



# Voter

**Inside**

President’s Message ..... pg 2  
 Worth Noting ..... pg 3  
 Breaking News..... pg 4  
 Press Release ..... pg 5  
 LWVUS & LWVMN..... pg 6  
 Counting Votes..... pg 7  
 Campaign Cash ..... pg 11  
 Reproductive Rights ..... pg 13  
 ACLU Statement..... pg 15  
 Parktacular ..... pg 17  
 Photo ID Poster..... pg 18  
 2012 / 2013 Calendar..... pg 19

**September Unit Meetings**

**Civility and Arrogance in Public Discourse**

Civil discourse seems to somehow get lost in our political conversations. How can we bring it back? Will we ever be able to have a good conversation with the relative on the other side of a political issue? This first session for 2013 will explore the changes we are seeing in these conversations, what impact it might be having on voting and citizen involvement, and what we can do as individuals and groups to make a change.

Elizabeth Nordland, of MN United for All Families, will present us with options in keeping the conversation civil, and maybe some challenges.

Please join us for Unit 2 on Wednesday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 in the card room at Parkshore Place, 3663 Park Center Boulevard  
 Or Unit 3 on Thursday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at City Hall, 5005 Minnetonka Boulevard.

**For more information, contact Debbie Blake at 952-920-7793 or wakokeishadax@gmail.com.**



**September Calendar**

**September 4, 2012 - 7 pm**

LWV SLP Board Meeting  
 Host: Deb Brinkman

**September 12, 2012 - 12:30 pm**

LWV SLP Unit 2 Meeting  
 Topic: Civility and Arrogance in Discourse  
 Location: Parkshore Card Room

**September 20, 2012 7 pm**

LWV SLP Unit 3 General Meeting  
 Topic: Civility and Arrogance in Discourse  
 Location: SLP City Hall  
 First Floor Community Room

**September 25, 2012**

National Voter Registration Day

**Upcoming Events**

**October 2, 2012 - 7 pm**

LWV SLP Board Meeting  
 Host: Debbie Blake

**October 10, 2012 - 12:30 pm**

LWV SLP Unit 2 Meeting  
 Topic: Marriage Amendment  
 Location: Parkshore Card Room

**October 16, 2012**

Presidential Debate

**October 18, 2012 - 7 pm**

Unit 3 General Meeting  
 Topic: Marriage Amendment  
 Location: St. Louis Park City Hall

**October 23, 2012 - 7 pm**

**Candidate Forum – General Election**  
 Location: St. Louis Park City Hall

tbd

**CMAL Meeting**

New and Improved!

[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) website

## President's Message

Our annual planning meeting built on the ideas discussed at the annual meeting after a pot-luck supper at Judy Cook's home. We identified program ideas and designated leaders for activities during the coming year. We're finalizing some details so the calendar may be updated as we go through the year but the general details are correct. See the calendar elsewhere in the Voter. We were joined by Kathie Whelchel of Anoka/Blaine/Champlin LWV who is our coach for the coming year. She gave us some good suggestions and also was impressed by our group's activities and scope.

Make a note of the candidate forum date for October 23, 2012; 7:00 to 8:30 PM. -Forum participants: are State Senate District 46 candidates Ron Latz & Paul Scofield; State Representative District 46A candidates John Swanson & Ryan Winkler; State Representative District 46B candidates David Arvidson & Steve Simon. The Forum will be at St. Louis Park City Hall.

*—Aggie Leitheiser, LWV SLP President, 952-938-6255*

### Highlights from the 2012 LWV St. Louis Park Planning Meeting:

- Topics selected for this year include: Civility and arrogance in public discourse; the Marriage Amendment proposal; an overview of the Affordable Care Act, Citizens United and the impact on elections; Missing and Exploited Children. We will have our annual Lively Issues/Program planning session with a more in-depth discussion of gun control and our legislative interviews with a chili lunch this year as well.
- We will continue with the same plan of a monthly program at Parkshore Senior Campus at 12:30 on the second Wednesday and a program meeting on the third Thursday at 7:00 pm at City Hall.
- We received a voter service grant from LWVMN to help support our candidate forums and encouraging voters to vote.



## Worth Noting

### According to Catalyst

The median annual earnings for full-time, year-round women workers in 2010 was \$36,931 compared to men's \$47,715.1

In 2011, the median weekly earnings for full-time working women was \$684, compared to \$832 for men.2

In 2011, the median weekly earnings for women in full-time management, professional, and related occupations was \$941, compared to \$1,269 for men

As women, we've got some catching up to do!

See Catalyst.org for more information on equality for women in the workplace. Their timeline is a compilation of events that show our "progress."

### Children First

Asset Champion Training  
Thursday, September 17, 2012

Location: SLP District Office

Contact Karen Atkinson

Karen Atkinson

Children First

6425 W. 33rd St.

St. Louis Park, MN 55426

(952) 928-6075

Children First / LWV Partnership

### In Memoriam:

Dorothy Aarness (1911-2012) & Beryl Stoller (1918-2012) both passed away this year.

They were active members in Unit 2.

May we all be blessed with these lady's energy and passion for democratic fairness.

