



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

## The Maine Voter

Volume 28, Number 2

April 2011

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### LWVME Officers

#### President:

**Barbara McDade** Bangor

#### Vice President:

**Sarah Walton** Augusta

#### Secretary:

**Colleen Tucker** Portland

#### Treasurer:

**Ann Luther** Trenton

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**Martha Dickinson** Ellsworth

**Polly Ferguson** S. Portland

**Anne Schink** S. Portland

**Michelle Small** Brunswick

**Jill Ward** S. Portland

**Cathie Whittenburg** Portland



Editor: Martha Dickinson

Contributors: Barbara McDade, Ann Luther,  
Michelle Small, Colleen Tucker, Anne Schink



The League of Women Voters of Maine, a  
nonpartisan political organization,  
encourages informed and active participation  
in government, works to increase  
understanding of major political policy issues,  
and influences public policy through  
education and advocacy.



[www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org)

## LWVME • Convention • 2011

June 3 –4

Glickman Library

University of Southern Maine

Portland, ME

**Come to Convention! Learn, Meet Interesting People and  
Help Set the Agenda for Maine's League of Women Voters**

First call to LWV Maine's Biennial Convention!

The Convention will be held Friday and Saturday, **June 3 and 4**, in Portland at the Glickman Library on the USM campus. Friday evening will offer a politically themed dinner theater. Saturday will be a full day, starting at 10 AM and ending by 4 PM. The Convention Committee is working to find first-rate speakers, and there will be a board to elect, programs for the coming two years to select, and great fellowship with thoughtful, forward-looking League members from around the state. See following articles for more information, and our website, [www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org), will contain updates. All members in Maine are invited to attend and vote. Please feel free to invite a friend and/or prospective member to come along.

### League Studies and Programs

Where do you think the League should put its efforts? The League's study program consists of those governmental and public policy issues that League members in Maine have chosen for concerted study. Studies can lead to adopted positions and advocacy. The League program process begins with selection and adoption of priority issues, continues with study and discussion, and culminates in action and change. But before the League can take action, it is essential that members have an opportunity to be informed on that issue and reach broad agreement or consensus. Study makes action possible. During the study phase, members have an opportunity to examine the facts and key pro and con arguments. They are encouraged to discuss the political realities of action. Study gives members the knowledge that makes League action uniquely credible. This is why people listen to what the League says. Studies are adopted at the biennial convention. The two National League's study issues are Education: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education and Privatization: The Policy Agenda to Transfer Government Functions, Services, and Assets to the Private Sector. The Maine State Board is recommending a 2011-2013 study of the Citizens Initiative/Peoples' Veto. If you have an area you think Maine's League should study, please send it to LWVME President Barbara McDade at [bmcdade@bpl.lib.me.us](mailto:bmcdade@bpl.lib.me.us) or phone us at 622-0256 by May 15.

**League of Women Voters of Maine**  
**AGENDA FOR CONVENTION 2011**  
Portland, Maine

**Friday • June 3**

- |                |  |   |
|----------------|--|---|
| 3:30 - 5:00 pm | <b>Old Board Meeting</b><br>The retiring Board meets for the last time.<br>Members welcome.  | <i>Ann Luther's Home<br/>Portland</i>           |
| 3:00 - 6:00    | <b>Hotel Registration</b><br>The Clarion Hotel Airport is located at 1230 Congress Street (aka Route 22 WEST) just off I-295. Please call (207) 774-5611 or visit <a href="http://clarionhotel.com">clarionhotel.com</a> | <i>Clarion Hotel</i>                            |
| 5:30 - 7:00    | <b>Dinner and Theatre</b>  | <i>Events on Broadway in<br/>South Portland</i> |

