



## League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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Did we send this to Auditors  
or ask Lgs to? + Sec. of State?

555 WABASHA, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 TEL (612) 224-5445

[March 19, 1975]

REPORT OF 1974

COUNTY AUDITOR INTERVIEWS

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota

Memo to: Local League Presidents

(Share with your Citizen Information, Public Relations and Action chairmen;  
additional copies available at 20¢ each.)

From: Mary Waldo, Citizen Information Chairman

Re: Summary of LWVMN interviews with County Auditors following the 1974 General Election  
March 19, 1975

This is a summary of the County Auditor Day interviews that were conducted by local Leagues throughout Minnesota. November 21, 1974 was the day designated for interviewing the county auditors although, due to scheduling difficulties, interviews were held from the third week in November until the first week in January. Designated Leagues were assigned the primary responsibility for interviewing specific counties, but those Leagues were encouraged to include neighboring Leagues in their county. A total of 29 Leagues submitted questionnaires with some Leagues having responsibility for more than one county. Approximately 40 "in person" interviews were held. Questionnaires were mailed to the county auditor in those counties that could not be interviewed by a local League. Of the 87 counties in Minnesota, questionnaires were received from 57 counties.

The questionnaire was concerned with the administration of election laws and procedures and not with the many other duties of the county auditors in Minnesota. In this report, the questions asked of the auditors will be underlined with a summary of the answers to follow. In trying to report the results accurately, some statements will be made that reflect the various opinions of the auditors and will not necessarily reflect League opinion.

Minnesota counties participating in County Auditor Day, November 21, 1974:

|            |                   |            |                 |
|------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Aitkin     | Goodhue           | Meeker     | Rice            |
| Anoka      | Hennepin          | Morrison   | Rock            |
| Becker     | Houston           | Mower      | Scott           |
| Big Stone  | Hubbard           | Murray     | Sherburn        |
| Blue Earth | Isanti            | Nicollet   | Sibley          |
| Brown      | Kandiyohi         | Nobles     | Steele          |
| Carlton    | Kittson           | Norman     | Stevens         |
| Carver     | Koochiching       | Olmsted    | Swift           |
| Chippewa   | Lac Qui Parle     | Pennington | Todd            |
| Clay       | Lake of the Woods | Polk       | Wabasha         |
| Crow Wing  | Le Sueur          | Pope       | Watsonwan       |
| Dakota     | McLeod            | Ramsey     | Winona          |
| Douglas    | Mahnomen          | Red Lake   | Wright          |
| Fillmore   | Martin            | Renville   | Yellow Medicine |
| Freeborn   |                   |            |                 |

League of Women Voters' interviewing for County Auditor Day in Minnesota, November 21, 1974:

|                   |                         |            |                 |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Alexandria        | Fairmont                | Moorhead   | Roseville       |
| Anoka-Coon Rapids | Freeborn Co.            | New Ulm    | St. Peter       |
| Austin            | Fridley                 | Northfield | Stevens Co.     |
| Buffalo           | Granite Falls           | Owatonna   | West Dakota Co. |
| Chaska            | Hutchinson              | Red Wing   | Willmar         |
| Cloquet           | Mankato Area            | Rochester  | Winona          |
| Crookston         | Minnetonka-Eden Prairie | Rock Co.   | Worthington     |
| Detroit Lakes     |                         |            |                 |

I. Were there problems you encountered in administering the new election day voter registration law?

Of the 35 auditors responding to this question, 22 replied yes and cited specific problems. Most cited the fact that there were lines waiting to register and vote. One auditor mentioned that people were wanting to register but did not have proper identification. Training election judges to do registration in addition to their other duties was a problem. Additional help is required on election day; one additional election judge is not always enough. Registration cards should list townships and date of birth -- these are important for identification purposes. It was also suggested that taking voter registration out of the precinct room might ease the congestion of people waiting to vote. Verification of election day registration resulted in 25% of notices being returned to one county auditor because they were undeliverable by the post office.

A. Extended registration hours? Twenty counties indicated extended registration hours for either the municipalities, the county auditor's office or both.

Was there added cost? There was some indication that the cost of the extended registration hours could not be justified due to small numbers registered. (i.e. \$200 cost for 150 registrations for one county, \$100 cost for four registrations for another county, compensatory leave or overtime pay given employees who worked extra hours for several counties.) Increased costs were mostly to municipalities, not to counties.

B. What number of additional places were designated in your county for voter registration? Forty county auditors indicated additional places designated in the county for registration. The additional places numbered from one or two in several counties to 100 in at least one county. Three county auditors mentioned League of Women Voters booths; three mentioned banks, post offices. Some counties designated city and township clerks as registrars. The questionnaire asked for numbers of places only and did not ask for specific locations.

C. What number of persons registered during pre-election day registration? Nine county auditors reported that numbers of persons registered was not available. Four auditors did not respond to the question. Of the remaining counties, it was impossible to get any relevant numbers. Some were reported as a percentile of registered voters; some reported total number of registered voters. There was no uniformity in this category.

D. What number of persons registered by mail (i.e. postcard registration)? No definite numbers are available. Some counties did not keep a separate count of persons registering by mail, but totaled those received by mail in with number of persons registering in pre-election day registration. One county auditor reported that registering by mail was not allowed in that county. One county reported 90% registered by mail. Eight county auditors reported that no one registered by mail. Wide variation in the way the numbers were reported make comparisons difficult.

E. Did you decide to establish permanent registration? (This applies to areas that previously did not have voter registration.) Forty-three county auditors replied yes to this question. A few expressed the opinion that it was mandated by the Legislature and hence they had no choice. One auditor felt it was unnecessary in rural areas of the state.

F. What number of groups, organizations or individuals requested voter registration forms? The number of persons requesting forms is difficult to tabulate. Numbers were not reported in every case. The auditors in several instances listed government officials (i.e. precinct clerks, municipal officials, town clerks, township boards, county assessors) as persons who requested forms. The other interested groups were reported in the following numbers:

|   |                 |   |
|---|-----------------|---|
| 6 | county auditors | listed the League of Women Voters (in addition, one local League was mentioned as registering at the high school) |
| 6 | county auditors | listed political parties  |
| 6 | "               | " " nursing homes   |
| 5 | "               | " " candidates and their representatives  |
| 3 | "               | " " senior citizen groups   |
| 3 | "               | " " individual citizens   |
| 2 | "               | " " school districts  |
| 2 | "               | " " colleges or college students  |
| 1 | "               | " " 4-H Club  |

Were the forms distributed to persons in your county? Twenty-nine county auditors replied yes; an additional nine replied that the forms were available from local government officials. One auditor said forms were distributed only if requested by another member of the family. Thirteen auditors said that forms were not distributed in their counties. Five did not reply to the question. A few counties had the forms available in banks.

G. What kind of publicity did you use to promote voter registration? According to the auditors, 50 counties used either radio or newspapers or both to publicize voter registration. In addition to these, some of the auditors mentioned other ways to publicize voter registration: television, cable TV, posters, church bulletins, court house bulletin board, public meetings, fair booth, announcement at public meetings. One auditor inspired an editorial. Two other auditors sent special mailings. Two auditors did not answer the question. Two auditors did not do publicity. Three counties relied on the publicity from the secretary of state.

## II. Did you receive adequate information regarding the administration of the campaign financing laws?

Of the 48 counties responding to this question, 40 auditors said yes, seven said no, one said fair.

### A. What were the most helpful sources of your information?

1. In-person briefing by secretary of state?
2. Other government official?
3. Publications? Titles?

The majority of auditors interviewed felt that the in-person briefing by the secretary of state was extremely helpful. One auditor commented that these briefing sessions should include clerks of municipalities. A few auditors mentioned that they sought or received help from other government officials. These were most often staff persons from the office of the secretary of state. Two auditors listed the county attorney. One auditor mentioned help from the League of Minnesota Municipalities. The publications put out by the secretary of state were mentioned most often as a helpful resource. Minnesota Election Laws, 1974, copies of bills pertaining to elections that were passed by the Legislature, Minnesota Fair Campaign Practices Act, handbook published by Minnesota Ethics Commission were all included. Also mentioned was the pamphlet, "Instructions for Election Judges." In two instances, there was criticism of the index of the Minnesota Election Laws, 1974 - it's difficult to use.

B. What kinds of training and/or materials would have been useful? Suggestions for training and/or materials were few. Most of the auditors felt that the current help available was sufficient. Individual auditors suggested the following:

1. A "common language" version of the Minnesota Fair Campaign Practices Act.



2. A workshop on administering campaign financing laws.
3. A short summary of Minnesota Fair Campaign Practices Act for local candidates.
4. Materials regarding campaign financing going directly to campaign committee.
5. Training sessions in small groups.
6. A film about voter registration to be used in training election judges.

III. Were there problems you encountered in administering the campaign financing laws (both the Fair Campaign Practices Law and the Ethics in Government Law)?

No problems were reported in 39 counties. Problems that were mentioned included candidates who were late in filing; some reports were incomplete; write-in candidates who campaigned but did not have to report; forms from secretary of state came too late for first report deadline; confusion on part of legislative candidates as to where to file; reports required are too frequent.

A. Were the candidates adequately informed about the new Campaign Financing Law? The majority of candidates were judged to be adequately informed about the new campaign financing law. Most of the county auditors stated that, upon filing, each candidate was given a copy of the law and in a few instances, a list of reporting dates.

B. Has there been public interest in the filing of campaign financing information (i.e. particular organizations, groups or individuals)? Twenty-two auditors replied that there was no interest on the part of the public. In describing interest, some auditors mentioned specific groups. The League of Women Voters came in second after the news media.

|    |                        |            |
|----|------------------------|------------|
| 8  | county auditors listed | news media |
| 6  | "                      | "          |
| 5  | "                      | "          |
| 3  | "                      | "          |
| 3  | "                      | "          |
| 1  | "                      | "          |
| 12 | "                      | "          |

League of Women Voters  
candidates and their committees  
Common Cause  
members of political parties  
Committee for Cause  
very little interest, limited interest, some inquiries.

IV. How do you select election judges? Do organizations submit names of interested persons? Which ones?

The majority of county auditors reported that election judges are selected by the city councils and by the town boards. Some auditors stated that the clerks of the municipalities have responsibility for selecting election judges. In Minneapolis, which is designated as a city of the first class, election judges are appointed by the city according to Civil Service. Some county boards may select election judges for unorganized territories. Eleven auditors specifically replied that the political parties do not submit lists of names of members who could serve as election judges. Problems with election judges included:

1. Finding replacements between primary and general election.
2. Selecting election boards that are evenly divided as to Republican and Democratic-Farmer-Labor representatives.
3. Having older citizens serve as election judges - lack of competency with regard to election procedures.

V. Do you provide training for election judges, registration workers, etc? If so, what methods do you use?

While most county auditors provide training for elections, this training varies widely in methods used, time spent, persons attending. Only one county mentioned no training provided and one mentioned explaining election procedures as judges picked up their supplies. In another county, the auditor stated that individual municipalities provide training. Nine auditors specifically mentioned providing a training session for municipal clerks and chairmen of election boards (chief election judges). Four auditors train all judges, not just those serving as chairmen of election boards. Fifteen counties offer a classroom-lecture type of training. Two commented that they used special materials, visual

aids in training sessions. Some additional comments were made:

1. Training was attended mostly by clerks - necessary to have election judges attending.
2. Judges need more individualized help - training sessions usually cover the highlights.
3. Two training sessions should be required; one before primary, one before general election.

VI. Is there adequate communication between counties for sharing registered voter information (i.e., changes of residence, etc.)?

According to the answers, all but a few counties believe that communication is adequate. Only one county replied no to this question. Two counties didn't know, three replied that, at the time the questionnaire was completed, it was too early to reply either yes or no. Six auditors gave a qualified yes - mentioned that the provision had only been in effect a short time. One auditor replied yes except on election day. Three auditors cited the mobility of students as a problem.

VII. What changes are needed to better assure the accuracy of reporting election results?

Twenty-seven auditors responded with specific suggestions in this area. One auditor suggested elimination of election day registration - mistakes occur when judges are registering voters. Several auditors cited the "people problems" that can lead to inaccuracies: older election judges, more judges needed to register voters on election day, election judges with too little training, long hours on election day; counting paper ballots takes time. Four auditors suggested voting machines could improve accuracy. In reporting results, one auditor mentioned problems at the county tabulation center; one suggested no results be reported until after county canvass board meets. On the other hand, one county suggested abolishing the 24-hour "permissive period" and require that returns be made or results telephoned as soon as possible.

A. Would the standardization of election reporting forms and/or the use of computers help you? On this question there was a difference of opinion as to whether the election reporting forms were now standardized in Minnesota. Can they be made more uniform throughout the state? Another difference of opinion related to computer use. Some counties favored use of computers; others questioned the usefulness in light of the costs; still others did not believe computers to be helpful.

B. How do you identify areas where mistakes in reporting most frequently occur?

15 county auditors did not respond to this question.

11 replied that there were no errors or that the errors were minimal.

17 responded to this question by citing the human factors in errors that occur: filing, counting, copying, dealing with reporting forms.

3 felt that absentee ballots were a problem.

3 felt that their previous experience in the office helps them identify errors.

2 believe that errors occur when unofficial results are reported to public.

VIII. Would you comment on budget for elections?

There were only 13 responses to this question as a separate question from parts A and

B. Comments ranged from no specific budget for elections, to adequate budget, to inadequate budget.

2 auditors reported their budgets adequate, no great increase.

4 responded that their counties had no specific budget for elections.

3 reported that their election budgets were inadequate - had to add to them.

4 mentioned problems of how much to budget, had to estimate what added costs would be.

A. How much was budgeted for administering elections in your jurisdiction? There was no uniformity in responding to this question. The counties' approach to budgeting in the area of elections seems to vary a great deal. Out of 32 counties reporting dollar amounts budgeted, some included voter registration expenses, some did not. The dollar amounts bud-

geted, therefore, mean very little when taken out of context. They are reported here to indicate the wide range.

|   |                   |          |   |
|---|-------------------|----------|---|
| 2 | counties budgeted | \$1,000  | + |
| 2 | "                 | \$2,000  | + |
| 2 | "                 | \$3,000  | + |
| 3 | "                 | \$4,000  |   |
| 6 | "                 | \$5,000  | + |
| 3 | "                 | \$6,000  | + |
| 2 | "                 | \$7,000  |   |
| 5 | "                 | \$10,000 | + |
| 2 | "                 | \$13,000 | + |
| 1 | "                 | \$20,000 |   |
| 1 | "                 | \$30,000 |   |
| 1 | "                 | \$35,000 |   |
| 1 | "                 | \$65,500 |   |
| 1 | "                 | \$75,000 |   |

(Note: "+" indicates numbers that are rounded off to nearest thousand.)