**August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote became law. In the 92 years since, the League of Women Voters has worked tirelessly to educate and mobilize new voters. We remain fiercely committed to that mission.**

**Recycle your printer cartridges and other technical extras. Bring them to any Unit or Board meeting. We can send them in for money. Proceeds will go to support the Dollars for Scholars Scholarship.**

### Counting Votes 2012

Verified Voting Foundation, Common Cause, and Rutgers Law School have released a report containing a state-by-state examination of voting systems.

"Counting Votes 2012: A State by State Look at Voting Technology

Preparedness" contains a wealth of information, as well as some excellent recommendations for improvements. The

report + information about the contents can be downloaded from

<http://www.countingvotes.org/> .

USA Today

also has an article at

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/story/2012-07-24/states-online-voting/56467106/1>.

The report is a must-read for anyone who cares about our democracy and how elections are run today.

Please help spread the word.

Thanks.

**Barbara Simons, LWVSF**



Educate. Advocate. Reform.™

### LWV Minnesota Breaking News

The Minnesota Supreme Court issued a ruling Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> that the ballot question on the proposed Voter Restriction Amendment is not so unreasonable and misleading as to require court intervention. The question drafted by the Minnesota Legislature will appear on the ballot in November.

LWV Minnesota released a statement to the press following the decision. Here is a link to the [press release](#) and to the [court decision](#).

Today's decision means that voting rights advocates, like LWV Minnesota, will need to work hard to reach the many unaware and misinformed voters to ensure that they fully understand the enormous consequences of the Voter Restriction Amendment.

We need your help. Please give today.

Sherri Knuth, Public Policy Manager

sknuth@lwvmn.org or 651-224-5445

LWV Minnesota 550 Rice St., St. Paul, MN 55103

Phone: 651/224-5445 | Fax: 651/290-2145 | Email: info@lwvmn.org

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Email Preferences](#)

Copyright © League of Women Voters Minnesota. All Rights Reserved



## Press Release

Contact: Aggie Leitheiser, President  
(952) 938-6255

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August, 2012

#### Local Community Leader Attends National LWV Democracy-building Training.

LWV St. Louis Park Leader, Aggie Leitheiser and Judy Cook were recently selected to participate in a leadership development training conducted by the League of Women Voters United States (LWV US) in advance of this fall's election.

Aggie Leitheiser is an active member of LWV SLP, presiding as President for the last several years. She is personally responsible for engaging several of our newest members. Judy Cook joined the LWV SLP four years ago. Judy has been an active participant of LWV from the year, serving on the board as most recently as Membership chair.

The leadership program which sponsors these trainings, was established by the LWV US to help enrich the democracy-building efforts of this more than 90-year-old grassroots organization. The program will be implemented by local LWVs in all 50 states with the support of a volunteer national coaching team and a cadre of state coaches.

During this two-day training held in St. Paul, MN, participants attended "best practices" workshops conducted by national trainers from Washington, DC. Training included techniques for empowering citizens to have a voice in this election, for heightening LWV visibility, and for developing the skills of rising community leaders.

Commenting on the national program, LWV SLP President Aggie said, "In this time of increased political incivility and growing polarization, LWV is needed more than ever. A strong LWV in every community is the best way to ensure that we have an American citizenry that is informed on the issues, ready and able to cast a ballot, and to ensure that every vote is counted."

To become a member of the LWV, go to [www.lwvslp.org](http://www.lwvslp.org) or [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). "Like" LWV on Facebook.

LWV is a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in LWV is open to men and women of all ages. With more than 90 years of experience and 800 local and state affiliates, LWV is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.

## League of Women Voters Minnesota

### LWV Minnesota Program Update

"LWV's program consists of those governmental issues that LWV has chosen for concerted study and action at the national, state or local level."

Program is THE reason for Convention – LWV Minnesota Program Update July 2012  
Whether speaking of US Convention, hosted last month in DC, or our LWV Minnesota State Convention scheduled for May 2013; the adoption of program along with an operating budget for the next biennium are the historical and KEY reasons for us to gather together for these events. Local LWV members across the state or across the country come together to discuss, debate, and agree upon a program platform that represents who we are, and those governmental issues that LWV supports and believes in.

Consistent with both our bylaws and our Mission Statement, Program is meant to address political and governmental topics and issues that influence or are influenced by policy; regardless of whether implementation is on the "national, state, or local level."

In June, LWV members at National Convention passed three new Program positions: Education, Privatization and Sentencing Reform. Two of the positions were the result of two-year studies and a consensus\* building process for each; the third (Sentencing Reform) was the result of a vote of concurrence with the policy position of the LWV District of Columbia. Although a recommended study was not put forth by the National Board based on the 2012 Program Planning results submitted by Local LWVs prior to March 1, a non-recommended study to review and update the LWV US position on agriculture approved in 1988 was adopted by the convention. A full record of the Program topics discussed and acted on are in the convention reports:

<http://www.lwv.org/search/content/2012%20Report%20of%20Convention%20Action>.

