



PERSPECTIVE

VOLUME XV

ISSUE 10

JUNE 2009

Forums in your Neighborhoods

Meet your Candidates for Flint City Council

All forums are from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M.

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| 2nd & 6th Wards | Tuesday, July 14th |
| Calvary United Methodist Church - 2111 Flushing Rd. 48504 | |
| 3rd Ward | Thursday, July 16th |
| Foss Baptist Church- 1159 E. Foss Ave. 48506 | |
| 4th & 7th Wards | Tuesday, July 21st |
| Asbury United Methodist Church- 1653 Davison Rd. 48506 | |
| 8th & 9th Wards | Thursday, July 23rd |
| Lincoln Park United Methodist Church- 3410 Fenton Rd. 48507 | |
| 5th Ward | Tuesday, July 28th |
| St. James Christian Methodist Episcopal Church- 310 W. Wood St. 48503 | |
- These events are free and open to the public.**
All candidates running for these positions have been invited.

The Primary Election will be held on August 4, 2009

Forum cosponsors:
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Zeta Beta Omega Chapter,
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Flint Alumnae,
League of Women Voters of the Flint Area and the
College Cultural Neighborhood Association,
Eastside Business Association,
Metawanene Hills Neighborhood Association,
Mott Park Neighborhood Association,
Southside Business and Residents Association

(These organizations do not support or oppose any candidate)

AS VOTED UPON AT THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WAS AUTHORIZED TO FINALIZE LANGUAGE AND VOTE UPON A RESOLUTION STATING LEAGUE SUPPORT FOR A SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE PLAN AND TO SEND THIS RESOLUTION TO LWVUS AND LWVMI. FOLLOWING IS THE LANGUAGE OF THAT RESOLUTION.



WHEREAS,
the LWVUS position on health care calls for a health care system that is universal, comprehensive, equitable, and affordable to individuals and to the nation; and

WHEREAS,
the LWVUS position, adopted in 1993, supports a national health care plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums; and

WHEREAS,
a single payer health care plan (publicly financed, privately delivered) can best fulfill these criteria;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
that the League of Women Voters of the Flint Area, Michigan requests that the LWVUS actively support the principle of A SINGLE PAYER NATIONAL HEALTH CARE plan and that a SINGLE PAYER LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL be included in deliberations of health care reform by Congress and the Administration; and that LWVUS President inform LWVUS officials and staff of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,
that this subject be put on the agenda of the June, 2009, LWVUS Council Meeting; and the Board meeting of the League of Women Voters of Michigan at the earliest opportunity, **so that the League of Women Voters of the Flint area can advocate for a single payer health insurance plan and a seat at the table where this issue is**

IS THIS SOCIALIZED MEDICINE?

No, National Health Insurance is *not* socialized medicine. Under socialized medicine systems such as Great Britain, doctors are government employees and hospitals are owned by the government. With Improved Medicare For All, doctors remain independent and hospitals continue to be run by private, non-profit charitable groups (e.g. Sisters of Mercy). Doctors in private practice will remain in private practice. You will choose your own doctors and competition among providers will be increased as you, not an insurance company, decide where to get care.

The great improvement is that providers will only have to send their claims to one place to get paid – the National Health Insurance Program (that’s what we mean by *Single Payer*), instead of thousands of different insurance companies. Doctors and patients will no longer have to wait.

I HAVE GOOD HEALTH BENEFITS THROUGH MY UNION. WILL I LOSE THEM WITH IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR ALL?

No. Improved Medicare For All will protect you benefits and may improve them. Today, union members are losing health benefits and/or being forced to give up wages as the cost of health care skyrockets.

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NET NEUTRALITY

As you know, Net Neutrality is a priority for the League. We support neutral, uncensored and nondiscriminatory flow of information. No person, nation or company should own the Internet. As we have reported in the past, giant media corporations are seeking to charge for the things you do on line. The final FCC plan is due in February of 2010, but the FCC comment docket closes July 8th. Please contact you Senators and Representative and let them know that you support a plan that meets the needs of all Americans, not just the phone and cable giants. The Internet freedoms we all value are at risk. The sooner our voices are heard the better our chances are to retain a free, affordable and fast Internet. Despite the disparity in money between us



The League of Women Voters of the Flint area is pleased to invite you to nominate one of your members/volunteers for our second annual Making Democracy Work Award. The League of Women Voters celebrates community leaders; individuals who have envisioned a way to improve the community and have mobilized others to work with them to effect a change that has benefited the broader community. This award will honor one such individual who has, in the League tradition, helped to make our community strong, vibrant and fair.

Nominations are open to any woman fifty and older who has contributed to our community in a meaningful way. Nominees can apply themselves or may be nominated by a friend or colleague. All applications must be received by August 8, 2009.

So, given all this: **who is the most impressive woman you know?**

Our winner will be announced on August 26th, the anniversary of the adoption of the 20th Amendment, giving women the right to vote in the United States. Our reception honoring the Making Democracy Work Award winner will be on September 17th, Constitution Day.

