



# LWV LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER

MARK

YOUR CALENDAR!

**March**

Thurs 5		Last Day to Reserve for !Hot Topics! Lunch
Thurs 5	4:00 p.m.	Naturalization Old Lehigh County Courthouse
Mon 9	Noon	!Hot Topics! Lunch Immigration, Will Miller, Speaker Ham Fam Rest.
Wed 11	4:00 p.m.	Board Meeting, Sunrise Senior Living
Mon 16	7:00 p.m.	Iron Jawed Angels, Northampton County College

**April**

Thurs 9	4:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Sunrise Senior Living
Fri 11		Last Day to REGISTER To VOTE
Mon 13	Noon	!Hot Topics! Lunch Renewable Energy, Archie Follweiler, Speaker

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear League Friends,

Hi everyone, most of this column will be about up and coming opportunities to participate in local League activities. We will be conducting the Phone-a-thon fundraiser on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the home of Pat and Burke Swan. This annual fundraiser is organized by the LWVPA. We telephone the members of our local League and ask for tax deductible contributions to the Citizens Education Fund. The local Leagues receive 20% of the contributions donated during this event. It is a lot of fun to get together with a group from our League to talk and make the calls. We usually raise about \$200.00 annually for our local treasury from the Phone-a-thon.

Our Annual meeting is scheduled to take place on May 20<sup>th</sup>, at Mangoes Restaurant on Hamilton Street. Please check the Voter calendar for the specific times. In addition to the usual League business we will be reviewing proposed changes to the local Water Policy and; briefly, recommending modifications to the local transportation policy. If you are interested in an on or off board position or portfolio, please contact Margie Dunn, chairperson of the Nominating Committee or let any board member know of your specific interest.

We are in the process of planning the program for next year; so, if you have a topic and/or speaker you would like to hear more

about at one of the Hot Topics luncheons, please bring your idea to the Annual Meeting or contact a board member. We are listed in your member directory. This is a great venue for keeping up with the issues which are affecting our community. I encourage you to attend one of these luncheons and take a friend.

The materials for the LWVUS study on Popular Vote election of the U. S. President are now available on the national website.

See you at the next League event,

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Anne Rood  
President LWVLC

## MARCH !HOT TOPICS! LUNCH

Monday, March 9 at Noon  
Hamilton Family Restaurant  
2027 Hamilton Street  
Allentown

Speaker, Will Miller  
Immigration and Refugee Services, Catholic Charities

Since 2001 Will Miller has been the Program Administrator for Immigration and Refugee Services with Catholic Charities. Among his responsibilities are as-

sisting over 1,100 clients a year with immigration issues, as well as resettling refugees who are fleeing persecution. Will also gives workshops on refugee resettlement and is a former member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Diocesan Advisory Group for Refugee Affairs. He is a fascinating speaker.

Make your reservation by **Thursday, March 5, with Sue**

**Phillips, 610-821-1118 or [suep@entermail.net](mailto:suep@entermail.net).**

Lunch meetings in March and April will be at the Hamilton Family Restaurant (the "Ham-Fam") at 2027 Hamilton Street. There is a room in the back that will be reserved for us. The price will be \$13.00. Please bring exact change if possible, and bring a book for "Cops 'n' Kids.

Pat Swan, 610-435-4148

# NEWS FROM THE BOARD —

## MARCH 2009

The February board meeting was called to order on February 12, 2009 by President Mary Anne Rood. Present were Ann Bartholomew, Margie Dunn, Molly Faust, Pat Hoffman, Jeanette Seaman, Caryn Shoenthal, Mary Anne Stinner. Pat Swan and Barbara Williams were absent.

A motion was made and seconded by Margie Dunn and Molly Faust to approve the minutes for January 8, 2009.

Pat Hoffman reviewed the balance sheet for January 2009. The report was accepted and filed for audit. The budget committee, Pat Hoffman, Mary Anne Rood, Molly Faust, and Doris Glaessmann will meet to prepare the 2009-2010 budget.