B. How was your budget apportioned? Again, in this instance, the reports of the auditors vary a great deal. Among the costs mentioned were salaries, computer time, postcards, ballot printing, newspaper printing of sample ballots, postage, supplies, election judges, travel, phone. There was not enough specific information to make comparisons between counties.

IX. What is your opinion concerning rotation of candidates' names on the ballot (i.e., economic feasibility, counting procedures, printing)?

Thirty-eight auditors responded that the candidates' names should be rotated. For the most part, they felt that fairness to all candidates was the important issue in spite of the additional printing costs and possible errors in counting. Some auditors felt that the difficulty of administering rotation of names on the ballot was a definite disadvantage. Only six responded negatively to rotation - most responses took into account the positive and negative arguments on ballot rotation.

There are additional comments from the county auditors' reports that were not included as part of the questionnaire. These may or may not reflect statewide opinions but cover additional areas of concern to LWV.

One auditor said that there is a problem as to how to handle voters residing in nursing homes, since many are under guardianships.

Transportation to the polls has been requested by citizens. If the county is setting up a new transportation service for the elderly, could this be used for transporting voters to the polls?

One county is considering punchcard voting procedure. The cost is less, according to the auditor, than voting machines.

One county auditor felt that the state reimbursement for county election expenses was unnecessarily delayed.

Another auditor stated that changes should be made in the annual report to the secretary of state. Many questions were judged to be unnecessary.

On the subject of registration, one county favors closing voter registration ten days prior to an election. On the other hand, two auditors reiterated that election day registration should continue. Perhaps population figures should determine whether preregistration is necessary.



Postcards verifying voter registration requires much work and expense, according to two auditors; it was proposed that these be an option for counties.

Concern was expressed by one auditor that having counties be responsible for preparation of the state/federal ballot could lead to errors, increased costs.

Regarding special elections, one county auditor stated that it would be better if the filing time for such elections could be shortened and the preparation time lengthened. The auditor also questioned the advisability of scheduling on Saturday.

One county auditor believes the county auditor and treasurer should have criteria for those jobs. It was felt that hiring a person with specific skills for a specific job is good business sense and that this person could then be appointed by the county commissioners.

Two county auditors would like to see the elimination of soil and water conservation districts from the ballot in general election.

One county auditor cautioned against changing election laws a great deal and especially not for political purposes.

Punchcard absentee ballots should be provided with a single absentee precinct at the courthouse.

In one county, due to changes in municipal boundaries, but not precinct redistricting, some precincts have both voting machines and paper ballots which makes counting procedures more complicated.

One auditor stated that the auditors' organization and the auditors as individuals were not consulted or adequately informed prior to the change in election laws pertaining to voter registration.

One county has prepared revisions of the postcard registration form which it hopes to propose.

The trend toward a longer ballot should not continue, according to one county auditor. Also, some of the election reporting forms for paper ballot precincts could be consolidated.

One auditor believes that the ballot counting procedure could begin earlier - even before the polls close. The election judges for counting could be supervised in the same manner as a jury until the polls close. The results of early tabulations must be withheld until after polls close. This method could be tested in several precincts, preferably those in which there were 500 or more registered voters.

Election laws require that the word "incumbent" appear after the Supreme and District Court judges. Four auditors felt that this gave candidates an unfair advantage.

Two county auditors were dissatisfied with the necessity of making precinct lists available. The clerical work involved was cited as a difficulty, and the auditors feel that these lists could be used for the wrong purposes.

Present law states that at least 32 days before a primary election, the secretary of state shall certify to the auditors of the several counties the names of all nominees. This is too short a time for all the mechanics necessary for ballot printing, according to two auditors. A change to 45 days was recommended, and that the candidate filing time be moved forward.



# VOTERS SERVICE EXPANDS ITS BOUNDARIES: citizen information ideas - new and old

A hallmark of the League of Women Voters is providing citizens with the needed information and encouragement to become effective participants in the political process. Sometimes the information is election-related--traditional Voters Service--and sometimes it is general. Examples of both are included here for the use of Citizen Information or Voters Service chairmen and committees.

## TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION . . .

The New York City League has something that everybody wants--the answers! Their Telephone Information Service, a year-round operation staffed five days a week by 47 Leaguers, gets calls referred by the Board of Elections. . . calls from the press, radio and television (all the media, including Cable Television, are used to let people know about the Service). . . from parents looking for answers to their kids' homework. . . from citizens who want advice on how to vote "intelligently". . . and now and then they even get, in their words, "[the] most esoteric, exotic and even weird questions."

As shown by the figures below, the Telephone Information Service has attracted callers at a phenomenal rate:

| 1974 |           | 1973 |
|------|-----------|------|
| 2066 | July      | 1290 |
| 4472 | August    | 1653 |
| 6202 | September | 2802 |
| 9281 | October   | 6834 |

[LWV of the City of New York, 817 Broadway, New York, N.Y., 10003]

A technique used by some state Leagues to get people's questions answered is a "Question of the Week" series which they distribute for the local media.

The New Jersey LWV uses it as an election tool, distributing to the local Leagues short answers to common problems. For example: "How can I get an absentee ballot?" "Do I have to vote for the party I'm registered in?" "If I register on the new mail registra-

tion form, how do I know they'll let me vote?" Leagues that have regular columns in their local newspapers or can get space because of the elections are free to use these tips. The existing series was done for the general elections, but the League plans to add a series for school board and municipal elections.

The Scharfman Fund of the Massachusetts LWV uses both the phone and the media in one of their information programs. They initiated a "Question of the Week" series two years ago as publicity for their toll-free Voter Information Phone, a statewide phone line to help people find answers to questions on government and elections. Questions called into the ViPhone are sent with their answers, five or six at a time, to all newspapers and radio and TV stations around the state. About 60 papers use the questions on a regular basis (usually one a week) and the stations occasionally pre-record the question and answer with League people for use as a public service spot.

The questions are wide-ranging in scope, and they aren't necessarily the most frequently asked. But their answers are information the Fund thinks should be brought to the public's attention. Recent questions have included: "What kind of state scholarship is available for needy students in Massachusetts?" "How can our town build housing for the elderly?" "When do bills have to be filed to be considered by the 1975 Massachusetts legislative session?" "Can a woman obtain credit in her own name, regardless of her marital status?" "When is the start of the new state legislative year?" [Scharfman Memorial Fund, LWV of Massachusetts, 120 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02116.]

## AND FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. . .

Where besides the LWV do citizens turn when they have problems? The telephone directory, says Citizen Information Service of Illinois. CIS (established by the Illinois LWV) persuaded the phone company to publish a list of

# citizen alert



League of Women Voters  
Education Fund  
1730 M Street, NW,  
Washington, D. C. 20036



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# UPDATE on community issues

No. 1

April, 1975

## YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE NATIONAL HEALTH

### PLANNING AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

The country is being divided into approximately 200 Health Service Areas as a result of the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act signed by President Ford on January 4, 1975. Each area will have a Health Service Agency responsible in its area for developing and implementing health plans, approving or disapproving applications for federal health funds and recommending hospital construction or remodeling.

The Act also provides that future hospital construction and modernization favor poor urban and rural areas and out-patient over in-patient facilities. And, finally, the Act supercedes current regional health planning efforts by phasing out existing Comprehensive Health Planning Agencies and Regional Medical Programs as separate entities. The former lacked authority to implement health planning proposals they considered advisable in their regions; the latter, established in 1965 to bring to local areas the latest advances in the treatment of heart disease, cancer and stroke, were also considered ineffective, primarily because of lack of clarity in their focus as changes were made over the years.

Although the Act will affect every community, it received little public notice on its way through House and Senate. (A quick survey of newspaper files in major cities revealed a news story in only three at the time of final Congressional action or when the bill was signed.)

#### Background for Change

Congress found that "massive infusions of federal funds into the existing health care system has contributed to inflationary increases in the cost of health care and has failed to produce an adequate supply or distribution of health resources

and has not made possible equal access for everyone to such resources." This was a bad omen for a country which, according to political forecasters, may someday soon have a national health insurance system. Health care demands are expected to increase when that happens. The immanence of national health insurance was a major reason for the passage of the NHPRD Act.

The Act requires HEW to issue national health planning guidelines within 18 months. Congress requested they give priority to the medically underserved, emphasize multi-institutional systems for coordination and consolidation of health services, promote medical group practices, the use of "physician extenders" and activities to improve health care and disease prevention. The health care planning structure created by the Act is geared to implement the national policy.

Health Service Areas will have populations between half a million and three million with two exceptions: if a state has fewer than half a million, the entire state will be an HSA; if a metropolitan area (SMSA)<sup>①</sup> has more than three million, the entire metropolitan area will be an HSA. Only in very rare circumstances may an SMSA be broken up, a requirement that causes consternation on the part of hospital, medical and health planning groups in some metropolitan areas where health services and facilities have been on regional bases within the metropolitan area. They would like their regions recognized as HSAs but the law says "no", only one HSA per SMSA to permit planning on a broader base.

To the extent possible HSA boundaries will coordinate with existing regional planning areas (COGs<sup>②</sup> and even a phased-out Regional Health Planning Agency if it was one that did a good job). If possible, at least one center for specialized health services will be in each HSA.

Each governor, after consulting with state, local and regional political and health officials, will recommend boundary designations to HEW. These will be the HSAs unless HEW believes the criteria haven't been followed. In that case, HEW sets the boundaries making public its reasons for

① Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area: a Census Department designation for an area consisting of a county or contiguous counties having at least one city or two contiguous cities of 50,000.

② Council of Governments: a voluntary planning and coordinating association of local governments.

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY ISSUES is a series of newsletters for citizens concerned with local and state government issues and services, structures and processes that affect them, and avenues for making their opinions known. It is produced by LWVEF's State and Local Government Department.



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# CITIZEN INFORMATION/VOTERS SERVICE Meets Community Needs

New Citizen Information/Voters Service chairmen are taking up an important task: providing citizens in their communities with balanced, reliable information about the political process, from "how to register to vote" to "how to locate mental health facilities." This CITIZEN ALERT offers some ideas from other Leagues. Look at your community's citizen information needs and then go to work!

## KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY: TOTAL IMMERSION

Greenwich Government Week in October 1974 began as a new League member's question--"How do I learn more about Greenwich?" It ended as a Know Your Community in "living color."

The LWV of Greenwich, CT, got six other community organizations to work with the League on a week-long program of informing Greenwich citizens about their community. Each organization sponsored a different activity during the week and pitched in \$15 to cover costs. Events included a tour of town hall, a community forum in the library auditorium, a tour of the sewage treatment plant, and a bus tour of the local schools. Two League publications were distributed during the tours. One of the highlights of the week was a luncheon at which the League presented a program on the top issues in Greenwich local government.

The local press gave extensive coverage to Greenwich Government Week, printing articles submitted by the League describing local government and giving day-by-day news of events. The local newspaper also published a full-page montage of pictures taken by the League photographer; a local magazine previewed a Greenwich League publication on questions most frequently asked about local government and League-researched answers.

An added benefit to the League was the publicity it received, including a plug for League membership in a magazine article about Greenwich Government Week.

League members and officials agree

that it was a successful consciousness-raiser about local government. They look forward to a repeat performance in the future. [LWV of Greenwich, P.O.Box 604, Greenwich, CT, 06830]

## CITIZEN INFORMATION FOR YOUNG AND OLD

One idea for informing young people comes from Virginia. The Fairfax Area LWV contracted with the county public schools to run a series of eight seminars for social studies teachers. Topics covered were: county government, election laws, campaign finance in Virginia, schools, county budget, land use, juvenile problems, systems of justice. The League was paid \$800 for the fall series. County teachers taking the course received in-service credit. The LWV developed new materials for parts of the course, used previously published materials for other parts. Responses were excellent, according to the League. [LWV of Fairfax Area, 246 Maple Ave.E.#203, Vienna, VA, 22180.]

For local Leagues in Connecticut, V.O.T.E. stands for Voice Opinions Through Elections, a major voter registration drive in which local Leagues all over the state visited high schools to register 18-year-olds and educate them on their rights at majority. Although it was coordinated at the state level by the Connecticut LWV state board, the Secretary of State's Office, the State Department of Education and several civic groups, each local League determined its own method of operation.

Project V.O.T.E. sponsored a statewide contest to see which high school could register the greatest percentage of eligible students. Some high schools reached the 100% mark. Over 5,000 of the League's Votinfo kits were distributed throughout high school libraries. More than 12,000 new voters were registered by Project V.O.T.E.

Some Wisconsin and Ohio Leagues have been reaching another age group--older citizens--with a variety of citizen information programs.

# citizen alert



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Citizens League  
530 Syndicate Building  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

*NOTE TO READERS: Persons at this meeting were not talking for the public record. Also, the record of this discussion is still subject to correction. Please make no use of these minutes; therefore, without permission. Thank you.*

Minutes of Backgrounding Meeting  
for the committee on  
REALIZING THE POTENTIAL OF COMMUNITY TELEVISION

July 3, 1975

Mr. Joe's

PRESENT: Erv Chorn, Council of Community Councils; Mark Winkler, Office of the Secretary of State; Mary Shepard, Urban Concerns Workshop; Robert Blank, Common Cause in Minnesota; Gretchen Kreuter, Women Historians of Midwest; Anna Marie Ray and John P. Geisler, St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, Carol C. Florin, Twin Cities Organization; Mary Waldo, League of Women Voters of Minnesota; Ronald G. Cohen, Minnesota AFL-CIO; Ken Reddick, Metropolitan Council; Charles Lutz, CL committee member; Jon Schroeder, CL staff.

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Jon Schroeder of the Citizens League staff. It was pointed out that this meeting had been called to provide background information on the use and potentials of public television by public affairs organizations in the Twin Cities area for the current Citizens League study "Realizing the Potential of Community Television".
- \* Past use of KTCA -- Each representative was then asked to report on the past use which had been made by his or her organization of KTCA.

Council of Community Councils -- Erv Chorn reported that a representative of the Council of Community Councils had appeared as a participant on a discussion program on KTCA in 1971. In 1974, a program had been produced by some students for distribution on KTCA which involved community organizations.

Secretary of State's Office -- Mark Winkler reported that no use had even been made by the Secretary of State's office of KTCA. Discussion is now underway in using KTCA to train election judges.

Urban Concerns Workshop -- Mary Shepard said that ten half hour programs had been produced by the University Media Resources Center for broadcast on KTCA. These were part of a credit course through the University.



