



Dover Voter

The Price of Liberty Is Still Eternal Vigilance

League of Women Voters of Greater Dover, February-March 2005

President: Ellen Wasfi, 734-1545, ewasfi@aol.com

Newsletter: Joan Breukelman, muonjb@comcast.net

Visit the LWVGD website at <http://go.to/lwvgd/>

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 10	Great Decisions: Public Diplomacy and U.S. Foreign Policy 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon; Home of Jane Fox
Feb 22	LWVGD Board Meeting: Review of Bylaws and Policies and 2005 Program Planning -- 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Old North Road, Camden
Feb 25	LWVDE/LWVGD/ACLU/SURJ Forum: Smart Sentencing: Incarceration and Substance Abuse Lunch: 11:30 a.m.; Meeting: noon to 1 p.m. Delaware Room, Public Archives Building, 121 Duke of York Street, Dover
Mar 8-10	FACES OF IRAQ Photo Exhibition (Sponsored by Pacem in Terris) Dover Public Library , S. State Street, Dover; also at the Camden Friends Meeting House , Camden-Wyoming Avenue, Camden, from 2-8 p.m. There are 25 photos at each location.
Mar 10	Great Decisions: U.S. Intelligence Reform 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Camden Friends Meeting House, Camden-Wyoming Avenue, Camden
Mar 16	League Day in Dover – Women and Incarceration in Delaware 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Champagne Room, Sheraton Inn Hotel, Dover (luncheon reservations required)
Mar 22	LWVGD Board Meeting 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Old North Road, Camden
Mar 30	LWVGD Unit Meeting: Resident Advisory Councils and the LWV Co-presentation with the StateWide Association of Tenants (SWAT) 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; East Wing Conference Room, Modern Maturity Center, Dover (luncheon reservations required)



Smart Sentencing: Incarceration and Substance Abuse

Friday, February 25, 2005
11:30 for lunch, meeting from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Delaware Public Archives Building

Delaware Room

121 Duke of York Street
Dover, Delaware 19901

Join the ACLU of Delaware, the League of Women Voters of Greater Dover, and Stand Up for What's Right and Just (SURJ) to discuss the collaborative effort to repeal mandatory minimum drug sentencing laws in the state of Delaware, and the steps to be taken towards increasing access to effective alternatives to incarceration. Presentations by experts familiar with the issues of substance abuse and incarceration.

A light lunch will be served, free of cost, at 11:30 for those who are interested.

Please R.S.V.P. to Ellen Wasfi (LWV) at 734-1545; Phyllis Levitt (ACLU) at 674-4680 or the ACLU office (302) 654-5326; or Dana Sorenson (SURJ) at (302) 426-9252. This event is free and open to the public. For more information e-mail Dana at dsorenson@surj.org or visit www.surj.org.

Human Relations Commission Forum Examined Race Relations in Dover

The Third Annual Dover Human Relations Commission Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Community Forum was held in the Auditorium of the MBNA Building on the campus of Delaware State University. Dr. Allen L. Sessoms, President of Delaware State, welcomed about 40 people who braved the bitter winter cold to attend the event. He emphasized that the sense of community which exists in the city of Dover set the tone for the event. Dover City manager Anthony DePrima reminded those present that the time had come to engage in a discussion of the issues facing community relations.



Dr. Phyllis Edamatsu, Assessment Committee Chair for the DHRC presented the preliminary results of a survey of race and ethnic relations conducted beginning November 2003. The Commission received 167 responses to 2000 questionnaires. Some of the concerns expressed by those who responded were: 1) several streets in predominantly black areas of the city do not have sidewalks; 2) there needs to be more racial mixing in churches; 3) educators in local schools often make insensitive comments for which they are not held accountable; and 4) more work is needed on community relations.

Some of the preliminary conclusions drawn from the responses were:

- 1) openness to changing attitudes about race relations increased with rising incomes;
- 2) older people with higher incomes were more likely to recommend Dover as a place to live; and
- 3) racial tensions exist in the workplace.

The greatest perception gap was discerned on the issue of inter-group relations, especially on the issue of getting to know people whose background is different. Whites tended to feel that establishing inter-group relations is relatively easy, while blacks did not. Furthermore, while white respondents believed they were open to change, many African-Americans did not agree that they were. The discrepancies continued in response to questions about institutional fairness of the police and courts in the city, with African-Americans perceiving less institutional fairness and less representation in city government than whites.