**Saturday • June 3**

- |                  |   |                         |
|------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 10:00 - 10:30 am | <b>Convention Registration</b>  | <i>Glickman Library</i> |
| 10:30 – 11:00    | <b>Plenary Session I</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Presentation of Nominating Committee</b></li><li>• <b>Presentation of Proposed Program 2011-2013</b></li><li>• <b>Presentation of Proposed Budget 2011-2013</b></li><li>• <b>Presentation of Proposed Bylaw Changes</b></li></ul> | <i>Glickman Library</i> |
| 11:00 - 12:00    | <i><b>Speaker: Maine's Laws, Rules, and Experience Governing the Citizen Initiative/People's Veto</b></i><br><br>Secretary of State Charlie Summers (Invited)   | <i>Glickman Library</i> |
| 12:00 - 1:00 pm  | <b>LUNCH</b>  | <i>Glickman Library</i> |
| 1:00 – 2:30      | <i><b>Speaker: History, Uses, and Politics of the Citizen People's Veto in Maine</b></i><br><br>Professor Ron Schmidt, Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Southern Maine, specializing in political theory, racial and ethnic politics, and urban politics.      | <i>Glickman Library</i> |
| 2:30-2:45        | <b>Break</b>  |                         |
| 2:45 – 3:30      | <b>Plenary Session II</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bylaws</b></li><li>• <b>Programs for 2011-2013</b></li><li>• <b>Budget</b></li><li>• <b>Election of Officers and Directors</b></li></ul>   | <i>Glickman Library</i> |
| 4:00 – 5:00      | <b>ADJOURN</b><br><b>Meeting of the New Board</b>   | <i>Glickman Library</i> |

# League of Women Voters of Maine • 2011 Convention

<b>Dates</b>	June 3-4, 2011
<b>Location</b>	University Events Room Glickman Library – 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor University of Southern Maine 314 Forest Avenue, Portland, ME
<b>Fees</b>	\$35 <b>Friday night</b> Events on Broadway, dinner & show. <i>Non-members welcome!</i> \$35 <b>Saturday</b> Convention, includes breaks and lunch. <i>Non-members welcome!</i>
<b>Lodging</b>	Clarion Hotel at 1230 Congress Street (aka Route 22 WEST) just off of I-295 Please call (207) 774-5611 for reservations \$99 single or double occupancy

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## LWVME Proposed Program 2011-2013

**Positions:** Retain all current positions

### **Recommended Program:**

- o Money in Politics: Study (continuing)
- o Citizen Ballot Initiative: Study (proposed)

### **Citizens' Initiative/Referendum Study**

The proposed study for 2011-13 involves citizen initiatives and people's vetoes. They are prevalent in Maine politics. Some elections are dominated by these ballot questions. Should the people have the power to make law, or should they let their elected representatives legislate? Do ballot questions give too much power to special interest groups? Are the signature requirements too high or too low? Is the petition circulation period too long or too short? Is too much money spent on these ballot campaigns? Should there be limits on contributions to political action committees supporting or opposing ballot questions?

The LWVME study will focus on Maine's Referendum & Initiative process to understand how referenda have operated in the past and what changes, if any, should be proposed to the Constitution, statutes or departmental regulations. We will include in the study the People's Veto, but we will not include bond issues, which bring up very different issues and deserve their own study. We will review the history of citizens' initiatives during the modern period (roughly the last 20 years) and examine such questions as the origin and funding of ballot initiatives, home-grown or part of a national campaign; funding the opposition; ease or difficulty of qualifying the question with paid or volunteer signature gatherers;

importance of timing in a general election year vs. off-year; costs to the State; public understanding of the questions' wording and underlying issues; appropriate balance between citizen activism and representative government; appropriate method of repeal. We hope this study will lead to an LWVME consensus position on what changes, if any, would improve the process.

**Cost of study:** We will need to develop a full budget proposal for this study, which will require fundraising. The work would be accomplished by a combination of League volunteers and paid expert advisors. We expect this to be an Ed. Fund project.

## **Positions in Brief 2009-2011**

**EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY (CIVIL MARRIAGE)** adopted by the League of Women Voters of Maine, April 27, 2009: supports equal rights for all under Maine law. LWVME supports legislation to equalize the legal rights and benefits available to same-sex couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVME supports legislation to permit same-sex couples to marry. The League believes that the civil status of marriage should be clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights should be preserved. LWVME believes that Maine should recognize the civil unions and same-sex marriages of other states

**ELECTION REFORM:** adopted by the League of Women Voters of Maine, March 7, 2011: supports election systems for elected offices in single seat elections that require the winner to receive a majority of the votes, as long as the majority is achieved by Instant Runoff Voting/Ranked Choice Voting, rather than a second, separate runoff election.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:** Support action to promote sustainable use of natural resources and prevent degradation of natural resources in Maine, especially in the areas of:

- Air Quality
- Pesticides
- Water Quality
- Land Use
- Farmland Preservation
- Energy
- Nuclear Power
- Food Irradiation
- Low-level Radioactive Waste

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT:** Support intermediary form of government, such as county government, between municipalities and the state.

