

The Voter

League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area

League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

January 2015

P.O. Box 68214, Jackson, Ms 39286-8214

http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, January 24, 2015

The meeting will be called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Willie Morris Library, 4912 Old Canton Rd, Jackson

Topic: *LWVMS Legislative Priorities for 2015.*

Fran Leber, head of the Lobby Corp for LWVMS, will chair the program. Other members will speak about the issues: **Election laws** - Gene Everitt; **Open Meetings** - Harriet Tanzman; **Education Issues and School Vouchers** - Fran Leber; **Common Core Standards** - Deloris Lee; and **Medicaid** - Rims & Judy Barber.

Legislative Issue - Keep for reference.



President's message

Mississippi state legislators have been in session for a few days. The session began on January 6th. I can recall my time learning the legislative process with Fran Leber and others at my side. One legislator actually threatened to hit me for challenging him to bring up the kindergarten bill in his committee. My being a woman was apparently the only thing that saved me from being assaulted by him. The next year, 1986, the bill cleared the committee (with the fine leadership of Rep. Robert G. Clark and others), and was adopted. For the first time in Mississippi, five-year olds could enter public school. Today, efforts are underway to gain access for four-year olds to public school. 2015 will find more education and voting rights issues for League to support or oppose -- and it all starts in committee. I challenge you to pick an issue this session, go to a committee meeting to track its progress from start to finish, and lend your vocal support wherever possible through phone calls, emails, and letter writing.

You can also track legislative progress online at <http://www.legislature.ms.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

Review "How a Bill Becomes Law" at <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/htms/billlaw.htm>

Review the legislative processing schedule at <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/htms/timetable.xml>

Marcia Weaver

LWVJA

NOTICE TO MEMBERSHIP -

Dary Shenefelt was elected by the Board of Directors January 6th to fill out the term of office for 2nd Vice President for Voter Service following Jo Ann Hall's resignation. Jo Ann and her family moved out of the area. We thank Jo Ann for her commitment and service to League.

Each year, the League of Women Voters of Mississippi (LWVMS) selects public policy priorities and advocates for these positions through an informed membership and a volunteer lobby corps. Action is also taken on long-held League positions or non-priority items when necessary, or as time allows. Please use this as a guide in selecting the issue, or issues, you want to support. Contact any member of the LWVMS Lobby Corps for further information. www.lwv-ms.org



ELECTION LAWS

Position – The LWVMS supports the right of every citizen to vote. We believe that voting is a fundamental citizens’ right that must be guaranteed. We believe in free, fair and accessible elections for every citizen. We oppose any action that may limit voter participation.

OPEN MEETING & OPEN RECORDS

Position – The League of Women Voters of Mississippi believes that government bodies must protect the citizens’ right to know by

- Supporting well-defined channels for citizen input of government.
- Requiring all meetings of public government bodies be open, with the exception of certain carefully specified situations where executive session is allowed.
- Providing adequate public notice of all meetings.
- Providing adequate notice to proposed actions and holidays.

EDUCATION
MAEP FUNDING FOR K-12 FOR FY 16

Position – The League of Women Voters of Mississippi supports uniformity in student opportunity, including equity in spending and quality of education. We support full funding of Mississippi Adequate Education Program. (MAEP)

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Position – The League of Women Voters of Mississippi supports Common Core standards to ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in post-secondary education and the work force. Common standards help ensure that students are consistently receiving a high quality education, from school to school and state to state. Common Core will provide a greater opportunity for experiences and best practices within and across states that will improve the ability to best serve the needs of students. LWVMS opposes any attempt to discontinue Common Core Standards in Mississippi.

SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Position – The League of Women Voters of Mississippi opposes school vouchers.

MEDICAID

Position – The League of Women Voters of Mississippi supports health policies that promote access to basic levels of quality care at an affordable cost for all residents, and strong cost-control mechanisms to ensure the efficient and economical delivery of care. LWVMS supports the Affordable Health Care Act, including Medicaid expansion.



Who are the members?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages. Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

Why should I join?

Through participation in League projects, you will:

- contribute valuable service to the community
- gain knowledge and experience through the study and discussion of timely and important topics
- discover new interests, develop new skills and learn about crucial issues in your community
- make professional contacts and develop lasting friendships as you meet others in League who share your interests

How much time does it take?

It's up to you! Many members choose to support the League only with their annual dues. Your membership alone gives us the political influence needed to build a voice for citizens and a force for change. We cover a broad spectrum of issues and concerns; you may choose to become involved in one or more of them by actively participating in a group study, or listening to a panel of experts at a meeting or just reading about them in one of our publications.

How do I join?

It's easy! Just [fill out the form](#). Contact us at http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League.html or at 601-372-8851. We'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.



2/12/15 LWVMS State Legislative Day 2/12/15. Details to follow.
3/21/15 General Meeting - National Study
4/18/15 General Meeting – Annual Meeting



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Serving the people of the state of Mississippi.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, multipurpose organization of women and men that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. We do provide a forum where all candidates to an office can state their own positions.

www.lwv-ms.org