## League of Women Voters United States

### Time's Running Out: Sign up for National Voter Registration Day (NEW)

LWVs have been working hard planning voter registration drives, and more than 180 LWVs have signed up to participate in National Voter Registration Day (9/25). Join with your colleagues in supporting this national day of action! Sign up to host a voter registration event on September 25th by visiting [www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org). For helpful tips on planning successful registration events all season long, [listen to our recent webinar](#).

### POWER THE VOTE: This Week's Challenge Activity (NEW)

Now is the perfect time to put together a poll watching/poll worker program in your community! Poll observers help identify issues and collect relevant data in addition to working to lessen the impact of photo ID in impacted jurisdictions. LWV Education Fund provides useful [tools and documents](#) that you may use in putting together a program. We've learned that some of our coalition partners are working on some new resources that we'd like to share with interested LWVs once they are ready. We will keep you posted.

# **Counting Votes 2012: A State by State Look at Election Preparedness Submitted by Aggie Leitheiser**

(Updated August 2012)

<http://www.countingvotes.org>

Below is a summary of our joint report.

[Click to see a chart showing the Overall Ranking.](#)

On Election Day, Nov. 6, the stakes will be high. A number of critical races will be very close, and some might be decided by very few votes. At the same time, it is highly likely that voting systems will fail in multiple places across the country.[i] In fact, in every national election in the past decade, computerized voting systems have failed – machines haven't started, machines have failed in the middle of voting,[ii] memory cards couldn't be read be read,[iii] votes were mistallied [iv] or lost.[v]

Our elections are so complex, with so many different jurisdictions and varying technologies, that problems are inevitable. And, as the technology used for elections has become more complicated, the opportunity for error has substantially increased.

This report reviews how prepared each state is to ensure that every eligible voter can vote, and that every vote is counted as cast. Because we cannot predict where machines will fail during the upcoming national election, every state should be as prepared as possible for system failures.

The Verified Voting Foundation, the Rutgers Law School Constitutional Litigation Clinic and Common Cause surveyed states' voting equipment and ranked the states according to their preparedness. The rankings are based on how states compare to a set of best practices already being used in some places.

The report ranks states from worst to best (inadequate, needs improvement, generally good, good and excellent) in these five areas of evaluation:

1. Does the state require paper ballots or records of every state? When computer failures or human errors cause machines to miscount, election officials can use the original ballots to determine correct totals. Additionally, paper ballots or records can be used to audit machine counts to determine if outcomes are correct.
2. Does the state have adequate contingency plans at each polling place in the event of machine failure? Machine repair should occur quickly and emergency paper ballots should be made available if any machine fails and to alleviate long lines.
3. Does the state protect military and overseas voters by ensuring that marked ballots are not cast online? Voting system experts at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and cyber security experts at the Department of Homeland Security warn that even state-of-the-art online voting technology lacks adequate security and privacy protections. Ballots cast over the Internet can be subject to alteration and voters may lose the right to a secret ballot.
4. Has the state instituted a post-election audit that can determine whether the electronically reported outcomes are correct? Simply voting on paper ballot systems does not increase the accuracy and integrity of election results; the ballots or records must be used to independently audit the vote count. Mandatory comparison of a random sample of the paper ballots to electronic totals is one of the best ways to ensure that the reported outcomes are correct. A well designed

audit should use statistical sampling methods tied to the margin of victory and should be able to correct the outcome if it is wrong.

- Does the state use robust ballot reconciliation and tabulation practices? These basic procedures, including reconciling the number of votes cast to the number of voters who signed in and reconciling precinct totals with county-level totals, help ensure that no ballots are lost or added as the votes are tallied and aggregated from the local up to the state level.

The five measures listed above protect against machine failures that can change election outcomes and disenfranchise voters. Listed below are examples of past machine failures and how they impacted various elections:

Following a June 2009 election, officials in Pennington County, South Dakota, discovered a software malfunction that added thousands of non-existent votes to the county totals.[vi]

In a municipal election in Palm Beach County, Florida, in March 2012, a problem with election management software allotted votes to the wrong candidate and the wrong contest. The official results were only changed after a court-sanctioned public hand count of the votes.[vii]

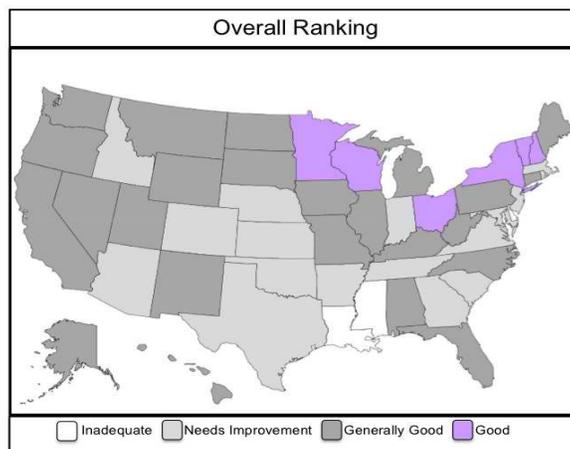
In the 2008 Republican presidential primary in Horry County, South Carolina, touch screen voting machines in 80 percent of the precincts temporarily failed, and when precincts ran out of paper ballots, voters could not cast ballots in their home precinct.[viii]

In a test-run for an online election in the September 2010 Washington, D.C., primary, a hacker team was able to change all of the votes to “elect” their own candidates. The online voting system was days away from being launched in a real election for use by overseas and military voters. After the incident, the Internet voting system was canceled.[ix]

Similar vote-counting errors may go undetected during the 2012 elections unless the mistake is so large and obvious – like the software malfunction in South Dakota – that it can’t be ignored, or the state has adopted procedures – like the post-election audit done in Florida – as recommended in this report.