**Announcements/Mail:** First call for PA Convention, Clarion PA from June 5-; Common Cause Announcement of support for Popular; e-message asking for support for a package of bills to reduce handgun violence. On May 14, water suppliers of the Lehigh Valley will sponsor, "Hydromania 2009," watershed education for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Volunteers and displays are needed. (Contact Mary Anne Stinner for information.)

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Action:** Mary Anne Stinner reporting - Our letter to Gov. Rendell regarding the mandatory buffer rule was published in the VOTER.

**Government Directory:** Ann Bartholomew reporting - Contributions from eleven donors brought in the approximately \$800 needed to print 16,000 directory updates to be printed and distributed by early March.

**Membership:** Margie Dunn reporting - Membership drive has been completed for a total of 79 members. Dunn will chair the Nominating Committee to prepare the slate of officers for the Annual Meeting.

**Program:** Bartholomew reporting for Swan - By consensus, the Board agreed that in March and April Hot Topics Lunch will be held at the Hamilton Family Diner. A soup and salad lunch at a cost of \$13 will cover food and speaker expenses. In March, Mr. Will Miller will speak about his experiences with Immigration through Catholic Social Services.

**Voter's Guide:** Molly Faust reporting - Letters will be mailed in March to those running for office.

**Voter's Service:** Barbara Williams - none

**Special Projects:** Mary Ann Rood reporting - The Education Policy and Leadership Center will sponsor a workshop for citizens wishing to run for school board on March 7 at Parkland High School, 8:30 am - 4:30 p.m.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Legislative interviews - Questions related to local issues are being e-mailed to legislators running for office in May requesting a response by February 28, 2009 by Mary Ann Stinner.
2. Popular Vote Study - Rood will ask Pat Swan to coordinate the study for LWVLC. She has agreed to hold meetings at her home beginning in mid-March. The deadline for consensus response is May 1, 2009. Study materials are available online.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. League Policy Review - The Board updated and/or the reviewed Revenue, Non-Partisan, and Election Policies. The Revenue policy was updated to reflect the raise in dues and the correction for the date when membership payment is due.

Membership will be informed of this review and changes at the upcoming annual meeting.

2. Phone-a-thon - Rood will coordinate this annual effort of LWVPA to raise funds. The Board and others will meet at Pat Swan's home on March 23, 2009 to make calls to LWVLC members from 6:30-8:30. LWVLC will receive 20% of the funds collected.
3. LWVLC Annual Meeting: May 20, 2009 at Mango's Restaurant. Rood will ask Sue Phillips to make arrangements (time, set up, menu, and cost), prepare announcement for newsletter and receive registrations. Board members will send Committee reports to Bartholomew who will prepare the Annual Meeting booklet.

Next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11** and will include review of the 2009-2010 budget by Doris Glaessmann

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Seaman  
Secretary

## CENSUS JOBS

The Census Bureau is hiring people to conduct preliminary work, as well as the actual Census work (for those Census questionnaires that are not returned). Testing is taking place right now, and hiring will be mostly between now and May of 2010. These jobs are temporary part time jobs, up to 40 hours per week, with a flexible schedule. We

have many test sites already set up in Lehigh County, as well as all of the counties in Pennsylvania. Anyone who has any questions can feel free to contact me by e-mail at [lorlu1@aol.com](mailto:lorlu1@aol.com), or telephone at 484-857-3116. You can schedule an appointment for testing by calling 1-866-861-2010, and more information is available on the website:

[www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov). This is a Federal Government job.

Thanks for helping to make everyone COUNT!

Lorie Hughes-Rehrig,  
Lehigh County Recruiting Assistant

# !HOT TOPICS! LUNCHEON

## FEBRUARY, 2009

Speaker: **Andrea E. Naugle**  
Lehigh County Clerk of  
Judicial Records

Pat Swan introduced Andrea Naugle as a 1972 Allen High School graduate who began county service the very next year in 1973, and has served in various capacities since then. As a result of the consolidation of the "row offices," Andrea Naugle now serves as the Lehigh County Clerk of Judicial Records, which includes the divisions of Civil Court, Criminal Court, Recorder of Deeds and Register of Wills, having been first elected in 1995 as Lehigh County Clerk of Courts and re-elected in 1999 and 2003. In 2007 she was elected as Lehigh County's first Clerk of Judicial Records.

