



October 2011 Stillwater Voter

Kirsten Tautfest, President

A Publication of Stillwater, Oklahoma,
League of Women Voters

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SLWV Calendar

Date/Time*	Place	Description
Oct. 10th (Mon.) 7 to 9 p.m.	Home of Margaret Ewing 1810 W. 3rd.	SLWV Book Discussion: <i>When Heaven and Earth Changed Places</i> by Le Ly Hayslip (Contact Person: Joyce Cox)
Oct. 11th (Tues.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Freddie Paul's Restaurant 1707 E. 6th	SLWV Noon Meeting: New Voting Procedures with Allison Dawson, Payne County Election Board Chair (Contact Person: Nancy Andrews)
Oct. 25th (Tues.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Freddie Paul's Restaurant 1707 E. 6th	SLWV Discussion: with Tom Duncan of the Transit Authority (Contact Person: Nancy Andrews)
Oct. 27th (Thurs.) 6:30 to 8 p.m.	Stillwater Public Library Board Room	SLWV Board Meeting (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)
Nov. 8th (Tues.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Freddie Paul's Restaurant 1707 E. 6th	SLWV Noon Meeting: Review of the National Education Study by our local committee (Contact Person: Nancy Andrews)
Nov. 22nd (Tues.)		no 4th Tuesday November meeting due to Thanksgiving week <i>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</i>
Dec. 1st (Thurs.) 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Location TBD	SLWV Board Meeting (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)
Dec. 10th (Sat.) 10 a.m. to Noon	Unitarian Universalist Church of Stillwater, 320 S Stallard. Enter in back and go upstairs.	Brunch potluck. Board will supply paper goods and drinks. National positions will be discussed.

Inside this issue:

Education Study	2-4
Voting Machines	4
IRV	5
Pipeline Protest	5
Book Club	
Older Americans Act	6
New Member	
Voter eligibility	7
Parks & Rec Mtg	8
Dues Form	9
Voter Service	10

*League-sponsored items are in bold.

Education Study Consensus Questions from LWVUS

The following are the questions that we will be discussing on the November 8th meeting. There is a lot to absorb. And this may be a long meeting, so we will likely start early. There is also a Powerpoint presentation that can be reviewed from [lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). The study materials that the questions reference are found at:

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Public_Education&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=112&ContentID=16956

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

General Questions

These General Questions apply to the overall focus of the study. All page numbers are from the PDF versions of the background papers.

1. The current role of the federal government in public education is

Much too small / too small / about right / too large / much too large

2. What should be the role of the federal government in public education? (Rank)

- To ensure that all students preK-12 receive a quality education.
- To develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so that they achieve adequate yearly progress.
- To mandate Common Core Standards for all students K-12.
- To monitor state efforts for funding
- To measure teacher effectiveness through test data.

3. A quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy.

Strongly agree / Agree / No consensus / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Common Core Standards

Common Core Standards and the related assessments are an important part of the study with one section devoted just to this. Make sure members clearly understand that these are national standards, developed by the National Governors' Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and are not a federal government mandate, even though acceptance of the standards was a requirement to qualify for "Race to the Top" funding. Remember this is a national study and the question is how these should relate to national programs. This is not the place for a discussion of "our state math standards are better than these," however tempting it may be. Background on pages 3 and 4 of the "Common Core Standards and

Assessments" research paper will help with understanding. There is a logical progression from standards to assessments based on these standards to curriculum aligned with the standards and tests. How much of a role do we think the federal government should have in this continuum? (see pdf page 3 of Common Core Standards paper)

4. Currently the governors and state education officers have developed Common Core Standards that are national but not federal. Should the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding? (Choose one)

- Special grant programs such as Race to the Top
- All programs under Elementary and Secondary Education Act where the needs qualify for funding.
- All programs receiving federal funding from any source
- All of the above
- None of the above

This next question will refer pdf pages 1-6 Common Core Standards.

