morning. LWV Newport also partnered with Salve Regina University for National Voter Registration Day on September 25. LWV West Bay also held events at the Warwick Mall and other locations in the area. On September 29 (a cold, rainy, blustery day!), members of the LWV Providence registered voters at the Stephen Hopkins House, the 1707 home of Stephen Hopkins, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Carolin also looked at whether there was indeed any evidence of fraud. Most of the "proof" of fraud that voters expressed to their legislators were anecdotes.

With the support of the LWVRI Board, she researched Supreme Court Judicial Technology Center cases, but learned little that was relevant. However, Robert Kando, executive director of the Rhode Island Board of Elections, noted that in the eight years that he been at the BOE there have been no cases of adjudicated fraud that the voter ID legislation would have corrected. Much has been reported recently in the press and by candidates alleging voter fraud in the state, but these instances all related to absentee ballots. The voter ID law doesn't not address the ways in which voter fraud can be perpetrated using absentee ballots.

As part of a nation-wide study, members of the League will be working on election day with Common Cause and the Brennan Center for Justice asking voters to participate in a survey about the experience of voting under the new voter ID law. The League will continue tracking the issue and its affect on voting in the state. There is little interest at this time in taking up the issue in the legislature.

Copies of the regulations are available on the Secretary of State's Website. Parts of the League's position are included below.

The History of the League's Stance on Voter ID

The right of every citizen to vote has been a basic League principle since its origin. Early on, many state Leagues adopted positions on election laws. But at the national level, despite a long history of protecting voting rights, the League found itself in the midst of the civil rights struggle of the 1960s without authority to take national legislative action on behalf of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Stung by the League's powerlessness to take action on such a significant issue, the 1970 Convention adopted a bylaws amendment enabling the League to act "to protect the right to vote of every citizen" without the formality of adopting voting rights in the national program. This unusual decision reflected member conviction that protecting the right to vote is indivisibly part of the League's basic purpose. When the 1974 Convention amended the Bylaws to provide that all League Principles could serve as authority for action, the separate amendment on voting rights was no longer needed.

In May 1982, the LWVUS Board made explicit the League's position on Voting Rights, and the 1982 Convention added Voting Rights to the national Program. The 1986 Convention affirmed that a key element of protecting the right to vote is encouraging participation in the political process. The 1990 Convention affirmed that the LWVUS should continue emphasis on protecting the right to vote by working to increase voter participation.

Leagues had lobbied extensively for the 1970 amendments to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 1975, the League was part of a successful coalition effort to extend the act and expand its coverage to

Voting Rights History continued on page 7

Meet Your Board!

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island oversees the programs of the League in Rhode Island. Members are elected each year and serve staggered terms. This year, League members elected two new members to the Board—Marian Styles-McClintock of LWV Providence and Helen Taylor of the LWV West Bay. On these two pages are brief profiles of the officers and Board members and their contact information. Please let them know your concerns and ideas for the League and consider joining the board yourself!

Derry Riding, President



LWV Bristol
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434-6440; derwent.riding@gmail.com

Derwent Jean Riding (Derry) has just retired as a principal planner in the Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program. Derry became involved with the League in Bristol with the encouragement, support and mentoring of Margaret Koster, mother-in-law of LWVRI's treasurer, Jane Koster. Derry was an original member of the Land Use Commission, (known as the Weygand Commission) appointed as a member of the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island to represent the public. Derry is also President of the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society.

Jill Kassis, First Vice-President & Membership Chair LWV Newport County



126 Storm King Drive, Portsmouth, RI 02871;
619-0377, (cell) 924-0854, jhkassis@gmail.com

Jill's career has been in international education and development with executive roles in several international nonprofit organizations working in developing countries around the world with funding from U.S. and international development agencies. In recent time she has consulted for colleges and universities on special projects and to assist in building institutional partnerships and international student recruitment. She also has served on several nonprofit boards including the Newport Council for International Visitors. Jill is also on the board of the LWVRI Education Fund. Jill and her husband George, who is also a member of the League, moved to Rhode Island three years ago.