Ms. Naugle began her talk with a few historical notes on Lehigh County, noting that the County was established in 1812 after breaking away from Northampton County, which itself broke away from Bucks County in 1752. (See <http://www.lccpa.org/geninfo/history.html> for more information.) The Home Rule Charter that took effect in 1978 combined Prothonotary (Civil) and Criminal Officers but split, in an unusual arrangement compared to the rest of the state's counties, the Register of Wills from the Clerk of the Orphans' Court, who is appointed by the Court. Another change she described was from three full time commissioners to nine part-time County Commissioners, and included five commissioners, each of whom represent a district,

and four at-large commissioners. Lehigh County is led by the County Executive (who is Don Cunningham, Jr.).

At first she did not like the idea of combining the "row offices," but the voters wanted it. She decided to run for the position because she already had civil, criminal, and wills experience and would only need to learn the work of Recorder of Deeds. Once elected, she found the new position "very crazy" but got to work on several projects. She reviewed the computer programs and the titles office. She established Landex as a new software program, finding it much more user-friendly and a good choice as all the surrounding counties use it. Out of the 67 Pennsylvania counties, 27 use that software. It is more practical and more reasonable in cost because formerly updates had to be paid for; however that is not the case with the Landex system. It is now online for public access, and by the end of this year Ms. Naugle expects all maps and deeds will be accessible through this system. (See <http://www.landex.com/remote/>). She noted that right now the real estate market is down so the recording of deeds is down but civil law suits and criminal cases have increased in number, so those divisions are busier.

On personnel issues, Naugle said she oversees 56 full-time employees and 15 part-time employees. Four positions under her have been eliminated which is a cost-saving measure. The more extensive use of computers

may mean that other office functions can be reviewed so possible staff changes can be made.

Her next project is the development of electronic filing of forms which she hopes to complete within the next year. She said she has a wonderful, helpful staff. The Courthouse is under renovation right now, but the Criminal and Civil Divisions have already been consolidated on the first floor. She is working towards bringing everyone under her together physically, so they are not scattered between buildings, as is the case now. Then she will focus on cross-training the staff so that all staff can handle, at least, the public view part of the records. But, she admitted there are some distinct functions of the specific divisions that are not amenable to cross-training.

When it was time for questions, someone asked about qualifications for jobs. Ms. Naugle emphasized that there is no hiring now, but if she were hiring, she would look for someone with at least a high school diploma or the equivalent, no criminal record, with computer experience. There is no computer test to compare with the old typing test, but there is a test that the judiciary uses which measures math and filing aptitude at two levels – an 8<sup>th</sup> grade level and a 12<sup>th</sup> grade level. Interviews are also conducted.

Another question concerned the big deed books and what will happen to them once

their information has been transferred online. She said the books have many worn out pages and fading ink so some of the records are actually difficult to transfer but the electronic files will be considered the official ones. The big old books of deeds will not be destroyed but housed somewhere, one possibility being at the Lehigh County Historical Museum.

She feels strongly that her position should be an elected one because as the President Judge indicated to the County Administration, her position cannot be appointed by anyone except the Court because of the confidential records maintained by her offices. She likes her job very much but finds that too often the administrative demands mean that she cannot do the public service work at the counter that she enjoys. Currently she has four chief deputies helping to run the divisions under her. She praised her predecessor Doris Glaessmann (a long-time Lehigh County League member) as an excellent mentor. Naugle has made her own contributions to the work. For example, she was the first person in the courthouse to use e-mail. When asked whether reforming the row offices was a good idea, Andrea Naugle said that she would agree that it will be, once she is able to complete the improvement projects she has planned, including consolidation of the divisions.

Elizabeth Bodien

## IMPORTANT DATES—2009

Listed below are important dates for filing nomination petitions in the first half of 2009.