5. Should there be a **national assessment** aligned with the common cores standards?

Yes No

If Yes, Should implementation be voluntary or federally mandated? (choose one)

- Voluntary
- Mandated
- Mandated, if fully funded

If No, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (choose one)

- Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.
- Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the *Stanford Achievement Test* or *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*.
- Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically

A potentially logical next step could be to develop a national curriculum that would meet the standards and be aligned with the assessment tools. Carefully consider this in light of answers to the two previous questions and strive for a consistent answer. What should the federal role be? Is this different from a national role that is not mandated? (see pdf page 11 Common Core Standards and Glossary)



Ed Study *continued*....

6. National standards should lead to: (choose one)
- A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.
 - A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.
 - A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
 - No national curriculum.
- Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
 - Reward schools that achieve high scores
 - Rank teachers based on student test score data
 - Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
 - Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.

This next question concerns the current two consortia who have won \$3.5 million to develop assessments that follow the Common Core State Standards by 2014. This is where streams get mixed, as they have received a **federal** grant to prepare assessments based on **national** standards. What should be the goal(s) of these groups? (see pdf page 7 Common Core Standards)

7. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (Rank order)
- Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
 - Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
 - Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
 - Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.
 - Provide diagnostic information on each child.

This next question focuses upon the purpose of a national assessment program. The purpose of any mandated, nationally normed test has been much debated. This goes to the much debated parts of NCLB, to value-added statistical models for evaluation of teachers, merit pay and similar topics often in the news. Be prepared here for discussion that may be highly charged. But it is important to know if we have consensus on these items. (pdf pages 8-11 Common Core Standards)

8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (choose one)
- Data should be "norm referenced" (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.
 - Data should be "criterion referenced" and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.
 - Data should be used to determine "cut" scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.

9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one):

Funding and Equity

This part of the study deals more with the traditional federal involvement in public education and how it has evolved. You might want to briefly review the history paper and Timetable posted on the lwv.org website. This is an area that will require time. (pdf pages 7-8 Equity and funding)

10. In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need. All/Any Schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive grants are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain federal requirements, such as Race to the Top. Which would be appropriate: (choose one)
- Non-competitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements
 - A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants
 - Competitive grants only
 - No federal funding

Mandates are not always a bad thing. Integration was a mandate, so was Title IX (gender equity). Most school administrators would emphasize the need for federal mandates to be federally funded. Some are; some, like Head Start, are only expected to do what the funding allows. Others, such as Special Education, have never been fully funded. Think carefully about this one. What is the "common good"? (see pdf pages 3-5 Equity and Funding)

11. If the federal government's role is the concern of the "common good" then: (choose one)
- Mandates only should be sanctioned.
 - Mandates and funding should both be provided.
 - Funding should be provided through grants only.
 - A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.
 - No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available.

Equity is a word that has had an evolving definition.. It is not the same as equal funding as there is a growing awareness that some students are more expensive to educate than others. While not all of these may be considered the responsibility of the local educational sys-

Continued on p.4....

Ed Study *continued...*

tem, is it a federal responsibility to tackle them? Is it a local responsibility? Should these non-academic issues be considered? This is more fully discussed early in the "Equity and Funding" paper. (see pdf pages 3-4 and 8-10 Equity and Funding)

12. Equity in public education means equitable access to: (Rank order)

- a. high quality teaching/learning
- b. adequate and current learning materials
- c. clean and well maintained physical facilities
- d. food and health care
- e. safe and secure neighborhoods
- f. secure housing

Traditionally all federal funding has been aimed at special groups, those that were deemed underserved by Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) authorizers. Each population and its justification are discussed in the paper on special populations. Many of these numbers are growing nationwide, and funding does not always keep up with the growth. The question is, should this funding still be targeted to individual groups? Or should it be either block granted, where it can be used for multiple purposes, and/or blended into the general fund? (see pdf pages 1-4 Equity and Funding and all pages of Special Populations on Equity and Funding)

13. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered "categorical" rather than

for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs.