**EDUCATION:** Strengthen education in Maine, especially in the areas of:

- Education Finance
- School Libraries
- University of Maine System

**HEALTH CARE IN MAINE:** Support a unified state health care program that provides coverage for all residents of the state, including those now insured.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE:** Support for a juvenile justice system that has as its primary purposes the prevention of juvenile crime and substance abuse and the prompt response to and rehabilitation of juveniles who have committed crimes.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Support energy-efficient and environmentally sound transportation systems which improve access to housing and services. Support initiatives which improve rail transportation in Maine.

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#### **REGIONAL: QUAD STATE AGREEMENT ON TRANSPORTATION**

**The LWV 1998 Quad State Council, the four state delegations (LWV-ME, NH, VT, RI), supports action to encourage participation and cooperation in promoting regional transportation initiatives. The goal is regional planning and implementation of integrated transportation systems throughout New England. Specific objectives include:**

- Construction of the North/South rail link in Boston, Massachusetts
- Passenger rail links to Canada with improved border crossings
- Measures to reduce vehicular pollution
- More energy efficient transportation system
- Passenger rail service linking all of New England

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## **Proposed Changes to the BYLAWS -- LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE**

(Proposed for amendment by Convention 2011)

The first three articles of the League bylaws set forth the League name, purpose, and policy, and define membership in the LWVUS. Per LWVUS policy, the first three articles of all local and state League bylaws must be consistent with those of the LWVUS in order to define and maintain the unity of the organization and the powers and privileges of members.

An amendment to the LWVUS bylaws was approved at the 2010 LWVUS Convention which affects these first three articles. In applying this new change, we discovered other areas of inconsistency between LWVME and LWVUS Article III. The changes proposed below would keep LWVME Article III consistent with that of LWVUS.

### **ARTICLE III: Membership**

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

a.) Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age ~~residing within the United States, a territory or an associated commonwealth,~~ who join the League shall be voting members of the local Leagues, state Leagues and of the League of Women Voters of the United States; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who ~~make a lump-sum life membership payment to the LWVUS shall be paid life members and those who~~ have been members of the League for 50~~fifty~~ years or more shall be ~~honorary~~ life members excused from payment of dues.

b.) Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

# League of Women Voters of Maine

## Nominated Slate for 2011-2013

### Board of Directors

#### President

**Barbara McDade**

[bmcdade@bpl.lib.me.us](mailto:bmcdade@bpl.lib.me.us)

**Bangor**

947-8336 (w)

Barbara McDade has served as the President of the Maine League for the past two years. Before that, she served as Co-president from 2007-2009. She joined the Maine League in 2006 while working on the Open Government Sunshine Week activities. Ms McDade has been director of the Bangor Public Library since 1991 and was a library director in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and New Jersey before moving to Maine. She oversaw the renovation of the Bangor Public Library, served as president and legislative chair of the Maine Library Association and serves on the Maine Library Commission and the Board of Maine InfoNet. While in Virginia, she served as president of the Waynesboro League. She is Vice President of the Rotary Club of Bangor and is organist of the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Bangor.

#### Vice President

**Jill Ward**

[jmward23@gmail.com](mailto:jmward23@gmail.com)

**South Portland**

799-1596

Jill joined the League two years ago and works from home as a part-time, non-profit consultant and full-time mom of 4-year-old Michael and 1-year-old Nicholas. Educated at the University of Pennsylvania and Georgetown University Law Center, Jill has always had a strong interest in civic life and public service. She returned to her home state of Maine with her family in 2007 after more than 15 years experience in the public sector, including senior policy positions with Girl Scouts of the USA, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, DC. Jill also worked in the U.S. Senate for Senators Paul S. Sarbanes (MD) and George J. Mitchell (ME).

#### Secretary

**Colleen Tucker**

[ctucker@maine.rr.com](mailto:ctucker@maine.rr.com)

**Portland**

775-3709

Colleen is the current Secretary of the League of Women Voters of Maine. Born and educated in Maine, she graduated from the University of Maine School of Law in 1984 and has practiced law since then, concentrating on real estate acquisitions and conservation easements held by land trusts or the State of Maine. She currently serves on the City of Portland Land Bank Commission and volunteers on the Lands Committee of the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust.