Susan Wells, Second Vice-President LWV Newport County

229 Gibbs Ave, Newport, RI 02840, 846-9537;
378-7595 (cell) swells229@yahoo.com

Susan's career was in education, working at schools in North Carolina, Massachusetts and Rhode Island in secondary education, mostly in admissions and college placement at independent schools. Now retired, she is involved with various non-profit and civic organizations. Susan is also president of the Newport County League.



Jane Koster, Treasurer
LWV Newport County
449 West Reach Drive, Jamestown, RI 02835;
423-1465; janewkoster@gmail.com

Jane has been a resident of the state since 1970 and resides in Jamestown. With degrees in political science, history and early childhood educa-

tion, she was an educator in the East Greenwich Public School System. She also sits on the boards of the East Bay Community Action Program, the Humane Society of Jamestown and the RISD Museum Docent Association Council. Jane also serves as treasurer on the Board of Directors LWV Newport County. Jane's husband Richard, who is also a member of the League, is the son of LWVRI's past president Margaret Koster.

Susan Escherich, Secretary & Advocacy Chair LWV Member at Large

133 Terrace Ave., Riverside, RI 02915;
433-4896;

sescherich@verizon.net

Susan retired from working for the National Register of Historic Places at the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., in 2005. She and her husband moved to Rhode Island to be near grandchildren in 2006. Susan also serves on the Board of the LWVRI Education Fund and is working with other Members at Large to produce three candidate forums in East Providence. Susan is a Member of the Rhode Island Watercolor Society (with a six member show coming up in November at the Society's headquarters in Slater Park), and she has been studying both American and Japanese flower arranging, as well as enjoying gardening, reading and travelling.



Pam Ancheta, LWV South Kingstown/Narragansett

345 Mulberry Drive, South Kingstown, RI 02879; 284-0264;
sknarr@lwvri.org

Pam moved to Rhode Island in 2000 and has been involved in community service in South Kingstown. As part of a volunteer and mentoring program for the town's public schools, Pam helped in classrooms and was a volunteer coordinator for the public preschool. Pam was also on an educational review team as part of the Rhode Island School Accountability for Learning and Teaching Initiative (SALT). In 2004, she campaigned for a seat on the town's School Committee. Although unsuccessful, the run for political office introduced Pam to the important work of the local chapter of the League of Women Voters and in 2006 became a member of the LWV of South Kingstown/Narragansett and later its president. Pam is also a member of the LWVRI Education Fund. Pam is involved in food drives and other charitable work that benefit organizations and individuals throughout South County. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Emerson College, Boston, Mass., and has worked in television and video production and works as a writer for media services.



**Joanne DeVoe, Publicity
LWV Member at Large
67 King St., Warren, RI 02885; 247-3004;
joanned@qis.net**



Joanne was past president of the LWVRI, a member of the board and of the nominating committee. Her long time interest, which she has pursued through the League, is the various funding mechanisms that the state and local governments use to finance public education. This led in the late 1970s to a staff position with the Baltimore City Public Schools. She served as a liaison with the lawyers when the city sued Maryland challenging the adequacy and equity of the state's public education formula. She currently chairs a subcommittee of the LWVRI Advocacy Committee which is following how RI's new school funding formula is working out. Joanne urges members to please join them if they are interested in the topic.

**Patty MacLeish, Voter Editor
LWV Newport County**

31 Walnut St, Newport, 02840; 846-7542; pmacleish@verizon.net



Patty joined the League in Cooperstown, N.Y., in 1982 and has served on the LWVRI board for four years. She also serves on the board of the LWV Newport County and has served as president of the League in Cooperstown, N.Y., and editor of the LWV New York State's *Voter*. She moved to Rhode Island in 1999 with her husband, Bruce, who is also a League member, and works as a freelance

editor and publisher of magazines and journals for not for profit organizations.