Minnesota Common Cause -- Bob Blank reported that he was not aware of any use made in the past by Common Cause in Minnesota of KTCA. He said that he is currently advising persons in organizations in the raising of funds and he is a former fund raising staff member for Minnesota Public Radio. He said that every time he has approached KTCA, acting for another organization, he has been quoted very high costs without any apparent basis for those costs. He said that there is very little accountability for KTCA to its contributors or to the taxpayers at large through open meetings or financial reports.

Women Historians of the Midwest -- Gretchen Kreuter said that she is currently working on a series of programs on the history of women in Minnesota. She said that, in the end, it was decided to hire film producers and talent outside the station and use KTCA only as the distribution mechanism. KTCA is also the fiscal agent for one of the grants which is funding the series. Ms. Kreuter said that she had asked KTCA for a monthly statement on the expenditures which had been made from this grant and all she had received was the tape from an adding machine which contains no information on what the funds were being spent for.

St. Paul Chamber of Commerce -- Anna Marie Ray said that the St. Paul Chamber has had a very favorable past history of cooperation with KTCA. She said that recently a program had been produced by a Chamber project entitled "Project Responsibility" which involved a student press conference of several corporate officers of major Twin Cities corporations. This program had been partially funded by the Chamber and partially by the St. Paul Schools. It had been produced on film at KTCA and shown in prime time on a one hour unedited program. In addition, the Governmental Action Group of the St. Paul Chamber has sponsored two St. Paul City Council meetings which were broadcast live. John Geisler of the St. Paul Chamber staff also commented favorably on KTCA's coverage of the 1975 Legislative session.

Twin Cities Organization -- Carol Florin said that she was not aware of any past use made by the Twin Cities Organization of KTCA.

Minnesota League of Women Voters -- Last fall, the Minnesota League of Women Voters assisted in the production of a series of programs on candidates for state wide congressional office. She said that during this period the public relations director for the Minnesota League of Women Voters was an intern at KTCA and that this had helped to facilitate the program. The candidates were interviewed by representatives of the League of Women Voters. Funds for the programs were provided by KTCA.

Minnesota AFL-CIO -- Ron Cohen said that he is not aware of any programs produced in the past by Minnesota labor organizations for broadcast on KTCA. He said that a program had been proposed which would be a bicentennial program on the history of the labor movement in Minnesota. This program would have been shown on labor day.



He said, however, that the estimated cost from KTCA of this program was \$61,000. This included \$15,000 for broadcast of the program statewide. This would have been a one hour program produced on film. He said that since this amount of money was not available from the labor movement, the program will not be produced.

Metropolitan Council -- Ken Reddick said that members and representatives of the Metropolitan Council have been on KTCA a number of times as a guest on interview programs. Last year as a part of the Minnesota Humanities Commissions regionalism emphasis, the Council received a \$8,000 grant which it used to produce a one hour program on KTCA. This program was then converted to film; it was the history of the Metropolitan Council. He said that the Council had also considered producing a series of films on the third century in the Twin Cities area. The cost of producing these films for broadcasting KTCA would have been about \$35,000. He said that concerns existed about quality and impact of producing a program for broadcast on KTCA and that the project had been dropped.

No long range funding -- Mr. Blank said that KTCA funds its operations on the basis of programs which it is able to get underwriting for. As a result, he said, there is no clear idea of how much money will be available in any given year for the production of programs and the station becomes very reliant on underwriting.

The potentials of public television -- Mary Shepard said that it's important to recognize that television is the communications medium. Access to television should not be limited only to wealthy organizations which are able to underwrite their own programs. One goal of public television should be to make television accessible and inexpensive to use for groups that don't have large amounts of money. She said that there should be more of these kinds of access programs like the "Changing Channels" program which is currently shown on KTCA.

Mr. Blank said that his suggestions for realizing the potential of public television would be to extend the hours of broadcast; to program public service announcements on community activities; to upgrade the production and talent of the station; to open board meetings and annual meeting of the station; and broaden fund raising support for the station.

Mr. Geisler noted that one of the positive aspects of the program last fall on the candidates was to provide exposure to minority candidates who might not otherwise have their views known if we relied only on newspapers and commercial television.

Mr. Chorn noted that the commercial media generally covers news items of broad community interest. Public television can selectively aim its programs at sub-groups within the community. As such, public affairs programming could be targeted to residents of Minneapolis, residents of St. Paul, or residents of other specific geographic areas in the region. He said, for example, that little press coverage was given to certain bills being pushed for by the

city of Minneapolis like the Community Council's bill. Little press coverage was given to the work that went into redrafting the Minneapolis comprehensive plan. Yet, these kind of actions at the municipal level, have major impact on the residents of those communities.

Ken Reddick said that he has found it difficult to attach any sort of identity to local programming produced by KTCA. Perhaps what is needed, he said, is a block of time which is devoted on a regular and consistent basis to local public affairs programming. It might also be helpful, he said, if there were an ad-hoc group of citizens who established priorities and assisted the station in producing locally produced public affairs programming.

Gretchen Kreuter again emphasized the importance of quality of production as it's not enough to just gain access to television but that programming produced must be of high enough quality to attract viewers.

Erv Chorn suggested that the public affairs needs fall into several categories. Information should be provided on what happened in governmental agencies; information should be provided on why these events took place; and access should be provided to public officials and governmental agencies for announcements and information of public interest. He again emphasized the importance of quality in the production of locally produced programming. Also needed, he said, is a commitment on the part of the station to provide direction and leadership to the production of local public affairs programming. What is needed, he said, a professional community affairs staff which is involved in the production of local public affairs programming.

It was noted that most of the examples which had been cited of locally produced public affairs programs had been programs produced at the initiative of the organization. It was suggested that perhaps greater initiative needs to be taken on the part of the station to seek out events and organizations in the community which might be provided access on public television.

Bob Blank suggested that perhaps what is needed is a daily wrap-up of what's happening in the community which is well edited and well produced and features interviews and other reports.

2. At 9:00 p.m., appreciation was expressed to the representatives of the organizations present, and the meeting was then adjourned.

JON SCHROEDER  
Staff

## CITIZEN INFORMATION/ VOTERS SERVICE REPORT

August, 1975

Mary Waldo, C.I./V.S. chmn.

### Secretary of State and Voting Systems

In the 1975 session the legislature gave authority to the Secretary of State to license and regulate voting machines. The Voting Machine Commission was eliminated.

In preparation for setting up procedures to license voting systems in Minnesota a public meeting was held July 15, 1975 in the Commissioner's Board Room of the Hennepin County Government Center. (Yes, it's quite nice!) The League was invited to be part of a panel reacting to the speaker for the meeting, Roy G. Saltman. Mr. Saltman is author of "Effective Use of Computing Technology in Vote-Tallying", a report of the National Bureau of Standards. The report was prepared for the Office of Federal Elections, General Accounting Office, Washington, D.C. Mr. Saltman was in Minnesota on an Intergovernmental Affairs Fellowship program with the Minnesota State Department of Administration.

Others appearing on the panel were Bob Coursen, Research Director, Minneapolis Star and Tribune, Charles Backstrom, Professor, Political Science Department, University of Minnesota, and Bill Schneider, Carver County Auditor. The moderator of the panel was Mary Ann McCoy who is now on the staff of the Secretary of State in charge of the Elections Division.

Mr. Saltman's report is a comprehensive one and gives some good criteria for setting standards for voting systems in Minnesota. I'd be happy to share my copy.

### Voter Registration Project

A University of Minnesota student serving as an intern in the Secretary of State's office has been working to set up a model registration system for Minnesota. The system he has devised is similar to the Canadian system in that it involves registrars going door to door to register voters. The areas he is proposing for the experiment in September are selected areas within Bloomington, Minneapolis and Minnetonka. Precincts will be selected within these cities because of specific characteristics (i.e., rural, urban, suburban, etc.).

I would like to offer the Leagues in these areas an opportunity to participate in this experiment. I plan to begin by having a meeting with League representatives, the intern, and perhaps a staff member from the office of Secretary of State.



Skills Bank Report

The Women's Skills Bank was created in 1973 under the auspices of the Women's Advisory Committee to the State Department of Human Rights. Women's organizations were invited to participate. The League delegate was Fran Berdie of CMAL. About a year later I received permission from the LWVMN Board to also be a delegate. It seemed to be a logical extension of my C.I./V.S. Duties.

Phoebe Kent served as chairperson of the Skills Bank for two years and did a monumantal job of identifying vacancies on boards and commissions and committees. In June of this year Phoebe resigned and left with her family for Massachusetts. At that time the Skills Bank could identify no one to be chairperson. Part of the problem was that it was such a time-consuming undertaking( identifying vacancies, setting up appointments for interviews, conducting the interviews, writing letters of recommendation, as well as serving as a member of the Woman's Advisory Committee). Superwoman was needed! Another aspect of the problem was that Betty Howard, Women's Division, Dept. of Human Rights, felt that the chairperson should come within the group of members who had worked with the Skills Bank. So in this "power vacuum" persons volunteered to chair the Skills Bank for a month at a time during the summer. Early in July it was announced that candidates for chairperson of the Skills Bank would be interviewed July 16. Two persons applied. One received endorsement for Chairperson and for the Women's Advisory Committee. The other received endorsement only for the Women's Advisory Committee. The woman receiving endorsement had attended two or three Skills Bank Meetings. The woman not endorsed has been a representative on the Skills Bank from St. Paul A.A.U.W. She was most disappointed (hurt, angry? ?) at not being endorsed; however following Phoebe's resignation this person said that she could not assume the Skills Bank Chairpersonship due to heavy commitments for the coming year. The woman not endorsed has charged that the other woman lied to the Skills Bank on her resume and during her interview before the Skills Bank. This issue has not been resolved.

There are other problems. When it first began general guidelines were established but procedures were not. As of July 16, 1975, written procedures have been adopted and accepted with a few minor changes in language by the Women's Advisory Committee. Criticism of the Skills Bank has occurred when procedures have varied from time to time.

As with some other organizations, communications have been a problem. It has been difficult to find out what openings were coming up so that League membership could be notified in time for interested persons to be contacted.

As our representative to the Skills Bank I vascillate from despair to optimism. The idea of the Skills Bank is a good one. The question of how it survives this interim period has a real bearing on it effectiveness for the future.

*M. M. St.*

*8-75*



# UPDATE on community issues

No. 2

October, 1975

## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: HOW ONE TOWN GOT RESULTS

January 22, 1975. It was "standing room only." The school gymnasium was packed with the old and very young, pre-schoolers, leading citizens, business executives, office-holders, factory workers, housewives, high school kids and handicapped.

A Big Game in this basketball-happy town?

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A public hearing, usually a ho-hum event, doesn't bring out any bigger audience in Columbus than anywhere else, but officials and the mayor's Advisory Committee were determined to follow, not just the letter, but the spirit of Congress' intent that there be public input in deciding how the CD money would be spent.

### How to Reach the Public?

Many ideas for public hearings were considered: a series of meetings? all day Saturday? neighborhood meetings? city hall? schools? library? One large, well publicized early evening meeting in a low income neighborhood was decided upon. Radio, newspaper and public-access TV stressed the uniqueness of the event. There were posters all over town and invitations to just about every organization. A week before the meeting the newspaper had a front page "count-down" with cartoons.

At the hearing, following a welcome and explanation by the mayor, each person went to a small meeting elsewhere in the building for discussion of a specific subject--Housing, Community Services, Transportation, Historic Preservation, Parks and Recreation and Community Facilities. Discussion of community needs was spirited.

The top three perceived needs of each of the six  
(Continued on Page 4)

## A CONSTITUTION THAT KEEPS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS UP TO DATE

In 1972 Montana ratified a new state constitution that calls for something entirely new in the area of local government: a mandated review every ten years of the structures and powers of each local government. Opportunities for reform to meet changing conditions are thus provided at regular intervals rather than at times of crisis.

Local government study commissions in each municipality and county in the state were elected last November and are now devising ways to adjust the structures and powers of their local governments to best fit the problems and needs of their communities. A commission may either draw up a self-government charter or propose an alternative form of government from one of several outlined by the legislature. It may, if it chooses, work cooperatively with other commissions and develop plans combining present units of government.

In November 1976 voters in each community will choose between either the plan drawn up by its local commission or the retention of its current form of government. No other state has ever undertaken such a simultaneous citizen review of all its local governments.

The local government article in Montana's new constitution also makes possible other far-reaching though less innovative modernizations of local government and of the relationship between the state and local government:

- Local governments in Montana now have constitutional authority to assume all powers not specifically denied by the state. Previously local governments had only those powers specifically granted to them by the state, a concept of state-local relationships still followed in more than half the states.

- Counties are allowed to have legislative powers, rather than be merely administrative divisions of the state.

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To accommodate all these changes, the legislature also established a temporary state commission on local government to explore and make recommendations that may ultimately lead to revisions in all the laws relating to local governments.

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# Advocacy Of Grassroots Citizenship

BY JAMES B. COOK

## Attacks Mandated Citizen Participation Saying It Destroys The Process Of Popular Control

It is strange to get up to advocate grassroots citizenship in this land that thinks of itself as "The American Democracy." Praising the virtue of grassroots citizenship is simply praising an already strong tenet of the American civic culture. Or is it? Look at the topic before this session—"Mandated Citizen Participation—To Be or Not To Be?" The question itself hints of more than a little dissonance between the bold assertions of the value and virtue of ordinary citizenship in the popular versions of American belief and the fine print invoked in standard community and political practice. If American democracy is functioning as our children are taught to think it does, "mandated citizen participation" would be an anomaly.

Forcing participation destroys the very process by which popular involvement exercises control in the system. For it is the variations in the kind, intensity, and locales of citizen roles which are created, chosen and carried out by people on their own volition that is the prime factor in regulating the configurations and processes of a democratic system.

It is not by happenstance that mandated citizen participation has become the specialty of modern totalitarian and dictatorial states. Look and you will see it is such regimes which turn out their subjects in great numbers for elections, meetings and rallies and activities in state-sponsored grassroots organizations. This should be enough to warn us of the hazards for democracy from governmentally mandated and monitored citizen participation. If any of you are under the illusion democracy can be saved by a dedicated cadre diligently working for laws that require citizens to take part and diligently building frameworks for the implementation and enforcement of such laws, I pray you will look

Mr. Cook is an Instructor, Department of Regional and Community Affairs, University of Missouri-Columbia, and an Extension Community Development Specialist. He is well-known for his insights regarding citizen participation.

again at the meaning of democracy.<sup>1</sup>

The thing that separates democracy from every other kind of system is not the frequency and intensity of involvement of ordinary people, or the number or percentage of the population taking part in civic affairs, but a quality that conditions participation. That quality is choice. Democratic participation cannot be mandated, determined or supervised by some super agency, public or private, because in a democracy people must be free to take up citizen rules of their choice.