### Findings

The report assessed each state based on how its laws and procedures matched up to best practices in the categories identified above. These metrics were developed in consultation with leading election officials and security experts — in each of these areas. We rated each state on a five-tier scale, from inadequate through excellent. We determined that five states – Minnesota, New Hampshire, Ohio, Vermont and Wisconsin – are the best prepared to catch voting system problems and to protect voters from disenfranchisement due to equipment failures. On the other hand, Colorado, Delaware, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina are the six least-prepared states. The rest of the states were missing one, two or three key procedures or systems that would adequately protect voters.



State by state preparedness, continued....

**Here is a more detailed breakdown of findings in the five categories we assessed:**

1. Sixteen states use paperless machines in some or all counties, prompting an "inadequate" grade. In other words, these machines produce no independent record of the vote cast, which is necessary for recounts or audits. These states are: Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. The other 35 states use voting systems which either require the use of a paper ballot or produce a paper record.
2. On contingency preparation for possible equipment failures, three states—California, Indiana and Ohio – ranked "excellent" because they required most or all of the best practices requiring machine repair and replacement and provision of emergency ballots. None were ranked "inadequate" and seven states – Colorado, Delaware, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Utah and West Virginia – were ranked "needs improvement." The rest of the 41 states ranked "good" or "generally good," or were not ranked because paper ballots are the standard polling place system.
3. Nineteen states protect voters by prohibiting electronic return of marked ballots over the Internet and instead require the voter's original paper ballot to be returned: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. These states were ranked "excellent." One state, New Jersey, permits electronic return of votes for military and overseas voters, but requires the physical ballot to be returned as well. New Jersey was ranked "generally good." Twenty-five states permit electronic return of votes for military and overseas voters without restrictions, subjecting the ballots to the risk of corruption: Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Washington and West Virginia. These states were rated "inadequate." Six states allow electronic return but seek to contain the risk by making electronic return of voted ballots available only to a restricted group of voters (e.g., military voters in combat zones): Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Missouri and Texas. These states were ranked "needs improvement."
4. Twenty-two states have paper-based voting systems and conduct audits. These states received a "good," a "needs improvement," and in one case, an "excellent" ranking, depending on the quality of their audits: Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico (which received the "excellent" ranking), New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Four states require audits but do not use paper-based voting systems statewide and so a portion of their ballots go unaudited. These states – Colorado, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Texas – received a "needs improvement" rating. And 25 states conduct no audits at all and received an "inadequate" rating: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Wyoming.
5. Four states – Iowa, New Hampshire, North Dakota and Vermont – require most or all of the ballot accounting and reconciliation best practices, and were ranked "excellent." Another 18 received a "good" ranking: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. Three states received a "needs improvement" rating – New Jersey, South Dakota and Utah. The remaining 26 states ranked as "generally good," and none were ranked "inadequate."

State by state preparedness, continued....

## Recommendations

Although it takes effort and resources to do so, our best practices have already been implemented in a number of states, with overwhelmingly positive results. We recommend that every state adopt the best practices in this report in order to safeguard our democracy.

We hope that this report serves as a resource guide to election officials, policy makers and concerned citizens alike. Election officials can see and discuss what their peers across the nation are doing to make elections secure and reliable. Similarly, citizens can work with election officials to implement the best practices discussed in the report. Citizens can also use the report to identify and help solve problems that might arise on Election Day.

[i] Our Vote Live Election Incidents, Voting Equipment Problems, 2010 General Election, available at <http://electionawareness.appspot.com/reports?election=247001&subset=252001&state=--&followup=-1&sortBy=created&sortOrder=desc&county=--&user=-1>  
<http://electionawareness.appspot.com/reports?election=247001&subset=2520...> (last visited June 28, 2012).

[ii] See, e.g., Cameron W. Barr, Md. Election Problems Fuel Push for Paper Records, WASHINGTON POST, Sept. 17, 2006, at A4; Michael Scherer, Electronic Voting Machine Problems in Myrtle Beach, TIME, SWAMPLAND BLOG, (Jan. 19, 2008),  
[http://swampland.time.com/2008/01/19/electronic\\_voting\\_machine\\_prob/](http://swampland.time.com/2008/01/19/electronic_voting_machine_prob/).

[iii] See, e.g., Brian C. Mooney, Voting Errors Tallied Nationwide, BOSTON GLOBE, Dec. 1, 2004; Mary Pat Flaherty, Ohio Voting Machines Contained Programming Error That Dropped Votes, WASHINGTON POST, Aug. 23, 2008. See also Josh Sweigart, Ohio Officials Prepare for Voting-Machine Breakdowns, HAMILTON JOURNAL-NEWS, Aug. 28, 2008.