**Marian Styles-McClintock, LWV Providence
33 Leo St, Providence, RI 02904;
351-1332; mestel@verizon.net**

Marian relocated to Providence in 2002. Marian has worked with the National Office of the YWCA in New York City and the General Board of Global Ministries/United Methodist Church also of New York City. She has had assignments in cities throughout the United States including Little Rock, Ark., when Bill Clinton was governor, and had the opportunity to meet him and work with special projects which he supported. She has published



her first book, "But Isn't This What We're S'posed To Do." A book about the commitment and service of unsung African American Women's faith and love in their communities. At one point she was a League member in White Plains, N.Y.

**Helen Taylor, LWV West Bay
881 Greenwich Ave, Condo 22, Warwick, RI
02886; 824-6490; lizzytaylor29@aol.com**



Helen has been a member of the LWV West Bay for the past eight years, now holding the position of 2nd Vice President. LWV West Bay named her League Woman of the Year in 2010. She has also lobbied for the LWV West Bay at the State House and is vice chair of that League's upcoming candidate's forums. As a past Warwick City Councilwoman, Helen fought for many humanitarian issues. Helen was one of the first women accepted into the Rotary and then became the first woman president of the Providence Sunrise Rotary Club, receiving the Paul Harris Fellow Award, the highest award in Rotary. She is a former Board Member and Trustee of the RI Historical Society, Heritage Harbour Museum, Executive Association of RI, Business Volunteers for the Arts and the American Heart Associations Heart Ball where she raised millions of dollars for their Auctions for Heart Research. An interior landscape designer, Helen is the president of Tropical Interiors with locations in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

**Rosemary Forbes Woodside, LWV Newport County
23 Skysail Ct, Jamestown, RI 02835;
423-9202; forbes.woodside@cox.net**



Rosemary Forbes-Woodside works as an electronics engineer at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport and has lived in Jamestown since 1991. In the 1990s, she was a founder and chairwoman of the Conanicut Concerned Citizens. The group brought its case to close the Jamestown landfill, which contained toxic materials that could enter the island's water supply, to the Department of Environmental Management. Among her other activities, Rosemary is currently the president of the board of the Humane Society of Jamestown. She is a trustee for the Jamestown Philomenian Library and is on the board of the Taxpayers Association of Jamestown.

Join Us! Become Part of Making Democracy Work

I want to help Democracy Work! Enclosed is \$45 for my membership in the LWVRI. I have enclosed a check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to the LWVRI. Or, join on line at www.LWVRI.org

I would like to join the LWV of Bristol Newport Co. Providence So. Kingston/Narragansett West Bay Member-at-Large

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

I do not wish to join at this time, but I would like to make a donation to the LWVRI. I have enclosed a check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to the LWVRI.

I do not wish to join at this time, but please add my name to your mailing list.

Tell us your interest: OBSERVER CORPS RI SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA VOTERS SERVICE

ADVOCACY EDUCATION VOTER ID MEMBERSHIP

Join on line or send a check payable to LWVRI and mail form to LWVRI, 172 Taunton Ave, Suite 8, E. Providence, RI 02914.

How Is Rhode Island's New Public Education Funding Formula Working?

In 2011, the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed legislation to enact a new public education funding equalization formula for RI. The formula distributes state aid for school operations to the school districts according to pupil enrollments, student poverty levels, and local tax payer capacity. The intention of the new formula was to distribute the same amount of state money as the old formula but to do it more fairly. It called for funding increases for 20 of the state's 36 school districts and funding decreases for the rest. Beginning in FY 2012, the increases were to be phased in over seven years; the decreases to be phased in over ten years.

The Governor included in his FY 2013 budget and the General Assembly enacted the new formula as prescribed with an additional \$22.1 million for the second phase-in year, plus an additional \$11 million to be distributed among the 20 school districts which were already receiving funding increases. These additions were called "accelerated" payments by the *Providence Journal* in its June 8 article entitled, "Schools fare well in \$750M budget," by Jennifer D. Jordan.