Any competently run dictatorship can win hands down contesting with democracies in the numbers games. But only democracies can deliver and allow autonomous citizen roles. Every other system restricts citizen action to performance in prescribed roles. It is the access to self-determined, self-directed citizen roles that allows people to have a real part in the control function. You cannot mandate this kind of involvement, you can only let it happen.

Let it be clear that no system can survive without prescribed roles and no social order can make it without people willing and capable of performing subject roles. Democracy needs its prescribed roles designed to carry out certain tasks. Democracy needs its subject roles to support the laws, rules and order of the community. But the innovation that makes democracy different is autonomous citizen roles. While the elites are the variables in every other kind of system, autonomous citizen roles are the variables in a democratic system. And that is the secret of popular control.

A system is controlled and regulated not by its stable and steady parts, no matter how massive or important they may be, but by its variables. Thus grand machinery and exotic circuits can be regulated by relatively small and simple devices like switches and rheostats, which get their influence in the system from their capacity to change configurations. Without carrying the analogy too far, perhaps this will illustrate the idea that control power turns on the capacity of variability.

Of all the civic roles from the President of the United States to the Pink Lady of the local hospital, citizen roles have the fewest prescribed elements and the greatest range of choice for the incumbents. That goes to make them, as a role type, the most variable, and therefore the type suitable to and influential in control processes. Citizen roles also are the

<sup>1</sup> It might be said that "mandated citizen participation" is not intended to constrain the choices of ordinary people, since it is directed at agencies to insure that citizen involvement is accepted. However, it is impossible to enforce a set system of citizen participation in an agency without enforcing it relative to participants as well. Agency designed systems of citizen participation amount to governmentally mandated and monitored citizen participation which recognizes only certain citizen roles, and often even go so far as to define the characteristics of people who will be recognized as citizens in the system. It is a fool's game to think "mandated citizen participation" does not limit the choices available to potential participants simply because the orders are issued to agencies and not directly to participants.



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October Board Meeting-1975  
Citizen Information/Voters Service  
Waldo

~~///~~ The following are proposals to promote precinct caucus attendance in 1976. They are more limited in scope this year due to the fact that the G.O.P., the D.F.L., and the Secretary of State have united to form the Minnesota Bipartisan Bicentennial project. One of the goals of this project is to promote attendance at precinct caucuses. It seems that the parties and indeed the Secretary of State have followed the early lead of LWVMN in actively promoting precinct caucuses. Perhaps our major emphasis should now be placed on having a record number of informed voters at the polls, November 2, 1976.

#### Precinct Caucus Promotion Proposals

1. A Committee Guide for local Leagues to use in ~~promoting~~ promoting P.C. in their communities.

##### Contents

Precinct caucus promotion ideas

Participation in the Political Process-1976

(giving numbers of persons eligible to vote, number of persons elected convention delegates, etc.)

What happens at P.C. ? (sample agenda)

History of Caucus in U.S.

Sample news release

Who Me? Go to my P.C.?? (pamphlet giving general caucus information)

2. LWVMN as distributor for pamphlet (see above) to be published by Sec of State.

#### Focus on Emerging Issues

Dates: January 20; February 17; March 16, 1976  
St. Paul Y.W.C.A. 9:15 to 12:30

##### Three topics chosen as emerging issues

1. Welfare of the Child/ Rights of the Child
2. Health Care and Delivery
3. Citizen Participation of Role of Citizen in shaping Public Policy

Three different committees will plan for the three topics chosen. Titles may change as committees determine what areas are to be covered within the broad topic.

At the September 22 meeting of the on-board CI/VS committee it was agreed that we would aim for a grant from the Mn Humanities Commission. Our initial proposal was due November 1. This proved to be unrealistic in terms of recruiting three committees and having them meet the criteria of Humanities Commission.

# ELECTION '76: issues not images

December 8, 1975

This is going on DPM

TO: State and Local League Presidents

FROM: Carol Toussaint and Judith Heimann

RE: National Public Radio Series "Candidates on the Line"

Beginning the week of January 5 through March 5, your local public radio station will broadcast a series of call-in programs with the candidates for the Republican and Democratic presidential nominations. Each program will be devoted to a single candidate (see attached flyer). Since this series will give you an early opportunity to focus in on your '76 election "issues not images" voter service campaign, you will probably want to contact your public radio station (see attached flyer) to find out the exact time and dates the programs will be aired. Because the series (which will be aired at different times throughout the country) is such a great opportunity for voters to directly question candidates on the issues, this would also be a good time for you to find out from the program manager or public information director what the station's plans are for publicizing this important series and to determine how the local Leagues might help. In areas where programming is done on a state-wide basis, state Leagues should distribute the information to local Leagues.

The national League along with other organizations has been cooperating with NPR in an effort to make this series a success. Other groups involved include: The Consumer Federation, Wildlife Federation, National Bar Association, AFL-CIO, Foreign Policy Association, Chamber of Commerce, League of United Latin American Citizens, Council of Senior Citizens, Urban League and Common Cause. You may also be interested in contacting some of their local affiliates to explore possible promotion ideas with them.

We're delighted that not only will these programs help us "air the issues" but NPR is also using an innovative approach for the call-in programs. The first portion of the program will be devoted to several members of sponsoring organizations who will be given extra time to follow up on the candidates replies to their questions; to flag non-responses; to question the ramifications of the response or raise related questions. This precedent should go a long way toward helping us keep candidates to the issues.

The time is ripe for you to get involved in this project, and to also encourage League members to join in the public call-in segment of the programs. Local and state League bulletins are our only means of getting this information to all League members. Please try to carry the program information and local air times in your January and February bulletins.



(1976?)

# CRITIQUE SHEET

- a) Put down a key word or a phrase as the film is being shown for each different issue (an issue is a point of controversy).
- b) After the film is over expand the key words to an understandable issue phrase.
- c) In the columns, check whether it is an issue to you because it is a knowledge (fact) issue (K), or a skill (practice, application, method) issue (S) or an attitude (belief, preference, sensitivity) issue (A) - or any combination of K, S, A.

| Issues | K | S | A |
|--------|---|---|---|
| 1.     |   |   |   |
| 2.     |   |   |   |
| 3.     |   |   |   |
| 4.     |   |   |   |
| 5.     |   |   |   |
| 6.     |   |   |   |
| 7.     |   |   |   |
| 8.     |   |   |   |
| 9.     |   |   |   |
| 10.    |   |   |   |
| 11.    |   |   |   |
| 12.    |   |   |   |
| 13.    |   |   |   |
| 14.    |   |   |   |
| 15.    |   |   |   |



The following abbreviations are used:  
b=absent on business  
d=disabled persons  
e=not absent, but prevented by employment from voting at polling place  
m=military personnel (including families)  
r=absent for religious reasons  
s=students  
t=temporarily out of county  
FPCA=Federal Post Card Application form

# Easy does it

## Absentee Voting

|                | Who can vote absentee?  | How to request absentee ballot  | From whom?  | Deadline for request   | Deadline for return of ballot                                  | Deadline for return of ballot in person  |
|----------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| Alabama        | d, s, m, those away regularly on business   | letter, in person   | registrar of civil circuit court  | 5 days before election   | election day   | 21 to 5 days before election; make request 30 days before                      |
| Alaska         | d, s, m, b, t, anyone away from polls on elec. day  | letter, postcard, in person   | lt. governor, magistrate, election supervisor   | 6 mos. to 7 days before election   | postmarked election day  | 15 days  |
| Arizona        | d, s, m, b, t, r  | request application by phone, mail, in person                                       | county recorder   | within 30 days preceding Sat. before election                                      | 7 p.m. election day  | up to 5 p.m. day before election   |
| Arkansas       | anyone unavoidably away from polling place; disabled or ill   | phone, letter, postcard, in person, form from co. clerk                             | county clerk  | 1 day before election  | 7:30 p.m. election day   | when ballots are ready, until 7:30 p.m. election day                           |
| California     | m, b, anyone unable to get to polls election day  | letter, postcard, in person   | registrar of voters, county clerk   | 7th day before election  | close of polls election day                                    | from 29th day before to close of polls   |
| Colorado       | d, s, m, b, t   | letter, postcard, in person   | county clerk  | 5:00 p.m. Fri. before election   | 8 p.m. election day  | during regular business hours of city clerk                                    |
| Connecticut    | d, s, m, r, anyone absent from state, moved within state  | official application or FPCA  | town clerk  | day before election  | 8 p.m. state & national election day                           | not allowed  |
| Delaware       | d, s, m, b  | by affidavit  | county dept. of elections   | noon—day before election   | noon, day before election                                      | noon, day before election  |
| Florida        | d, s, m, b, t, r  | request application by letter, postcard, in person, by phone                        | supervisor of elections   | 5 p.m. day before election   | up to 45 days before election if ballots are ready             | up to 45 days before election if ballots are ready                             |
| Georgia        | d, s, m, b, t, election officials   | letter, postcard, in person—application must be written                             | county board of registrars  | more than 300 mi. away—5 days before elec.; in person—appear day prior to election | 7 p.m. election day  | close of business day before election  |
| Hawaii         | d, s, m, b, t, r, anyone living more than 10 miles from polls   | letter, postcard, in person, FPCA   | city or county clerk's office   | 4:30 p.m., 7th day before election   | 6 p.m. election day  | 10 days before to 1 day before election  |
| Idaho          | d, s, m, b, t   | letter, in person   | county clerk  | 5 p.m. day before election   | 8 p.m. election day  | 60 days before election to election day  |
| Illinois       | d, f, m, b, r, s, those observing religious holiday   | by mail or in person  | county clerk or board of election commissioners   | 30 days to 5 days before election by mail and 30 days to 1 day in person           | in time to be delivered to polls                               | before election to election day  |
| Indiana        | d, s, m, b, t   | by application obtained by phone, mail, or in person                                | county election board   | Sat. before election   | close of polls election day                                    | 30 days before election to Sat. before election                                |
| Iowa           | anyone unable to get to polls on election day   | letter, postcard, in person   | county commissioner   | day before election  | 8 p.m. election day  | no more than 40 days before election   |
| Kansas         | d, m, anyone out of county  | by application  | county election board   | written—5 days before election; for d—noon, election day                           | close of polls election day                                    | Tues. to Mon. noon prior to election   |
| Kentucky       | d, s, b, t, m, s  | letter, postcard, in person   | county clerk  | 7 days before election   | 3 p.m. election day  | not allowed  |
| Louisiana      | s & spouse, m & spouse, merchant marines, civilian U.S. employees overseas, religious & welfare orgs. with armed forces                           | letter, in person, military form card   | New Orleans: civil sheriff; parishes: clerk of court                                      | between 60th & 7th day before election   | in time to be delivered to polls with election equipment       | between 19th & 6th day before election   |
| Maine          | d, s, m, b, t, r  | phone, letter, postcard, in person  | town, city or plantation clerk  | none   | 8 p.m. election day  | when ballots are ready   |
| Maryland       | d, s, m, b, t, emergency ballot for illness, injury or death in immediate family  | request application by phone, letter, postcard, in person                           | local election board  | 7 days before election; emergency ballots to election day                          | 9 p.m. election day  | when ballots are ready, through election day                                   |
| Massachusetts  | d, s, m, b, t   | personal written req., state or fed. postcard form, in person                       | city or town clerk or election commissioner   | noon of day before election  | 8 p.m. election day  | before noon day before election  |
| Michigan       | d, s, m, b, t, r, over 60, confined in jail but not convicted   | letter, postcard, in person, by special form from clerk                             | local clerk   | 2 p.m. Sat. before election  | close of polls election day                                    | 75 days before, to 2 p.m. Sat. before election                                 |
| Minnesota      | d, s, m, b, t, r  | phone, letter, postcard, in person  | county auditor or municipal clerk   | 1 day before election  | 8 p.m. election day  | not allowed  |
| Mississippi    | d, s, m, e  | req. application form by phone, letter, postcard, in person                         | county registrar & city clerk   | in order to meet deadline for receipt of ballot                                    | noon, Mon. before election                                     | up to noon 2 days before election  |
| Missouri       | d, m, b, r, t, s  | letter, postcard, in person   | county clerk or board of election commissioners   | by mail—4 days before election; in person—day before                               | 4 p.m. day before election                                     | when ballots ready—40 noon day before election                                 |
| Montana        | b, d, m, s, t   | request application by letter or in person  | county clerk & recorder (st. or co. elec.), municipal clerk (mun. elec.)                  | noon—day before election   | close of polls election day                                    | 35 days before to 4 p.m. day before election                                   |
| Nebraska       | d, s, m, b, t   | letter, or if present in county, in person  | county clerk or election commissioner   | 4 p.m. Fri. before election  | 10 a.m. 2nd day after election                                 | to Tuesday before election   |
| Nevada         | d, s, m, b, e, r, t   | letter, postcard, in person, authorized representative with statement of disability | county clerk  | Tues. before election  | close of polls election day                                    | any time to close of polls   |
| New Hampshire  | d, anyone qualified voter absent from town  | phone, letter, in person  | town or city clerk  | any time before election   | close of polls election day                                    | til 3 p.m. day before election   |
| New Jersey     | d, anyone qualified voter, all temporarily out of state   | request form by phone, letter, postcard, in person                                  | county clerk  | 7th day before election  | 7 p.m. election day  | to 5 p.m. Thurs. before election   |
| New Mexico     | d, s, m, b, t   | phone, letter, postcard, in person  | county board of elections or precinct inspectors of election on precinct registration day | Wed. before election   | noon, day before election                                      | not allowed  |
| New York       | d, s, m, b, t, persons in jail awaiting trial, misdemeanants  | phone, letter, postcard, in person  | county board of elections or precinct inspectors of election on precinct registration day | 7th day before election  | 6 p.m. day before election                                     | 30 days before to 6 p.m. Wed. before election                                  |
| North Carolina | d, s, m, b, t   | letter, in person   | executive secretary or chairman of election board   | day before election  | postmarked before election day                                 | 20 days before to election day   |
| North Dakota   | d, s, m, b, t, r, e, over 62, certain incarcerated persons, all election workers  | letter, postcard, in person   | county auditor  | Wed. before election   | close of polls election day                                    | 'til polls close on election day   |
| Ohio           | d, s, m, b, t, r, e, over 62, certain incarcerated persons, all election workers  | in writing or in person   | county board of elections   | 12 noon 3 days before election   | close of polls election day                                    | 'til polls close on election day   |
| Oklahoma       | d, m, t, residents living temporarily abroad  | by mail or in person  | secretary of county election board  | Wed. before election   | 7 p.m. election day  | not allowed  |
| Oregon         | d, s, m, b, t, anyone unable to get to polls election day   | letter, postcard, in person   | county clerk  | 8 p.m. election day  | 8 p.m. election day  | no more than 60 days before election   |
| Pennsylvania   | d, s, m, b, t   | request application by mail   | county board of elections   | 5 p.m. Tues. before elec.; emergency application, 5 p.m. Fri. before               | 8 p.m. Fri. before election                                    | 50 days before to 5 p.m. Tues. before election                                 |
| Rhode Island   | d, t, those outside the state   | d, t, those outside the state   | local Board of Canvassers   | 21 days before election or in case of emergency, noon election day                 | 9 p.m. election day  | 9 p.m. election day  |
| South Carolina | d, m, t, merchant marines, U.S. government employees overseas, transportation workers, Red Cross & USO out of county                              | letter, postcard, in person, application form                                       | election commission   | no fixed date  | close of polls election day                                    | 15 days before to noon 3rd day before election                                 |
| South Dakota   | d, m, t, residents living temporarily abroad  | by mail or in person  | official in charge of election or county auditor  | no fixed date  | close of polls election day                                    | 'til polls close on election day   |
| Tennessee      | d, s, m, b, t, anyone unable to get to polls election day   | letter, postcard, in person   | county election commission  | Wed. before election   | close of polls election day                                    | 20 days to 5 days before election  |
| Texas          | d, s, m, b, t, anyone unable to get to polls election day   | letter, postcard, in person   | county clerk  | 4th day before election  | before 1 p.m. election day                                     | 20th to 4th day before election  |
| Utah           | d, s, m, b, t   | phone, letter, postcard, in person  | county clerk  | within 30 days of election   | noon election day  | before election day  |
| Vermont        | everyone legally registered   | letter, in person, by phone   | town clerk  | 4 days before election   | close of polls election day                                    | before 9 p.m. 4th day before election; emergency—noon day before               |
| Virginia       | d, j, m, merchant marine, citizens working overseas, t—in person only, confined, awaiting trial, misdemeanants and election officials any elector | in person or by mail  | in person—registrar or sec. of electoral board; by mail—sec. of electoral board           | 5 days before elec. by mail, 3 days in person                                      | in time to be counted election day                             | 40 to 3 days before election   |
| Washington     | d, s, m, b, t, anyone required to be absent during voting hrs.  | application form, letter, postcard, in person                                       | county auditor  | day before election  | postmarked elec. day, received 15 days after (10 days primary) | usually up to day before election  |
| West Virginia  | any qualified elector unable to vote in person  | application   | clerk of the circuit court  | 4th day before election  | in time to be delivered before close of polls                  | 15 days before to Sat. before election   |
| Wisconsin      | any qualified elector unable to vote in person  | in writing or in person   | municipal clerk   | 5 p.m. day before elec.—by mail; day before—in person                              | in time to be delivered at close of polls                      | 3 mos. before to 5 p.m. day before election                                    |
| Wyoming        | all persons   | phone, letter, postcard, in person, by agent  | county clerk  | before election day  | returned to county clerk before close of polls (7 p.m.)        | in person at county clerk's office up to and including the day before election |
| D.C.           | d, s, m, b, t, e, r   | letter, postcard, in person   | chief registrar   | 15 to 7 days before election   | 8 p.m. election day  | when ballot is available   |
| Puerto Rico    | m, s, resident working by contract outside PR   | letter, postcard  | electoral court   | 30 days before election  | before election day  | not allowed  |
| Virgin Islands | s, m, b, t, spouses of m  | letter, in person, by agent   | supervisor of elections   | 20 days before election  | close of polls election day                                    | not allowed  |