Strongly agree / Agree / No consensus / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Much current educational research emphasizes the role of early childhood education in giving all children an even start when entering kindergarten. The question here is the role of the federal government: Should it play a role in extending this to all children? (see pdf pages 1-5 Early Childhood)

14. The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children?

Strongly agree / Agree / No consensus / Disagree / Strongly disagree

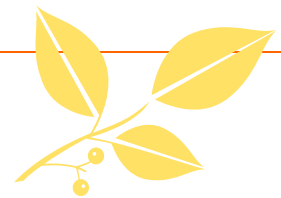
15. Federal support for early childhood education programs (e.g.Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health as needed.

a. Strongly Agree / Agree / No consensus Disagree / Strongly Disagree

b. This funding should be extended to :

All children / only those with special needs / special needs first

Voting machines still a problem



LWVOK, LWV of Norman & Common Cause:

This web article describes the very real potential of stealing any election.

<http://www.salon.com/news/politics/elections/2011/09/27/votinghack/index.html>

The Diebold machines discussed - now renamed Premier - are only part of the electronic voting problems. About 2/3s of the votes across the nation are cast electronically and subject to this hacking or "man in the middle" attack. About 1/3 of the votes are on Diebold/Premier machines (Diebold changed their name to Premier, due to so many University reports and articles exposing Diebold's potential for tampering and fraud.)

Also, here is Dave Moore's article about E-voting. He sums it up rather succinctly.

<http://normantranscript.com/local/x1181614957/E-voting-not-as-secure-as-consumers-think/>

Luncheon on IRV Consensus

On Tuesday, September 27th, members in attendance at the luncheon came to a concurrence on the matter of instant runoff voting (IRV). The concurrence position is as follows:

< In accordance with the League of Women Voters' position of promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government, the LWVOK will support legislation that assures that the candidate preferred by a majority of voters wins the election.

Specifically the LWVOK will support instant runoff voting (IRV) for all statewide and local elections.>

This will be presented at the LWVOK state board meeting on November 12th. In the meantime, we could start to work on the city officials to perhaps propose a change in the charter to allow for IRV locally. It would save the City of Stillwater thousands of dollars each election cycle.

—Kirsten Tautfest

Protesting the Keystone XL Pipeline

Trans-Canada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline would bring the dirtiest, most polluting oil through six states, including Oklahoma, to Texas refineries. Indigenous peoples in Alberta, Canada, where tar sands oil is extracted, are already feeling the effects of the toxins resulting from the extraction, with increased cases of cancer. Birds and wildlife, too, are suffering from the toxic waste water and pollution. Tar sands oil already flows into our country and state via pipelines, which have leaked at least twelve times in less than a year. A leak from the proposed Keystone XL pipeline into the Ogallala Aquifer would poison water for irrigation and drinking water for two million people in several states, including Oklahoma.

For these reasons and others, I decided to join Bill McKibben, Jim Hansen, Naomi Klein and Daryl Hanna, plus more than 1200 others, to protest the Keystone XL pipeline at the White House. Since it crosses an international border, the State Department must approve this new pipeline. But President Obama must be held accountable for the decision. He recently eased some pollution requirements, so stopping this pipeline would somewhat ease the disappointment of those of us who want to save the planet.

At the invitation of Bill McKibbin and 350.org, I decided to join the protest. We were going to be in the area visiting our daughter at the time, so I was compelled to join. The protest continued for two weeks. I was there on the twelfth day. We had thorough non-violence training the night before. On protest day we

met in Lafayette Park across from the White House, heard some speeches, then walked with signs to our sit-in. The police knew our plan. We knew that we would be given three warnings to leave or we would be arrested. We were then handcuffed, photographed, questioned and taken to a central detention center. There, we were questioned again, we paid \$100 bail and were released. We knew this would happen if nothing went wrong. The point was to make a statement and get media attention for the issue.

Since our protest, the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Tutu and seven other Nobel Peace Prize winners wrote a letter to the President asking him to stop the pipeline. Soon after our protest, similar protests were held in Ottawa, Canada. Native tribal leaders from Canada and the U.S. are opposing the pipeline. Even the Nebraska Cornhusker football fans booed when a Keystone ad showed up on the Jumbotron at a recent game. The next day the university ended their sponsorship deal with TransCanada.