The formula aid distribution for FY 2013 can be found on the RI Department of Education website, www.ride.ri.gov (click on "funding formula," then click on "FY13 Enacted Education Aid 6/11/12.") The "Year 2 Formula" increases for the 20 school districts are shown in column C of this table; the "\$11M Acceleration Underfunded" increases are shown in column D. The acceleration amounts given to each of these 20 districts is about half of increase they are receiving in FY13.

The accelerated payments may be a response to the petition that was filed in court by Pawtucket and Woonsocket on April 7. This petition, which amends a petition which the two cities filed last year before the formula was passed, says that the new formula fails to provide Pawtucket and Woonsocket with their fair share of state fund-

ing. (See the April 17 *Providence Journal* article, "Cities sue over funding formula, cite inequities" by Jennifer D. Jordan.)

Pawtucket Mayor Donald R. Grebien and Woonsocket Mayor Leo T. Fontaine had published an opinion editorial piece in the *Providence Journal* the previous day. The mayors say that the formula doesn't cover many school operating expenses; it fails to provide additional resources for children learning the English language; and it calculates the state share of the formula cost, "...with an idiosyncratic 'quadratic mean' calculation that siphons millions of dollars from our communities into the five wealthiest communities in the state, presumably to gain their support for the formula." They say that their cities are doing more than their share to fund schools. "Using the state's methodology for comparing 'tax effort,' our citizens pay 180 percent (Pawtucket) and 160 percent (Woonsocket) of the statewide norm, the third and fourth highest burdens in Rhode Island. Despite that effort, we cannot afford to provide our children with even average resources, and the results are devastating."

The LWVRI approved of a consensus position on financing public education in RI at the 2011 Convention; to see it, go to www.lwvri.org, and follow the links on "issues/positions/studies" and click on "education." Based on that position, it can be argued that the new formula distributes funds more fairly to both students and taxpayers than did the previous formula which had been frozen since the late 90s with no adjustment for local enrollment or taxpayer capacity. There is concern however about how the quadratic mean and poverty indicator adjustments have affected the local taxpayer measure of taxable wealth in the formula. There is also concern about the adequacy of using only the pupil eligibility for the federal free and reduced lunch program as measure of student need for additional resources.

Outsourcing Government Services—The League's New Position on Privatization

The LWVUS Board approved a new position on privatization at its June 2012 meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 227 Leagues across the country that participated in the Privatization Study. Thanks to the many local and state Leagues and ILOs that held meetings, involved their communities, and worked to reach consensus on this important issue.

The League initiated the study to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

Local League members should take note of the new position. The issue of privatizing comes up often in our cities and towns, and this new position can be used to take action. The first step is to become familiar with the League's position and what the details of the proposed government action are. Local Leagues should then send a query to the LWVRI Advocacy Committee for advice. (Contact Susan Escherich at 433-4896; sescherich@verizon.net.)

The Position in Brief on Privatization

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the LWV believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

The League believes that some government-provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances. Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in

continued next page

Join the League as the 2nd Story Theater presents
An Inspector Calls
 at the Bristol Statehouse Thursday, November 8, at 7 P.M.
 Reservations Due October 25

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

YES! Please reserve _____ tickets to *An Inspector Calls*.

Tickets are \$35 each or 2 for \$60—Bring a friend and save some money! \$ _____

I can't come, but I would like to support the League and have enclosed a donation of \$ _____

to support the League. Make checks payable to LWVRI **Total enclosed** \$ _____

Mail with this form with your check to LWVRI, 172 Taunton Ave, Suite 8, East Providence, RI 02914 or order online at www.lwvri.org

Questions? Call Joanne DeVoe, 247-3004 or joanned@qis.net.

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their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection and programs that protect and provide basic human needs.

The League believes that the decision to privatize a public service should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery. While specific criteria will vary by service and local conditions, the League believes the certain considerations apply to most decisions to transfer public services, assets and functions to the private sector. (For a full list of these considerations go to <http://www.lwv.org/content/privatization-position>.)