Absentee voting is allowed in every state for general elections and everywhere except Puerto Rico for primary elections.

## Registration

|                | Date by which a voter must be 18   | Residence requirements              |   | Registration deadline          |                                  | Where to register   | Cancellation of registration                                     |   | Party affiliation                   | Absentee registration   |   |   |   |
|----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
|                | primary date of regis. primary day | general date of regis. election day | state 30 days before election   | county 30 days before election | precinct 30 days before election | primary 10 days before primary 30 days before primary                                     | general 10 days before election 30 days before election          | Why is a voter's registration cancelled?<br>move, imprisonment, insanity, reidentification failure to vote in 4 yrs.; registration in another state | Is the voter notified?<br>no<br>yes | How does one re-register?<br>as new voter re-register and sign oath   | Deadline for declaration of party to vote in primary<br>no prior affiliation required June 1                                      | Who can register absentee?<br>s, m, & their dependents anyone meeting registration requirements m, anyone temporarily out of state      | How does one request absentee reg. form?<br>letter, postcard, in person |
| Alabama        | primary day                        | election day                        | 50 days   | 50 days                        | 50 days                          | 50 days before primary  | 50 days before election  | county court house state election office, city & borough clerk, precinct registrar  | yes                                 | return signed card (felons must petition court), or go to registration office as original registration                              | 50 days before election   | —   | letter, postcard  |
| Alaska         | primary day                        | election day                        | none  | none                           | 30 days                          | 20 days before primary  | 20 days before election  | county clerk failure to vote in 4 yrs., move from co., name chg., felony, unqualified   | yes                                 | return card or re-register  | no prior affiliation required   | none  | —   |
| Arizona        | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | anywhere in city before deputy registrar, firehouses office of registrar of voters, or by mail after 7/1/76   | yes                                 | as original registration  | 30 days before election   | t   | phone, letter, postcard, in person, FPCA                                |
| Arkansas       | primary day                        | election day                        | 32 days   | none                           | 32 days                          | 32 days before primary  | 32 days before election  | any county or city clerk's office   | yes                                 | as original registration  | election day if not now affiliated; change by 32 days before election   | d, s, m, b, t   | letter, postcard, in person   |
| California     | primary day                        | election day                        | bona fide residence no durational req.  | —                              | —                                | 21 days before primary; change party: 6 mos. before                                       | Sat. of 4th week before election                                 | town clerk or registrar of voters, session of bd. of admission of electors, public sessions   | yes                                 | written request for continuation; if moved re-register in new town  | 21 days before primary; change party: 6 months  | m, civilian U.S. employee (and dependents)  | phone, letter, postcard, in person                                      |
| Colorado       | primary day                        | election day                        | bona fide residence no durational req.  | —                              | —                                | 21 days before primary  | 3rd Sat. in Oct.   | county department of elections  | yes                                 | written or phone request, mobile registration   | March 1 of election year  | m, Red Cross, Peace Corps, temporarily absent from town; limits of U.S., d, s, m, t   | letter, postcard  |
| Connecticut    | primary day                        | election day                        | none  | same                           | same                             | 45 days before primary  | 45 days before election  | court house, with supervisor of elections, or branch office   | yes                                 | notify sup. of elections that status is unchanged   | close of registration books   | anyone who qualifies as absentee voter  | letter, postcard  |
| Delaware       | general election day               | election day                        | bona fide residence no durational req.  | same                           | same                             | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | county board of registrars  | yes                                 | as original registration  | at poll   | letter, postcard, application by absentee applicant, parent, spouse, child or sibling   | —   |
| Florida        | before primary day                 | before election day                 | none  | same                           | same                             | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | any county or city clerk's office   | no                                  | as original registration  | choose party ballot at primary; vote same thereafter; change 90 days before primary   | d, s, m, b, t   | in person, by mail  |
| Georgia        | primary day                        | election day                        | bona fide residence no durational req.  | —                              | —                                | with precinct registrar, 10 days before; with co. clerk, 5 days                           | with precinct registrar 10 days before; with co. clerk, 5 days   | county clerk or precinct registrar  | yes                                 | hearing with county clerk within 10 days of receipt of notice   | no previous affiliation required  | t, b; registrars can register disabled in their homes   | —   |
| Hawaii         | day before primary                 | day before election                 | none  | none                           | none                             | 30th day before primary   | 26th day before election   | any county or city clerk's office   | yes                                 | re-register in person   | no previous affiliation required  | t, b; registrars can register disabled in their homes   | —   |
| Idaho          | primary day                        | election day                        | bona fide residence no durational req.  | —                              | —                                | with precinct registrar, 10 days before; with co. clerk, 5 days                           | with precinct registrar 10 days before; with co. clerk, 5 days   | county clerk or precinct registrar  | yes                                 | return purge notice or register as new voter  | declare party when voting   | t, d, m   | letter, postcard, FPCA  |
| Illinois       | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 28 days before primary  | 28 days before election  | county clerk's office, office of the Board of Education commissioners during precinct registration days or anytime by precinct registrars           | yes                                 | as original registration  | no previous party affiliation required  | all persons   | letter, postcard, in person, phone                                      |
| Indiana        | general election day               | election day                        | none  | 60 days (township none)        | 30 days                          | 29th day before primary   | 29th day before election   | office of registration board, clerk of circuit court, before deputy registrar   | yes                                 | failure to record change of name or address, failure to vote in 4 yrs.  | day of primary if not affiliated; change 20 days before   | t, d, federal services not required   | phone, letter, postcard   |
| Iowa           | primary day                        | election day                        | none  | none                           | none                             | 10th day before primary   | 10th day before election   | office of county commissioner, or with deputy, or by mail   | yes                                 | see "Where to Register"   | before preceding gen'l election; new voters 30 days before primary  | none  | —   |
| Kansas         | primary day                        | election day                        | must be registered at close of registration   | none                           | none                             | 20 days before primary  | 20 days before election  | county election commissioner's office, county court house, city hall, specified outposts  | yes                                 | appear before county clerk in person or by mail   | 30 days before election   | m & spouse, merchant marines, civilian U.S. employees out of country, members of religious or welfare agencies with armed forces anyone | register before justice of the peace or notary public                   |
| Kentucky       | before general election            | before election                     | none  | none                           | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | county clerk's office, special registration sites or by mail  | yes                                 | regular registration procedure  | 30 days before election   | d, s, m & dependents, anyone temporarily out of county for 30 days before election; civilian U.S. employees overseas                    | phone, letter, postcard, in person by an agent who's a registered voter |
| Louisiana      | primary day                        | election day                        | none  | none                           | none                             | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | office of registrar of parish   | yes                                 | failure to vote in 4 yrs. (Orleans Parish, failure to vote in 2 yrs.)   | 30 days before election   | m, s, m, b, t, r, prisoner not convicted of felony  | letter, in person   |
| Maine          | primary day                        | election day                        | no durational req.  | none                           | none                             | primary day   | election day   | before registrar of voters, board of registration, justice of peace, or notary public   | yes                                 | contact registrar   | change 3 months before; original declaration, any time  | d, s, m & dependents, anyone temporarily out of county for 30 days before election; civilian U.S. employees overseas                    | register before justice of the peace or notary public                   |
| Maryland       | general election day               | election day                        | bona fide residence no durational req.  | —                              | —                                | 28 days before primary  | 28 days before election  | local election board, out of office registration sites, by mail in all counties but Carroll and Garrett   | yes                                 | as original registration  | change 4 mos. before election; new voters—before close of registration  | d, s, m, b, t   | phone, letter, postcard, in person by an agent who's a registered voter |
| Massachusetts  | primary day                        | election day                        | no durational req. Must be res. at close of registration  | —                              | —                                | 28 days before reg. primary, 20 days before special primary                               | 28 days (20 days mun., spec. elec.; 14 days spec. town meetings) | o/c, of registrar or elec. commissioner, or registrar will visit disabled   | yes                                 | re-register in person   | declare party at poll; change 28 days before election   | m, those in govt. positions, those living temporarily outside U.S.  | letter, request by registered relative of town, in person               |
| Michigan       | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | city or township clerk  | yes                                 | appear before local clerk as original registration  | no previous affiliation required  | d, m, b, t  | letter, postcard, in person   |
| Minnesota      | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | city hall or other public place designated by official, at polls election day, or by mail   | yes                                 | as original registration  | no previous affiliation required  | d, m, b, t  | letter, postcard, in person   |
| Mississippi    | general election day               | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | moving or conviction of disqualifying crime   | no                                  | self-initiated  | no previous affiliation required  | m   | letter, postcard, in person, phone                                      |
| Missouri       | primary day                        | election day                        | none  | none                           | none                             | 28 days before primary  | 28 days before election  | county clerk's office or office of board of election commissioners  | yes                                 | no  | no previous affiliation required  | d, e in counties without board of election commissioners only   | letter, postcard, in person   |
| Montana        | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | challenge of qualifications, failure to vote in presidential gen'l election   | yes                                 | as original registration  | no party registration   | m   | letter or FPCA  |
| Nebraska       | primary day                        | election day                        | none  | none                           | none                             | 40 days all other 2nd Fri. before primary   | 40 days all other 2nd Fri. before election                       | change of name or address   | no                                  | as original registration  | —   | d, s, m, b, t   | letter (only for military), but if present in county, in person         |
| Nevada         | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 5th Sat. before primary   | 5th Sat. before election   | office of county clerk, registrar of voters, justice of peace, or volunteer deputy registrar  | no                                  | as original registration  | 30 days before election   | m & spouse  | letter, postcard, letter, telegraph                                     |
| New Hampshire  | primary day                        | election day                        | none  | none                           | none                             | 10 days before primary  | 10 days before election  | board of supervisors of the checklist   | no                                  | no re-registration for all every 10 yrs.  | 90 days before election; independents may declare at polls  | all persons   | phone, letter, in person  |
| New Jersey     | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 29 days before primary  | 29 days before election  | county bd. of elec. or o/c. of municipal clerk, out-office sites, mobile vans, postcard   | in some cases                       | visit board of elections or municipal clerk or by postcard  | no previous affiliation required  | all persons   | postcard may be obtained from county clerk, local LVV                   |
| New Mexico     | primary day                        | election day                        | no durational req.  | none                           | none                             | 42 days before primary  | 42 days before election  | failure to vote in 4 yrs., conviction of some crimes  | yes                                 | as original registration  | February 2  | d, s, m, b, t, r, prisoner not convicted of felony  | phone, letter, postcard, in person                                      |
| New York       | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days, 10 days before election at central board office if voter moved within county after 26 days before election | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before prev. gen'l elec. for new voters special enrollment 30 days before primary | 26 days before election  | insanity, felony, voter's request, conviction, failure to vote in 2 general elections, failure to respond to purge notice                           | yes                                 | re-register in person or by mail within county  | enrolled in party prior to last general election; special enrollment available for new voters                                     | d, s, m, b & spouse, parent or child dependent accompanying b   | phone, letter, postcard, in person                                      |
| North Carolina | general election day               | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 21 business days before primary   | 21 business days before election                                 | felony conviction, commitment to mental hospital, failure to record change of address or to vote within 2 yrs.                                      | yes                                 | no  | no previous affiliation required  | d, s, m, b, t, r, prisoner not convicted of felony  | letter, in person   |
| North Dakota   | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | county board of elections, at local polling places 2 days as designated, or by mail   | yes                                 | appear before registrar   | 21 business days before election  | m   | letter or FPCA  |
| Ohio           | general election day               | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | no registration 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | failure to vote in 4 yrs.   | —                                   | —   | no previous affiliation required  | t, registrars sent to disabled  | —   |
| Oklahoma       | primary day                        | election day                        | no durational req.  | none                           | none                             | 10 days before primary  | 10 days before election  | registration elsewhere, failure to vote for 2 yrs.  | yes                                 | return notification card, or regis. as new voter  | choose party at poll for 1st primary, vote in same one thereafter or swear to voting for majority of other in last gen'l election | letter, postcard or telephone request by institution official   | —   |
| Oregon         | primary day                        | election day                        | no durational req.  | none                           | none                             | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | county election board or office of deputy registrar   | yes                                 | as original registration  | may not change affiliation between 6/15 and 10/15 even-numbered years   | those covered by 1970 amendments to Voting Rights Act   | letter  |
| Pennsylvania   | primary day                        | election day                        | no durational req.  | none                           | none                             | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | failure to vote in two years, felony conviction, registration elsewhere   | yes                                 | as original registration  | 31 days before election   | s, m, b, (out of state) complete regis. card before another public, t register in another county, d may reg. at home                    | letter, postcard  |
| Rhode Island   | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | if name or address changes and elector does not re-register   | yes                                 | return re-reg. form to county clerk or by mail  | 30 days before election   | s, m, b, (out of state) complete regis. card before another public, t register in another county, d may reg. at home                    | letter  |
| South Carolina | general election day               | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | county clerk's office or any official registrar's office, or by mail  | yes                                 | written request for reinstatement within 10 days of notification; or re-register  | 30 days before election   | m, merchant marines, persons in religious or welfare org. with armed forces, U.S. employees overseas & dep. of above                    | letter  |
| South Dakota   | primary day                        | election day                        | none  | none                           | none                             | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | court house, field registration at various times  | yes                                 | as original registration  | no previous affiliation required  | d, t, servicemen's dependents   | phone, letter, postcard, in person                                      |
| Tennessee      | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | local board of canvassers   | yes                                 | re-register in person; re-state registration by phone, letter, in person if failed to vote; whole state re-registers every 10 years | no previous affiliation required  | m & spouse, merchant marine, m, s, m, b, t, r, prisoner not convicted of felony   | phone, letter, postcard, in person                                      |
| Texas          | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | county board of voter registration office   | yes                                 | re-establish eligibility, apply to county auditor for re-registration   | at time of election or have duplicate registration card   | anyone absent from county of residence qualified to use FPCA  | letter, postcard, in person   |
| Utah           | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | county election commission office or with precinct registrar, or by mail  | yes                                 | re-register at county election commission, or by mail as original registration  | no previous affiliation required  | d, s, m, b  | letter, postcard, in person   |
| Vermont        | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | county tax assessor-collector, deputies, or by mail   | yes                                 | any qualified citizen may reg. by mail  | no previous affiliation required  | any qualified citizen may reg. by mail  | letter, in person, phone  |
| Virginia       | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | county clerk's office or with registration agent  | not allowed to vote                 | at county clerk's office  | no previous affiliation required  | d, s, m, b, t   | phone, letter, postcard, in person                                      |
| Washington     | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | town or city clerk and local board of civil authority   | yes                                 | apply to new town or city clerk   | no party affiliation required   | everyone meeting residence requirements   | letter, in person   |
| West Virginia  | general election day               | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | in presence of general registrar of city or county, or his/her deputies   | in some cases                       | removal of disability with re-registration  | no party affiliation  | m & spouse  | letter, in person, phone, FPCA  |
| Wisconsin      | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | county auditor's office, deputy registrars, city & town clerks  | yes                                 | as original registration  | no party primary  | not necessary for absentee voting   | —   |
| Wyoming        | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | county auditor's office, deputy registrars, city & town clerks  | yes                                 | re-register at county clerk's office or file affidavit at least 29 days before next elec.   | 30 days before election   | d, s, m, b, t, all qualified voters absent from state for necessary cause   | phone, letter, in person  |
| D.C.           | primary day                        | election day                        | 10 days   | 10 days                        | 10 days                          | 2nd Wed. before primary   | 2nd Wed. before election   | office of clerk of the county court   | yes                                 | re-register at county clerk's office or file affidavit at least 29 days before next elec.   | no previous affiliation required  | d, anyone more than 50 miles from residence qualified to use FPCA   | letter, in person   |
| Puerto Rico    | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | municipal clerk or board of election commissioners  | yes                                 | re-register at county clerk's office or file affidavit at least 29 days before next elec.   | no previous affiliation required  | d, anyone more than 50 miles from residence qualified to use FPCA   | letter, in person   |
| Virgin Islands | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | city or county clerk's office   | yes                                 | re-register at county clerk's office or file affidavit at least 29 days before next elec.   | no previous affiliation required  | d, anyone more than 50 miles from residence qualified to use FPCA   | letter, in person   |
| D.C.           | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | failure to vote in gen'l elec., removal of residence more than 30 days before elec.   | yes                                 | re-register at county clerk's office or file affidavit at least 29 days before next elec.   | no previous affiliation required  | d, anyone more than 50 miles from residence qualified to use FPCA   | letter, in person   |
| Puerto Rico    | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | District Building, D.C. public libraries & other designated places, or by mail  | yes                                 | re-register at county clerk's office or file affidavit at least 29 days before next elec.   | no previous affiliation required  | d, anyone more than 50 miles from residence qualified to use FPCA   | letter, in person   |
| Virgin Islands | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | application to enumerators who visit all residences, or district court  | yes                                 | re-register at county clerk's office or file affidavit at least 29 days before next elec.   | no previous affiliation required  | d, anyone more than 50 miles from residence qualified to use FPCA   | letter, in person   |
| D.C.           | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | office of board of elections; other places 2 mos. before election   | yes                                 | re-register at county clerk's office or file affidavit at least 29 days before next elec.   | no previous affiliation required  | d, anyone more than 50 miles from residence qualified to use FPCA   | letter, in person   |
| Puerto Rico    | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | failure to vote in 2 consecutive general elections  | yes                                 | re-register at county clerk's office or file affidavit at least 29 days before next elec.   | no previous affiliation required  | d, anyone more than 50 miles from residence qualified to use FPCA   | letter, in person   |
| Virgin Islands | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | general registration occurs automatically every 4 yrs.  | yes                                 | re-register at county clerk's office or file affidavit at least 29 days before next elec.   | no previous affiliation required  | d, anyone more than 50 miles from residence qualified to use FPCA   | letter, in person   |
| D.C.           | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | move from D.C., failure to vote in 4 yrs.   | yes                                 | re-register at county clerk's office or file affidavit at least 29 days before next elec.   | no previous affiliation required  | d, anyone more than 50 miles from residence qualified to use FPCA   | letter, in person   |
| Puerto Rico    | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | move from D.C., failure to vote in 4 yrs.   | yes                                 | re-register at county clerk's office or file affidavit at least 29 days before next elec.   | no previous affiliation required  | d, anyone more than 50 miles from residence qualified to use FPCA   | letter, in person   |
| Virgin Islands | primary day                        | election day                        | 30 days   | 30 days                        | 30 days                          | 30 days before primary  | 30 days before election  | move from D.C., failure to vote in 4 yrs.   | yes                                 | re-register at county clerk's office or file affidavit at least 29 days before next elec.   | no previous affiliation required  | d, anyone more than 50 miles from residence qualified to use FPCA   | letter, in person   |

