



The

VOTER

League of Women Voters - Janesville

August/September 2013

www.lwvjvl.org

September 18th! Save the date!

Learn how the League is Making Democracy Work!
Why: An overview of the LWV organization from local to National to give you a clear picture of where you fit in!

When: 6 - 8 p.m. September 18th

Where: Basics, 1711 Lodge Dr, Janesville, WI

Who: All League members and their invited guests

A SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER! Andrea Kaminski of the state League will be there as our guest speaker. Lets show Andrea how much we appreciate her visiting our area by having a great turn out!

PRIZES! Anyone one who attends will have their name entered into the drawing for a beautiful gift basket. ALSO - Anyone who BRINGS a prospect guest gets their name entered into another drawing, one time per guest. IN ADDITION ... even if you invite someone and they can't attend, if you give us their name, e-mail and phone number, we will enter your name again in the drawing for the beautiful gift basket.

My Deepest Apologies!

I am so sorry that I have dropped the ball on getting this issue of the Voter out in a timely manner. Everyone has similar issues going on in their lives jobs, weddings, family visiting, birth of new child/grandchild... I can make all of the excuses there are but that doesn't forgive my failure to do my job as editor.

Carol Herzig

Congress Must Act Quickly to Restore the Voting Rights Act

As the summer heat began to build in Washington DC, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a much-anticipated decision which gutted key components of the monumental Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. The decision in the case of *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder* erased fundamental protections against racial discrimination in voting that have been effective for more than 40 years and opened the floodgates for a wave of attacks on voters. While Attorney General Holder has announced that the Department of Justice will work to protect voting rights under the remaining sections of the Voting Rights Act, only strong action from Congress can fix the Court's mistake. Before the ink was even dry on the decision, several states rushed to implement racially discriminatory anti-voter laws, including several states where the

League of Women Voters had previously succeeded in blocking voter restrictions in the courts and state legislatures. Sadly, this is only the beginning. Without a strong VRA, our ability to fight off anti-voter legislation and keep our elections free, fair and accessible is significantly weakened. As we approach the 48th anniversary of this historic civil rights legislation, the VRA remains an essential protection against the thinly veiled discrimination that still threatens Americans' right to vote. Congress needs to move swiftly to overcome this decision and restore the effectiveness of the VRA. The Shelby decision is a call to action if you believe all Americans should have fair and equal access to the ballot. Now is the time to contact your member of Congress and tell him or her to repair the VRA before any more damage is done.

LWV JVL Housing Code Position 2013

Position: Support improved rental housing conditions and neighborhood stabilization in the city of Janesville, Wisconsin

Purpose:

(1) To ensure a minimum standard of living conditions, for the safety of both tenants and the public at large in

the City of Janesville. The minimum level of acceptable living conditions for tenants shall be based on general

safety and sanitation with adequate heating, electrical and plumbing, all in good repair; these systems must function at a capacity which is not below accepted standards for comfort and need.

(2) To promote safe and healthy neighborhoods.

To improve compliance with the Janesville Housing Code, the LWV Janesville supports:



* Retain regular exterior inspections focused on target areas.

* Retain policy of re-inspection fees when seeking abatement for viable complaints. The fee should adequately

cover all costs to the city so as to provide incentive for prompt compliance.

* Add proactive interior inspection of problem units with fees to cover city expenses.

* Require code inspection by any certified inspector of all rental properties at time of sale. Violations are to be reported to the city inspector.

* Make available on the City of Janesville (COJ) website a clear and specific set of code requirements to ensure

general safety and sanitation as well as adequate heating, electrical and plumbing systems.

* Create a Landlord and Tenant agreement template which delineates the rights and responsibilities of each party. The agreement should be available on the COJ website.

* Create a city-wide listing of all rental units by address, owner and contact information of a local responsible party.

* Create a "Vacant Building" list for unoccupied buildings including those in foreclosure with owner contact

information and plans for securing the building.

* Improve the city data system so that Police and Neighborhood Services easily share data on Nuisance Ordinance calls. Landlords should be notified if a ticket is issued.

* Encourage property owners to utilize tenant screening tools to maximize good maintenance of their property.

Request for Speaker Suggestions



The Susan B. Anthony Event Committee is looking for suggestions for a main speaker for the 2014 event. The Susan B event is an entertaining and informative event honoring Anthony's contributions, and is a major fund raiser for Janesville and Beloit League of Women Voters. We are looking for someone who can talk about any issue related to women's rights, civil rights, and/or voting rights. In keeping with a League of Women Voters function, speakers must be non-partisan.

Do you have any ideas for who you would like to see and hear at the 2014 event? Please pass your suggestions on to Mary Buelow.

2013-2014 Janesville League of Women Voters Board

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Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues: To check out the action go to: LWV-US <www.lwv.org> LWV-WI <www.lwvwi.org> JANESVILLE LEAGUE <www.lwvjvl.org>

Celebrate your Birthday with the League!

Remember you may still contribute to the State League with a birthday donation and half of your donation will be returned to our Janesville League.