#### Treasurer

**Ann M. Luther**

[ann.m.luther@gmail.com](mailto:ann.m.luther@gmail.com)

**Trenton**

664-0696

Ann has served as president of the League of Women Voters of Maine from 2003 to 2007 and as co-president from 2007-2009. Representing LWVME at Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, she serves that coalition as co-president. Until 2006, she was also chair of the LWV-Down East MAL unit. She joined the League in 1998 upon retirement from her career as product manager at SEI Investments. Ann was a founder of the MDI Restorative Justice Program and served on its Executive Board, and was involved in youth issues with MDI Tomorrow.

#### Director

**Martha Dickinson**

[marthad@gwi.net](mailto:marthad@gwi.net)

**Ellsworth**

667-5863

Martha joined the League five years ago. Before retirement, she taught physics at Maine Maritime Academy, College of the Atlantic, and various colleges on the west coast. She has participated in several LWV-Downeast projects including organizing election forums and election observing and attended the national LWV convention in Portland, Oregon. She is active in several political and social change organizations as well as her church. Martha sings with Voices for Peace and Women With Wings and reviews books on astronomy, cosmology, and climate change for a library journal.

#### Director

**Polly Ferguson**

[mferguson1@maine.rr.com](mailto:mferguson1@maine.rr.com)

**South Portland**

799 4214

About a year before she retired from her position as a social worker in a residential treatment center for children and families, Polly joined the Buffalo/Niagara League and was on the board there for several years. She worked on many issues including alternatives to incarceration, land use planning, sprawl, local government and waterfront development. When she moved to Maine in 2007, she transferred to this League and joined the state study on Political Action Committees. Aside from the League, she is involved in teaching ESL classes at a community center and is a mentor with My Sister's Keeper to women coming out of prison.

**Director****Anne Schink**[abschink@zwi.net](mailto:abschink@zwi.net)**Portland**

799-3112

Anne is a consultant with ABS Consulting, offering expertise in volunteer management, training, and facilitation to nonprofit organizations, public entities, and faith-based organizations. From 1995 to 2009 Anne was the Program/Training/Disability Officer at the Maine Commission for Community Service. During that time she worked directly with AmeriCorps program directors, staff, and members to strengthen programs through training and technical assistance. Anne is a Board member at InforME Board as well as past State Board President of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, and past President of the Portland League here in Maine, and is active with her church.

**Director****Michelle Small**[msmall@zwi.net](mailto:msmall@zwi.net)**Brunswick**

729-1856

Michelle is a graduate of Bowdoin College, New York University School of Law and the Muskie School of Public Service, and she is a "recovering" lawyer and a full-time mother to two sons, Winston, aged 17, and Lincoln, 11. She is married to a history teacher and fellow "recovering" lawyer, who belongs to a different political party. They enjoy arguing about politics and doing *The New York Times* crossword puzzle together. A member of the League of Women Voters since 1995, Michelle currently serves on the LWVME Membership Committee and previously served as Treasurer of the League of Women Voters of Maine, its Education Fund and the Maine Citizens for Clean Elections from 2007-2009. She has also served as the Secretary and Treasurer of the League of Women Voters of the Brunswick Area. Michelle is working with the League Lobby Corps this Session and is monitoring bills related voter access and Instant Runoff Voting.

**Director****Sarah Walton**[sarah.walton@maine.edu](mailto:sarah.walton@maine.edu)**Augusta**

622-1993

Sarah currently serves as Vice President of LWVME as well as Director of the Brunswick Area League. She is the former president of LWVME and has represented the League in several coalitions. After many years as an attorney in Maine state government, she is now Assistant Professor of Justice Studies at the University of Maine at Augusta. Sarah is co-author of the Maine Law Enforcement Officer's Manual.

**Director****Cathie Whittenburg**[cathiewhit@gmail.com](mailto:cathiewhit@gmail.com)**Portland**

318-0771

Cathie is currently the Director of New England Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and is a past Vice President of States United to Prevent Gun Violence. She has previously served on the City of Portland Land Bank Commission. Cathie is the On-line Communications Consultant for States United to Prevent Gun Violence. She also serves on the Marketing Committee for the Portland Public Schools and plays tenor in the Blueberry PANcakes steel drum band. She has been involved in grassroots politics since high school (which was a long, long time ago).

