



# The VOTER

October 2014 VOL. 61, ISSUE 5

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League of Women Voters of Washington County, AR

P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702

www.lwvarwc.org

CALENDAR

**October 15 (Wednesday) • 6:00-8:00 PM • "FIND YOUR VOICE!" • FREE Public Advocacy Training Workshop** for more effective citizen input and involvement in legislative processes. • Facilitator: Bill Kopsky/Arkansas Public Policy Panel Director. • Washington Regional's Pat Walker Senior Center, 12 East Appleby Road. For more information call 527-2777 • Page 2 Article: "DEVELOP YOUR ADVOCACY SKILLS"

**October 16 (Thursday) • 5:30 - 7:30 PM - ARKANSAS PUBLIC POLICY PANEL OPEN HOUSE** • The APPP staff will discuss preparation for the upcoming legislative session and give an overview of priority issues. Hosted by Sarah and Rob Leflar, 1495 Finger Road, Fayetteville.

**October 18 (Saturday) • 7:00 PM – WHAT'S UP ON THE BUFFALO? THE EFFORTS TO SAVE THE BUFFALO RIVER AGAIN: ROLLING OUT THE SCIENCE & MORE** • Buffalo River Watershed Alliance & Ozark River Stewards joint presentation on recent developments in the joint, multi-pronged efforts to protect and preserve our country's first National River • St. Paul's Parrish Hall • 224 N. East Avenue • Fayetteville • Page 2 Article: "WHAT'S UP ON THE BUFFALO?"

**October 24 (Friday) • WATER PLAN UPDATE COMMENT DEADLINE** • Comments may be made verbally, eMailed to arkansaswataer@cdsmith.com, or submitted by mail to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Attention: Water Plan, 101 East Capitol Avenue/Suite 350, Little Rock, AR 72201.

**November 17 (Monday) • 11:30 - 1:00 PM - LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON** • This traditional activity will take place at the Washington County Cooperative Extension Service Auditorium, 2536 North McConnell Ave. The lunch is \$10.00 and must be reserved by a **Nov. 12th deadline**, but is not required to attend. For reservations call 527-2777 or email [joycehale43@gmail.com](mailto:joycehale43@gmail.com). • Page 6 Article: "RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW & TREAT A FRIEND TO LUNCH"

**December 9 (Tuesday) • 10:00 am - 2:00 PM - PROMISES: PRISON, PAROLE, & PROBATION** • LWVWC is co-sponsoring this important discussion seeking alternative ways to reduce the prison population without building a new prison. Shewmaker Center Walmart Auditorium, NWA Community College, 1000 SE Eagle Way, Bentonville.

**December 9 (Tuesday) • 5:30 - 7:30 PM - LWVWC HOLIDAY SOCIAL** • Members of the JEMI Task Force will be special guests and provide an update on their mental health legislation proposal.

ARTICLES

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## FROM THE LWVWC PRESIDENT

By Mary Alice Serafini

Welcome back to our renewing members and welcome to our new members. We hope that all members find the opportunity to serve, inform and become better informed through the League of Women Voters. Our focus in October is to increase our skills in advocacy. Bring your friends and acquaintances to the Advocacy program on the 15th! See you there!

## CITIZENS 1<sup>st</sup> CONGRESS ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS PREPARES FOR LEGISLATURE

By Joyce Hale

The CFC Environmental Caucus met in Conway, AR on Sept. 27 to consider the issues expected to come before the 2015 Legislature. Most prominent is the state's water plan, which needs more quality considerations along with quantity. Protection of in-stream flow levels has not been given a high priority and could place many water sources at risk. The Arkansas Clean Energy and Jobs Act, CAFO's and pipelines were also discussed. LWVWC members will be urged to contact their representatives when bills are introduced in what is likely to be a dramatic session.

**THE 2014 GRIDIRON SHOW**

By Mary Alice Serafini

If you were able to attend the Gridiron on October 3 or 4, you will have seen the back cover of the program announcing the League's Advocacy Training coming up on October 15. The Gridiron is written and cast by the Society of Professional Journalists and successfully spoofed newsmakers once again to the delight of the audience. Not only did the deeds of our elected officials fall subject to the journalists' sense of humor, but the themes of League stands and programs were scattered through out the entertainment (references to climate change, fracking, the Affordable Care Act, voter ID, . . . . you get the picture). By placing an ad in the program, the League of Women Voters is a contributor to scholarships given by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to the Single Parent Scholarship Fund, women in science, technology, math and engineering majors (STEM) at the University of Arkansas and the AAUW Education Fund, as well as scholarships and projects sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists.