The next big event will be in DC on November 6, one year before the presidential election. The plan is to have enough people there that day to encircle the White House. The idea is to remind President Obama of the power of the people that brought him to the White House in 2008. Pictures and further information can be found at tarsandsaction.org.

—Deanna Homer

Book Club Report

September

There was a lively but depressing discussion of the book, '*C Street*' by Jeff Sharlet, at the September SLWV Book Club, which was led by Carol Stone.

Reporting with exclusive sources and documents from C Street, the sensationalism of Washington sex scandals, the war on gays in Uganda, to the battle for the soul of America's armed forces – waged by 15,000-strong movement of officers intent on "reclaiming territory for Christ in the military" – Sharlet reveals the new front lines of fundamentalism.

It is sad, but not shocking, to read that our own two Senators plus some of our Congressmen are involved with this organization. While they fight spending for our needs in the U.S.A., they are sending money (and going themselves) to Africa to help fight homosexuality.

If you really want to know some of the things going on in Washington, '*C Street*' and '*The Family*', both by Jeff Sharlet, are must reads.

October

The October meeting of the SLWV Book Club will be October 10th at Margaret Ewing's home with Joyce Cox as leader. The book is '*When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*' by Le Ly Hayslip. It is the memoir of a girl on the verge of womanhood. The youngest of six children in a Buddhist family, Le Ly Hayslip was twelve when U.S. helicopters landed in Ky La, a small village in Central Vietnam. Both the government and Viet Cong troops recruited children as spies and saboteurs and Le Ly was one of those children.

Twenty years after her escape to America she went back to Vietnam to see her family. Scenes of this reunion are interwoven with the war years and show a picture of Vietnam, then and now, of a woman who experienced the true horror of the Vietnam War and survived.

Come join us.

—Beth Thornton

Pledge to Protect and Strengthen the Older Americans Act

One Away Campaign for Elder Economic Security | OneAway.org

From the OneAway website:

"Each day, over 10,000 Americans turn 65. And more than 13 million seniors are struggling just to pay for food, medicine, and a place to live. The good news is that Older Americans Act (OAA) programs can help. The OAA funds meals, preventive services, senior centers, caregiver support, job training, and more. With budget cuts to these services looming, and Congress planning to reauthorize the OAA, now is the time to protect it for today's seniors and strengthen it for tomorrow. Ask your member of Congress to sign the Pledge to Protect and Strengthen the Older Americans Act. Read more and send an email to your lawmakers now. <http://bit.ly/OAA-Pledge>"

And Trish Emig adds:

We've got to obtain passage of the Older Americans Act with the recommended items that would strengthen the act. This is particularly true in view of the AARP study showing that 7.75% of older Oklahomans currently face the risk of hunger, the pending result of the Super Committee that will factor in changes to Medicare and Medicaid and possibly Social Security, and that according to AARP's Public Policy Institute, Oklahoma ranks near the bottom in terms of the quality of long-term care facilities.

Welcome to New Member!

We have a new member: Emily Elliott - 1506 8th. St., PO Box 119, Pawnee, OK 74058-0119 - home phone (918) 762-3540, mobile phone (918) 688-6604, (email address available on the LWVStillwater roster).

TULSA WORLD, READERS FORUM SUBMISSION

Subject: Unjustified voter - challenge

by Vernon L. Jones; sent to us by Mary Francis, Voices of Oklahoma President

Other than when I was overseas during the Korean War in the early 1950's, I cast my vote in every non-local election possible. And, for the past twenty-one years, I have lived at the same street address in Tulsa and voted in the same precinct. But my eligibility to vote was challenged in last Tuesday's election of City Councilors. I was more fortunate than many senior citizens, handicapped and homeless persons, and members of minority groups because I carry identification with my photo. I still have a valid Oklahoma drivers' license. However, after I presented it upon demand, I was told that I still couldn't vote unless I could prove that I lived at the same address printed on the license. Why? All the poll officials recognized me by the many times they had allowed me to vote over the years. They defended their challenge saying they were only following the law. The only way I knew how to prove I still lived at the address was for them to follow me home. Otherwise, I felt it to be their responsibility to prove that I DO NOT LIVE AT THE ADDRESS. Angry words followed. I was allowed to cast a contestable vote only after I signed an affidavit under penalty of law that I lived at the address.