**Convention 2011 Registration Form**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ people @ \$35 for Events on Broadway Friday Night \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ people @ \$35 for Saturday Convention \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail check and completed form** to LWVME, Convention 2011, P.O. Box 863, Augusta, ME 04332-0863**Register now! Registration Deadline is May 15, 2011****Contact:** (207) 622-0256 or email [lwwme@zwi.net](mailto:lwwme@zwi.net)

# PROPOSED BUDGET 2011 - 2013

Category	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Approved Budget	FY 2012 Proposed Budget	FY 2013 Proposed Budget
<b>INCOME</b>				
MEMBERS				
101 Local League PMP	1,675	900	1,680	2,130
102 MAL Dues	1,260	800	1,650	2,750
103 Pass-through MAL	745	1,422	-	-
<b>TOTAL 10 MEMBERS</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>3,122</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>4,880</b>
DONATIONS				
111 Fundraising	3,233	4,400	5,250	5,000
112 Grants, gifts, etc	1,000	-	-	-
113 In-Kind	1,569	3,500	-	-
<b>TOTAL 11 DONATIONS</b>	<b>5,802</b>	<b>7,900</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>5,000</b>
OTHER INCOME				
122 Keys to the Capitol	80	500	-	-
124 Convention / Council	-	500	-	500
125 Quad States Council	800	500	-	-
127 Ed Fund Admin	361	325	375	375
128 Ed Fund State Voter	471	-	800	800
<b>TOTAL 12 OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>1,825</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>1,675</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>11,194</b>	<b>12,847</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>11,555</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
OFFICE EXPENSES				
201 Supplies	1,061	825	650	650
202 Rent	180	-	360	360
203 Telephone	616	600	600	600
204 Filing fees	79	60	60	60
<b>TOTAL 20 OFFICE EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,936</b>	<b>1,485</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>1,310</b>
BOARD EXPENSES				
211 Board Expenses	1,059	500	250	250
213 Quad States Presidents	150	150	-	150
214 Fundraising	250	500	1,000	1,000
215 Membership	793	1,140	1,200	1,200
216 Public Relations	310	450	450	450
<b>TOTAL 21 BOARD EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,412</b>	<b>2,740</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>3,050</b>
CONVENTIONS				
221 State Convention / Council	906	400	-	400
222 National Convention/Council	2121	1,000	1,500	1,500
223 Quad States Seminar	854	400	-	-
<b>TOTAL 22 CONVENTIONS</b>	<b>3,881</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,900</b>
ASSESSMENTS				
231 LWVUS MAL PMP	1,101	1,422	900	1,500
232 Coalition Dues	150	200	250	250
<b>TOTAL 23 ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,750</b>
PUBLICATIONS				
241 State Voter	1655	2,250	2,220	2,250
242 Web Site	234	200	200	200
243 Membership Directory	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL 24 PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>2,420</b>	<b>2,450</b>
PROGRAM				
251 Program Issues	734	1,500	-	-
252 Keys to the Capitol	0	400	225	300
253 National Program	499	-	-	-
254 Voter Service	14	600	-	-
<b>TOTAL 25 PROGRAM</b>	<b>1,247</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>300</b>
OTHER EXPENSES				
261 Local League Development	0	250	250	250
<b>TOTAL 26 OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>12,616</b>	<b>12,847</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>11,010</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>(1,422)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>545</b>

## The League Lobby Corps Update

The first regular session of the 125th Maine State Legislature convened on December 1, 2010. The first regular session is always a busy one in the Maine State Legislature. This year, more than 1,500 bills will be considered.

The League Lobby Corps will monitor bills in the priority areas set by the Board last fall:

- Campaign Finance Reform
- Voting Rights
- Election Administration
- Ethics & Disclosure
- Freedom of Information

The Lobby Corps acts for the Board in developing testimony and monitoring legislation in those areas where we can make a significant impact. Here are some of the bills we're working on in those areas. To read the full text of any of the bills see the Maine Legislature's website at [www.maine.gov/legis/](http://www.maine.gov/legis/).