- March 10 Last day to circulate and file nomination petitions.
- March 11 First day to circulate and file nomination papers
- March 25 Last day for withdrawal by candidates who filed nomination petitions.
- April 20 Last day to REGISTER to vote before the primary
- May 12 Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot
- May 15 Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted civilian absentee ballots
- May 19 **MUNICIPAL PRIMARY**
- May 20 First day to REGISTER after primary
- May 26 Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas and absentee ballots (must be postmarked no later than May 18)

Ann Bartholomew

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### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### 2009 QUESTIONS FOR LOCAL LEAGUE INTERVIEWS WITH STATE LEGISLATORS RESPONSES FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER MANN

**REDISTRICTING REFORM:** In the 2008 session, 95 members of the PA House co-sponsored a League-backed proposal to amend the PA constitution to assign redistricting to a non-partisan bureau that would redraw lines using strict criteria to prevent gerrymandering. However, the bill died in committee. Passage of proposed constitutional amendment legislation by the end of June 2008 was necessary to meet the requirements for a constitutional amendment to take effect in time for the 2011 round of redrawing legislative and congressional district boundaries.

**Question:** Since it is no longer possible to pass a constitutional amendment reforming the redistricting process in time to take effect in 2011, would you support an alternate proposal to reform the process through legislation that would take effect for 2011?

The proposed legislation would do the following:

- Provide that the Legislative Reapportionment Commission constituted under the Pennsylvania constitution would conduct congressional as well as legislative redistricting.
- Assign standards for meeting redistricting criteria already in the constitution to be applied to congressional as well as legislative district boundaries.
- Set requirements for transparency and public input.

**Mann:** In the 2007-08 session, I co-sponsored H.B. 2420, and I would support that legislation if it is re-introduced. It would transfer authority to determine legislative and congressional districts in Pennsylvania to the nonpartisan Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB). The bill would remove the decision-making authority from the four House and Senate legislative caucus leaders.

Under the legislation, LRB would develop a nonpartisan reapportionment and redistricting plan and hold a series of statewide public meetings to give the public a chance to comment. Based on public input, LRB would revise the plan accordingly and send it to the legislature for a yes-or-no vote. If the revised plan is rejected by either the House or the Senate, the LRB would develop a final plan and re-submit it to the legislature for a vote. The plans would not be amendable by the legislature.

Redistricting should be a nonpartisan process. Transferring this authority to the Legislative Reference Bureau would bring more transparency and openness to the redistricting process, and is an important part of the reforms already implemented by the state legislature as a move toward better, more effective government.

(Continued from page 4)

**ELECTION REFORM:** Protecting the right of every qualified citizen to vote is a central tenant of our democratic system. But this right is often compromised by laws and practices that discourage voter participation.

**Question:** Which of the following, if any, would you support to remove unnecessary barriers to voting?

- Provide that any eligible citizen can register and vote on Election Day.
- Establish a system for early voting to alleviate problems such as long lines and excessive waiting times associated with high voter turnout in some elections.
- Remove the requirement that registered voters have an excuse in order to cast an absentee ballot (no excuse necessary absentee voting).

**Mann:** Everyone who is eligible to vote should have the opportunity to vote. I support initiatives like no-excuse- necessary absentee ballot voting because it would ensure that people who would have to depend on others to get to the polls or people with a disability or sudden illness to have their vote counted.

**CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION:** Pennsylvania last held a constitutional convention in 1967 – 1968.

**Question:** Do you think the time is right for Pennsylvania to hold another constitutional convention?

**Mann:** A constitutional convention would be fine as long as it has a specific purpose that either initiates government reform or fully explores an issue important to Pennsylvanians. The reason I prefer it to be specific is because we need to be very careful when we open up the Constitution for change. We don't want to make too many changes at one time because it has the potential to negatively affect the people of the Commonwealth.

**Question:** Should such a convention be limited or open ended?

**Mann:** I think it's important that the convention have a specific focus, and that focus should be on something that will improve the quality of life for Pennsylvanians or will make government more streamlined and efficient.

**Question:** How do you think the delegates should be selected?

**Mann:** I'm sure they could be selected by any number of methods. I think the only thing that matters is that the convention is structured so that it produces meaningful reform.

**Question:** Should recommended amendments go directly to the voters or should they go to the legislature first which might or might not vote to send them to the voters for approval? What recourse should citizens have if the legislature fails to act?