Prior to World War II the German people failed to consider that the tactics used against their opponents and unpopular groups could be turned upon themselves until it became too late. They gullibly supported the minority Nazi Party (National Socialist Party) until it gained full control of the government. It then systematically abolished their own supporters' civil rights and attacked every labor union, minority, and non-Protestant non-white citizen in their country that might represent any opposition to their tyranny. All facets of representative government, civil rights and freedoms

were eventually abolished soon giving rise to the Holocaust when the Nazis commenced their "final solution" of eliminating 'enemies of the people' in gas chambers and declaring war upon most of the civilized world.

After the war ended and horrors were revealed the German people claimed innocence. They said they didn't know. Should German citizens be excused for their ignorance? I, for one, think not. They had the opportunity to recognize what was happening to their 'motherland' and a valid political system to deter what eventually happened. 'Looking the other way' and selective 'ignorance' are never acceptable excuses for such travesties no matter whomever the tyrant may be.

We can never truly know the 'motives' of another. We can more often only rely upon the results that transpire. But we can always question. Our state legislatures, governors and U.S. Legislatures who create statutes to destroy labor unions, abolish essential programs like Social Security that has prevented poverty of seniors and handicapped persons since 1935, refusal to extend benefits to unemployed persons or continue medical care (Medicaid) for children and disadvantaged, passing laws to make it difficult for minority group citizens to register and/or vote, and similar political measures are clearly designed to disenfranchise constituents who may disagree with them politically.

Few of us want to believe that some of our citizens either deliberately or unknowingly prefer to follow in the footsteps of the pre-World War II German population. No doubt many German citizens didn't recognize the danger they were flirting either. Certainly, dismantling our own representative government that has served as the greatest in the world for more than 200 years is not in the best interest of any American, nor is it wise.

Pecans?

We're still waiting for information on pecans. Plan ahead money-wise if you want to order some.

September 13th SLWV Noon Meeting

Our interest in the Parks and Recreation Department of Stillwater is long standing and after all the talk of budget cuts last spring the Board thought it was time to revisit this department. Jim Scott, has been with P & R for 25 years and after the changes in organization and structure of the city he now has the title Operations Manager of P & R.

Jim started out as sports supervisor, officiated high school sports for 21 years and ran the sports and events part of P & R. He was program manager of the recreation division for 3 years.

Bringing us up to date on their budget, they have \$670,000 to \$680,000 less money this year and over the last 3 years it is about \$1 million less. Three people were laid off last year and that accumulates to 9 people in the last 3 years.

Obviously with his background and work in recreation, he is very familiar with volunteers working as coaches. He would like to look for more volunteers to work as facilitators of the programs – what I would call the 'go to' people. There were questions about why volunteers are not used more by P & R for maintenance and planting of park lands.

Since the city had just experienced the wind storm and all of the tree damage, Mr. Scott talked about storm clean-up and what they had been doing. P & R was hampered by not having the right type of equipment for such clean-up but the city's philosophy had been, 'all hands on deck' to help. The parks staff had not yet had time to clean up their own park lands. And the question was asked: why was it P & R's responsibility to work on storm clean-up? See the 'all hands on deck' comment – but of course there is no money into the P & R budget for this clean-up.

A question was asked about the desire some residents have for a Splash Pad and a doggie park. The skeptical Leaguer's wondered why we would add more to P & R when they don't have the money to manage what they have? Some group is raising funds, including an endowment for maintenance, for the Splash Pad.

This question brought us back to the P & R Master Plan commissioned by the P & R Board. Many of us participated in a survey which focused on 'what facilities do you use?' 2400 surveys were returned and additional surveys will ask other questions in the future.