[iv] See, e.g., John Archibald & Brett J. Blackenridge, Early Printout Was Only Source of Wrong Tally, BIRMINGHAM NEWS, Nov. 10, 2002; Nedra Linsey, McComish's District 20 2nd-place Finish Confirmed, ARIZ. REPUBLIC, Sept. 24, 2004; Ben Cunningham, Malfunction Delays Hasting Results, GRAND RAPIDS PRESS, May 4, 2006.

[v] See, e.g., More than 4,500 North Carolina Votes Lost Because of Mistake in Voting Machine Capacity, USA TODAY, Nov. 4, 2004; Tim O'Meilias, State Faults Elections Office for Lost Votes, PALM BEACH POST, July 2, 2008.

[vi] Emilie Rusch, Scanner Glitch Blamed for Election Miscounts, RAPID CITY JOURNAL, June 3, 2009, <http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/scanner-glitch-blamed-for-electio...>

[vii] Jaikumar Vijayan, E-voting System Awards Election to Wrong Candidates in Florida Village, COMPUTERWORLD, (Apr. 4, 2012), [http://www.computerworld.com.au/article/420523/e-voting\\_system\\_awards\\_el...](http://www.computerworld.com.au/article/420523/e-voting_system_awards_el...)

[viii] Domenico Montanaro,, SC Voting Problems, FIRST READ, Jan. 19, 2008, <http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/01/19/592019.aspx>.

[ix] Wheaton, Sarah, Voting Test Falls Victim to Hackers, The New York Times, (Oct. 8, 2010), <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/09/us/politics/09vote.html>

# **Flood of Secret Campaign Cash: Its Not All Citizens United**

## **by Nikki Willoughby**

### **Common Cause Blog**

August 23, 2012

by Stephen Engelberg and Kim Barker  
ProPublica, Aug. 23, 2012, 3:13 p.m.

The emergence of nonprofits as the leading conduit for anonymous spending in this year's presidential campaign is often attributed to the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United ruling, which opened the money spigot, allowing corporations and unions to buy ads urging people to vote for or against specific candidates.

But a closer look shows that there are several reasons that tens of millions of dollars of secret money are flooding this year's campaign. Actions — and inaction — by both the Federal Election Commission and the Internal Revenue Service have contributed just as much to the flood of tens of millions of dollars of secret money into the 2012 campaign. Congress did not act on a bill that would have required disclosure after Citizens United and other court rulings opened the door to secret political spending.

To understand how all this happened, it's worth returning to Justice Anthony Kennedy's opinion in Citizens United, and the political system the court envisioned. In the decision's key finding, Kennedy and four other justices said the First Amendment entitled corporations and unions to the same unlimited rights of political speech and spending as any citizen.

But in a less-noticed portion of the ruling, Kennedy and seven of his colleagues upheld disclosure rules and emphasized the role of transparency. Undue corporate or union influence on elections, he wrote, could be addressed by informed voters and shareholders who would instantly access campaign finance facts from their laptops or smart phones.

Campaign Cash, continued...

All of this raises an intriguing question: Was Kennedy aware when he drafted the January 2010 Citizens United opinion that nonprofits were being widely used to avoid public disclosure of political spending?

At the least, critics say, Kennedy was poorly informed.

"Justice Kennedy was living in a fantasy land," said Ciara Torres-Spelliscy, a professor at Stetson University College of Law who tracks campaign finance issues. "I wish the world he envisaged exists. It doesn't."

Instead, this is the disclosure world that exists: Someone who gives up to \$2,500 to the campaign of President Barack Obama or challenger Mitt Romney will have his or her name, address and profession listed on the FEC website for all to see. But that same person can give \$1 million or more to a social welfare group that buys ads supporting or attacking those same candidates and stay anonymous.

This year, a federal judge struck down the FEC rule stemming from Wisconsin Right to Life. The FEC announced in July that major donors to electioneering communications — ads that focus on issues without directly advocating for candidates — would have to be named.

Already, groups are looking for work-arounds. They're running different kinds of ads. Some will name other social welfare nonprofits as their donors.

The loose oversight by the FEC helped bring so much anonymous money into campaign finance. But no one expects the commission to take a more assertive role anytime soon. Dan Backer, a lawyer who represents several conservative nonprofits, likened the deadlocked agency to a "cute bunny" while referring to the IRS as a "500-pound gorilla."

The IRS or Congress are more plausible avenues for change, experts say. Ryan said he was hopeful that Congress and the IRS might some day limit ads from groups that don't disclose their donors. The 2012 campaign, though, appears to be a lost cause. "I think this election will be mired and perhaps overwhelmed by secret money," Ryan said.

## **Widespread War on Reproductive Rights National polls show that most of the public supports birth control and abortion rights. So what's with the trend of trying to limit them?**

by Lynsi Burton

More than 1,100 bills aiming to restrict reproductive health access were introduced in state legislatures in 2011. By the end of the year, 135 of these measures were enacted in 35 states. The trend continued in the first half of 2012, with legislatures passing 95 new provisions related to birth control and abortion. But supporters of reproductive rights are pushing back.