Mayor Stephen R. Speed focused on city programs to improve race relations, including the role of the Human Relations Commission in responding to citizen complaints as well as his own efforts to meet with all ethnic groups in church and neighborhood association meetings.

Ryan Robinson, Curriculum Coordinator of Because We Care, which offers alternative middle school education to students expelled from public school, pointed to the need for more volunteerism and community service to deal with the problems of low-income youth at risk. He stressed the need for mentors, and emphasized that all young people need to feel that they are part of the community.

Noel Rodriguez, Associate Principal of Central Middle School, stressed that the climate of education in the city has changed with the growing student population, increasing pressures on staff, especially under the mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act, and diminished funding. He pleaded for greater community involvement in the education of the city's young people. He also expressed the concern that little improvement in the schools would take place unless district referenda for increased funding are passed, and school board officials who advocate increased funding are elected.

Michael Pelrine, Executive Editor of the *Delaware State News*, urged the comparison of the DHRC survey results with those of surveys undertaken by other institutions, e.g. the City of Dover and the Greater Dover Committee. Noting that the DHRC survey had revealed a perception discrepancy on the part of blacks and whites on the *State News'* fairness in reporting, he pointed out that the human factor often affects objectivity but that thoroughness of reporting should compensate for any individual biases. He urged wider community participation in Study Circles on Racism and Race Relations to help diminish rampant racial misperceptions in Dover and Kent County.

Alex Martin, Maintenance Representative of the House of Pride (H.O.P.), described the positive impact that the House of Pride and its Executive Director Marian Harris have had on the lives of recovering addicts and on the New Street neighborhood where the H.O.P is located. He indicated that tutors were available to assist H.O.P. residents with their educational and vocational needs, providing them with the skills to lead an independent life upon leaving. He pointed to the H.O.P. rehabilitation of houses downtown and Mrs. Harris' ongoing policy of reaching out to all segments of the community. He stressed, however, that the success of all these efforts depends on community support, especially that of volunteers.

Lisa Oursler, representing the National Conference for Community and Justice, Delaware (NCCJ), cited her organization's history of fighting bias, bigotry and racism through empowering leaders to effect change. She expressed a concern about intolerance in the schools and echoed support for such programs as Study Circles which bring people, especially young people, of diverse backgrounds together to talk about racism, sexism, classism and interfaith relationships.

She referred to the "Green Circles" program for younger children. She suggested that the DHRC survey data could be used as a starting point to discuss these aspects of community relations.

Audience questions reflected a deep concern about fairness and quality in education (especially testing) and the possible negative impact on both students and teachers of the unfunded mandates under the No Child Left Behind Act. Both Mr. Robinson and Mr. Rodriguez were critical of the lack of emphasis on cross-cultural education and the fact that minority students have problems meeting minimum standards in mathematics and language arts under the No Child Left Behind Act. Ms. Oursler stressed that more teacher input was needed to gauge the reasons for the achievement gaps and to identify the necessary elements of multi-cultural education.

Others in attendance focused on the need to promote dialogue in order to solve problems and create a sense of community. They stressed the need to "stretch" beyond personal comfort zones to get to know and understand people who are different. The Mayor responded that he would look into the Study Circle program to help achieve these goals.

One member of the audience posed the question, "What comes next after the results of the DHRC survey are compiled?" DHRC Chair John Kotzun responded that the survey would serve as a tool for the city to determine future policies.

Lt. Kenneth Balke, Patrol Unit Commander of the Dover Police Department, enumerated positive programs to engage the city's youth, including the Police Athletic League, symposia, basketball tournaments, school resource officers, and the Weed and Seed program sponsored by the Department of Justice.

Delaware State University students in the audience expressed an interest in volunteering and complained that information about community needs was not easily available. This concern was reiterated by *State News* Editor Pelrine, who agreed that there was some difficulty advising the public of community activities. DHRC Chair Kotzun stressed that the evening's dialogue was intended to provide an awareness not only of the issues facing the community but also the means for interested parties to become involved in projects to improve community relations.

Levy Court Commissioner Donald Blakey challenged the members of the panel to address the inequities in housing, education, and information imbalance negatively affecting minority communities in the city.