There were additional questions about number of acres of land maintained, mowing of right of ways, city events that P & R helps with, reaching students and others that don't read newspapers, and we could have gone on and on.

Thank you to Jim Scott for joining us and providing a great deal of information about the current status of the Parks and Recreation Department in Stillwater. He welcomes your questions and comments; try not to be annoying!

P.S. Of course shortly after he joined us it was announced that the Senior Center hours were being cut. Mr. Scott mentioned none of this when he was with us, but then maybe it wasn't his decision. Ultimately they have reversed themselves and have volunteers helping staff the center. Amazing what volunteers can do if the powers-that-be will let them.

—Kay Murphy



Membership Reminder:

Alice reports that dues are still coming in. If you don't want her to call with a gentle reminder, please send them in pronto. We've got a big year ahead and need all your hands and brains on deck to keep the voting public educated. (Note: There is a membership form included with this newsletter.)

—Kirsten Tautfest, President

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE

Membership dues for the 2011-2012 year are due by August 1 and will be delinquent after October 31.

Please fill in this form and send it with your check made payable to League of Women Voters of Stillwater to: Alice Richardson, LWV Treasurer, 1023 South Western Rd., Stillwater, OK. 74074

Name of member(s) _____ Home Phone _____

2nd member in same household _____

Address _____ Work Phone (optional) _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

e-mail address _____

(check one:) For LOCAL use only _____ For LOCAL & NATIONAL use _____ (see below)

*Membership new to LWV (first year only) (**\$25.00**) _____

*Regular membership dues (7/1/11-6/30/12) (**\$50.00**) _____

*2nd member in same household (**\$25.00**) _____

Member Contribution _____

Less full-time student credit (**-\$12.50**) _____

Total Enclosed =====

NOTE: Dues and contributions to the LWV are NOT DEDUCTIBLE as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Please advise us if you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution to the LWV Education Fund.

At the April 22, 2004 annual meeting, the Stillwater LWV members present requested that we give each member the opportunity to determine how her/his personal e-mail address would be used by the LWV. Therefore, please indicate your preference:

If you check LOCAL use only, we will use your e-mail to inform you of local events and other items the local board feels would be of interest to you. We do not share this information with other organizations without your consent.

If you check LOCAL & NATIONAL use, we will forward your e-mail address to the LWVUS, where it will be used to send you news from the national headquarters on a more timely basis than the quarterly publication. The national league could share this information with other organizations. Also, in the past, we have received notices that there have been unauthorized use of these addresses from LWVUS. If you have anti-spam and virus protection on your computer, this might be of minimal concern.

*** At the April 24, 2008 annual meeting, the Stillwater LWV members present approved increasing our local annual dues from \$45 to \$50. Of this amount, \$45 is allocated to LWVOK and LWVUS for per member payments during the current fiscal year. The budget for 2011-2012 which is included in the Annual Meeting Voter for April 21, 2011 was approved on that date.**

Voter Service

Kirsten Tautfest moderated a forum of 7 (2 not present) mayoral candidates and 2 council seat candidates for the City of Pawnee. Also helping were Beth Thornton, Pat Jaynes, and Dorothy Egbert. Vera Long also helped with note taking. Considering all the drama leading up to the special election, we expected a less civil forum, but things went very smoothly. The results of the election had acting mayor Sewell winning in a winner take all election (no runoff). The forum also brought us a new member. Welcome to Emily Elliott from Pawnee. I expect that we will be invited back to Pawnee more often to moderate their elections. Moderating forums in other communities is a service that we provide free of charge. I encourage more members to assist during these events. It is an insight into the issues that others are facing and perhaps even allows us to see that in some ways many communities are facing the same issues we are, but in slightly different ways.

—Kirsten Tautfest

Culled from LWVUS list-serv

The Brennan Center has just issued a comprehensive report on changes in state laws across the country that have made it more difficult for people to vote. There are news articles covering the story but League members will want to read the report and see the background research.

Study released on New Barriers to Voting: http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/voting_law_changes_in_2012

—Chris Carson, Director, LWV Glendale/Burbank



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF STILLWATER

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