**DEVELOP YOUR ADVOCACY SKILLS**

There is no lack of people voicing their political opinions to each other and the media, but the time has come to direct these comments to the people who can make a difference. In addition to faithfully voting, the LWVWC considers communicating with your elected officials and candidates essential. Arkansas is undergoing significant political changes and if you want to have a say about which fork in the road we take, speaking up is vital. That is why we are offering an advocacy workshop to help you feel confident and effective in being heard.

Big changes are underway in **Arkansas Politics**

LET US HELP YOU **FIND YOUR VOICE!**



**LWV**  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

ATTEND A **FREE** PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Sponsored by The League of Women Voters of Washington County

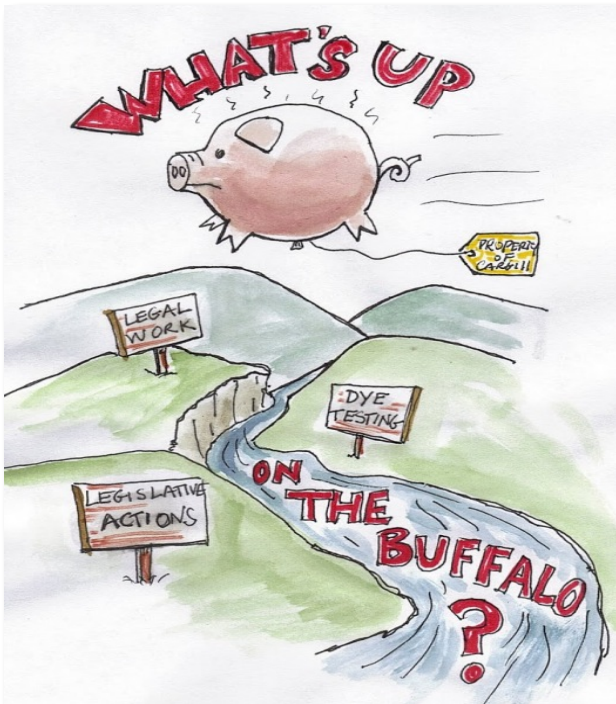
**HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE**

6:00-8:00 PM **Speaker:**  
WEDNESDAY **BILL KOPSKY/DIRECTOR**  
OCTOBER 15 **Arkansas Public Policy Panel**  
Pat Walker Senior Center / 12 East Appleby Road / Fayetteville

Make Sure Your Representatives Hear From You!

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization.

**f** FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 479-527-2777  
lwvarwc.org



**THE EFFORTS TO SAVE THE BUFFALO RIVER AGAIN!**  
Rolling Out the Science & More

**Saturday October 18, 7 p. m.**

**St. Paul's Parish Hall, 224 N. East Av. Fayetteville**

The Buffalo River Watershed Alliance and the Ozark River Stewards invite you to join them for an informative presentation on recent developments in the joint, multi-pronged efforts to protect and preserve our country's first National River.

Speakers will bring the public up to date on the scientific, legal and legislative aspects of these efforts: • Van Brahana/UA Emeritus Professor-Geosciences • Chuck Bitting/ National Park Service • Victor Roland/ USGS/UA • Dane Schumacher/ Buffalo River Watershed Alliance • Anna Weeks/ Environmental Policy Associate, Arkansas Public Policy Panel.

Buffalo River Watershed Alliance, the Ozark River Stewards, Ozark Society, Arkansas Canoe Club and the National Park Conservation Association representatives will be on hand to provide information about their respective organizations, upcoming events, and opportunities to participate in watershed preservation and protection efforts.

For More Information: • [buffaloriveralliance.org](http://buffaloriveralliance.org) • [savethebuffaloriver.com](http://savethebuffaloriver.com) • 870-480-8644 • 206-713-2265

## LWV REPRESENTED IN NEW YORK'S PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH

By Joyce Hale



For four miles along Central Park's west side, over 400,000 people gathered to emphasize the need to address climate change on September 21st. Over 1,500 organizations joined before the United Nations' Climate Summit to encourage world leaders to end delays and take meaningful actions.

