



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Loudoun County

October 2005

Message from the President

It is a great honor and privilege to have been reelected to serve you for the next two years. I am also thrilled and congratulate the great team which has been elected to serve with me. See page 6 of this issue for a complete list of members of the Board and their positions. Feel free to contact us. We are planning a great year for our members, so please keep the bulletin handy so as to refer to it for upcoming events.

I am very excited to be able to tell you **Denise Donnelly** has set up a *Meet the Press Night* forum for **Delegate Dick Black** and **Mr. David Poisson**. Look for complete information in this issue on page 2.

Another great event planned for November coordinated by **Jean Brown**, the **Honorable Judge Horne** will be our guest speaker regarding the history of the Patriot Act and Terrorism, see pages 2 and 3 for more information.

November 8, 2005 is Election Day and Virginians go to the Polls to elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Delegates and local referenda questions. I challenge each of you to contact 5 people and ask them to pledge they will vote, also ask them to contact 5 people and ask them to also pledge to vote. This is the power of 5, really quite simple and look at the huge turn out we could have if each of us only asks 5 people! Take a friend to vote, look in your neighborhoods to see if there is someone who may need transportation to get to the polls and offer to take them. In talking to people please point out that if they will be away on Election Day they may vote absentee at this time (see page 5 for dates, times and locations. If they work outside of the county and think possibly they might not get home in time to vote, to please vote absentee.

We have had one of the worst natural disasters in the history of our country in the form of Katrina. I am always amazed the American people are the most generous with both time and money in the face of adversity whether at home or abroad. We are always the first to offer assistance to others and I am proud to be an American and to have been raised in this giving culture! Everyone wants to know how they can help and what can they do, I have included a link to the **Louisiana State League (www.lwv-la.org)** which you can go to for information regarding their **Bucks for Books** program (see page 7). They would appreciate any help any of us can offer. There is also on this site a solicitation letter for any company that would like to donate, all donations are tax deductible. There are so many ways each of us can help the victims of Katrina and I am sure you have been inundated with requests, so I do know we each must pick and choose where we feel our dollars will do the most good.

Have a great October, enjoy the Big Pumpkin and fall weather.

Betsy

Betsy Mayr, President

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**Two Months,
Two GREAT EVENTS**

The Voter
October 2005



Virginia House of Delegates - 32nd District Candidates' Forum

Wednesday, October 12, 7:30pm – 9:00pm

Cascades Senior Center
21060 Whitfield Place in Sterling
(Next to the Eastern Regional Library)

The Candidates:

Richard H. "Dick" Black (R) and David E. Poisson (D)

Moderated by:

Ben Weber of Master Media Group

Questions posed by a panel of reporters including:

Loudoun Times Mirror, Leesburg Today, and the Loudoun Connection

Following the panel the audience will ask questions from the floor.

Open to the Public

The History of the PATRIOT Act and Terrorism

A Talk by:

The Honorable Thomas D. Horne
Loudoun County Circuit Court Judge

Sometime in November

Watch your next issue of *The Voter* for date, time & location

See page 3 of this issue for a brief history of the **PATRIOT Act**, its current status, and League work in this area.

Did you know?

PATRIOT stands for:

Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism



The USA PATRIOT Act

By Marina Amat

The Voter
October 2005

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, the **Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism** (USA PATRIOT) Act (H.R.3162) speedily passed in the Senate 98-1 and in the House by 357-66. Congress enacted the USA PATRIOT Act by overwhelming, bipartisan margins, arming law enforcement with new tools to detect and prevent terrorism.

Four years later, the provisions of the PATRIOT Act are under scrutiny by Congress as 16 surveillance provisions of the PATRIOT Act are due to expire or “sunset” in December 31, 2005. In fact, this summer, both House and Senate reauthorized most provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act. However, the Senate placed new limitations on secret search and surveillance powers, while the House approved legislation with fewer restrictions. House and Senate negotiations take place this fall.

As review of the surveillance provisions concerning information sharing; roving wiretaps; access to records; foreign intelligence wiretaps and searches; “sneak & peek” warrants; and material support engages the attention of lawmakers and experts, the League of Women Voters (LWV) has acted to enlist the “voice” of the public, noticeably missing in this critical national debate.