No response.

**Question:** What other recommendations do you have should a constitutional convention be held?

No response.

**LEGISLATOR'S PRIORITIES:**

**Question:** Do you have any legislative priorities related to the current economic crisis?

**Mann:** Priority number-one is balancing the budget for this year and making sure we have enough money to cover next year, while trying to minimize the negative impact on PA's most vulnerable citizens – children, the elderly, and the disabled.

**Question:** Do you have any legislative priorities related to the current economic crisis?

**Mann:** Priority number-one is balancing the budget for this year and making sure we have enough money to cover next year, while trying to minimize the negative impact on PA's most vulnerable citizens – children, the elderly, and the disabled.

As we receive responses to these questions from the legislators we will publish them in future issues of *The Voter*. -Ed.

# NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

*NPV Compact Consensus Questions for discussion meetings. The electronic Response Form will contain these same NPV Compact Consensus Questions and will be available in January.*

## Amending the Constitution

1. **Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.**
  - a. Action to alter a basic element of the Constitutional framework, which is achievable by amendment to the Constitution, should be accomplished by amendment to the Constitution.
  - b. Action by states through a compact process is an acceptable way to alter the method for electing the President and Vice-President.
  - c. The group could not reach consensus.
2. **Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.**
  - a. Because a compact has never before been used to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the chance that it might set a precedent for the future leads to the conclusion that it is better that the League continue to work for an amendment to the Constitution to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College.
  - b. Despite the novelty of the use of the compact approach to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the League should support the NPV Compact as a way of achieving an important goal.
  - c. The group could not reach consensus.

## Congressional Consent

3. **Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.**
  - a. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is not of sufficient concern to block the implementation of the plan.
  - b. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is sufficient to conclude that the plan should not be implemented without obtaining such consent.
  - c. The group could not reach consensus.

## Enforcement

4. **Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.**
  - a. The NPV Compact contains sufficient enforcement provisions to assure smooth operation of the plan.
  - b. Although it is not possible to determine whether the enforcement provisions will be sufficient to assure smooth operation of the plan, the plan should be passed anyway.
  - c. Enforcement of the plan is likely to add uncertainty and bring the courts into the presidential election in ways that raise substantial concerns.
  - d. The lack of adequate enforcement provisions is sufficient to conclude that the NPV is not a viable plan.
  - e. The group could not reach consensus.

## Uniformity

5. **Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.**
  - a. The uniformity of voting systems is more important to American democracy than the possibility that the NPV Compact can be adopted.
  - b. The NPV Compact is more important than uniformity of voting systems because it would succeed in achieving the popular election of the President.
  - c. The group could not reach consensus.

## Popular Election of the President

6. **Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.**
- It is more important to achieve the goal of national popular election of the President than it is to achieve the goal of abolition of the electoral college.
  - It is more important to amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College than it is to achieve the goal of popular election of the President by alternative methods, such as the NPV Compact.
  - The group could not reach consensus.

## Achievability

7. **Which statements reflect the views of the group?**
- The NPV Compact will have problems being passed because of the need for congressional consideration and the need for action by so many states.  

Agree	Disagree	No Consensus
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  - A constitutional amendment to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College will continue to have problems being passed.  

Agree	Disagree	No Consensus
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## Background for the National Popular Vote Compact

The League has a long-standing position in support of the direct election of the president by popular vote. Now, League members have the opportunity to consider whether to support the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) as a viable process to achieve that result. The NPV Compact would avoid the need for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College (EC), and would assure that the individual receiving the most votes would become president.

The NPV Compact proposal uses the mechanism of the EC. States that legislatively enact the NPV Compact would agree that their state electors would vote for the individual that received the most votes nationwide. Thus, the popular vote count from all 50 states and the District of Columbia would be added together. State elections officials in all states participating would award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes.

This alternative method of assigning a state's EC votes would take effect only when enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of the electoral votes. This 270-vote threshold also corresponds essentially to states representing a majority of the people of the United States.

The plan includes procedural provisions to help assure smooth functioning of the agreement – conditions that deal with states deciding to withdraw from the Compact at the last moment, enforcement issues and recounts.