When a “personhood amendment” that would grant human rights to a fertilized egg was put on the ballot last November in Mississippi—a Bible Belt state with a legacy of entrenched conservatism—pro-choice activists knew they faced an uphill battle against an initiative that would undercut access to safe and legal abortion and outlaw many forms of birth control, the morning-after pill, and in-vitro fertilization.

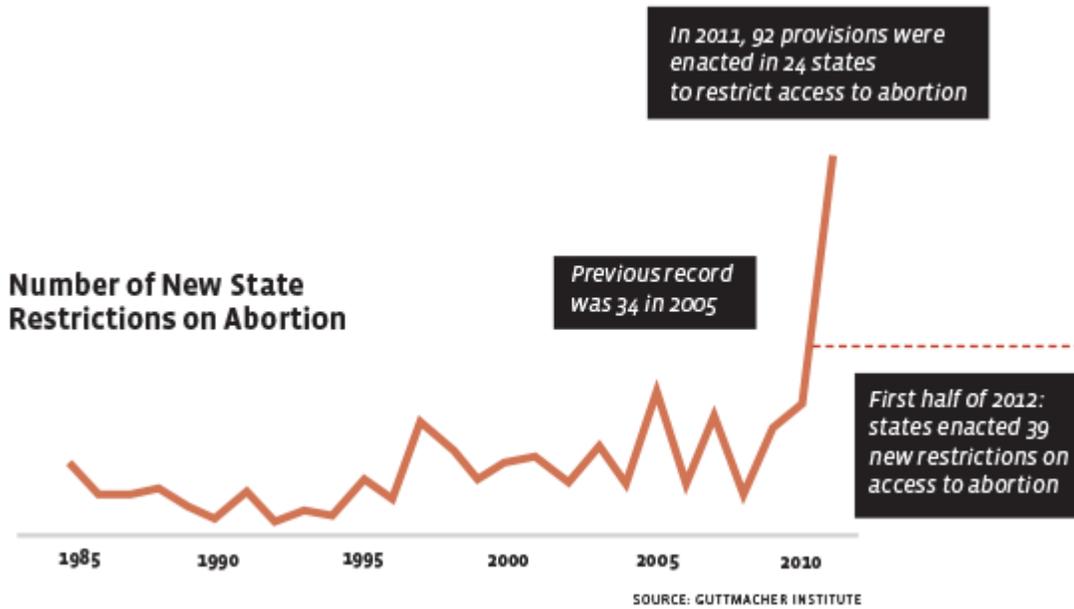
Mississippians for Healthy Families, aided by students, civil rights activists, and faith leaders, organized successfully to defeat the bill, winning 58 percent of the vote. It is difficult, if not impossible, for women and medical professionals to pinpoint the exact moment an ovum is fertilized, so the new law would have been impossible to follow consistently. Had it passed, it would have necessitated a Supreme Court challenge, and thus an opportunity to reverse *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 ruling that legalized abortion.

But Mississippi was just one battle in what many call “the war on women”—an assault on reproductive rights through bills to outlaw abortion, limit access to birth control, and eliminate funding for women’s health programs. The bills, all spearheaded by Republican legislators, are backed by the religious right and powerful lobbies. Prominent in recent campaigns to limit or deny abortion and birth control were the the National Right to Life Committee and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

When Virginia passed its “ultrasound bill” in March that requires women to undergo a transvaginal or abdominal ultrasound before having an abortion, Idaho tried to follow suit. Though the measure passed the Idaho Senate, a House committee chairman prevented the bill from reaching the floor for a vote, citing concerns over conflicts with a pre-existing informed consent law.

Reproductive Rights, continued ...

National polls show that most of the public supports abortion rights, at least in some cases. Even in Virginia's 7th Congressional District, home to Republican House Majority Leader Eric Cantor and one of the most consistently conservative districts in the United States, 68 percent of voters say they would support a pro-choice candidate over an anti-choice candidate, according to a Harrison Hickman poll.



Lynsi Burton wrote this article for It's Your Body, the Fall 2012 issue of YES! Magazine. Lynsi is a journalist living in Bremerton, Wash.



## Minnesota Supreme Court Allows Misleading Voter Restriction Amendment to stay on November Ballot

August 27, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 27, 2012

**CONTACT:**

Charles Samuelson, Executive Director for the ACLU-MN, 651.645.4097 x121; csamuelson@aclu-mn.org  
William Pentelovitch, Partner at Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand, 612-672-8338,  
bill.pentelovitch@maslon.com

### **Minnesota Supreme Court allows misleading voting amendment to stay on the November Ballot**

St. Paul, Minn. – The American Civil Liberties Union expressed extreme disappointment today in Minnesota's Supreme Court for allowing the voter restriction amendment to stay on November's ballot. In a 4 – 2 decision the Minnesota Supreme Court rejected the ACLU's argument that the ballot question was misleading and unclear, and upheld the amendment and ballot question as written by the Minnesota Legislature.

"The ACLU is disappointed in that the Court allowed a false and misleading amendment to stay on the ballot," stated Charles Samuelson, Executive Director of the ACLU-MN.