### Clean Elections

Fifteen years ago, voters across Maine delivered 65,000 signatures to the Secretary of State to put Clean Elections on the ballot. A few months later, 320,000 Maine voters passed the nation's first full public funding law so that all candidates for state office -- legislative and gubernatorial -- could run for office without relying on special interest funding. More citizens voted "Yes!" on Clean Elections that have voted for any winning governor since 1990.

Today, Maine elections are Clean Elections, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of Maine people, including the members of the League of Women Voters.

Now our Clean Election system is under attack in Augusta. The 125th Legislature is slated to hear a host of bills to repeal or partially repeal the law.

**LD 120 Eliminates Clean Elections** in the Gubernatorial Race.

**LD 659 Repeals the Maine Clean Election Act.**

The public hearing on LD 120 was held in the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee on Wednesday, February 16th. The public hearing on LD 659 was held on Monday, March 28. Work sessions have not yet been scheduled.

Here's why we value our citizen-initiated Clean Election system:

- **Low cost:** The Clean Election program costs Maine people less than \$2 per year. And almost every dollar that candidates receive is

spent right here in Maine. The gubernatorial program in only one-third of the total cost, about 67 cents per year.

- **Strong citizen support:** Tens of thousands of Mainers make additional voluntary contributions to Clean Elections. Last year, 40,000 Qualifying Contributions were made, many of them in support of Republican and Democratic gubernatorial candidates. Thousands more people check YES for Clean Elections on the Maine income tax form.
- **Better elections:** Maine candidates spend months talking with and listening to voters rather than dialing for dollars. With limited funds, they stick to their budget + good preparation for managing our money once elected. And isn't it better that candidates ask local voters for \$5 rather than asking special interests for \$350?
- **Widespread popularity:** How many laws can boast broad bipartisan support? Clean Elections is used by a majority of Republicans and Democrats for both the House and the Senate. Eighty percent of the current legislature used it. We may not have a Clean Election governor yet, but now is not the time to deny future candidates the same opportunity.
- **The importance of keeping Maine's government "of, by, and for the people:"** Look around the country. Special interests wield too much influence, making it impossible for states and Congress to address the pressing issues of our time. It's more important than ever that we keep voters in the driver's seat for the long term, both for Maine's sake and so that we can continue to be a beacon of hope to an increasingly cynical nation.

### Same-day Registration

For over 90 years, the League of Women Voters has worked to protect and enhance voting rights for all Americans, assuring opportunities for citizen participation. Maine has had same-day registration since 1973, and during the time since, Maine has enjoyed both high voter turnout and high-integrity elections.

**LD 203 Repeals Same-day Registration** and requires voters to register seven days before Election Day. The public hearing on LD 203 was held in the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee on Wednesday, February 16th at 10:00 am in Room 437 in the State House.

Here's why we oppose LD 203:



- **Higher voter participation:** States with same-day registration have turnout rates that are 10-12% higher than other states.
- **Deadlines close before some voters focus:** Voter interest and media coverage of elections peak in the final week. Voters who become interested in the race at this stage would be ineligible to cast a ballot.
- **Same-day registration helps young voters and those who are geographically mobile:** Young Americans move more often, and if they move within their state, they may not realize that their registration is invalid.
- **Same-day registration is easier for election officials:** It protects voters from errors by election officials in accidentally purging eligible voters from the voting rolls, and it is easier to administer than provisional or challenged ballots. In fact, Maine is living proof that we can administer same-day registration elections with high integrity.
- **Same-day registration does not lead to voter fraud:** There have been only two prosecutions in Maine history of voters using same-day registration to vote twice in the same election.

#### **Photo ID to Vote**

The right of every citizen to vote has been a basic principle of the League since it's founding in 1920. The League believes that "voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed." Photo ID could disenfranchise a significant percentage of Maine voters, including many elderly, disabled, and poor.

**LD 199 Requires a Photo ID** from every voter each time they vote. Studies indicate that approximately 11% of the population does not have a qualified ID. The public hearing on LD 199 was held in the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee on Wednesday, February 16th.

Here's why we oppose LD 199:

- **It will be expensive:** Implementation of voter ID laws in other states has cost millions of dollars. In addition to the cost of offering free documents, other states have had to launch massive and continuing voter education campaigns. This is in addition to the added costs of administering the requirements at the polls.
- **It's unnecessary:** Voter ID laws counter one exceedingly rare kind of voter fraud -- impersonating someone else at the polls. This never happens in Maine. Only one case of voter fraud has been prosecuted by the Attorney General in more than 30 years.