The League believes that the enactment of state laws and issuance of regulations to control the process and delivery of privatization within a state's jurisdiction is often appropriate and desirable. Best practices for government regulation of the privatization process should include the following requirements:

- An open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner;
- A reasonable feasibility study and project evaluation appropriate to the size and scope of the project;
- The establishment of carefully crafted criteria for selection of the private-entity (beyond the lowest cost bid);
- Additional consideration for local bidders in order to support the local economy;
- The retention of liability and responsibility with the government entity;
- Allowance for and promotion of opportunities for innovation and collaboration; and,
- Provision for employment, benefits and training plans on behalf of employees displaced as a result of privatization.

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language minorities. In 1982 and in 1992, the League was a leader in the fight to strengthen the act and extend its major provisions including the reauthorization of the language assistance provision for an additional 15 years. In 2006, the League sponsored a major public initiative to support the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006. After months of action by Leagues across the country, the bill was passed and signed into law. In 1996 and 1998, the LWVUS worked against congressional "English-only" legislation that would have effectively repealed the minority language provisions of the Voting Rights Act. In 1991, the effort to pass the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), "motor voter," intensified, leading a national coalition, the League executed a high visibility, multifaceted, grassroots drive, resulting in passage by both houses in 1992. But, the President vetoed the bill and the Senate failed to override. In May 1993, the years of concerted effort by the League and other organizations paid off when both houses passed and President Clinton signed the National Voter Registration Act.

As a complement, not a substitute, for the NVRA, the League continues to support same-day voter registration and/or shortening the period between registration and voting. The LWVUS has worked with state Leagues interested in promoting such reforms.

Despite the fact that the NVRA helped more Americans register to vote for the 1996 election than at any time since records have been kept, the LWVUS continued to fight congressional attempts to cripple the law. For example, the League lobbied and testified against the Voter Eligibility Verification Act, which sought to create a federal program to verify the citizenship of voter registrants and applicants, arguing that the program was not necessary, would not work and would depress voter participation.

Full complete explanation of The League's position visit (<http://www.lwv.org/content/voting-rights>)



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Coming Up—League Events

Wednesday, October 10, 6:30 P.M.

LWV South Kingstown/Narragansett Forum at the Narragansett Town Hall for RI State Senate Candidates from Districts 37 & 38 and RI State Representative Candidates from Districts 35 & 36
6:30: RI State Senate Candidates from Districts 37 & 38
8:00: RI State Representative Candidates from Districts 35 & 36.

Thursday, October 11, 7:00pm Barrington Public Library
Understand The Big Issues of 2012 Education Policy with Luther Spoehr, Senior Lecturer, Education & History, Brown University. The last in a series cosponsored by the LWVRI and the Barrington Public Library on six major issues of the 2012 Presidential campaign.

Monday, October 15, 10 A.M.-noon
LWVRI Board Meeting. Weaver Library, East Providence.

Monday, October 15, 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.
LWVRI Members at Large Candidates for State Representative candidates for District 63, candidates for town council for East Providence Wards 1 & 2, and school committee at the Cape Verdean Progressive Center, 329 Grosvenor Ave., East Providence.

Wednesday, October 17, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
State Representative candidates for District 65 and 66, candidates for town council for East Providence Wards 3 & 4, and school committee 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. at Riverside Congregational Church, 15 Oak Avenue, East Providence.

Wednesday, October 17, 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

LWVRI Members at Large Candidates for State Representative candidates for District 66 and 67, candidates for Barrington town council and school committee at the Barrington Town Hall 283 County Road.

Tuesday, October 23, 7-8 P.M.

LWVRI/ABC6/RIPR Debate for candidates for RI District # 1.

Wednesday, October 24, 6:30

LWV South Kingstown/Narragansett Forum at the Narragansett Town Hall for Narragansett School Committee & Town Council Candidates
6:30: Narragansett School Committee Candidates
8:00: Narragansett Town Council Candidates

Thursday, October 25

Deadline for reservations for *An Inspector Calls*. Order online at www.lwvri.org.

Tuesday, November 6, Election Day! Polls open at 7 A.M.

Thursday, November 8, 7 P.M.

An Inspector Calls, Theater Party at the Bristol State House.