"The Minnesota State Legislature wasn't telling voters the truth about its proposed photo ID requirement for voting, and they have a right to know," said Laughlin McDonald, director of the ACLU Voting Rights Project. "Not only is this part of a wave of laws that have already had a severe impact on the right to vote nationwide, but this particular amendment effectively spells the end of Election Day registration, which significantly increases turnout."

ACLU, continued ....

The petition was filed in the Minnesota Supreme Court in June on behalf of the League of Women Voters Minnesota, Jewish Community Action and Common Cause Minnesota, as well as five individual plaintiffs: Gabriel Herbers, Shannon Doty, Gretchen Nickence, John Harper Ritten, and Kathryn Ibur.

In its decision the Court did provide clarification to photo ID requirements noting that absentee voters will also have to present photographic identification.

"A grave miscarriage of justice was done to Minnesota voters today when the Minnesota Supreme Court allowed this amendment to stay on the ballot as is," stated Bill Pentelovitch, of Mason Edelman Borman & Brand, LLP. "Minnesotans will walk into their polling place and cast a vote on a misleading and confusing amendment that could be permanently enshrined in the Minnesota Constitution."

The court also ruled today that the Secretary of State must use the title designated by the legislature. The ACLU-MN filed an amicus brief in this case arguing that the Secretary of State did have the authority to designate a title.

In the coming months the ACLU-MN will continue its efforts along with other advocacy groups to defeat the voter restriction amendment by talking to voters and educating them on how this will effectively end Election Day Registration, place hurdles in front of seniors and active duty military, and negatively impact citizens ability to absentee vote.

Attorneys in the case are: William Pentelovitch, Richard Wilson, Justin Perl, Wayne Moskowitz, Alain Baudry and Catherine Ahlin-Halverson of Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand, LLP and Laughlin McDonald of the ACLU Voting Rights Project, and Teresa Nelson of the ACLU of Minnesota.

## St. Louis Park Parktacular



Carlota Medus, Aggie Leitheiser, Debbie Blake and Judy Cook at the St. Louis Park Parktacular.  
June, 2012

LWV SLP set up a booth at the Parktacular for the second year. This is a great opportunity for us to make community connections.

"The weather was great – unlike the constant rain last year. There were a lot of people who stopped by the booth. All of the Voter ID handouts were gone in the first hour!"

# "What's so bad about Voter Photo ID?"....

**Voter Photo ID**  
Does Not  
belong in Our  
Constitution

**The Constitution**  
Is to GIVE rights  
Not take rights  
away

No need for  
**Voter Photo ID** -  
Checks and  
balances already exist  
to ensure the integrity  
of our elections

**Voter Photo ID**  
increases costs  
for local, county  
and State  
government

**Voter Photo ID**  
increases costs  
for local, county  
and State  
Government -  
It's not fiscally  
responsible

**Voter Photo ID**  
Creates barriers  
For Eligible  
individuals  
to vote

**These barriers**  
include  
**Absentee Voting**  
including  
**Military**



The League of Women Voters grew out of a 70-year effort to gain the right to vote for women. Today, every citizen's right to vote is important to us. That is why we oppose legislation that would require registered voters to show a government-issued Voter Photo ID. For more information visit our website at [www.lwvmn.org](http://www.lwvmn.org).



**LWVSLP Calendar 2012 – 2013  
8/31/2012**

<b>Date / Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Assigned / Host</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Getting Ready</b>	
<b>July 30, 2012 6 pm</b>	<b>Program Planning Meeting Location: Judy's Home</b>	<b>Judy Cook</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Primary Election August 14</b>	
<b>September</b>	<b>Kick Off The Year Right</b>	
<b>September 4, 2012 7 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting Deb Brinkman's Home</b>	<b>Deb Brinkman</b>
<b>September 12, 2012 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Civility and arrogance in discourse Location: Park shore Card Room</b>	<b>Debbie Blake</b>
<b>September 20, 2012 7 pm</b>	<b>General Meeting Topic: Civility and arrogance in discourse Location: City Hall</b>	<b>Debbie Blake</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Election Forum and Marriage amendment</b>	
<b>October 2, 2012</b>	<b>Board Meeting Debbie's Home</b>	<b>Debbie Blake</b>
<b>October 10, 2012 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: video "That's a Family" Location: Park Shore Card Room</b>	<b>Aggie/Debbie</b>
<b>October 15, 2012</b>	<b>Unit 3 Meeting Topic: video "That's a Family" Location: City Hall</b>	<b>Aggie/Debbie</b>
<b>October 23, 2012</b>	<b>Candidate Forum for Senate and House</b>	<b>Eilseen/Carlota</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>CMAL meeting</b>	<b>Debbie Blake</b>
<b>November</b>		
<b>November 7, 2012 NOTE: Wednesday</b>	<b>Board Meeting Eilseen's Home</b>	<b>Eilseen Knisely</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>West Metro Location:</b>	
<b>November 14, 2012 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Citizens United Briefing Paper Location: Parkshore Card Room</b>	<b>Barb Person</b>
<b>November 15, 2012 7 pm</b>	<b>Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Citizens United Briefing Paper Location: City Hall</b>	<b>Barb Person</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Lively Issues and Program Planning State and CML</b>	

