

The Voter



Items of Interest

- **What's Happening at Home?**
- **Potential Changes to Clean Elections Act**
- **League Mourns Passing of Jane Inderstrod**

Annual Appeal

Membership dues are simply inadequate to fund the operation of the League of Women Voters of Maine because we forward most of your payment to the League of Women Voters of the United States. If you have the means, we need your contribution to LWVME or the LWVME Ed Fund to help ensure that we can continue to be where we are needed. You will receive an annual appeal letter in December. Thank you for your consideration.



Voters Endorse Question 1

Augusta, ME — On Question 1 on the November ballot, the Yes side won by a margin of 60 to 40 percent, restoring voters' right to register up to and including Election Day.

"Same-day registration has worked for almost 40 years, helping Maine to be a national leader in voter participation," said Barbara McDade, the president of the League of Women Voters of Maine and an early leader in the campaign to restore same-day registration. "Mainers take their elections seriously, and on Election Day, they rejected

attempts to roll back voting rights and erect unnecessary barriers to the ballot."

The Protect Maine Votes/Yes on 1 coalition consists of 23 partner organizations, including the League of Women Voters of Maine, and fielded a team of more than 1,000 volunteers to collect signatures to put the people's veto on the ballot.

In July, volunteers began collecting signatures to place Question 1 on the ballot. They gathered more than 70,000 signatures in less than a

month, demonstrating voters' eagerness to have the final say on same-day registration.

However, when the Legislature reconvenes in January, the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee will once again consider LD199, An Act To Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Photograph Identification for the Purpose of Voting. The League of Women Voters opposes this bill because it is estimated that 11 percent of all people and 18 percent of the elderly have no photo ID.

Questions 2, 3 and 4

Augusta, ME — On Election Day, voters defeated Questions 2 and 3, both of which dealt with gambling facilities. Question 2, which would have permitted the construction of racinos in Biddeford and Washington County, was voted down by a margin of 55 to 45 percent. Question 3, which would have permitted the development of a casino in

Lewiston, lost by an even wider margin — 63 to 37 percent.

Question 4, which was a constitutional amendment, won by a 53 to 47 percent margin. The amendment requires that the Legislature reapportion electoral districts in the year Census data becomes available instead of two years

later.

The amendment also takes language concerning reapportionment of congressional and county commissioner districts out of statute and places it in the Constitution. This will require that the Legislature approve all reapportionment plans by a 2/3 majority vote.



What's Happening Locally?

Bath, ME - In **Bath**, there were three City Council races on the November ballot. In Ward 1, newcomer Meadow Rue Merrill defeated incumbent James Omo by a margin of 218 to 210.

David Sinclair, who ran unopposed in Ward 6, received 292 votes. Incumbent Andrew Winglass, 1,156 votes, defeated newcomers Peter Heinz, 841 votes, and Charles Turcotte, 508 votes, to claim the At Large seat.

On October 3, the **Brunswick** Town Council voted 7 to 1 to approve the swap of Longfellow School for Bowdoin College's McLellan Building on Union Street. The swap will take place prior to the end of the year, but the Town will not take possession of the McLellan Building until late in 2014. The College will have access to the 3rd Floor of the building for an additional 10 years.

At the same time, the Town Council voted unanimously to rezone the Longfellow School property as College Use 7 (CU7), which would permit the siting of an educational facility or residential buildings, except for student housing, at a density of eight units per acre. The Town will hold a lease on the adjacent playground for a period of ten years.

Incumbent Gerry Favreau, 657 votes, and newcomer Sarah Brayman, 774 votes, who both

ran unopposed, were elected to the Town Council in Districts 5 and 7.

Benet Pols, who is completing his term as Town Councilor in District 7, received 2,280 votes to defeat former School Board members William Dana and Byron Watson, who received 1,969 and 1,217 votes respectively, for an At Large seat on the Council.

Incumbents Jim Grant, 649 votes, and Michele Joyce, 738 votes, who both ran unopposed for School Board, were elected in Districts 5 and 7. Newcomer William Thompson defeated incumbent Jack Jones by a margin of 3,092 to 1,838 votes for an At Large seat on the Board.

Stephen Gorden of North Yarmouth, who received 6,899 votes, defeated Mark Grover of Gray, who received 5,617 votes, to become **Cumberland County** Commissioner in newly-created Region 3, which is comprised of Brunswick, Freeport, Gray, Harpswell, New Gloucester, North Yarmouth and Pownal.

Cumberland County voters passed a \$33 million bond issue to renovate the Civic Center in Portland by a margin of 58 to 42 percent.

In **Freeport**, newcomer Katherine Arno defeated incumbent Eric Pandora by a margin of 497 to 340 votes to win the race in Town Council

District 2. In addition, newcomer Kristina Egan prevailed in a race against incumbent Joe Migliaccio in District 3 by a margin of 494 to 381 votes.

Incumbent Rich DeGrandpre beat back a challenge from newcomer Marie Gunning for the At Large seat by a margin of 1,585 to 1,391 votes.

On October 11, **Harpswell's** Board of Selectmen rescinded its July 7 vote to ban comment about the Town's relationship with SAD 75. Residents may now discuss any topic they choose for a period of five minutes at the beginning or end of any meeting.