In a recent effort, the LWVUS launched its Local Voices Project, engaging communities across the country in focus group discussions about the balance between civil liberties and homeland security. Among other findings, the report, *Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities*, notes the public’s lack of in-depth knowledge regarding homeland security as well as citizens’ concerns about security, freedom, and fairness. For the full report on the Local Voices Project, visit www.lwv.org.

To promote education and dialogue in our own communities, the League of Women Voters of Loudoun County (LWVLC) encourages Loudouners to get informed about the PATRIOT Act and to take action. See the full text of the PATRIOT Act (<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c107:H.R.3162.ENR>;) and take note of the "sunsetting" provisions (sections 201, 202, 203(b), 203(d), 204, 206, 207, 209, 212, 214, 215, 217, 218, 220, 223, 225). Find supporting and opposing viewpoints about the PATRIOT Act published by the Department of Justice (www.lifeandliberty.gov) and the American Civil Liberties Union (www.aclu.org), for example. For more information about the League's position, visit www.lwv.org.

The author is a researcher of refugees in the Washington Metropolitan Area and has been interested in promoting discussion about the impact of the USA PATRIOT Act on local communities and has made presentations about this topic for LWVLC and LWNCA.

SPECIAL NOTE

To our members and readers who do not have access to the internet:

If you need a copy of the materials referenced above or anywhere in this issue,
Contact Betsy Mayr
703-777-9425.



What is on the Ballot?

Visit our website at www.loudoun.va.lwvnet.org for more info about the candidates.

Governor

Jerry W. Kilgore, Republican
Timothy M. Kaine, Democrat
H. Russ Potts, Jr., Independent

Lieutenant Governor

William T. "Bill" Bolling, Republican
Leslie L. Byrne, Democrat

Attorney General

Robert F. "Bob" McDonnell, Republican
R. Creigh Deeds, Democrat

House of Delegates - 13th District

Robert G. "Bob" Marshall, Republican
Bruce E. Roemmelt, Democrat

House of Delegates - 32nd District

Richard H. "Dick" Black, Republican
David E. Poisson, Democrat

House of Delegates - 33rd District

Joe T. May, Republican, (Unopposed)

House of Delegates – 67th District

Chris S. Craddock, Republican
C. Chuck Caputo, Democrat
Chuck J. Eby, Jr., Libertarian

House of Delegates – 86th District

Thomas Davis Rust, Republican (Unopposed)

Nine (9) Loudoun County Bond Questions

Vote on each question: Yes or No

Purcellville Fire and Rescue Station

Question: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$8,030,000 to finance in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip the Purcellville Fire & Rescue Station?

Share this info with 5 people and make a difference in voter turnout!!

Arcola Elementary School

Question: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$19,305,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip the new Arcola Elementary School and demolition of the existing school?

Dulles Area Middle School

Question: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$35,705,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip a Dulles Area Middle School (MS-5)?

New Elementary School

Question: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$16,300,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip an Elementary School at the Harmony Intermediate School site (ES-4)?



Hillsboro Elementary School

Question: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$2,420,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip the renovation of the existing Hillsboro Elementary School?

Ashburn Area Elementary School

Question: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$16,300,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip an Elementary School in Loudoun Valley Estates II in the Ashburn area (ES-17)?

Rolling Ridge Elementary School

Question: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$12,960,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip the renovation of the existing Rolling Ridge Elementary School?

Sugarland Elementary School

Question: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$13,950,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip the renovation of the existing Sugarland Elementary School?

Western Loudoun Area High School

Question: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$63,500,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip a Western Loudoun Area High School (HS-3)?