Joyce Hale, LWVWC, marched with the LWV of the City of New York. It was a first time opportunity for LWV "fractivists" to meet in person after years of sharing natural gas drilling and pipeline information for legislation and voter education. The LWVUS stands in support of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon pollution. Prominent individuals gathered for many climate related activities before and after the march. Most impressive was a panel of climate change leaders who spoke the night before the march.

The full program may be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5YaqcPEUNc>.

Panelists were Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org and "father" of the march, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, Chris Hedges, correspondent, Naomi Klein, author of *The Shock Doctrine*, and Kshama Sawant, social justice activist from Seattle.



## VOTER REGISTRATION

By Mary Alice Serafini

League members often volunteer to register voters just as Carolyn Mahady, Glenda Patterson, Rita Officer and Mary Alice did on September 13 at the invitation of Walmart Corporate Office. Registration was set up at the entry to the monthly Walmart meeting with a net result of increasing awareness about the importance of voting. It was heartening to speak to Walmart employees who were already registered to vote!

## The 2014 Arkansas Ballot



Election Day is Nov. 4, 2014

### Issues from the Legislature:

**Issue 1** – “An Amendment Empowering the General Assembly to Provide for Legislative Committee Review and Approval of State Agencies’ Administrative Rules”

**What is it asking?** *Issue 1 asks voters to give state senators and representatives authority to pass laws giving legislative committees the right to review and approve state agency administrative rules before the rules can go into effect.*

**Issue 2** - “An Amendment Allowing More Time to Gather Signatures on a State-Wide Initiative or Referendum Petition Only if the Petition as Originally Filed Contained at Least 75% of the Valid Signatures Required”

**What is it asking?** *Issue 2 asks voters to allow statewide ballot issue groups extra time to collect signatures only if the original petition submitted contained valid signatures from 75 percent of the required number of voters. In addition, the original petition would have to contain at least 75 percent of the required number of signatures from voters in at least 15 counties.*

**Issue 3** – “An Amendment Regulating Contributions to Candidates for State or Local Office, Barring Gifts from Lobbyists to Certain State Officials, Providing for Setting Salaries of Certain State Officials, and Setting Term Limits for Members of the General Assembly”

**What is it asking?**

*Issue 3 asks voters to:*

- Allow legislators to serve 16 years total in either the House or Senate.
- Approve creating an independent commission to set salaries of state elected officials.
- Approve placing limits on lobbying by former legislators and set limits on campaign donations and gifts from lobbyists.

### What is the Public Policy Center?

The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture created the Public Policy Center in 2004 to provide neutral, research-based information on emerging policy issues that have varying view points. The Center does not take a position on ballot measures.

## The 2014 Arkansas Ballot



### Issues from the public:

**Issue 4 - The Arkansas Alcoholic Beverage Amendment** – “A proposed amendment to the Arkansas Constitution to provide that, effective July 1, 2015, the manufacture, sale, distribution and transportation of intoxicating liquors is lawful within the entire geographic area of each and every county of this state; that “intoxicating liquors” is defined for purposes of the amendment as any beverage containing more than one-half of one percent (0.5%) of alcohol by weight; that the manufacture, sale, distribution and transportation of intoxicating liquors may be regulated, but not prohibited, by the General Assembly; and that all laws which conflict with the amendment, including laws providing for a local option election (wet-dry election) to determine whether intoxicating liquors may be sold or not sold, are repealed to the extent that they conflict with the amendment.”

**What is it asking?** *Voters are being asked to amend the state’s constitution to allow statewide manufacture, sale, distribution and transportation of alcohol. The state would not have dry counties any more.*

**Issue 5 - An Act to Increase the Arkansas Minimum Wage** – “An act to amend the Arkansas Code concerning the state minimum wage; the act would raise the current state minimum wage from six dollars and twenty-five cents (\$6.25) per hour to seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) per hour on January 1, 2015, to eight dollars (\$8.00) per hour on January 1, 2016, and to eight dollars and fifty cents (\$8.50) per hour on January 1, 2017.”

**What is it asking?** *Voters are being asked to increase the state’s minimum wage from \$6.25 to \$8.50 over a period of three years.*

### Did you know?

- The Public Policy Center publishes neutral, research-based fact sheets on each ballot measure.
- Your group can request a ballot measure presentation by contacting your local Extension office.
- You can sign up for a monthly e-mail newsletter about Arkansas ballot issues by e-mailing your contact information to [publicpolicycenter@uaex.edu](mailto:publicpolicycenter@uaex.edu).

