

The Montgomery Voter

September 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

The September 19th General Meeting will provide specific information about the many activities the Montgomery League will be participating in this League year. These include the national League study on Immigration, the state League study on Initiative and Referendum, and our own study of local government as well as interviews with our state legislative delegation. Please make every effort to attend.

This year the Board has scheduled the new member recruitment meeting for October. And, as part of the educational background for our local study of Montgomery government, Dr. Bradley Moody, Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at Auburn University Montgomery will speak on the Advantages and Disadvantages of City-County Consolidation. A Q and A session will follow the presentation. So, we urge you to bring a friend to learn more about the League and to listen to the presentation.

Areas of responsibility for several major League activities were set at the September Board Meeting. These are: Advocacy (including Observer Corps) – Valeria Harman; Membership – Ursula Nolte; Communications – Anne Permaloff; Voter Service – Martha Blackwell and Merlin Newton. Those interested in assisting in these areas should contact the individuals named.

Still needed are individuals to serve as coordinators of policy specific areas. The coordinator will serve as the contact point for the State League coordinators who may need research and other assistance. Policy areas where coordinators are needed include: health care; natural resources; constitutional reform; and transportation. If you are interested, please contact Anne.

The Education Fund Board Meeting authorized the updating of Who Represents You. This will occur once the runoff elections decide two council seats. Martha Blackwell and Merlin Newton who prepared last year's update will handle the latest version.

Finally, we wish to thank the League members who worked the phones at the Montgomery Board of Registrars on city election day – Rita Winkates, Merlin Newton, Ruth Ott, Valeria Harman, and Anne Permaloff. This election was the first time the new statewide voter database was used here; so, they not only worked Election Day but went in the week before to learn the new system.

The New Ellis Islands

Steven A. Camarota and John Keeley of the Center for Immigration Studies examined what they call our New Ellis Islands. These are counties identified by comparing the size of the foreign-born population in the county as recorded in the 1990 Census with the number of new legal immigrants (green card holders) who arrived between 1991 and 1998. If the new legal immigrants in a county

are at least equal to 50 percent of the 1990 foreign-born population, they label the county a New Ellis Island.

Their major findings include the following:

- “One out of 14 counties in the United States — 223 of the 3,141 that comprise the U.S. — met the criteria of a New Ellis Island. While these counties can be found throughout the United States, the new areas of immigrant settlement are overwhelming in the South, which has 131, and the Midwest, with 75 counties.
- The state with the most counties identified as New Ellis Islands is Georgia, with 25, followed by Minnesota and Kentucky with 18 counties each. Virginia has 13 such counties, while Tennessee and North Carolina have 12 each. Indiana is home to 11 New Ellis Islands, while Mississippi, Missouri, and Iowa have 10 counties each. Texas, Alabama, Louisiana, Illinois, and Colorado each have at least 5 counties that qualify as new Ellis Islands.
- Of the states that traditionally have attracted immigrants, only Texas and Illinois, with 9 and 6 New Ellis Islands respectively, have a significant number of these counties. Because the existing immigrant populations were already so large in 1990, not one county in California, New York, or Arizona, and only one county each in Florida and New Jersey, meet the definition of a new Ellis Island.
- Among the 223 counties that are the New Ellis Islands, some are dominated by only a few immigrant sending countries; in 62 (28 percent) of these counties, the top-sending country accounts for at least half of the immigrants who arrived in the 1990s. However, in other counties, no single sending country predominates. There were 83 counties (37 percent) in which no single sending country accounts for more than 25 percent of 1990s immigrants.
- While by no means true for every county, in general the new areas of immigrant settlement tend to be associated with either immigration from Mexico or India or with refugee resettlement. Mexico is the leading sending country in 82 counties (37 percent) that qualify as New Ellis Islands. It is followed by India, which is the top-sending country in 35 counties (16 percent). Refugee-sending countries (primarily Vietnam and the former Soviet Union) are the leading sending countries in 50 counties (22 percent).
- In the nation’s 100 largest metropolitan areas, Nashville ranks first in the number of new immigrants (1991-1998) relative to its foreign-born population in 1990. Atlanta is second and Louisville is third. Rounding out the top ten are Minneapolis-St. Paul, Greensboro-Winston-Salem, Charlotte, Memphis, Portland-Vancouver, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.”

Board Updates LWVM Policies

At its September 5th meeting the LWVM Board readopted the LWVM *Nonpartisan Policy* as found in your 2007 Annual Meeting Booklet. Two typos were noted for correction but otherwise the policy is unchanged. Members are urged to reacquaint themselves with the policy which is crucial to League operations.

At the same meeting the Board revised and adopted the *Diversity Policy* as presented below.

Diversity Policy (Revised September 5, 2007)

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief in and commitment to diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVM on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. Diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values of the LWVM, and the LWVM will actively strive to reflect the diversity of Montgomery in its Board and membership.

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.)

September 19 – General Meeting, noon - 1 p.m. Introduction to League activities (including the immigration, I & R, and local government studies and other important business.

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

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

November 21 – General Meeting, noon – 1 p.m. Informational presentation and discussion of immigration as part of the lead up to consensus for development of a new LWVUS position on immigration.

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 and 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)

LWVM TREASURER JOYCE NICOLL'S NEW EMAIL: ljnicoll@charter.net

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Local Govt Study | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> | Observer Corps | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nominating | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |