

1 The Montgomery Voter

October 2007

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery
P.O. Box 231323, Montgomery, AL 36123-1323
334 264-VOTE or 334 270-0539

The Presidents' Message
by
Rosalind Toles and Anne Permaloff

Please join us for the October Member Recruitment Meeting and Potluck on October 17th. The meeting will offer a great way to meet new people and enjoy good food and good fellowship.

In addition as part of the Local Government Study, we have an excellent presentation lined up. Dr. Bradley Moody, Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, Auburn University Montgomery will speak on the Advantages and Disadvantages of City-County Consolidation. Dr. Moody has taught a variety of courses on local and state government and politics and frequently serves as an analyst for the media on these and other topics.

As part of this *Voter* you will find four Immigration Study Briefs. [*Click to download [Brief #1](#), [Brief #2](#), [Brief #3](#), or [Brief #4](#).*] All four come from recent editions of *The National Voter*; the original articles focused on the in-depth studies done on immigration by the LWVUS. The original articles and the studies themselves may be found [at the website](#). The Briefs presented here have been condensed to essential details.

Please read the Study Briefs and think about them. Bring them with you to the November meeting. At that time, we will lead a discussion of these and related materials in order to get at the facts behind immigration and immigration reform. The November and December *Montgomery Voter* will include more information on immigration, and then in January our meeting will be devoted to reaching consensus on the issue.

A copy of historical data on the foreign born population of Birmingham and Mobile is in this *Voter* to remind us that the today's increasing levels of foreign born population may be new, but earlier generations of Alabamians had greater percentages of foreign born neighbors.

Finally, if you have not paid your annual dues, please do so. Otherwise you will be dropped from the membership lists at the end of this month.

**October Membership Recruitment Meeting
&
Pot Luck Luncheon
October 17th from Noon – 1 p.m.**

Bring a friend, relative, or co-worker and introduce them to League.

To sign up to bring a dish or to indicate that you would rather pay \$5 toward the meal, contact Ursula Nolte at 834-6541 or unolte@bellsouth.net by Monday, October 15th.

Guests are not expected to bring a dish or pay.

Table 26. Nativity of the Population for Urban Places Ever Among the 50 Largest Urban Places Since 1870: 1850 to 2000

(See text for sources, definitions, and explanations)

State, urban place and year (rank in total population)	Total	Native	Foreign born	
			Number	Percent
ALABAMA				
Birmingham				
2000* (71).....	243,072	237,948	5,124	2.1
1990* (60).....	265,852	262,671	3,181	1.2
1980* (50).....	284,413	281,182	3,231	1.1
1970* (48)	300,559	298,440	2,119	0.7
1960* (36).....	340,887	338,260	2,627	0.8
1950* (34).....	325,745	321,925	3,820	1.2
1940 (35).....	267,583	263,127	4,456	1.7
1930 (34).....	259,678	253,764	5,914	2.3
1920 (36).....	178,806	172,666	6,140	3.4
1910 (36).....	132,685	126,955	5,730	4.3
1900 (99).....	38,415	36,639	1,776	4.6
1890 (-).....	26,178	24,526	1,652	6.3
Mobile				
2000* (91).....	198,887	193,025	5,862	2.9
1990* (79).....	196,278	192,165	4,113	2.1
1980* (72).....	200,396	196,621	3,775	1.9
1970* (68).....	190,122	188,825	1,297	0.7
1960* (58).....	202,779	200,792	1,987	1.0
1950* (78)	129,030	127,050	1,980	1.5
1940 (-).....	78,720	77,164	1,556	2.0
1930 (-).....	68,202	66,062	2,140	3.1
1920 (-).....	60,777	58,620	2,157	3.5
1910 (-).....	51,521	49,216	2,305	4.5
1900 (98).....	38,469	36,358	2,111	5.5
1890 (97).....	31,076	28,921	2,155	6.9
1880 (68).....	29,132	26,195	2,937	10.1
1870 (39).....	32,034	27,795	4,239	13.2
1860 (27).....	29,258	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1850 (32).....	20,515	16,429	4,086	19.9

Low Trust in Federal Government Rivals Watergate Era Levels:

Trust in state, local governments holding steady *by Jeffrey M. Jones*

GALLUP NEWS SERVICE (September 26, 2007)

PRINCETON, NJ -- A high degree of public trust in elected leaders is one of the basic underpinnings of representative government. Gallup's annual Governance survey shows that trust in the federal government has continued to decrease this year after showing noticeable signs of decline the past two years. Now, Americans generally express less trust in the federal government than at any point in the past decade, and trust in many federal government institutions is now lower than it was during the Watergate era, generally recognized as the low point in American history for trust in government.