Mayor Speed responded that part of the problem was the heavy concentration of low-income rental housing in the downtown areas. He stated that solutions could

not always be found by relying on public funds, and that private investment was needed to promote ownership and affordable housing. He did, however, support action by the City Council to address the issue of refurbishing downtown residential areas, stressing the need to turn low-income renters into homeowners.

Lisa Oursler concluded by asking if the participants in the forum had asked all the right questions:

- How do we talk about racism?
- How do we deal with perceptions?
- How do we address the need to address these questions on a community level?
- How do we address the need to create opportunities for dialogue?

LEAGUE RECEIVES \$225,000 CIVIL LIBERTIES GRANT

From MacArthur Foundation

January 28, 2005 – The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) received a \$225,000 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to coordinate a national public dialogue about the delicate balance between civil liberties and homeland security, entitled "Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities." The project will begin immediately.

"In this post-September 11th world, it is critical for all communities to explore the interrelationship between these two important topics," said LWVEF Chair Kay J. Maxwell. "This builds on the League's role as a trusted convener of community discussions, as well as our historic leadership in the area of civil liberties. We are thrilled to begin this project."

The grant provides for the League to develop materials, train local facilitators and create a public dialogue. This project will foster citizen participation in large League-led conversations about the relationship between civil liberties and homeland security. While all of the League's 900 local and state affiliates will have opportunities to work on this project, 10 select cities will be the focus of the LWVEF work.

Representing ethnic, economic, and geographically diverse locations, the outcomes of the dialogues in these locations will be gathered, analyzed, and compared with larger national trends. A final report will be released in fall 2005 to coincide with the national debate about the sunset provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

This grant will continue the League's traditional leadership in the area of civil liberties. In the 1950s, the League led a national campaign, The Freedom

Agenda, to educate the public about their rights and to combat the impact of the McCarthy hearings. More recently, Leagues across the country have held educational forums about the USA PATRIOT Act, and the organization has lobbied Congress on related pieces of legislation. The MacArthur grant will allow the League to move forward and expand its reach into this important field of study.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, with headquarters in Chicago, is a private, independent grant-making institution dedicated to helping groups and individuals foster lasting improvement in the human condition.

REPORT ON UNIT MEETING:

**REDISTRICTING AND
REAPPORTIONMENT IN DELAWARE**

Wednesday, January 19, 2005

Speaker: Ruth Helm, LWVDE Action Coordinator
Co-Chair, Reapportionment Study

Ten LWVGD members met with Ruth Helm for a potluck lunch at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Camden on a very snowy, cold day to help the State League arrive at a consensus on the issue of Redistricting and Reapportionment in Delaware. LWVUS has had a position since the early 1960s that state legislative districts should be represented according to population, but there are no recommended guidelines on process indicated in that position. According to statistics provided by the American Civil Liberties Union, less than 10% of U.S. Congressional districts nationwide are competitive since most redistricting plans favor incumbents. The aim of the Delaware League's study is to arrive at consensus on a fair and equitable redistricting process.

First it was necessary to clarify the nuances of definition of redistricting and reapportionment. Redistricting is the actual redrawing of district lines. Reapportionment is the determination of number of representatives allotted to each district. There is obvious overlap in these definitions.

In relation to the reapportionment following censuses in 1980, 1990, and 2000, Common Cause initiated a bill to the General Assembly proposing a redistricting process formula, but the bill did not pass. It called for the establishment of a 5-person bipartisan commission with the 5th person selected by the other 4 to serve as chair. The commission, upon drafting a plan would then submit it to the legislature, which could modify it before adopting it and sending it to the Governor. However, had the Governor vetoed it and the legislature could not override, the commission's plan would have gone into effect. LWVDE supported these bills based on League concerns such as open meetings, lessening conflict of interest, and criteria which included recognition of minority representation.

The Delaware Code currently calls for the legislature to reapportion and redistrict itself after each census. Criteria for representation include population, contiguity, natural boundaries, and not drawing district lines to favor any individual or political party. Other criteria that are often

mentioned are compactness, municipal and county boundaries, and an expansion of the provision of not favoring any person or party to stipulate that redistricting could not dilute the voting strength of any minority.