- **It could disenfranchise voters:** If our law requires the kind of government-issued ID that similar laws in other states have required, then we could find 11% of our voters do not have the required ID. Percentages are higher among the elderly, ethnic minorities, and low-income voters.
- **It will create disruption at the polls:** People unaware of the new law could be turned away at the polls or asked to vote a "provisional" ballot, which require more processing both on Election Day after.

For more information on these issues or on how to volunteer for the Lobby Corps, visit our website at [www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org).

- Ann Luther, Trenton

## **Gaming Referenda on November Ballot**

On February 4, Secretary of State Charlie Summers announced that enough valid signatures had been submitted to place a bill, "An Act Regarding Establishing a Slot Machine Facility," before Maine's Legislature. A total of 59,095 of the 74,388 signatures submitted were determined to be valid. Under Maine law, 57,277 signatures are required to place a citizens' initiative before the Legislature. That is 10 percent of the number of votes cast in the 2010 governor's race.

If the Legislature passes the bill, the City of Lewiston would be permitted to construct a slot machine facility. If not, the question would be placed on the November 8 ballot.

On February 18, the Secretary of State announced that enough valid signatures had been submitted to place a bill, "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Deadline and Conditions for Municipal Approval of a Second Racino and to Allow a Tribal Racino in Washington County," before Maine's Legislature. The second racino refers to one in Biddeford. A total of 75,672 of the 87,655 signatures submitted were determined to be valid. The Legislature can pass the bill or place the question on the November 8 ballot. In the case of either referendum, the Legislature can also place a competing measure on the ballot.

- Michelle Small, Brunswick

## Instant Runoff Voting Endorsed by LWV of Maine

On March 7, 2011, following three years of study and discussion, the League of Women Voters of Maine joined its sister Leagues in Minnesota, Arizona, California, South Carolina, Vermont, Massachusetts, Florida and Washington in endorsing the use of Instant Runoff Voting (IRV), sometimes known as Ranked Choice Voting, and adopted the following position:

“The League of Women Voters of Maine supports election systems for elected offices in single seat elections that require the winner to receive a majority of the votes, as long as the majority is achieved by Instant Runoff Voting/Ranked Choice Voting, rather than a second, separate runoff election.”

This position was based upon the consensus reached by those members attending the local concurrence meetings in Portland, Brunswick or Ellsworth, as well as input from those members who returned IRV questionnaires and ballots. Thank you to all those members who took the time and effort to participate in the process.

In general, League members believe that the winner of single seat elections should be determined by a majority vote, and they support a system of Instant Runoff Voting (or Ranked Choice Voting) for determining the majority winner. However, League members did not reach consensus on the question of whether or not the majority winner should be determined by a traditional run-off election between the top two candidates in the first-round election. While there was strong support among members for majority-winner elections, that support diminished if the winner had to be determined by a traditional runoff election. Some of the reasons given for preferring an instant runoff to a traditional, delayed runoff included: increased opportunity for strategic voting during the original election, expense to the state and municipalities in conducting a delayed run-off election, extending the campaign season, driving up the cost of campaign financing, loss of civility during the runoff election, and the significant reduction in voter engagement and turnout in traditional runoff elections.

Having adopted this position on IRV, LWVME's voice on the issue can be heard on pending Maine legislation. Our Lobby Corps volunteers have already weighed in on two bills related to majority elections, encouraging law makers to consider IRV in the context of majority elections for governor:

- [LD 503](#) Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State To Examine the Issue of a Run-off Election for Governor
- [LD 607](#) RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require the Governor To Be Elected by a Majority Vote

You can read more about these bills and see the full text of the League's testimony at [www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org). Additional titles will be heard later this session on majority elections and IRV, and the League Lobby Corps will be there.

Meanwhile, the City of Portland will conduct the first IRV election for mayor in November of this year, and our members can continue the process of educating voters in this voting method.

*- Colleen Tucker, Portland*

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### Join the League!