Currently four states have passed legislation to enact the NPV Compact.

There are pros and cons to this plan, which are discussed in full in papers found on the LWVUS Web site. Summaries of these papers are also available. League members can learn more about the plan from these sources and consider its ramifications at consensus meetings across the country. Be sure to participate! Who better than the League to be ready to speak to this good-government issue?

**To prepare for the consensus meeting, please read the complete version of this paper (available at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) by the LWVUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee.**

## Support for the National Popular Vote Compact

Because the League already supports direct election of the president, arguments against the Electoral College (EC) are not included in the material supporting the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact).

Constitutional Issues The NPV Compact is a way to assure that every person's vote counts equally and that the person receiving the most votes is the winner of the presidency. The same result would be achieved by constitutional amendment but the U.S. Constitution is difficult to amend. The NPV Compact is a viable way to attain the same goal as amending the Constitution to eliminate the EC.

A constitutional amendment is not needed to effectuate the NPV Compact because states already have the right to implement changes in how electors are appointed.

The NPV Compact is a compact between states – a method of concerted state action that has long been sanctioned by the Constitution and the courts.

Evaluating Fairness A candidate can be elected president by receiving the most electoral votes even though he or she did not receive the most popular votes. This is not a result voters expect or desire. As election campaigns are now waged, major emphasis and resources are concentrated in key EC battleground states because that is where elections are won or lost. The NPV Compact would eliminate the emphasis on battleground states and would be more apt to assure campaign strategies that appeal to a broad spectrum of the electorate which would foster greater voter participation.

The argument that the plan would negatively impact states' rights is countered by poll results showing that most voters want their individual vote to count, rather than allotting them to electors representing the state as a whole.

Any claim that the NPV Compact is an unprecedented disregard for the U.S. Constitution ignores the reality States that voting rights have been changed through state action many times. Women's suffrage, for example, was instituted by twenty states before passage of the constitutional amendment that made the right universal.

Mechanical Considerations Those opposed to the NPV Compact cite mechanical issues that might lead the NPV to fail, but the Compact includes provisions that address issues of enforcement, winning levels and recounts.

Other Issues The Voting Rights Act and the NPV Compact are in harmony, assuring equality of votes throughout the United States.

League Issues Opponents say that the NPV Compact conflicts with the League's support of uniform voting standards. Supporters of the Compact advocate its passage in all states, which would result in uniform voting standards. It is true that the NPV Compact could be in effect for an interlude when not all states had signed on to it. The same could be demonstrated for other laws, such as the Equal Rights Amendment. Nonetheless, it must be remembered that uniform voting standards are not now in effect. The NPV Compact could help assure that every vote would be counted equally.

Further, implementation of a method which assures direct election of the president by popular vote is in keeping with the League's long-held position.

**To prepare for the consensus meeting, please read the complete version of this paper (available at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) by the LWVUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee.**

## Opposition to the National Popular Vote Compact

There is little respect for the Electoral College (EC). The League opposes it and most voters want a direct popular vote. But is the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) an appropriate way to achieve that result?

Evaluating Fairness Voters supporting the candidate who receives the majority of votes in their state want their state's electors to support their choice. Adoption of the NPV Compact may require a state elections official to direct its state's electors to cast their ballots in support of a candidate who was not favored by the voters of that state.

Passage of the NPV Compact will result in the emphasis of presidential campaigns shifting from the battleground states to areas of large concentrations of population. So, while some voters are disenfranchised by the EC, others might be disenfranchised by the NPV Compact. Because the Compact requires entry into a contract with other states which binds state elections officials to direct electors to vote in a certain way, regardless of the outcome of the election in their state, states' rights are diminished.

In addition, one can question the advisability of a method that bypasses the normal constitutional amendment process in this manner.

Constitutional Issues Many constitutional scholars argue that this plan will lead to extensive litigation involving challenges to the NVP Compact on issues such as the scope of constitutional powers, the Compact itself, the need for congressional approval, the concerns of non-compacting states, and constitutional protections of state interests and their role in elections.

Mechanical Issues/Flaws The methods for enforcement of this plan are unclear. Opponents question the power and timing to withdraw from the Compact and the power to enforce compliance.