Ruth mentioned that reapportionment commissions exist in the surrounding states of Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In New Jersey, there is a 10-member reapportionment commission appointed by political parties. If they cannot agree on a plan, the State Supreme Court chief justice appoints a non-partisan tie-breaking member. In general, Courts occupy a fall back position, engaging in redistricting when other options to not work out. New Jersey's tie-breaker selected a plan that provides for "minority opportunity" districts which give minorities a better chance to elect someone who represent their interests rather than a plan where the minority would hold the majority in some districts. In Maryland, the governor is actually responsible for reapportionment, but in recent years has appointed a commission to draw a plan. The plan suggested by this commission was challenged in court and had to be revised.

Not satisfied with the mid-Atlantic prototypes, LWVDE turned to examples of redistricting systems used in other states. In Iowa, a non-partisan commission evaluates the plan that the legislature must accept or reject without amendment. If the plan is rejected, there can be a second, and third, before the Legislature draws their own. In the last reapportionment, in some cases incumbents found themselves outside their own districts, but a plan was accepted and the Iowa LWV president said that it worked well. In Ohio, a commission made up of the governor, state auditor, and secretary of state draws up the redistricting/reapportionment plan. The Ohio commission, however, is not independent because it is made up of elected officials who could conceivably all be from one party. Other states also had commissions which were not necessarily bipartisan. LWV Ohio unsuccessfully submitted a modified plan with a provision that any citizen of the state could submit a plan to the secretary of state for consideration.

Further LWVDE research with the Council of State Governments revealed that 12 states give primary responsibility for redistricting to a commission, 2 states have advisory commissions, and a few have back-up commissions in case the legislature does not enact a redistricting plan.

LWVGD members were urged to vote on several of the redistricting/reapportionment procedural options discussed and submit them to the state League as part of the consensus process.

Great Decisions:

**Public Diplomacy
and US Foreign Policy**

February 10, 2005

Home of Jane Fox, 70 Laurel Drive, Dover

Public Diplomacy constitutes the effort to sway foreign public opinion about United States policies as well as to market American culture and values globally by

informing and influencing foreign publics, and broadening the dialogue between American citizens and institutions and their counterparts abroad. Most public diplomacy programs are administered by US State Department, although there is growing involvement of the Department of Defense as well as the private sector. The tools of public diplomacy include radio and TV broadcasts, speaker and lecture programs, cultural shows and exhibitions, and people-to-people exchanges.

Bush Administration has expanded the US public diplomacy to the Muslim world through the creation of radio, TV and newspaper sources to educate Muslims about the "real" America, the aim being to bring better understanding of America to Muslim world and thereby reduce tensions.

Critics of the current US public diplomacy effort have referred to it as crude propaganda which has had little success in capturing "hearts and minds" because of the negative global impact of US policies. This month's Great Decisions discussion focuses on the influence of US policies on the effectiveness of public diplomacy.

The League of Women Voters Turns 85: *A Lifetime of Making Democracy Work*

The League of Women Voters celebrated its 85th birthday on February 14, 2005. Founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920, generations of engaged League members have dedicated their lives to making democracy work. Over the past 85 years, the League has achieved an impressive list of accomplishments in the fields of citizen engagement and political reform, and we continue to work toward making our democracy one that benefits and protects the rights of all citizens.

Over the past year, the League has been a national leader in election reform, helping election administrators implement the requirements of the Help America Vote Act.

This year, LWVUS will focus on reforming the election system and the process of redistricting, protecting our civil liberties and campaign finance reform – all topics important to the League historically and to our present systems of government. In the upcoming year, we will continue our leadership role in this area.

Every day League members are making democracy work by educating citizens about their democratic rights and responsibilities, monitoring the judicial system, helping protect our nation's natural resources, improving our election systems and creating a public

dialogue about issues important to their communities, such as health care, race relations, civil liberties, and criminal justice reform. The League also works internationally, sharing our expertise and providing training to civic organizations worldwide.

“The League strives to make democracy work for all citizens. We have spent 85 years – a lifetime – encouraging citizens to take part in their government and their communities,” said Kay J. Maxwell, LWVUS President. “We will continue to help Americans understand the fundamental importance of citizen involvement in our democracy,” Maxwell declared.

League's 85th Birthday – Fact Sheet on League Accomplishments

Making Democracy Work Through the Decades

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, has worked for 85 years to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy.

The League's enduring vitality and resonance comes from its unique decentralized structure: a national organization with potent partners at the grassroots level: 900 local and state Leagues, and Leagues in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. From its inception in 1920, the League has been a trusted and leading voice for change, strengthening our democratic system at every level of government. The League has evolved over time to tackle the emerging issues of the day and throughout has remained true to our essential purpose: to make democracy work for all citizens.