If you are not already a member, we need your help now in carrying out our mission of education and reform. You may become a member of the League of Women Voters of Maine and the United States, by mailing us your contact information with a check for \$45 for one membership, or \$67.50 for two members at the same household. . Print off a membership form at [www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org). Our Mailing Address is:

**League of Women Voters of Maine  
P. O. Box 863, Augusta, ME 04332-0863.**

## **Marion Holshouser**

The League of Women Voters lost a great friend and a long-time leader when Marion S. Holshouser, 89, passed away on Saturday (April 2, 2011) at her home in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

Marion was born May 19, 1921 in Newark, N.J., the daughter of Antonette (Arlauskas) and Walter Stankus from Lithuania.

She married Don F. Holshouser in 1943 and lived for many years in Urbana; they retired to Cape Elizabeth in 1985. Marion was a graduate of the University of Illinois. She was a teacher, then held administrative positions at the University of Illinois, retiring in 1981 from the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Marion was a passionate believer and participant in the democratic political process. In Urbana, she was elected to the city council and office of city treasurer. She served twice as a Carter delegate to the National Democratic Convention and was an

active member of the League of Women Voters for most of her adult life. In "retirement" in Maine, she served as state and Portland area president and board member of the LWVME. She worked tirelessly on many league initiatives and received numerous awards for her contributions.

Marion served as President of the League of Women Voters of Maine during the important years from 1991 – 1994 when citizens were organizing for Clean Elections. Marion was a founder of the coalition that became Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. She was a driver and a staunch champion of Clean Elections from Day 1.

Marion's leadership was crucial throughout the early Clean Elections effort, drafting of the law and the signature-gathering effort that put Clean Elections on the ballot. She established the League of Women Voters as a leader of the coalition – leadership that continues to this day

Marion was predeceased by her husband of 58 years, in 2002. She is survived by her sister, Florence Falana of Collingswood, N.J.; her three children, Judy Tizon (and husband, Hernan), Donna Holshouser Stinson and Eric Holshouser (and wife Lori Terens); six grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

## **A Visit with Charlie Summers, Secretary of State**

After a recent state Board meeting, I had the opportunity to visit with Charlie Summers, the newly elected Secretary of State. While we did acknowledge that we disagreed about two legislative bills-- one to require a photo ID to vote and another to eliminate same day voter registration (he supports and we oppose) we had an interesting conversation about the unique features of the Maine Secretary of State's Office.

He had just returned from a national meeting of Secretaries of State and he compared his department with that of his peers in other states. As a constitutional officer (along with the state Treasurer and the Attorney General) he is elected by the legislature. Only three states have this structure— Maine, New Hampshire, and Tennessee. Eight are appointed by the Governor as a member of the Cabinet. The rest are elected at large by the citizens. He noted that in Ohio during this most recent election, the candidate for Secretary of State spent \$5 million to get elected.

Secretary Summers noted that the fact that he is elected by the legislature means that he is accountable to them, giving him a certain amount of neutrality that others, who are appointed by the Governor, do not have. For League members the most obvious responsibility of the Secretary of State's office is the Bureau of Elections, but that is only part of what the office oversees. The Secretary of State's office in Maine has three major responsibilities: the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV); Corporations, Elections, and Commissions (CEC); and Archives. Secretary Summers said that only three states give the responsibility for motor vehicles to the Secretary of State's office: Maine, Michigan, and Illinois.

The most underestimated responsibility of his office is the state Archives. In recent years the Archives have been housed in the State Museum on the Capitol grounds. The biggest issue for the state of Maine is that many archival records are stored all over the Augusta area in boxes tucked under stairwells, in unheated attics, and damp basements. Secretary Summers said that it was critically important for the Archives to become a priority or very valuable materials will be lost. He was especially proud to say that Maine has the largest collection of Civil War records of any state. He is concerned that they be properly documented and stored as a real treasure to the state of Maine and all those organizations that cherish Civil War memorabilia. At the end of our conversation, he invited the League Board to take a tour of the Archives at the State Museum. We hope to be able to accept that invitation at the next state Board meeting.

*- Anne Schink, S. Portland*

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### **Calendar for 2011**

LWVME Board Meeting, Augusta	Thu, Apr 14, 10am - 2pm
Day on the Hill, Augusta	Wed, Apr 27, 10 am – 2 pm
LVW-Downeast Luncheon Meeting, Ellsworth	Sat, May 7, noon – 2 pm
LWVME Convention, Portland	Fri, June 3 – Sat, June 4
Leadership Development Conference, Wells	Sat, Oct 15 – Sun, Oct 16