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League of Women Voters Education Fund

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(1976?)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Range of Involvement

INDIVIDUAL

- ☒ Reading newspapers
- ☒ Listening
- ☒ Writing letters to editors
- ☒ Attend public meetings
- ☒ Talk to public officials
- ☐ Other talk to others
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION

- ☒ Join a group or organization
- ☒ Participate in group actions
- ☒ Assume leadership responsibilities
- ☒ Participate in action programs
- ☒ Lobby as member of organization
- ☐ Work through political process.
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC ROLE

- ☒ Volunteer to work with public program
- ☒ Accept appointment to committee or commission
- ☐ Become a candidate for elected office
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

1. CHECK THE WAYS THAT YOU PARTICIPATE AS A CITIZEN.
2. CIRCLE THOSE CHECKED THAT YOU CONSIDER ACTIVE FORMS OF PARTICIPATION.
3. CONSIDER HOW PARTICIPATION CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVE AT ANY STAGE OF INVOLVEMENT.



# Go register yourself.

AT ELECTION TIME, WE'RE WILLING TO GIVE YOU THE SHIRTS OFF OUR BACKS!

[ 1976? ]

Well, almost.

● Now for just \$3.75 each you can order a T-shirt that announces to the world, it's time to "GO REGISTER YOURSELF."

Ours alone, these short-sleeved white cotton shirts come with navy blue collar, cuffs and lettering. Discounts for orders by the dozen available. Adult sizes (small, medium, large, extra large) available (sorry no children's sizes).

And to help you make our slogan "GO REGISTER YOURSELF" really stick...we're also offering:

● 3x11½" vinyl bumper stickers in black with white lettering to tell traffic to "GO REGISTER YOURSELF." Just \$4.00 for 25 stickers (sorry smaller quantities not available). Discounts on large orders (in multiples of 25 only).

● 1½" metal buttons in black with white lettering to pin citizens down to "GO REGISTER YOURSELF," only \$3.00 for 25 (sorry smaller quantities not offered). Discounts for large orders (in multiples of 25 only).

It takes four weeks for delivery so you'd better get going while the offer lasts. Better order a few extra shirts.

Once your friends and neighbors see you wearing our slogan, we think they'll want the shirt off your back too!

(ORDER INFORMATION ON OTHER SIDE)

# Go register yourself.

Order from: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE U.S., Box 153, Savage, Maryland 20863

PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING "GO REGISTER YOURSELF" ITEMS:

T-SHIRTS White cotton, short sleeved shirts with navy blue collar, cuffs and lettering.  
☐ INDIVIDUAL SHIRTS at \$3.75 each (please note number wanted in each size)

\_\_\_\_small \_\_\_\_medium \_\_\_\_large \_\_\_\_extra large (all shirts adult sizes, sorry no  
children's sizes available)

T-SHIRTS BY THE DOZEN at \$36.00 per dozen

☐ Dozen standard assortment (2 small, 4 medium, 4 large, 2 extra large)

☐ Dozen your choice of sizes (\_\_\_\_small, \_\_\_\_medium, \_\_\_\_large, \_\_\_\_extra large)

## BUMPER STICKERS

Vinyl (3" x 11½") bumper stickers in black with white lettering.

☐ 25 bumper stickers for \$4.00 (no smaller quantities available)

☐ 100 bumper stickers for \$15.00

## BUTTONS

1½" metal buttons with spring pin in black with white lettering.

☐ 25 buttons for \$3.00 (no smaller quantities available)

☐ 100 buttons for \$10.00

Maryland Residents must add 4% sales tax.

\_\_\_\_TOTAL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED

Please send materials to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please allow approximately four weeks for delivery.

# ELECTION '76: issues not images

- ☒ John Blank, a Name You Can Believe In
- ☒ Vote Smith, For A Change
- ☒ Richard Nixon—Now More Than Ever
- ☒ Vote for a Better Tomorrow—Jane So-and-So
- ☒ Come Home America—Elect George McGovern
- ☒ Henry Anybody, He Cares

*Sound and fury, signifying nothing . . . a fair description of the election year slogans and overblown rhetoric that aim to create a favorable aura around a candidate without getting down to hard questions.*

*Elections are a cornerstone of our democratic system—but only if the choices people make at the ballot box are real choices. Not just choices between individuals but between priorities, between different solutions to crucial public problems. Yet campaigns often seem to be designed deliberately to avoid offering these choices. Meanwhile, voter turnout keeps going down. Maybe there's a connection.*

*This publication says there is. Our working assumption—one backed by some expert opinion—is that people would be more willing to take part in politics if they could see direct links between marking that **x** and getting the kind of action they want on the problems they care most about. These links can and should be officials elected on the basis of their known views on issues. But it won't happen without a new push for campaigns that focus on issues, not images. This COMMUNITY GUIDE takes a look at why it's uphill work to get the issues aired. It offers practical suggestions on what you can do:*

- *to help your community identify the real issues.*
- *to make the candidates focus on the issues.*
- *to let the public know where each candidate stands.*

*It's a how-to tool to help you promote the kind of campaigning that gives voters a sense of power over their own future, a sense that they can be more than mere passive consumers—or victims.*





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In 1776  
voting was  
a revolutionary idea.

In 1976  
it still is!



  
VOTE





## WHAT'S WRONG WITH POLITICS?

*All of us know of some governmental problems that ought to be solved but nobody seems able to solve. Or jobs that ought to be done but somehow don't get done. Issues that should be settled, policies that ought to change, plans that must be made.*

*But there's not much that ordinary people can do about it, right?*

*Wrong. Ordinary people can change politics completely.*

*How? The political action is in Washington or the state capitol or county courthouse — somewhere remote and out of reach, right?*

*Wrong. The political action starts in your neighborhood. That's where the decisions are made that create the changes you want.*

*What difference does that make to the people at the top? The political disclosures of the past year show that the only thing politicians are interested in is increasing their own power. Right?*

*Wrong. Some are. That's true of every kind of activity. But what those disclosures really show is that the system is strong and healthy enough to discover the wrong-doers and deal with them.*

*But the system works only for people who have influence and the time for politics, right?*

*Right. And whether you realize it or not, you do have influence. If you have enough interest to take the time to read up on issues, speak your mind and, above all, register and vote.*

*Votes carry weight. Voters wield influence. Nobody has ever successfully stood against a sizeable group of informed American voters. Those who wrote the Constitution trusted a free electorate.*

*They were confident of the power of the ballot, 200 years ago. The excitement of self-government was running through America. The air was alive with political ideas; everyone was eager to exercise his new political muscles. The rights of the American citizen were not a burden — they were an exciting challenge.*

*In 1776 voting was a revolutionary idea — one that created a miracle of government.*

*It can renew that miracle at every election.*

*But only if we understand the promise that our system offers. And respond to it.*

*We've got to do better than we have done. In 1974, less than half the eligible voters in America took the trouble to cast a ballot. A system based on citizen involvement can't operate at that level of participation. The promise of self-government cannot be fulfilled unless we really want to govern ourselves by thinking and voting.*

*But if we respond — by informing ourselves, by going to the polls and by working actively in politics if we're inclined that way — the American political system will be responsive, productive, effective.*

*It will accomplish whatever we want to do.*

*What's wrong with politics? Nothing that voters can't cure.*

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your work, your influence, your vote count.