1920s Secured passage of the first federal maternal and infant health care program, the Sheppard-Towner Act; League received pen used to sign the Cable Act for Independent Citizenship of married women.

1930s Helped shape the Social Security Act; fought for child labor laws and environmental protections and against political patronage; received award from Woodrow Wilson Foundation for “education work on problems of American foreign policy.”

1940s Built public support for creation of the United Nations; League's “Dumbarton Oaks

Campaign” readied nation to accept international obligations.

1950s Sponsored the “Freedom Agenda” – a nationwide program of close to 1,000 community education forums on civil liberties; President Eisenhower delivered major foreign policy address to the League.

1960s Fought against discrimination in education, employment and housing; built citizen support for Economic Opportunity Amendments; President Johnson proclaims “League of Women Voters Week;” supported presidential suffrage for DC.

1970s Sponsored televised presidential debates; initiated major grassroots campaign for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment; built public support for the Clean Water Act.

1980s Played critical role in the push for fairer tax policies; leader in the fight to strengthen the Voting Rights Act and extend its major provisions for 25 years; helped defeat constitutional amendment that would have overturned *Roe v. Wade*; sponsored series of nationwide hearings on Clean Air Act.

1990s Led successful fight for passage and implementation of the Motor Voter law; played critical role in passage of the Clean Air Act; launched voter empowerment campaign “Take Back the System;” advocated for campaign finance and health care reforms; partnered with Kaiser Family Foundation in “Citizen’s Voice for Citizen’s Choice” health care reform campaign; worked with women in emerging democracies.

2000s Offered first “candidate debates” online through an Internet-based voter education program (DNet – DemocracyNet); instrumental in congressional enactment of Help America Vote Act and the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act; launched nationwide voter education campaign on “5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day.”

From Community Catalyst Newsletter - January 2005

Maine Leads the Way in Affordable Health Care for All

January 1st marked the operational beginning of Dirigo Health, Maine’s health reform plan to cover the uninsured. With 1,800 people already enrolled, Dirigo

is aiming to cover approximately 25 percent (or 31,000) of the uninsured by the end of the year.

The Dirigo Health plan consists of a voluntary system of subsidies targeting the populations that typically have the most difficulty attaining health insurance: small-business employees, the self-employed, and individuals without access to job-based coverage. The plan also has created an aggressive health planning process in an attempt to improve quality and reduce costs.

The Dirigo benefit package covers 100 percent of preventive and wellness care in an attempt to lessen avoidable emergency expenses. The plan is financed through a combination of federal and state funds and individual and employer contributions. The state funds derive from payments made by insurers to Dirigo Health. These payments are based on the savings that insurers obtain due to a decline in the rate of growth of health-care spending and a decline in charity care and bad debt.

Other states will be closely watching developments in Maine to see how some of the novel features of Dirigo play out, especially the effectiveness of the voluntary approach and the attempt to capture and redirect existing dollars in the system. In addition, if Maine’s health planning approach is effective, it could spark resurgent interest among states in more active intervention in the health-care marketplace.

For more information visit Consumers for Affordable Healthcare <http://www.mainecahc.org> or contact Hilary Schneider at (207) 622-7083 hschneider@mainecahc.org

Maintaining Conversion Foundations to Preserve Community Benefits

Community Catalyst in partnership with Consumers Union in November released *Building and Maintaining Strong Foundations: Creating Community Responsive Philanthropy in Nonprofit Conversions*. This is the second edition of the popular Community Health Assets Project (CHAP) guidebook which details effective practices during the creation and operation of foundations resulting from nonprofit to for-profit health-care conversions.

When a nonprofit health-care corporation becomes a for-profit corporation through a conversion, merger, or acquisition, the standard practice—codified into law in many states—requires that the full value of the nonprofit be preserved for the benefit of the community. Most commonly this requirement is met

by transferring assets of the nonprofit into a newly established foundation. To date, over \$16 billion in conversion assets have been preserved through the creation of over 170 foundations.

The original edition of *Building and Maintaining Strong Foundations*, released in 2000, was highly sought after, and several thousand copies were distributed in print and electronically. That first edition was hailed by City Limits, a New York monthly, as the “bible of best practices in health care conversions.” The second edition continues the tradition of providing Community Health Assets Project staff insight and experience on topics such as: how to structure a foundation so that it can be focused and responsive to the health needs of its community; ensuring that the foundation-creation process encourages public dialogue; and how active, ongoing participation by advocates and community constituents can greatly improve the use of nonprofit assets by the resulting foundation.