We believe a great tribute to our democracy's leaders is to honor a community member who shares the same commitment to leadership and civic improvement as the League of Women Voters. The League is a nonpartisan political organization. Our mission is to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in their government, to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. With nearly 90 years of experience the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.

Charlotte Williams was the Making Democracy Award winner for 2008.

Please share this information with members of your organization or others in the community. Feel free to copy the nomination form. Questions? Phone Edith Prunty-Spencer at 239-8064.

Sincerely,

Edith Prunty-Spencer
League of Women Voters of the Flint Area



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

The League of Women Voters of the Flint Area celebrates a community leader – a woman who has envisioned a way to improve the Flint Area and has mobilized others to work with her to effect a change that has benefited the broader community. This award will honor the individual who has, in the League tradition, helped to make the Flint Area strong, vibrant and fair.

Nominations are open to any Flint Area woman, fifty or older, who is contributing or has contributed to our community in a significant and meaningful way.

Nominees may apply themselves or may be nominated by a friend or colleague.

All applications must be received by August 8, 2009

Name of Nominator: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____ **Email Address:** _____

What is your relationship to/with the nominee? _____

ABOUT THE NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____ **Email Address:** _____

Profession (current/previous): _____

How long have you/has this individual been active in the Flint Area? _____

In one sentence, tell us why you would like to be considered for the Making Democracy Work award or why you are nominating this individual for the award. _____

Please describe in detail what impact you have/this individual has had on our community? What population/organization/event has benefited from your efforts or from those of the nominee?

Please print clearly or type. You may use additional sheets if needed. Form may be copied.

Nominations must be received by August 8, 2009

Question?? Call 810-239-8064 or send Email to administration@lwvflintarea.org

Return forms to: League of Women Voters of the Flint Area, P.O.Box 230, Flint, MI 48501-0230

JAN NIEUWENHUIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

THE FLINT AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND
WILL BE NAMED THE JAN NIEUWENHUIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN
HONOR OF LONG TIME LEAGUE MEMBER AND PAST BOARD
MEMBER.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS OF THE
LEAGUE TO DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS FUND. THE MONIES
GO TO BRING INDIVIDUALS INTO OUR LEAGUE WHO WUPPORT THE
WORK OF THE LEAGUE BUT WHOSE RESOURCES ARE LIMITED.
BENEFICIARIES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP DO AGREE TO PARTICIPATE
IN LEAGUE FUNCTIONS.

Following is the draft of a letter from the LWVUS website that you can use for your own information or to send on the EPA with any comments you choose to make. Comments can go the GHG-Endangerment-Docket@epa.gov.

I support both the “endangerment” finding and the “cause or contribute” finding, and urge EPA to move quickly to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. I believe the “endangerment” finding should also support quick EPA action to control emissions from new and existing coal-fired electric power plants, including a moratorium on the building of new coal-fired plants until the technology is in place that can substantially reduce the amount of CO2 emitted by these sources.

The proposed “endangerment” finding is fully in keeping with the best scientific evidence that greenhouse gas emissions endanger public health and the environment. The scientific evidence is clear that climate change, caused largely by human emissions of greenhouse gases, is here now, already causing increasingly severe droughts and heat waves in some areas, intensifying floods and hurricanes in others, and triggering more wildfires. Climate change can devastate crops, create drinking water shortages, displace millions of people because of floods and increase the spread of diseases like malaria.

The proposed “cause or contribute” finding recognizes that pollution from mobile sources is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Indeed, 24 percent of greenhouse gases come from the transportation sector. EPA must act quickly to regulate and control these emissions.

Finally, EPA should recognize that greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources, particularly coal-fired power plants and the largest emitters of these pollutants. Coal-fired electric power plants are responsible for more than 33 percent of U.S. CO2 emissions. Therefore, because of the scientific evidence of harm that forms the basis of the “endangerment” finding, EPA must step forward and regulate new and existing stationary sources, especially power plants.

A Reminder: LWVFA is requesting e-mail addresses from those of you on our mailing list so that we can be cost conscious and environmentally friendly. We do not share e-mail addresses with anyone.



**League of Women Voters
Flint Area
P.O. Box 230
Flint, Michigan 48501-0230**

**EDUCATING AND
ADVOCATING FOR
RESPONSIBLE
GOVERNMENT**

LWV-FLINT AREA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Mail To: LWV-FA P.O. Box 230 Flint, MI 48501-0230

Dues are \$55.00 per member, \$80.00 for two in one household, \$30.00 for students. Scholarships are available. Contact Helen Hoyt for more information at (810) 233-6659.

LWV-FA President: Jeanette Hall (810) 659-9683

Board Members: Rhina Griffel, Larry MacDonald, RoseAnn MacDonald, Andrea Ananich, Ann Kraft, Marion Wright, Jan Nieuwenhuis, Edith Prunty-Spencer, Helen Hoyt, Ruth Brown, David Caswell, Toni Promenchenkel

www.lwvflintarea.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women.