For more information, call the Loudoun County **Office of the General Registrar**
703-777-0548
www.loudoun.gov/government/voting.htm

Election Dates, Times & Places

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

Tuesday, October 11th

This is also the last day to send in a change of address

ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS

The last day to accept absentee applications to receive a ballot by mail is:

Thursday, November 3rd

The last day to accept absentee applications to vote in person is:

Saturday, November 5th

ABSENTEE VOTING IN-PERSON

If you will be away on **Election Day**, in-person absentee voting is available at **two** locations:

Office of the General Registrar
26C Fairfax St. SE, Leesburg
NOW thru Nov 4: Mon – Fri, 8:30a - 5:00p
Saturdays: Oct 29 & Nov 5, 8:30a - 5:00p

Cascades Senior Center
21060 Whitfield Place in Sterling
Oct 24 thru Nov 4: Mon – Fri, 4:00p-8:00p
Saturdays: Oct 29 & Nov 5, 9:00a - 5:00p



Loudoun County Officers and Board of Directors 2005-2006
Elected June 2005

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**To protect the privacy of our Board members, contact information has been deleted from this online version of the newsletter.
Call 703-777-9425 to contact any Board member.**

Congrats Are In Order!

Loudoun League Board member **Marina Amat, M.A.**, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation this summer and is scheduled to graduate with her PhD. in Anthropology from American University in December 2005. In her dissertation, *Newcomer Stories in the Washington Metropolitan Area: Toward the Self-Definitions of Refugee*, Amat argues that there are many strands of meaning to the refugee concept, refugee as legal term, as produced in the public imaginary, as object of knowledge, and as narrated by refugees who have passed through resettlement processing. In her study, she considers the life story narratives of a small, diverse set of refugees in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Do you know a League member with some news to share? Contact Betsy Mayr at 703-777-9425 or email emayr59433@aol.com



LWVUS

New Website: The LWVUS website has a new look and feel. Check it out at www.lwv.org. What you can do:

- **Register your email address** to receive the League-Voice Newsletter and you will be entered in a contest to win valuable vintage posters, historical note cards and autographed publications!
- Logon to the **MEMBERS ONLY** section and view League information for new and experienced members.
- Join the **Grassroots Lobby Corps** and receive action alerts on legislation in Congress that the League is working on.

Topics this year include:

- Civil Liberties
- Election Reform
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Clean Air
- Social Security
- DC Voting Rights
- Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Public Service Announcements in Virginia:

LWVUS and Telemundo WZDC-TV have created a new Public Service Announcement reminding Virginian Latino voters about the importance of voting in the upcoming statewide elections. The spot will air Sept. 26-Nov. 1.

LWVUS President in Mongolia and Korea:

LWVUS President Kay Maxwell will be in Mongolia and Korea for two weeks in September and October conducting training of local women's non-governmental organizations under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State's Project Citizen. A report will follow on her return.

Help for Hurricane Victims via the League

The **League of Women Voters of Louisiana** Ed Fund is kicking off a national effort called **Bucks 4 Books** to purchase books, education materials, and equipment for the school districts which have absorbed displaced students from Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas for the 2005-2006 school year. 100% of the tax deductible donations will go into this fund. Contact LWV of Louisiana at PO Box 4451, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4451, or online at www.lwv-la.org or call 225-344-3326.

LWV of Virginia

Pre-Session Women's Roundtable and Legislative Training and Luncheon:

Network with activists and legislators who will be working on issues critical to women in the next session of the Virginia General Assembly on **Wednesday, December 7, 9:30am**. This meeting will be followed by a training session and luncheon. Pre-Session will be held at the Patrick Henry Building, Senate Room 1 in Capital Square in Richmond. Luncheon and training session sponsored by **the Women's Network** and the **League of Women Voters of Virginia** will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 815 East Grace Street. Contact 866-427-8512 for more information.

Status of the State Study:

Part One of this two-part study to review the current LWVVA positions on **Reapportionment and Redistricting** is complete. See <http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org/studies.html> for the report. This 7-page report provides background and a history of legal challenges associated with the topic. In 2006 our League will discuss this issue at one of our monthly meetings. Start reading about it now!



Lest We Forget... *A Reminder of the Importance of Voting*

The Voter
October 2005

The women were innocent and defenseless. And by the end of the night, they were barely alive. Forty prison guards wielding clubs and with their warden's blessing went on a rampage against the 33 women wrongly convicted of "obstructing sidewalk traffic."

They beat Lucy Burn, chained her hands to the cell bars above her head and left her hanging for the night, bleeding and gasping for air. They hurled Dora Lewis into a dark cell, smashed her head against an iron bed and knocked her out cold. Her cellmate, Alice Cosu, thought Lewis was dead and suffered a heart attack. Additional affidavits describe the guards grabbing, dragging, beating, choking, slamming, pinching, twisting and kicking the women.