In New Hampshire the 1974 Senate election was so close (only two votes separated the winner and loser) that for the first time in U.S. history a special election was ordered to select a United States Senator.

John F. Kennedy was elected President of the United States by less than two-tenths of one percent of the votes cast. Had a mere 75,814 votes gone the other way in the right states, Richard Nixon would have won.

A recent race for Governor of Minnesota was decided by 46 voters. That's less than one vote in each county.

You can change the course of Politics. If you really want to make a change. The system is delicately balanced. The weight you throw one way or another can shift the direction we move in any election.

And in the party selection of candidates, you can make your influence count with maximum impact. The vote you cast at a precinct caucus, party election or town meeting, for instance, can exert terrific leverage all the way up the party structure. Working with party organizations at any level gives your ideas their greatest clout.

What you want to do can make a difference. That's what our political system is for.

How do you do it? Learn, work, register, vote.

## BEYOND PARTY POLITICS

Our political structure provides both a context and a tool for helping you express your point of view and swing others to your way of thinking. But there are other effective ways to work, as well.

Outside the party, and between elections, you can continue to work on public issues in several ways:

*Write your congressman.* The Mayor. The President. Letters count in bringing your influence to bear where it will do the most good. Most public officials watch their mail carefully.

*Organize political action groups* of your friends and others who hold your point of view. Such groups have been very effective in recent years — in pollution abatement programs, for instance, and in voter registration drives and in influencing tax and housing policies.

*Hold meetings and rallies* to get public attention for your cause.

*Meet with community leaders*, political organizers and office-holders and with those who influence private and public agencies. You'll find that the vast majority of these leaders will welcome the chance to talk with you, will appreciate your interest, will be glad to have an opportunity to learn your views and to express their ideas to you.

*Form a Third Party* — or a Fourth or Fifth one. If the traditional parties don't give your point of view an adequate representation, set up in business for yourself. It has been done successfully — particularly on the local and state levels.

The political process in the United States is largely a process of organizing opinion on public issues. It is the business of getting more and more people to think the way you do. No matter how acute your ideas may be — and no matter how sincerely they may be held — they will not effectively influence issues unless you can persuade others to your point of view. Our society, for the most part, is what the majority of us says it should be. Party politics — and the work you do outside the parties — is designed to make the majority responsive to individual needs. And to make the whole society responsive to problems identified by majority opinion.

## Must I Be Registered In Order to Vote?

Yes. In Minnesota you must be registered before you can vote. You may register in one of two ways:

- In most counties you may pre-register at any time up to 20 days before election;
- You may register as you vote on election day.

If you wish to register before election day, contact your city clerk or county auditor for proper registration forms.

If you wish to register on election day, you must present one of the following to the election judge as proof of your address:

- A valid drivers license with your current address;
- A valid non-qualification certificate with your current address;
- A registered voter residing in your voting precinct who will attest to your residency at your current address.

Once you have registered you will not need to re-register providing that you do not move or change your name and you vote at least once every four years.

## Where Do I Register and Vote?

If you believe you can legally claim more than one place as a residence, for voting purposes you must determine which place you consider to be your permanent residence. It is for you to decide, but you may be registered and vote in only one precinct.

As a student living away from your original, family residence, you may choose to vote in the precinct in which your family's residence is located. Or, you may choose to vote at your school address while you attend school.

Employment or other circumstances may also provide you the option of selecting a voting residence from more than one location.

Your previous registration is cancelled when you change your residence and register in a new precinct.

## Am I Eligible to Vote?

You are entitled to vote in any election if you:

- Are eighteen years old;
- Have been a Citizen of the United States for three months;
- Have been a resident of Minnesota for at least twenty days;
- Are properly registered.

You are not entitled to vote if you have been convicted of treason or a felony or have been judged mentally incompetent and are under guardianship. After serving a sentence for treason or a felony, a person's civil rights are restored and he or she may again qualify to vote.

## May I Vote by Mail?

If you will be away from your voting residence on election day, are ill or are disabled you may vote by absentee ballot. Contact your county auditor's office to apply for a ballot.

Once you have received a ballot application, return the application within 45 days of an election but in sufficient time for the ballot to be mailed to you. Once you have received the ballot follow the instructions and mail it in time to have it counted.

## What if I am in the Armed Forces?

If you are a member of the Armed Forces, to request an absentee ballot contact the county auditor in your home community or use the special postcard form available at military bases to request a ballot.

You can have a relative at home file a request for you. A request for a Primary Election ballot is considered to be a request for a General Election ballot also.

These voting rights are also extended to U.S. Citizens temporarily living outside the country.

## May I Take Time Off from Work to Vote?

You may take time off from your work to vote before noon on General Election Day or on the day of a special congressional election without penalty or loss of pay for the time off.

## May I Offer Another Voter a Ride?

You may give rides to voters who might not otherwise have a way to get to their polling place. However you may not attempt to influence the voter toward a particular candidate, party or issue during the ride.

## How Do I Cast My Vote?

When you vote you will be using one of three voting systems — a paper ballot, a lever-type voting machine, or a punch-card voting machine. If you are unfamiliar with the method used in your precinct, be sure to ask for help from the election judges. They are trained to help.

Sample ballots are posted in the polling place to help familiarize you with the location of the offices and the questions on the ballot.

When you vote, you may vote for whatever offices you choose from among those on the ballot. For any one office, you may not vote for more than the number to be elected or your vote will not be counted for that office.

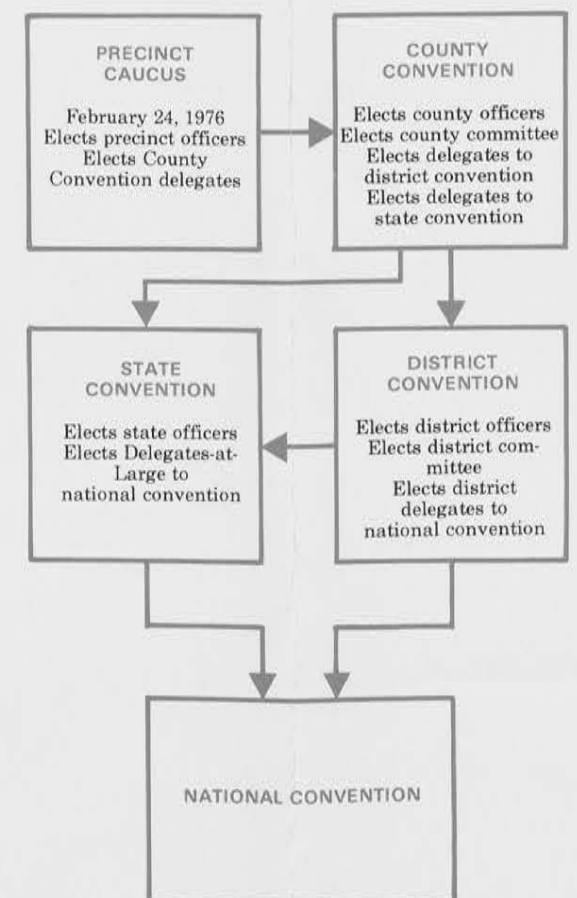
When amendments to the State Constitution are on the ballot, if you do not vote on the amendment, you are actually voting no. To pass, an amendment requires a majority of yes votes from all who vote in the election.

## What's the Role of Political Parties?

Political Parties play an important part in the election system through:

- Endorsing and supporting candidates for office.
- Passing resolutions, thus helping to develop the party platform.
- Electing officers and committees to manage the party's business from year to year.

The goal of the political party is to win voters for the policies and the candidates it supports — thus putting into action its philosophies of government and its views on matters of public concern. The two major parties differ in ways of accomplishing this objective, but the major elements of operation are the same in both parties. This is outlined in the diagram below:



Technically, to be considered a political party under Minnesota law, an organization must have presented, at the most recent general election, at least one statewide candidate who received at least 5% of the total vote cast for all candidates at that election.

The only two parties which consistently meet the legal definition in Minnesota are the Republican and the Democratic-Farmer-Labor parties.

Other parties or groups may place one or more candidates on the General Election ballot by submitting petitions signed by 2,000 voters for a statewide office, 1,000 voters for U.S. Representative, or 500 voters for a county or legislative office.

## How Do I Get Involved in a Political Party?

A good way is to attend your precinct caucus.

Precinct caucuses are neighborhood meetings of persons who agree with the principles of a particular political party. There, you and your neighbors will encourage candidates to seek office, adopt resolutions on issues, and select officers and delegates to county and district conventions.

All precinct caucuses in Minnesota for both the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and the Republican Party will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 1976, beginning at 8:00 PM.

You may attend the caucus in your precinct if you will be a qualified voter by the next general election — November 2, 1976. You will need to decide which party's caucus you wish to attend since you may not participate in more than one party's caucus in any year.

No prior party affiliation is required but you must declare your intent to affiliate with the party and to support its candidates at the next election when you arrive at your caucus.

To find out the location of the caucus in your precinct contact your county auditor any time after February 3, 1976.

## Election '76 Calendar

Today —  
Register to vote

Tuesday, February 24  
PRECINCT CAUCUS DAY

Tuesday, July 6 to  
Tuesday, July 20  
Filing period for elective office

Tuesday, August 24  
Last day to pre-register for the Primary Election

Tuesday, Sept. 14  
STATE PRIMARY ELECTION

Tuesday, Oct. 12  
Last day to pre-register for the General Election

Tuesday, November 2  
STATE GENERAL ELECTION

*The strength of the American political and governmental process lies in large part on broad-based, responsible political parties. Parties provide a way to seek out, endorse and elect qualified candidates. They help to identify issues and inform voters. Through their elected candidates and party platforms they address questions of concern to people throughout Minnesota.*

*By becoming informed, participating in politics and — importantly — by voting, you insure a more responsive, responsible government.*

*James S. Fencil*  
Chairman  
Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party

*Ruth Levin*  
Associate Chairperson  
Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party

*Charles A. Selverum*  
Chairman  
Republican Party

*Cathy M. Ring*  
Chairwoman  
Republican Party



*Minnesotans, we have the opportunity to truly celebrate two hundred years of citizen participation which began in revolution and continues in commitment.*

*As chief election official in Minnesota, I urge every citizen to participate fully in the 1976 election as evidence of present affirmation of the goals of our heritage.*

*If we begin Century Three of the United States with this personal pledge, the vote we cast November 2, 1976, will be the greatest participation known in this state. We honor the heritage of two hundred years when we preserve freedom by responsibility.*

*We acknowledge recognition by the Minnesota-American Revolution Bicentennial Commission as we distribute this poster, which has been declared an official Bicentennial Event in Minnesota.*

*Joan Anderson Browne*  
Secretary of State





candidate pick a  
pick a candidate  
candidate pick a  
pick a candidate  
candidate pick a cand  
candidate pick a co  
pick a candidate pi  
candidate pick a c  
pick a candidate pi



# Pick a candidate What's your voter profile?

This voter's guide has three parts:

- Know thyself
- Know the candidates
- Know the issues

the essential ingredients for smart voting. Use it to pick the candidates who will work for you.

How do you make up your mind on the issues? on the candidates?

If you want your vote to mean more than an "eenie-meenie" choice, you have to get in touch with yourself. What matters to you? Why do you choose A over B? What makes you identify with one candidate but not the opponent? Ask yourself some questions.

Are honesty and a reputation for integrity most important to you? Or do hard work and attention to detail matter more? Do you set more store by experience than new ideas? Do you want a candidate to have a strong educational background or are you more impressed by a "self-made" person?

Run down the list below and see if you spot your profile anywhere.

**Voting introvert/extrovert** What looms largest: how a candidate's plans would affect you personally? How they would affect your country? How they would affect the entire world?

**Pocketbook voter** Your tax dollars buy public services. Would you rather pay a little extra to tackle a problem *now* before it gets bigger? Or would you rather wait to worry about it and maybe pay more later? *Do you vote for today or tomorrow?*

**"Groupie" voter** Do you vote for the candidate of your sex, race, religion, nationality, country club, carpool or bowling team?

**Glamor voter** Do you vote for the candidate with the good looks, the fetching grin or the brash manner? Are you swayed by a candidate's breeding or "clan"? By an entourage of movie stars, war heroes, astronauts, and athletes?

**"Terror" voter** How do you react to crisis or claims of crisis? When you hear a candidate declaiming about "the most chilling problem in our 200-year history," do you get the urge to jump on the bandwagon? When a candidate singles out one cause of all our troubles—purveyors of smut . . . or an international conspiracy . . . or working mothers—and offers an equally simple solution, are you tempted to go along with the quick fix? Or would you sooner hold off, listen, look around for more facts, calmer voices to pinpoint urgencies, talk about complexities, sort out genuine from pseudo threats? Voting is not easy in a democracy—it was never meant to be. It takes guts. It takes brains. Read on.

© 1976 League of Women Voters Education Fund

## See through the images

Camelot . . . the New Frontier . . . the Great Society . . . the Generation of Peace . . . Slogans have always helped to create political climates. No doubt about it, the mass media, the commercial as a shaper of our choices, and the quickening pace of American living have changed the ways we comprehend politics. Style, far more than substance, weighs heavily in today's campaign. It can even stack the deck. A political campaign today is too often an *image* campaign.

Probing for issues when images have come to dominate the political scene can make you feel like a latter-day Sherlock. Investigation is hard work, but the reward is a margin of assurance that you'll get some "product satisfaction."

Let's look at some investigative techniques.

## Become immune to emotional appeals

**Television commercials** Let's say you've seen a paid political ad. Ask yourself: "What did the agency-tailored, custom-made product tell me about Candidate X? Did the ad change my attitude? If so was it because of the music, the scenery, the snappy script, or did I learn something about an issue—something important?" Don't be snowed by the glitter. You *can* learn about issues, even from a 60-second TV ad, if the candidate wants you to or if you get good at peeling back the surface layers.

**Direct Mail** Nowadays candidates use direct mail messages. Many look like personal letters typed out and signed just for you, but thousands of people probably got the same letter. Read the letter carefully and look for any clear statements on where the candidate stands on the big problems. It may be more than just run-of-the-mill junk mail; then again, maybe not.

**Bombast** Do we need all the hot air that's generated at election time? Listen to a candidate's appeals and arguments. Then decide if they are targeted for your emotions alone. Is the candidate trying to make you mad enough to accept certain arguments without question? Maybe war injuries or a poverty-stricken childhood should get your sympathy, but they shouldn't get your vote. Look for the facts. Don't be swayed or carried away by emotional appeals.