In addition, *Building and Maintaining Strong Foundations* incorporates lessons learned from conversion foundations that are operating in ways that promote engagement and accountability to their communities. Once the foundation is established, the need for continued community input actually increases. The guidebook documents examples of effective practices that demonstrate how collaboration between the foundation and the community can enhance the foundation’s ability to pursue its mission.

For more information and a copy of the report visit <http://www.communitycat.org/index.php3?fldID=34> or call Phillip Gonzalez, Philanthropy Project Director, at (617) 275-2809.

LWVUS ACTION ALERT: Clean Air Is Under Attack!

Legislation has been introduced again in Congress that would substantially weaken public health and environmental protections under the Clean Air Act.

Dubbed the “Clear Skies” initiative and introduced in the Senate as S. 131, this plan delays deadlines to meet the health standards in the Clean Air Act, relaxes pollution reduction requirements for power plants and other major pollution sources, and repeals protections for our national parks.

The legislation is being considered in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee now, and Senator Tom Carper sits on that committee.

Senator Carper needs to hear from you that LWV opposes S. 131, the bill that would make the country’s air dirtier than simply enforcing the current law, the Clean Air Act!

For over three decades, the Clean Air Act has worked to cut air emissions at the same time that the nation’s economy has grown dramatically. This bill, S. 131, on the other hand, will move the country backward by relaxing pollution control requirements, repealing states’ authority to set stronger clean-up standards and doing nothing to curb global warming. Our citizens suffering from asthma and respiratory illnesses need **the Clean Air Act to be enforced and strengthened, not gutted.**

Although this pollution plan did not get any steam when it was first unveiled in 2002, and again when it was reintroduced in Congress in 2003, it is on a fast track now. Proponents hope to have the political support to take the legislation to the Senate floor for a vote in mid-February. Constituent pressure is needed now to block these polluting amendments to the Clean Air Act. Senator Carper needs to hear from you on this issue today!

Please, act today to protect our air!

ACTION NEEDED

Contact Senator Carper on the EPW Committee now, by phone and by email, and tell him that you oppose attempts to weaken or delay implementation of the Clean Air Act. Tell him that the League opposes S. 131 (the Clear Skies Act of 2005).

Phone calls can be made through the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121. Or, go to <http://capwiz.com/lwv/issues/alert/?alertid=6873976> to send an instant message now! Senator Carper’s Dover office phone number is 674-3308.

Write and call Senator Carper in your own name as a concerned constituent today! You might customize this email alert and send it to them, or send them to the Web Alert at <http://capwiz.com/lwv/issues/alert/?alertid=6873976> to take action.

While priority is on Senator Carper who sits on the EPW Committee, you may also contact Senator Joseph Biden or Representative Michael Castle, who also need to hear your concerns.

**SAMPLE MESSAGE TO
YOUR U.S. SENATOR**

**Subject: Please oppose weakening of the
Clean Air Act**

Please oppose the so-called "Clear Skies" initiative, S. 131. The legislation would substantially weaken public health and environmental protections under the Clean Air Act. Instead, the Clean Air Act should be enforced, requiring smokestack industries to use cleaner technology and improving the health of all Americans.

I am concerned that S. 131 delays deadlines to meet the health standards in the Clean Air Act, while relaxing pollution reduction requirements for major pollution sources. It would repeal rules requiring the installation of technology that reduces toxic mercury emissions. It also repeals the states' authority to set stronger clean-up standards. And, although carbon dioxide emissions are generating global warming, the so-called "Clear Skies" plan allows CO₂ pollution to continue unchecked.

I urge you to oppose the S. 131 and instead work to strengthen the effective Clean Air Act.

Thank you for listening to your concerned constituents. I look forward to hearing from you on where you stand on clean air.

Sincerely,

BACKGROUND

- Go to <http://interactive.lwv.org/News/News.cfm?ID=1335&c=7> to read LWVUS President Kay Maxwell's letter to the Senate.
- For more information, please contact Angela Canterbury, Grassroots Lobbyist, at acanterbury@lwv.org.