Thus unfolded the "Night of Terror" on November 15, 1917 (a mere 87 years ago), when the warden at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia ordered his guards to teach a lesson to the suffragists imprisoned there because they dared to picket Woodrow Wilson's White House for the right to vote.

For weeks, the women's only water came from an open pail. Their food--all of it colorless slop--was infested with worms. When one of the leaders, Alice Paul, embarked on a hunger strike, they tied her to a chair, forced a tube down her throat and poured liquid into her until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks until word was smuggled out to the press.

So, refresh my memory. Some women won't vote this year because--why, exactly? We have carpool duties? We have to get to work? Our vote doesn't matter? It's raining?

Last week, I went to a sparsely attended screening of HBO's new movie "Iron Jawed Angels." It is a graphic depiction of the battle these women waged so that I could pull the

curtain at the polling booth and have my say. I am ashamed to say I needed the reminder.

All these years later, voter registration is still my passion. But the actual act of voting had become less personal for me, more rote. Frankly, voting often felt more like an obligation than a privilege. Sometimes it was inconvenient.

My friend, who is my age and studied women's history, saw the HBO movie, too. When she stopped by my desk to talk about it, she looked angry. She was--with herself. "One thought kept coming back to me as I watched that movie," she said. "What would those women think of the way I use--or don't use--my right to vote? All of us take it for granted now, not just younger women, but those of us who did seek to learn." The right to vote, she said, had become valuable to her "all over again."

HBO will run the movie periodically before releasing it on video and DVD. I wish all history, social studies and government teachers would include the movie in their curriculum. We are not voting in the numbers that we should be, and I think a little shock therapy is in order.

It is jarring to watch Woodrow Wilson and his cronies try to persuade a psychiatrist to declare Alice Paul insane so that she could be permanently institutionalized. And it is inspiring to watch the doctor refuse. Alice Paul was strong, he said, and brave. That didn't make her crazy. The doctor admonished the men: "Courage in women is often mistaken for insanity."

Please pass this on to all the women you know. We need to get out and vote and use this right that was fought so hard for by these very courageous women.

Anonymous



October

- 11** **Last Day to Register to Vote** for the November Election.
- 12** **Candidates' Forum: Virginia House of Delegates 32nd District**
Candidates Richard H. "Dick" Black (R) and David E. Poisson (D) discuss the issues. See page 2.
Time: 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Cascades Senior Center, 21060 Whitfield Place in Sterling
- 25** **League Board of Directors Meeting**
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Leesburg Airport Building
- 30** **LWV of the Fairfax Area & Fairfax County Public Libraries** sponsors a program on **World Water Resources**. Speaker **Dr. Gerald Galloway**, visiting scholar at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources, will discuss water resources, terrorism, conservation and other topics about the world's supply, including how we can meet both national and international challenges.
Time: 2:00pm
Location: Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road in Burke, VA.
Contact: Call 703-644-7333 to reserve a seat.

November

- 8** **General Election. Polls open 6am – 7pm.** See pages 4-5 for more details. TAKE A FRIEND!
- 22** **League Board of Directors Meeting**
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Leesburg Airport Building

December

- 7** **Pre-Session of the Women's Legislative Roundtable and Legislative Luncheon Training (see page 7) for details.**
Time: 9:30am – 2:30pm
Location: Richmond
- 8** **Annual Holiday Celebration Potluck Dinner.** Support the Loudoun County Community Holiday Coalition, a coalition of nonprofits and government agencies working together to serve families in need during the holidays.
Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Location: Leesburg Executive Airport

The Voter is a monthly newsletter produced by and for the League of Women Voters of Loudoun County. Suggestions for articles, announcements and other material are welcome – subject to editing for clarity and space – and should be directed to: President: Betsy Mayr EMayr59433@aol.com.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LOUDOUN COUNTY
 PO Box 822
 Leesburg, VA 20178

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**Make a difference in
 voter turnout this year!**
Take 5 people to vote on
November 8th!

Betsy Mayr – President

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