Others express concern about an onslaught of lawsuits between compacting and non-compacting states, as well as procedures in close elections.

The plan, allowing the election of a president by a plurality of votes, does not improve on the current system; neither the present system nor the NPV Compact requires that the president be elected by a majority.

Other Issues The Voting Rights Act requires pre-clearance for legislative changes. This, too, has the capacity to engender lawsuits to ensure compliance.

League Issues This proposal does nothing to achieve the goal of uniform standards of voting. The NPV Compact is effective when passed by states representing 270 electoral votes, effectively negating the impact on presidential elections of the voters in states which represent the other half of electoral votes. A system which assures no voter disenfranchisement is a better way to assure that every person's vote counts.

The League has long supported the abolition of the EC. Although the NPV Compact purports to foster the same result, it creates additional concerns. Amending the U.S. Constitution is a difficult process, and we should seriously consider supporting the normal amendment procedures to abolish the EC versus this specific "work-around."

**To prepare for the consensus meeting, please read the complete version of this paper (available at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) by the LWVUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee.**

# LWVLC !HOT TOPICS! CALENDAR

League of Women Voters  
of Lehigh County

P. O. Box 3275  
Allentown, PA 18106  
610-432-1456  
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President: Mary Anne Rood,  
610-395-3464  
Membership: Margie Dunn,  
610-298-8946

Caryn Shoenthal, Editor  
Email: CarynCW@yahoo.com  
Phone: 610-261-0596

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.lwvlv.org](http://www.lwvlv.org)



- February 9, 2009      Row Office Reform, Andrea Naugle, Lehigh County Clerk of Judicial Records (see page 1)
- March 9, 2009      Immigration, Will Miller, Program Administrator, Refugee and Immigration Services, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown
- April 13, 2009      Renewable Energy and Sustainability, Archie Follweiler, President, Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association.

The March meeting will be held at the Hamilton Family Restaurant (Ham Fam) on Hamilton Boulevard. The location of future meetings will be published in the Voter.

Pat Swan

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## CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY

It is appropriate that we celebrate Women's History Month by showing the movie "Iron Jawed Angels." The movie will be shown March 16, from 7 - 9 p.m. at Northampton County College, Gates Center, Alumni Hall, Room 130. Oscar-winner Hilary Swank stars in a fresh and contemporary look at a pivotal event in American

history, telling the true story of how a pair of defiant and brilliant young activists took the women's suffrage movement by storm, putting their lives at risk to help American women win the right to vote(Amazon.com). This highly acclaimed movie features Hilary Swank as Alice Paul, Frances O'Connor as Lucy Burns, Angelica Huston as Carrie

Chapman Catt, plus Julie Ormond, Margo Martindale and Lois Smith. Don't miss this opportunity and bring a friend or two.

Joyce Losee  
Northampton County LWV

This notice also appeared in the Northampton County League's newsletter. Ed.

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## CHECK OUT FUTURE VOTERS...

In the April and May Voters, look for the following articles of interest to our readers:

1. Summary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
2. Interview with Transportation Committee Chairman Robert Wonderling.
3. Pennsylvania Transportation Funding and Reform Commission Report.

Lots of information coming in the future. Don't miss it!!

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## ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising Rates for 2009 for The Lehigh County Voter are as follows:

- Business Card Size - \$75 a year
- Full page - \$100 for 1 month, \$500 for a year
- Half Page - \$50 for 1 month, \$250 for a year.

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# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County  
P.O. Box 3275  
Allentown PA 18106



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEHIGH COUNTY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone, E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues include membership in the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA) and a subscription to the local, state and national *Voter*.

League dues and contributions are not tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

Contributions to the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) are tax-deductible.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all citizens of voting age. Associate membership is available for non-citizens and for those under age eighteen.

ANNUAL DUES \$55.00 individual  
2008 \$82.50 household  
\$25.00 full-time student

Contact membership secretary for details of pro-rated dues amounts.

Please make check payable to  
LWVLC and mail to:  
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c/o Margie Dunn  
8411 Carpet Road  
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