LWVUS Focuses Election Reform Work on Five Key Areas

In a statement before The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) on January 24, 2005, LWVUS President Kay J. Maxwell detailed the League's election reform concerns:

I. Provisional balloting.

The League supports:

- 1) uniform standards for issuing, processing and counting provisional ballots, clearly stated and uniformly applied; and
- 2) the counting of all provisional ballots for all races for which each voter is eligible (including those cast from outside the voter's "home" precinct).

II. Statewide computerized voter registration lists.

The League supports:

- 1) a single, uniform, official, centralized interactive system administered at the state level;
- 2) ensuring that voter registration intake agencies, including DMV, public assistance and disability agencies, are fully and electronically integrated in the computerized system; and
- 3) strong safeguards against erroneous purging that are clearly stated and uniformly applied.

III. Voting systems.

The League supports the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible. We do not support any specific technology, believing instead that standards must allow for technological innovation.

Any analysis of voting systems must be balanced, and apply the same criteria equally and appropriately to all systems, including any attached devices for recording, printing, or other function.

In particular, the League supports:

- 1) “second chance” voting, including notification to the voter and the opportunity to correct ballots in the case of overvoting or mistakes;
- 2) audit capacity and testing,
- 3) disability access,
- 4) alternative language access, and
- 5) standards to ensure low error rates.

IV. Polling place operations.

The League supports:

- 1) a new national effort to examine polling place operations for the 21st Century;
- 2) uniform standards to ensure sufficient working voting machines for each polling place and for all voters;
- 3) guidelines to provide better organization of polling places; and
- 4) emergency response mechanisms to correct problems on Election Day.

V. Poll worker recruitment and training.

The League supports:

- 1) a new national effort to recruit a larger, better trained and more diverse election workforce;
- 2) guidelines for use of government employees as poll workers;
- 3) guidelines for the recruitment of poll workers, including diverse populations; and
- 4) best practices for uniform poll worker training systems, including definition of minimum standards.

Faces of Iraq Exhibit in March

From Tuesday, March 8, through Thursday, March 10, the Faces of Iraq Photo Exhibit will be on display at the Dover Public Library and the Camden Friends Meeting House.

Faces of Iraq is a traveling photography exhibition depicting the humanity and diversity of the Iraqi people in over forty color and back-and-white prints. Fifty of these prints will be available in Dover.

On September 30, 2004, writers of the Best Bets column in the Washington Post described the show this way, “A young boy crippled in a U.S. missile attack on a residential area in Basra, Iraq, smiles and waves at the camera from his wheelchair. A somber mother sits in a Baghdad hospital next to her son, who has cancer. A crowd wanders around a book market, where Iraqi intellectuals are selling their libraries to survive. These are some of the images in "Faces of Iraq," an exhibition of color and black-and-white prints that tell the stories of Iraqis from 1998 through today. The traveling exhibition was organized by the Education for Peace in Iraq Center (EPIC), whose aim is to promote a secure and democratic Iraq, and Oxfam America, which seeks solutions to poverty, hunger and social injustice.”

People who attend will have a rare opportunity to see ordinary Iraqis going about their daily life through portraits that tell the often muted stories of its people.

With images of children and adults, families and shop owners, sidewalk traffic and home activity, the viewer glimpses a small but colorful slice of Iraq's many faces.

According to Tom Berault, the curator of the Prince George's Community College in Marlboro, MD, "The idea is to put a human face on the Iraqi people, because I think when one goes to war with a people, they're a little dehumanized." By personally connecting Americans to Iraq through the images and stories of her people, the humanity of viewers will connect to the humanity of the photo subjects. During this process of seeing ourselves in others, we will appreciate how important it is for our nation, as a member of the international community, to improve humanitarian conditions in Iraq and to ensure that no more harm comes to innocent Iraqis.

The exhibit has recently been updated with new works by Iraq War veteran Benjamin Busch and award-winning labor photographer David Bacon. The exhibit also includes some amazing women photographers including photojournalist Jane McBee and peace activist Gabriella Bulisova.

The photographers who have contributed to the exhibit are: Ramzi Kysia, Bob Haynes, Geraldine Haynes, James Longley, and Alan Pogue. The exhibit, assembled and itinerated by EPIC and Oxfam, comes to Delaware through the efforts of Pacem in Terris.

DOVER HARDWARE CO.

128 LOOCKERMAN STREET
DOVER, DELAWARE
PHONE: 674-0200



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