

**The League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties
VOTER Newsletter - June, 2007**

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LEAGUE CALENDAR	June/July
Thurs, June 7	Table Talk
Thurs, June 21	Business & Planning Meeting, Lampson Bldg, Kenn.
June 22 – 24	LWVWA State Convention, Vancouver
Thurs, July 19	Board Retreat

TABLE TALK, Thursday, June 7: This month's table talk will be held at the Kiona Winery owned by John and Ann Williams. Their new tasting facility was recently featured in the paper and we thought it would be a good way to end the League year while learning more about the local wine industry. League will provide pizza, salad and dessert. Cost will be \$5-7 per person. Spouses and guest are welcome. We will start gathering at 6:00 p.m. Firm reservations are not needed but we would like to have an estimate of how many people to plan for. The telephone tree will be contacting members.

The winery is located at 44612 N. Sunset Rd. It is located close to Benton City and can be reached by driving through West Richland on Van Giesen (about 10 miles from the Bypass) and turning right onto Sunset OR by taking I-182 to the Benton City exit and going back toward West Richland about one and a half miles and turning left onto Sunset. Once you are on Sunset it is only a mile and the winery is on your left. Follow the signs to the tasting room. There is a wooden Kiona Winery sign where you turn and follow the paved driveway to the tasting room. We are hoping to coordinate rides when possible. If you have questions contact Marilyn Perkins (783-8610).

There will be no Table Talk meetings in July or August. Our schedule will start again in September.

Business & Planning Meeting, Thursday, June 21, 5:30 p.m.: We have added a summer meeting for the Board because of the early filing deadlines for this fall's elections. While we will have regular agenda items, the main purpose of this meeting is to prepare for our various Voter Service activities. All members are welcome. Please bring your own "brown bag" supper for this meeting.

We continue to meet at the Lampson Corporate Headquarters Building at the foot of the cable bridge on the Kennewick side. Enter on the east side of the building.

LWVWA State Convention, June 22 through 24: State Convention will be held in Vancouver. Leona Hassing, Shirley Sonnichsen, and Judy Golberg will be attending.

Summer Board Retreat, Thursday, July 19: This summer meeting allows the Board to organize and set priorities for the upcoming year. Newly elected and immediate past board members are encouraged to attend. All members are welcome. If you are willing to be the hostess for this meeting, contact Leona Hassing. We usually have a potluck.

Celebration for Women's Suffrage, Thursday, August 23, Howard Amon Park: Join us for the annual membership picnic and women's suffrage celebration. If you are interested in helping plan the program, contact Leona Hassing. Mark your calendar now!

Annual Meeting: The membership adopted the following addition to our position on COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

Existing position: The LWV/BF supports bi-county cooperation in providing services and in planning for new facilities and programs. Benton County services should be located in the center of population.

Adopted May 2007: Should legal constraints prohibit future growth of services in the center of population, the LWV/BF supports moving the County seat to Kennewick or changing State law to remove the legal constraints.

From the LWVUS:

Keep Up to Date on Immigration Legislation: LWVUS does not have a position on immigration and, as a result, cannot speak to the current proposed immigration bill before Congress. However, we encourage Leagues to keep up to date on Senate Bill 1348, described as a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes, by visiting the Library of Congress' THOMAS website. Thomas provides text of the legislation, summary, lists of co-sponsors, amendments and all congressional actions. [Click here](#), and type in "S. 1348" to find out more. See below for an important action alert on an amendment to the immigration bill.

ACTION ALERT: Stop Discriminatory Voter ID Requirement—Senator Mitch McConnell (R KY) has offered an amendment to the immigration bill pending in the Senate that would require every voter in the 2008 election to provide government-issued, current and valid photo identification before being allowed to vote at a polling place. This amendment would disenfranchise large numbers of legal voters and create administrative problems at the polls in the next federal election. [Take Action Now](#). Also, read Mary G. Wilson's statement [denouncing the introduction of this amendment](#).

ACTION ALERT: On to the Senate for DC Voting Rights! Your Senators [need to hear from you now](#) in support of voting rights for citizens who live in our nation's capital.

MESSAGE FROM THE VOTER EDITOR: Comments, questions, and concerns about this newsletter may be addressed to Jeene Hobbs at 545-0127 or via e-mail at jhobbs@pocketinet.com. Suggestions and constructive criticisms are welcomed.

The League of Women Voters of Benton-Franklin Counties affirms its belief in and commitment to pluralism and diversity. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVBF on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or socio-economic level.