In **RSU 1** District 2, part of Bath and West Bath, incumbent David Barber, who did not file nomination papers, was elected to the Board of Directors with nine write-in votes. In District 3, Arrowsic, part of Bath and part of Woolwich, incumbent Tim Harkins, who ran unopposed, was elected with 968 votes.

Newcomer William Perkins, a declared write-in candidate, was elected with 97 votes in District 7, part of Bath and Phippsburg.

In **RSU 5**, incumbents Beth Parker, 1,842 votes, and Nelson Larkins, 1,351 votes, defeated newcomer Gurdarshan Gill, 1,196 votes, in a race to represent Freeport on the Board of Directors.

(Continued on page 3)

Potential Changes to Clean Elections Act

Augusta, ME - On October 18, Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director of the Maine Ethics Commission, presented two proposals to the Legislature's Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee to deal with the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Arizona Free Enterprise Club v. Bennett* that matching funds are unconstitutional. The Commission fears that Maine Clean Election Act funding will no longer be a viable option for the more than 50 percent of candidates who are in very competitive elections.

The first proposal would provide larger fixed amounts to all publically funded candidates. This proposal, which has the virtue of simplicity, would not meet the needs of

10 to 20 percent of candidates. Its estimated cost is \$238,430 less than the previous projections for 2012.

The second proposal would permit publically funded candidates to qualify for up to two supplemental amounts if they collect additional \$5 qualifying contributions. The Commission estimates that between 18 and 25 percent of candidates would take advantage of this proposal. Its estimated cost is \$72,144 less than the previous projections for 2012.

Following the hearing, the Committee was unable to agree on the amount of money to allot to candidates. Republicans favored the first proposal while Democrats preferred the second.

At the hearing, Dan Billings, the Governor's legal counsel, urged the Committee not to adopt either proposal. He argued that the Commission's cost estimates were unrealistic, claiming that it had an institutional bias in favor of Clean Elections.

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, of which the League of Women Voters is an organizational member, endorsed the second proposal.

The Committee is not scheduled to meet again to consider the proposals until November 29. Members of both parties fear that, without information about the future viability of Clean Elections, they will have difficulty recruiting candidates for the 2012 election.



Closer to Home

(Continued from page 2)

In **SAD 75**, newcomers James Conner, 2,812 votes, and Jeffrey Wolkens, 1,878 votes, and incumbent Jane Scease, 1,817 votes, outpolled James Cusano, 1,496 votes, for three seats representing Topsham on the Board of Directors.

On October 31, a federal magistrate issued a summary judgment against Mariner Tower in a lawsuit brought to challenge **Topsham's** rejection

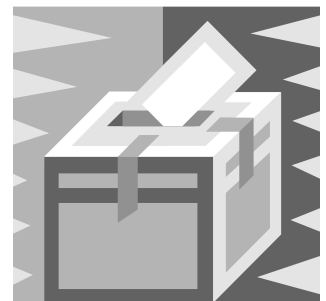
of its application to construct a cell tower on Oak Street. The suit cost the town \$137,009 in legal fees.

In Topsham, newcomer David Douglass, 1,823 votes, and incumbent Ronald Riendeau, 1,754 votes, prevailed against three-time incumbent James Trusiani, 1,694 votes, for two, three-year terms on the Board of Selectmen.

In a non-binding straw poll, **Wiscasset** voters expressed

their desire to explore withdrawal from **RSU 12** by a margin of 917 to 220. To begin the formal process of withdrawal, 167 voters would need to file a petition with the town clerk after January 1. At that point, a negotiation committee would be formed.

In **Woolwich**, newcomers Jason Shaw, 840 votes, and Allison Hepler, 604 votes, defeated newcomer, Charon Curtis, 275 votes, for two seats on the Board of Selectmen.





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Please deliver to:

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

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League Mourns Passing of Jane Inderstrodt

Topsham, ME - Former League President Jane Inderstrodt died at the Highlands on October 10, 2011.

Born in Ashland, OH on January 21, 1922 to Bert and Verda Goss Sattler, Jane graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences at American University in Washington, DC. In 1951, she received a master's degree in religious education from the Hartford Seminary Foundation, where she next served as a member of the faculty for two years.

Returning to Washington, DC, in 1953, Jane was employed

by the Baltimore Conference of the United Methodist Church, where she worked with 500 churches to develop childhood and junior high education.

Jane met her husband William "Bill" Inderstrodt at the Hartford Seminary. They were married on February 6, 1954 at the Methodist Church she attended in Washington, DC.

Bill and Jane's first pastorate was at the Westmoreland Congregational Church in Washington, DC. From 1956 until 1972, they served at the First Congregational Church

of Washington, CT. Then, they held a pastorate at a Congregational Church in Danbury, CT for eight years. Finally, they served at the First Parish Church of York, ME until Bill retired in 1993.

Following their retirement, Jane and Bill lived at their summer home in Harpswell. They moved to the Highlands in 2002.

Jane was predeceased by Bill on May 17, 2011. She is survived by a nephew, two nieces and many friends from their ministries as well as from the Highlands.