Gallup has asked about trust in government since 1972 and has done so on a regular basis for the past 10 years, including each September since 2001. Gallup conducted this year's poll Sept. 14-16 and found the following:

- Barely half of Americans, 51%, say they have a "great deal" or "fair amount" of trust in the federal government to handle international problems. While this percentage is not appreciably different from what Gallup has found at other points within the past year, it is the lowest single measurement ever obtained on this question.
- Less than half of Americans, 47%, now have at least a fair amount of trust in the federal government to handle domestic problems. Gallup found a sub-50% reading on this measure only one other time, in 1976. (Gallup did not ask this question between 1977 and 1997, and it is possible that lower readings than today's reading could have been obtained during this period.)
- Given President George W. Bush's flagging approval ratings, it comes as no surprise that trust in the executive branch of government is on the low end of the historical spectrum. In fact, the 43% who now express trust in the executive branch is only slightly better than the 40% who did so in April 1974, four months before Richard Nixon resigned as president amid the Watergate scandal.
- Trust in the legislative branch of the federal government continues to erode, dropping six percentage points in each of the last two years (from 62% in 2005 to 50% today). The current level of trust in Congress is significantly lower than any other measurement Gallup has obtained.
- The candidates running for president in 2008 will be trying to win over a skeptical public. Just 55% of Americans express trust in the "men and women in political life in this country who either hold or are running for public office." That matches the low Gallup found in 2001.
- Americans continue to express a high -- but diminished level -- of trust in the "American people as a whole when it comes to making judgments under our democratic system about

issues facing the country." Currently, 70% of Americans trust the public's ability to perform its role in a democratic government, which is down from 78% two years ago when it was last asked, and significantly lower than any other reading Gallup has taken.

- The one part of the federal government that has been able to maintain public confidence is the judicial branch headed by the Supreme Court. Sixty-nine percent of Americans have a great deal or fair amount of trust in the judicial branch, in line with what Gallup has observed since 2003.

The poll indicates that the lack of trust seems to be directed primarily at the federal government. There has been no observable decline of public trust in state and local governments. Sixty-seven percent of Americans now express trust in their state government, matching the levels of 2004 and 2005. Sixty-nine percent also trust their local government, similar to what Gallup has found since 2001.

LWVM 2007-2008 Calendar

Unless indicated LWVM Board and General Meetings are held at The Church of the Ascension, 315 Clanton Street (Smaller meeting room near the entrances to the lower level.)

October 17 – General Meeting, noon – 1 p.m. New Member Recruitment Meeting and Potluck Luncheon – Bring a friend, co-worker, or relative
Guest Speaker: Dr. Bradley Moody. Topic: The Advantages and Disadvantages of City-County Consolidation.

November 7– Board Meeting, noon – 1 p.m.

November 21 – General Meeting, noon – 1 p.m. This will be an informational presentation and discussion meeting focusing on immigration as part of the lead up to consensus for development of a new LWVUS position on immigration. (Please read the summary Study Briefs and bring them to the meeting.)

December 19 – Holiday Party and Potluck Luncheon, noon – 1:15 p.m.

January 2 – Board Meeting, noon - 1 p.m.

January 16 General Meeting – noon - 1 p.m. Consensus meeting on immigration for LWVUS position development

February 20 – General Meeting – noon - 1 p.m. Informational presentation/discussion on local government.

March 5 – Board Meeting, noon - 1 p.m.

March 19– General Meeting, noon - 1 p.m. Focus of meeting to be announced.

April 2 – Board Meeting, noon - 1 p.m.

April 16– General Meeting, noon - 1 p.m. Focus of meeting to be announced.

May 21– Annual Meeting, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (Location to be announced)

Membership Application/Renewal

(Mail to: Ursula Nolte, 3318 Lexington Rd, Montgomery, AL 36106)

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

FAX: _____ E-Mail: _____ (Please print)

Member Category:

- Individual \$50.00
 Full-Time Student \$25.00
 Household Member \$25.00*

Name of Household Member: _____

*First member of the household must pay full membership fees;
the household receives only one copy of all League mailings.

Donations to the LWVM or the LWVM Education Fund:

LWVM: Amount: _____

LWVM Education Fund:* Amount: _____

*Ed Fund donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Policy Areas of Major Interest (For example, constitutional reform; education; transportation;
environment; governmental reform):

Check the appropriate box if you would like to volunteer for the following committees, or call Co-President Anne Permaloff to discuss your interest and/or learn about these committees.

Program

Membership

Nominating

Local Govt Study

Observer Corps