

May 2010

PO Box 142  
Brunswick, ME 04011

# The Brunswick Voter



## Items of Interest

- What's Happening at Home?
- Quad States Leadership Conference May 22-23
- May 24 Forum on Question 1

## Save the Date

~Topsham Special Town Meeting,  
Mt. Ararat High School,  
Wednesday, May 19, 7:00 p.m.

~Quad States Leadership  
Development Conference,  
Hampton Inn & Suites, 900 Post  
Road, Wells, Saturday and Sunday,  
May 22 and 23.

~Forum on Question 1, Morrell  
Room, Curtis Memorial Library,  
Brunswick, Monday, May 24, 7:00  
p.m.

Election Day, Tuesday, June 8.

~Georgetown Town Meeting,  
Georgetown Central School,  
Saturday, June 12, 9:00 a.m.

~Arrowsic Town Meeting,  
Georgetown Central School,  
Wednesday, June 16, 3:00 p.m.



## Questions on June 8 Ballot

Augusta, ME - There will be five questions, one people's veto and four bond issues, on the June 8 ballot. The people's veto will appear first; the order of the bond issues was randomly determined.

The people's veto reads as follows:

1. Do you want to reject the new law that lowers Maine's income tax and replaces that

revenue by making changes to the sales tax?

The four bond issues, which will appear in this order, read as follows:

2. Do you favor a \$26,500,000 bond issue that will create jobs through investment in an off-shore wind energy demonstration site and related manufacturing to advance Maine's energy independence from

foreign oil, that will leverage \$24,500,000 in federal and other funds and for energy improvements at campuses of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy in order to make facilities more efficient and less costly to operate?

*(Continued on page 2)*

## New START Treaty Signed on April 8

Prague, Czech Republic - U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitri Medvedev signed the New START Treaty in Prague Castle on April 8. The document replaced the 1991 START I Treaty that expired on December 9, 2009.

By the Treaty's terms, each nation must reduce its number of deployed strategic warheads from 2,200 to 1,550 on no more than 700 launchers (airplanes, missiles or submarines) by 2017. The Treaty has verification provisions that permit inspectors from each

nation to count the number of warheads on each launcher.

Non-deployed strategic warheads are not covered by the Treaty. Neither are tactical (or battlefield) warheads.

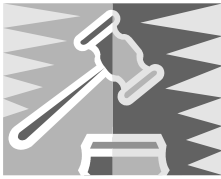
The two nations' arsenals remain large enough to destroy the world many times over. However, President Obama stated that the long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons will "make the United States safer and secure."

Under the Constitution, the Treaty must now be ratified by

two-thirds of the U.S. Senate. Previous weapons reduction treaties have received bipartisan support. For example, the George H. W. Bush Administration's START I Treaty was ratified by a 93 to 6 margin in 1992.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings are expected to begin before Memorial Day. The ranking Republican Committee member, Richard Lugar, has expressed support for the Treaty. However, with Independent Senator Joseph Lieberman ex-

*(Continued on page 3)*



## What's Happening at Home?

Bath, ME - In February, the **Bath** City Council approved a \$300,000 bond ordinance to construct an artificial turf field at McMann Field. Opponents of the ordinance gathered 1,024 valid signatures on a repeal petition.

The Council considered that petition at its April 7 meeting and voted 6 to 0 not to rescind the ordinance. Thus, it will appear on the June 8 ballot as a referendum question.

After a two-month investigation, Attorney General Janet Mills filed a criminal complaint against **Bowdoinham** Town Clerk Pamela Ross. The complaint alleges that Ross unfolded absentee ballots at the same time she removed

them from their envelopes, a Class E crime carrying a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Peter Anastos, owner of the Fairfield Inn & Suites, Linwood Austin, owner of the Comfort Inn, and former Town Councilor Karen Klatt have brought suit against the Town of **Brunswick** and JHR Development, seeking to block a Tax Increment Financing Agreement that would return over \$900,000 in taxes to the developer over the course of a decade. The plaintiffs allege that the Town Council failed to consider the detriment to existing businesses.

On April 6, the **Freeport** Town Council voted 5 to 2 to con-

solidate Freeport's emergency dispatch services with Brunswick's. The change is projected to save the Town \$80,000 in the first year and \$100,000 in the second.

Within two days, opponents of consolidation had filed a petition to overturn the vote. At least 626 registered voters must sign the petition before the Town Clerk by May 27 to trigger a referendum.

**Topsham** will hold its Town Meeting at Mt. Ararat High School on Wednesday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m. Warrant articles include a budget of \$8.3 million that would increase taxes by 7.5 percent and a moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries.



## Four Bond Issues on June 8 Ballot

*(Continued from page 1)*

3. Do you favor a \$47,800,000 bond issue to create jobs in Maine through improvements to highways, railroads and marine facilities, including port and harbor structures, and specifying the allocation of \$4,000,000 of the transportation bond approved by voters in November 2009 to be used for capital rail purposes?

4. Do you favor a \$23,750,000 bond issue to provide capital investment to stimulate eco-

nomics development and job creation by making investments under the Communities for Maine's Future Program and in historic properties; providing funding for research and development investments awarded through a competitive process; providing funds for disbursements to qualifying small businesses; and providing grants for food processing, fishing, agricultural, dairy and lumbering businesses within the State and redevelopment projects at the Brunswick Na-

val Air Station that will make the State eligible for over \$39,000,000 in federal and other matching funds?