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Hispanic Women’s Conference September 19, 2014 Jones Center, Springdale By Libby Wheeler

Our League of Women Voters participated in this year’s Hispanic Women’s Conference by organizing a panel discussion entitled “POWER: OUR VOICES, OUR VOTES.” The panel discussion, the last event of the conference day, drew a good crowd, including a large number of high school students.

On the panel were Dr. Pearl Dowe of the UofA Department of Political Science; Adrienne Smith, Outreach Coordinator, Office of the Secretary of State; and Tyler B. Clark, Chairman of the Washington County Democrats. A last minute illness prevented Katie Martinez, NW Regional Field Director for AR Victory, Republican Party, from participating. Kyle Kellams, news director for KUAF was the moderator, who kept the panel on target with insightful questions.

The panel focused on what the government, media, and political parties are doing to help register and educate eligible Hispanic voters. Being part of the political process is a crucial step toward integration and economic and advancement of our Latino population, and the increasing numbers of these voters can have a real impact on election outcomes. Discussion also focused on what those not eligible to vote, i.e., the Dreamers, can do to influence electoral outcomes. Kyle led a candid conversation, enhanced by audience questions, on where to find good candidate information, on the responsibility of new voters to know what they are voting for, and just who is courting the Latino vote.



**NEW & RENEWING LWVWC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**  
September of each year is the “kick off” month for our membership drive.  
If you have not yet renewed, please take a moment to do so today.

**Welcome to our new members!**

Ray M. Boudreaux, Christine Hartman, Kitty Sanders, and M. Paula Willis

**Thank you to our renewing members!**

Fran Alexander, Brenda Boudreaux, Judith Carey, Angela Danovi, Eugenia Donovan, Jenni Echols, James (Jay) Hale, Joyce Hale, Harriet H. Jansma, Nancy Kahanak, Laura Kellams, Sally Kelley-King, Vicki Kelley, Kelly King, Sherri Lewis, Nancy McCartney, Scotty McLemore, Mary Bess Mulhollan, Rita Officer, Susan Rausch, Georgia Ross, Lynne Seymour, and Elizabeth Wheeler

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY  
NEW MEMBER OR RENEWAL APPLICATION & INTEREST SURVEY FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ New/Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail (Please print carefully) \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES: Individual Membership - \$40 Family Membership - \$60 Student - \$20**

**Checks should be made payable to “LWVWC” & mailed to: LWVWC/PO Box 4/Fayetteville AR 72702**

Please indicate LWVWC activities of interest to you or with which you would like to assist:

- Attend City Council, Planning Commission, Task Force, Quorum Court, etc. Meetings when needed
- Help with Publicity, Displays, or Posters
- Provide a Facility/Home for Meetings
- Provide Transportation to Meetings
- Video Record or Photograph Activities
- Assist with Mailings
- Assist with Telephoning
- Help with TV Candidate Forums
- Lobby State Legislature
- Newsletter Writing
- Provide Food for Events
- Voter Registration
- Other

I wish to receive calls to action on specific issues of interest:  Education  Environment  Governance & Voting  
 Social Policies  All League Concerns

I wish to limit my membership to receiving the newsletter. \_\_\_\_\_

I do not wish to join, but would like to make a contribution (any amount appreciated). \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: [www.lwvarwc.org](http://www.lwvarwc.org)  
Thank You!**

**RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW & TREAT A FRIEND TO LUNCH**

Here is your chance to hear what Washington County's representatives and senators have to say about the Arkansas Legislative session, coming soon in January 2015. Do they know how you feel about the Affordable Care Act, CAFOs, Common Core, EPA carbon mandates, the state water plan, new prisons, Voter ID, public transportation or immigration? If one of these items is important to you, join us for lunch and talk to your legislators.

This event will take place on **Monday, November 17 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM** in the Washington County Cooperative Extension meeting room/auditorium at 2536 North McConnell Avenue near the

Washington County Fair Grounds and the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena. Lunch will be provided by the Garden Room Catering for \$10.00. You may attend without buying a lunch and the event is open to the public. RSVP to Joyce Hale at 527-2777 or [joycehale43@gmail.com](mailto:joycehale43@gmail.com) by or before the ***Reservation Deadline on Tuesday, November 12.***

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY  
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