<b>December 4, 2012</b>	<b>Board Meeting Judy's Home</b>	<b>Judy Cook</b>
<b>December 12, 2012 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Lively Issues and Gun Control Location: Parkshore Card Room</b>	<b>Aggie and Betty</b>
<b>December 20, 2012</b>	<b>Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Lively Issues and Gun Control Location: City Hall</b>	<b>Aggie and Betty</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>Staying Connected</b>	
<b>January 8, 2013</b>	<b>Board Meeting Aggie's Home</b>	<b>Aggie Leitheiser</b>
<b>January 9, 2013 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: - TBD Location: Parkshore Card Room</b>	
<b>January ??, 2013</b>	<b>Legislative Interviews (Invite Hopkins/GV) Location: Union Congregational Church</b>	<b>Eilseen/Carlota</b>
<b>February</b>		
<b>February</b>	<b>93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of LWV</b>	
<b>February 5, 2013</b>	<b>Board Meeting Barb's Home</b>	<b>Barb Person</b>
<b>February 13, 2013 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Affordable Care Act update Location: Park Shore Card Room</b>	<b>Aggie Leitheiser</b>
<b>February 21, 2013</b>	<b>Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Affordable Care Act update Location: City Hall</b>	<b>Aggie Leitheiser</b>
<b>March</b>		
<b>March 5, 2013</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location: Carlota's Home</b>	<b>Carlota Medus</b>
<b>March 13, 2013 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Missing and Exploited Children Paper Location: Park Shore Card Room</b>	<b>Allyson</b>
<b>March 21, 2013</b>	<b>Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Missing and Exploited Children Paper Location: City Hall</b>	<b>Allyson</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Past And Future</b>	
<b>April 2, 2013</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location: Deb's Home</b>	<b>Deb Brinkman</b>

<b>April 10, 2013</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: TBD Location: Park Shore Card Room</b>	
<b>April 20, 2013</b>	<b>59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Topic: TBD Location: Minneapolis Golf Club</b>	
<b>May</b>	<b>Celebrate St. Louis Park</b>	
<b>May 7, 2013</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location: Dorothy's home</b>	<b>Dorothy Karlson</b>
<b>May 8, 2013 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: TBD Location: Parkshore Card Room</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>May 18, 2013 (?)</b>	<b>Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Tour of new Fire Stations Location: City Hall</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Community Outreach</b>	
<b>June 15, 2013</b>	<b>Parktacular</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Fun</b>	
<b>July ??, 2013</b>	<b>Picnic and Concert in the Park</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Getting Ready</b>	
<b>August 6, 2012</b>	<b>Planning Meeting</b>	<b>Deb Brinkman</b>

## Observer Reports

Observer Coordinator: Dorothy Karlson **952-935-4051**

**Dorothy Karlson is coordinating the 2012 – 2013 Observer Reports. If you can attend a City Council Meeting or School Board meeting and type up a brief review of the meeting, please contact Dorothy at 952-935-4051. Remember to wear your pin at the meetings – our presence at the meetings is noted and appreciated.**

### Editor's Note:

Welcome Back. I hope you had a great summer and are looking forward to an active and engaging LWV year. We also have a new web site that launched over the summer. I hope you get a chance to check it out. [www.lwvslp.org](http://www.lwvslp.org). Please contact me if you have comments or suggestions. Deb.brinkman@gmail.com.



Your source for voting information: <http://vote411.org/>

**LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2011-2012**

**OFFICERS:**

President: Aggie Leitheiser  
 Vice President: Deb Brinkman  
 Secretary: Allyson Sheldrew  
 Treasurer/W.Metro: Barb Person  
 Observer: Dorothy Karlson

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Voter Service: Eilseen Knisley  
 Voter Service: Carlota Medus  
 Membership: Judy Cook  
 CMAL: Debbie Blake  
 Voter Editor/Web: Deb Brinkman

**YES! I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS PARK**

Name (Family Member #1): \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Family Member #2): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Dues**

- First Year Introduction Special \$25.00**
  - Voter Subscription Only \$10.00
  - Single Active Attending Member \$45.00
  - Supporting/Member-at-Large \$50.00
  - Family Membership (household) \$70.00
- (Dues and subscriptions are not tax deductible.)

**Make checks payable to LWVSLP**

**and send check & this form to:**

Judy Cook  
 4010 Highwood Road  
 St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
[Jcook422@comcast.net](mailto:Jcook422@comcast.net)  
 (952-928-9846)



4327 Alabama Avenue, South  
 St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Aggie Leitheiser, President  
 (952) 938-6255  
[aggieleit@comcast.net](mailto:aggieleit@comcast.net)

Judy Cook, Membership  
 (952) 928-9846  
[Jcook42@comcast.net](mailto:Jcook42@comcast.net)

Deb Brinkman, Editor  
 (612) 803-6142  
[deb.brinkman@gmail.com](mailto:deb.brinkman@gmail.com)

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**LWV Mission Statement**

*LWV, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. [www.lwvslp.org](http://www.lwvslp.org)*