5. Do you favor a \$10,250,000 bond issue to improve water quality, support drinking water programs and the construction of wastewater treatment facilities and to assist farmers in the development of environmentally sound water sources that will leverage \$33,250,000 in federal and other funds?

## Obama Holds Nuclear Security Summit

*(Continued from page 1)*

pressing his opposition, the Treaty will require a total of nine Republican votes for ratification. Maine Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins have not yet publicly stated their positions on the Treaty.

Following the signing of the New START Treaty, President Obama held a Nuclear Security Summit, focused on nuclear terrorism, in Washington. The 47 nations present agreed to secure all nuclear materials within four years. They also discussed the problems of Iran and North Korea

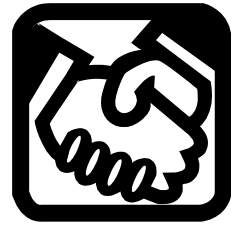
and other nations that are developing nuclear weapons.

In addition to the New START Treaty, the Obama Administration wants to put the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, signed in 1996, back on the Senate's agenda for ratification. The Senate originally voted down the Treaty by a margin of 51 to 48 in 1999. Senator Snowe was among those opposing the Treaty.

The Treaty, which has been ratified by 151 countries, bans nuclear weapons test explosions or any other nuclear explosions. All signatories have refrained from nuclear tests since 1996.

However, North Korea, which has refused to sign the Treaty, conducted underground nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009. The international community condemned the country's actions, and the United Nations passed Resolution 1874, tightening already strict sanctions.

Over the winter, Vice President Joseph Biden was laying the groundwork for the Administration's efforts to secure the ratification of the Treaty. The issues he addressed were the ability to detect underground tests worldwide and the reliability of current U.S. nuclear weapons without need for further testing.



## Quad States Leadership Conference May 22-23

Wells, ME - On Saturday and Sunday, May 22 and 23, the Leagues of Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont will meet at the Hampton Inn and Suites, 900 Post Road, Wells for their 4th Annual Leadership Development Conference. Registration begins on Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

Professor Jim Melcher, of the University of Maine at Farmington, has been invited to give the keynote address on Political Discourse in the United States. The conference will also include three workshops on the topics of Alternative Voting Systems, Get Out the Vote/Voters Service and Social Networking.

Register for the conference by mailing your name, address,

telephone number, email address and check for \$20 to Liz Tentarelli, LWVNH, 27 Bowles Road, Newbury, NH 03255. The registration fee includes Saturday's lunch.

Conference participants will eat Saturday's dinner on their own in local restaurants. Transportation from the hotel to a variety of restaurants will be provided.

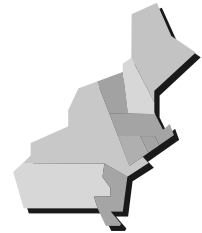
There are no rooms left at the Hampton Inn. However, some League members are staying at the nearby Village by the Sea. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-444-8862.

Scholarships in the amount of \$45.00 are available to members who are interested in becoming more active in the League. To apply for one, con-

tact Michelle Small at msmall@gwi.net or 729-1856.

On Sunday, the day will begin with LWVME's Bi-Annual Council at breakfast at 8:00 a.m. The Council will discuss what the League has done this year and what it would like to do next year.

Following the Conference, at 11:30 a.m., LWVME and Oxfam America will present Climate and Clean Energy Leader Awards to Maine's congressional delegation. Then, there will be a luncheon honoring LWVUS President Mary Wilson and celebrating the League's 90th anniversary. There is an additional registration fee of \$25.00 for that luncheon.





League of Women Voters of Brunswick  
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**Please deliver to:**

*The League of Women Voters is where  
hands-on work to safeguard democracy  
leads to civic improvement.*

LWVME and LWVUS are now on Facebook!

## Attend the Quad States Conference!

### May 24 Forum on Question 1

Brunswick - The League of Women Voters of Maine is sponsoring a statewide series of Forums on Question 1 on the June 8 ballot. Question 1 reads, "Do you want to reject the new law that lowers Maine's income tax and replaces that revenue by making changes to the sales tax?"

In Brunswick, the forum will take place in the Morrell Room at the Curtis Memorial Library at 23 Pleasant Street on Monday, May 24, at 7:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to pose questions.

Representing Vote Yes to Reject will be Curtis Picard,

the Executive Director of the Maine Merchants Association. Representing No Higher Taxes for Maine will be Bruce Wagner, Interim CEO of Traverse CEO, LLC of Yarmouth. Each side will give a presentation about the issue before the question and answer session. The "Yes" side argues that tax reform would enact over 100 new taxes. The "No" side argues that 88 percent of Maine people would pay lower taxes under tax reform.

On June 12, 2009, Governor John E. Baldacci signed a tax restructuring bill into law. The bill lowered the top income tax rate from 8.5 to 6.5 percent on

incomes lower than \$250,000, while extending the sales tax to cover more goods and services and increasing the meals and lodging tax from 7 to 8.5 percent.

After the bill was signed, its opponents, who feared its impact on the business climate, swung into action and initiated a people's veto petition, collecting and submitting 71,035 signatures to Maine's Secretary of State by September 11. On November 9, Matthew Dunlap determined that 56,107 of those signatures were valid and certified the question for the June 2010 ballot.