## See through stock distortion tactics

**Name calling** In a classic case, one politician won an election when he alleged that his opponent "once matriculated" and that his opponent's wife was a "thespian." Aside from the ignorant and the absurd, inflammatory statements that distort truth can be just as damaging. A candidate might, for example, call an opponent's behavior "wishy-washy" or "two-faced" when it should more accurately be described as a change of mind, as flexibility or responsiveness. Don't be sidetracked, either, by attacks on a candidate based on family matters, ethnicity, or other personals that don't make a difference in performance.

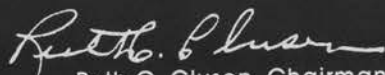


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## Election '76 issues not images

The 1,350 Leagues around the country are putting their full weight behind a push to make this election year one in which voters get what they need from candidates up and down the line—honest answers to their questions and clear proposals about how to solve the problems that matter most to citizens today. Leagues have a long and respected tradition of publishing voters guides to help citizens make informed choices at the ballot box. "Pick a Candidate", published by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, is a guide that voters everywhere can put to use as they seek to get past the images and down to basic issues in Election '76.



Ruth C. Clusen, Chairman  
League of Women Voters Education Fund

Order from

The League of Women Voters of the United States  
1730 M Street, N.W. • Washington, D. C. 20037  
Pub. No. 259



Price: 100 for \$3

# TOWN 7/6 MEETING

WELCOME

TALKS

INTERLUDE

WORKSHOPS

PLENARY



TOWN MEETING '76 is a one-day community gathering celebrating the American Revolution Bicentennial. Sponsored by local groups in some five thousand American communities, TOWN MEETING '76 will engage more than one million people in creating practical proposals for the nation's future direction. The

quarter million proposals will be summarized as an inclusive vision of the future of America in the new world of the next two hundred years. In many communities TOWN MEETING '76 has catalyzed continuing citizen involvement in shaping the community's future.

THE  
WELCOME

coffee &  
registration

THE TIMES AND  
THE BICENTENNIAL ERA  
talk

THE PRESENT CHALLENGES  
workshop

THE  
INTERLUDE

buffet &  
drama

THE FUTURE AND  
THE AMERICAN CITIZEN  
talk

THE PRACTICAL PROPOSALS  
workshop

THE  
PLENARY

reports &  
closing

# WELCOME

TOWN MEETING '76 is a community forum with a format carefully designed for use in some five thousand communities. While the day's activity is structured, the atmosphere is informal. Beginning at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts, the opening plenary session includes community singing, conversation and visiting. The day includes two workshop sessions, a celebrative lunch, two talks on the Bicentennial Era and the American Citizen, and a closing plenary session.

WELCOME

TALKS

INTERLUDE

WORKSHOPS

PLENARY

"We have arrived at an  
historical vantage point...  
where the wasteland ends and...  
human wholeness and  
fulfillment begin."

Theodore Roszak

THE  
WELCOME

coffee &  
registration

THE TIMES AND  
THE BICENTENNIAL ERA  
talk

THE PRESENT CHALLENGES  
workshop

THE  
INTERLUDE

buffet &  
drama

THE FUTURE AND  
THE AMERICAN CITIZEN  
talk

THE PRACTICAL PROPOSALS  
workshop

THE  
PLENARY

reports &  
closing

TOWN MEETING '76 sets the  
context for the two major  
workshops with two short talks  
beginning the morning and  
afternoon sessions. The first, The  
Times and the Bicentennial Era,

# TALKS

articulates the new world we are  
entering at the threshold of the next  
two hundred years. The second, The  
Future and the American Citizen,  
indicates the issues, responsibilities,  
and possibilities given us as citizens  
in this new era.

TALKS

INTERLUDE

WORKSHOPS

PLENARY

"Man  
must humbly but with courage  
accept responsibility  
for the destiny of mankind."

Clyde Kluckhohn

THE  
WELCOME  
  
coffee &  
registration

THE TIMES AND  
THE BICENTENNIAL ERA  
talk  
  
THE PRESENT CHALLENGES  
workshop

THE  
INTERLUDE  
  
buffet &  
drama

THE FUTURE AND  
THE AMERICAN CITIZEN  
talk  
  
THE PRACTICAL PROPOSALS  
workshop

THE  
PLENARY  
  
reports &  
closing

TOWN MEETING '76 celebrates the creativity of the local community with a festive noonday interlude. As the community representatives enjoy an informal lunch, special guests and local leaders are recognized, and an array of local

## INTERLUDE

entertainment (professional and amateur, planned and spontaneous) highlights the meal. Dancing, music, comedy, and singing blend into a powerful happening in the middle of the day.

INTERLUDE

WORKSHOPS

PLENARY

"All the great civilizations  
had one thing in common,  
a positive image of the future  
infusing the present with  
purpose and expectation."

Robert Bundy

THE  
WELCOME

coffee &  
registration

THE TIMES AND  
THE BICENTENNIAL ERA  
talk

THE PRESENT CHALLENGES  
workshop

THE  
INTERLUDE

buffet &  
drama

THE FUTURE AND  
THE AMERICAN CITIZEN  
talk

THE PRACTICAL PROPOSALS  
workshop

THE  
PLENARY

reports &  
closing

TOWN MEETING '76 appropriates the unique insights of community residents  
in two major workshop sessions. In the morning session the participants  
analyze the underlying challenges facing our nation. In the afternoon they use

# WORKSHOPS

the data from the morning's work to write practical proposals for meeting the  
present challenges, and create a story, song, and symbol for America's  
Bicentennial Era.

WORKSHOPS

PLENARY



"We hold this annual celebration  
to remind ourselves of all the good  
done in the process of time,  
of how it was done and who did it  
and how we are historically connected with it.  
And we go from these meetings  
in better humor with ourselves  
—we feel more attached the one to the other  
and more firmly bound to the country we inhabit."

Abraham Lincoln

THE  
WELCOME  
  
coffee &  
registration

THE TIMES AND  
THE BICENTENNIAL ERA  
talk  
  
THE PRESENT CHALLENGES  
workshop

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buffet &  
drama

THE FUTURE AND  
THE AMERICAN CITIZEN  
talk  
  
THE PRACTICAL PROPOSALS  
workshop

THE  
PLENARY  
  
reports &  
closing

TOWN MEETING '76 ends with a closing plenary session which draws together the day's work with reports from each of the workshop groups. It is cast in a highly celebrative mood, marking the dramatic conclusion of the day. At 5:00 p.m. the community residents return home with a document holding their proposals for the future, a new story articulating their community's role in American history, and a renewed sense of the American revolutionary spirit.

PLENARY

PLENARY

TOWN MEETING '76 was developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a not-for-profit research, demonstration, and training group concerned with the human factor in world development. It is offered under local sponsorship by a nationwide volunteer staff of specially trained community leaders. For further information, contact the Institute of Cultural Affairs:

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*Pick a  
candidate  
with  
answers  
that make  
sense to  
you*

*Register*  
**VOTE**

*Register*  
**VOTE**

*Register*  
**VOTE**

*Have  
it  
your  
way*

League of Women Voters Education Fund  
1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036  
Pub No. 392 - 100 for \$5.00, minimum order.

**You  
can  
make  
your  
VOTE  
count**

**Find out  
where the  
candidates  
stand  
on the  
issues**

honesty in government  
jobs bankrupt cities  
sewage treatment  
capital punishment  
health care pollution  
the budget welfare  
foreign aid inflation  
schools clean water  
gun control zoning  
detente food stamps  
nuclear power ERA  
drug abuse clean air  
government spending  
mass transit abortion  
civil rights recycling  
crime world hunger  
land planning busing  
individual freedoms  
foreign trade day care  
revenue sharing taxes  
textbook censorship  
juvenile delinquency  
strip-mining the UN  
women's rights parks  
low-income housing  
senior citizens courts  
open space energy



**Repro Proofs of Registration and Voting Information.** One sheet containing three pieces of black and white artwork you can use as is or reproduce to meet your needs. Includes 1) a series of illustrations counting the last eight days in which to register, 2) logo on the "inform yourself and vote" theme, 3) 1½" square symbol: "For nonpartisan information, call the League of Women Voters." Use them in bulletins, on flyers and other campaign materials. #207. **Free.**

**Voters Service Handbook.** How to plan and carry out an overall program of voters service activities from start to finish. A must for LWV chairmen. 1968. 56 pp. #330.

**Marked down from \$1, now half-price, 50¢.**

**Voters Service Reaches Out: A Swap Shop of New Ways to Serve the Voter.** Lots of ideas for encouraging informed voting. April 1973. 4 pp. #276. **Was 25¢, now just 15¢.**

**Vistas for Voters Service, Issue 1.** In-depth examples of local LWV successes show how voters service work dovetails with other kinds of citizen education efforts. Includes reports on observing criminal courts, supervising an election, using radio to air local issues. 1969. 12 pp. #362. **Half-price, 25¢.**

## In a presidential election year

**Presidential Accountability.** By Jon Mills, Fletcher N. Baldwin and the staff of the Center for Governmental Responsibility. A study of the growth of presidential power, consequences of increased power and limits on the presidency as well as alternatives for reform. 1975. 26 pp. #EF578. **60¢.**

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### Order today!

To speed your order, use the correct publication number with each item.

Publications of the League of Women Voters Education Fund are designated by the code letters "EF," which appear as part of the publication number.

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election '76



# Super Sale

Don't miss this once-in-a-life-time chance to pick up voters service bargains at incredibly low prices!!!

**Act now while supplies last.**

## "How-to" tools

### **Making It Work: A Guide to Training Election Workers.**

How to set up and carry out training sessions for voter registration and polling place workers. Everything a concerned citizen group needs to know. For election officials, too. 1973. 32 pp. #EF271. **35¢**

### **Election Check-Up: Monitoring Registration and Voting.**

Complete how-to's for monitoring, with sample checklists easily tailored to any League's or citizen group's effort. 1973. 36 pp. #EF270. **35¢.**

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Pragmatic advice on building coalitions. How to bring together groups of diverse races, cultures, ages. How to work together to achieve common goals. 1971. 16 pp. #EF674. **25¢.**

### **The Politics of Change.**

Helps the concerned citizen identify important community issues. Who to contact? How to take a poll? Find the answers here. 1972. 16 pp. #EF107. **35¢.**

### **Breaking Into Broadcasting.**

Looks at opportunities to use radio and television. Gives practical advice on how to get coverage, produce radio and TV spots and films. 1975. 6 pp. #586. **25¢.**

**Getting Into Print.** Tips on how to get good coverage from the print media. 1974. 4 pp. #484. **25¢.**

## Especially For Leagues

**Voters Service Expands Its Boundaries.** Local Leagues share techniques for filling a community's information gap on issues of local concern. 1975. 2 pp. #EF569. **15¢.**

**Citizen Information/Voters Service Meets Community Needs.** More citizen information ideas from local Leagues: Everything from "how to register" to "how to locate mental health facilities." July 1975. 2 pp. #EF558. **15¢.**

**Your Vote Makes A Difference Poster.** 14" x 22". Handsome deep blue and gold poster bears League name in bold type. Comes complete with sturdy easel for display in the community at any voting time. Write for free actual color proof. #148.

**Now marked down for clearance: 5/60¢ (minimum order), 10/\$1.**



VOTE



VOTE



## the concept

There is today a deep, vast Town Meeting going on in the hearts and minds of the American people. The successive shocks of civil rights, the assassinations, the urban crisis, and the rural migration, Vietnam, the Population Bomb, Watergate, the energy crisis, world famine and 12% inflation have occasioned a serious, but yet encouraging dialogue across the nation.

Town Meeting '76 provides a positive and local avenue for this dialogue through a community Bicentennial event.

**TOWN  
MEETING  
76**

**Institute of Cultural Affairs**  
2302 Blaisdell Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404  
(612) 871-8382

The world is my country; all mankind are my brethren.

*Thomas Paine 1776*

The eyes of all people are upon us.

*John Winthrop 1630*

I know of no way of judging the future but by the past.

*Patrick Henry 1775*

To pursue the change now begun it becomes necessary to picture in realistic terms that society which has been the subject of dreams.

*Henry Clark*

This is not a season to be mealymouthed, or to mince matters; the times are precarious and perilous.

*The Sentinel 1776*

All the great civilizations had one thing in common, a positive image of the future infusing the present with the purpose and expectation.

*Robert Bundy*

This radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments and affections of the people was the real American Revolution.

*John Adams 1818*

Brochure designed by  
C. Gubitz Jankowski  
Criteria

**TOWN  
MEETING  
76**





I never thought people from such diverse backgrounds socially and culturally, could sit down and do this kind of work together.

**Paul Wood, Model Cities Director**  
*Highland Park, Michigan*

This group of local residents demonstrated the revival of the town meeting, a form of local responsibility which has not been used in our city for over one hundred years.

**T.V. News Commentator**  
*Cincinnati, Ohio*

I'm Amazed at the kind of spirit these methods are able to generate.

**Robert Osborn**  
*Mayors Assistant*  
*St. Louis, MO.*

I'm impressed with the effectiveness of these methods in allowing us to deal with concrete issues in a comprehensive context.

**Ernesto Rubio**  
*Model Cities Employee*  
*San Antonio, Texas*

These methods are just what was needed today; people could get out issues and talk about them with each other without obliterating the other party.

**Jerry Armans,**  
*Human Relations Dept.*  
*San Jose, California*

## welcome talk

coffee  
and  
registration

"the times and the  
bicentennial era"

## Workshop

"the present  
challenges"

## interlude talk

buffet  
and  
drama

"the future and the  
american citizen"

## Workshop

"the practical  
proposals"

## plenary

reports  
and  
closing

## the day

The Town Meeting is a one day community gathering being held in the facilities of Whittier school and involving many people, from youth to elders, executives to blue collar, singles and families. It provides an exciting avenue for systematic analysis of the challenges of our time, the creation of practical proposals for responding to those challenges, and the demonstration that Whittier is a living, learning community.

Beginning at 9 a.m. with coffee and donuts, the day includes two short talks, two workshop sessions, a lunch with entertainment, and a celebrative closing session at 4 p.m.

## the perspective

What makes Town Meeting '76 unique in the multitude of activities which make up the Bicentennial celebration? Town Meeting '76 is a future-oriented celebration of the last 200 years and it fulfills the strong desire of local citizens to voice their concerns where they feel their ideas can make a difference. It introduces analytic and decision making methods which will help communities create new solutions to their present challenges. The methods enable individuals with divergent opinions to wrestle with actual needs and issues. It moves the local citizens beyond cynicism to real excitement for the future.

## the coordinator

Town Meeting '76 was developed specifically for the Bicentennial Celebration, by the Institute of Cultural Affairs. The ICA will provide trained leadership, participants' workbooks, operational designs, and will compile and summarize the proposals for publication.