

The **VOTER**

Vol. 54, No. 2

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Kent

April 2007

Forums Set in Streetsboro, Kent for May Primary Election Contests

The Kent League of Women Voters is hosting three candidate forums in preparation for the May 8 primary election.

First up is a forum for the eight mayoral candidates in Streetsboro. The forum is set for April 19 at Streetsboro High School, 1900 Annalane Drive, Streetsboro. Start time is 7 p.m.

Next up is a forum for Kent City Council Ward 5 and Ward 6 candidates on April 26. The Ward 5 candidates will meet voters at the Kentway Apartments, 360 E. Summit Street, Kent. Start time is 7 p.m. The forum for Ward 6 candidates is set for the same day

and time at Walls Elementary School, 900 Doramor Street, Kent.

Plans for a forum featuring Ravenna mayoral candidates are under discussion. More information will be provided when it becomes available.

To make the events a success, volunteers are needed for each of the three confirmed forums. Tasks include timing responses, providing refreshments, setting up, reviewing questions and cleaning up. If you can help, contact Terrie Nielsen at 330/274-0864 or ntandd@yahoo.com.

LWVK Completes State, Local Program Planning

The view of Kent League members who participated in this year's program planning session on February 9 was that the Kent League's position statements on parks and recreation and Kent city finances should be updated and that the state League's position statements on government, social policy and natural resources should be retained without changes.

The local parks and recreation position was last updated

See *PLANNING*, p. 3.

Health Department, Senior Citizens Levies on May Primary Ballot

Two levies—one to support the Portage County Health Department and one to benefit the county's senior citizens—have been placed on the May 8 primary ballot. Each levy will be discussed at a public forum on April 14 in the library at Kent Roosevelt High School, 1400 N. Mantua Street. Start time is 9:30 a.m.

The Portage County Health Department levy is for 0.4 mil and will generate \$1,124,529 annually for five years. For a \$100,000 home, the tax would be \$12.60 per year.

If the levy passes, the money will be used to reduce the fees charged for services. In addition, some of the money will be used to pay for a full-time health educator.

See *LEVIES*, p. 3.



LWVK Events Alert . . .

Thursday, April 19 & 26, 7 p.m.;

Saturday, April 14, 9:30 a.m.

Candidate forums in Kent and Streetsboro; issues forum in Kent and issue forums; various locations; see articles on page 1 and back-page calendar.

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Lake Erie Basin Committee Proposes Position Statement on CAFOs

The Lake Erie Basin Committee (LEBC), a multi-League organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Lake Erie and its watershed, has proposed the following position statement on concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) for possible adoption by the member Leagues. The proposal has two provisions:

- Support of a precautionary moratorium on all new concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) that produce untreated animal waste.
- Support of improved and similar wastewater transportation, delivery and treatment systems on each CAFO site within the Lake Erie watershed, equivalent to the state requirements for municipalities producing the same volume of human waste. Safe nutrient management practices and disposal of sludge should be included in the requirements in order to maintain adequate water quality standards in ground and surface waters.

Mega-farms, or CAFOs, are increasing rapidly around the state, especially in northwest Ohio. A feedlot operation where hundreds or thousands of hogs, cattle or poultry are confined is known as a CAFO. On the plus side, mass production of eggs, milk or bacon can be more efficient than producing them in local farms. Local farmers can sell their crops to feed nearby herds and get back soil nutrients in the form of manure applied to their fields. On the negative side, local dairies then go out of business. Millions of gallons of ground water are pumped daily for the animals and to clean out the manure and bedding material and stored in huge lagoons. Haulers then spread this untreated waste on fields in the area, which may contaminate both ground and surface water.

The LEBC asks that all Leagues in northern Ohio concur with the proposed position on CAFOs as outlined above. The Kent League is a member of the LEBC and, as such, invites local members to participate in the concurrence on CAFOs. To voice your opinion, call 330/678-1261 or 330/673-1193 or send an e-mail to nhankins@att.net before April 11. All comments will be considered at the Kent League's April 11 board meeting.

Immigration Study Under Way Locally

The national League of Women Voters' immigration study got under way locally with a focus on the basics. That included a meeting at which committee members distributed a glossary of terms and shared information that members had collected from schools and the International Institute in Akron.

Attorney Mary Lynn Pac-Urar, outlined current law relating to immigration. With an office located in Canton, she has had experi-

See IMMIGRATION, p. 4.

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Call the co-presidents to volunteer to help with program meetings or committees or to get information about the League's activities and policies.

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Directors set policy and make financial decisions and are involved in programs, voter service and organizational activities of the League.

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Vicki Kline
Voter's Guide

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In Memoriam: Maurine Paton, LWVK Charter Member

Maurine Paton, charter member of the Kent League of Women Voters, passed away January 24 at the age of 95. Maurine joined the new provisional League in 1953. The Kent League was recognized in 1954, and Maurine was active in the organization for many years.

Maurine was born in Oberlin, Ohio, in 1912 and grew up in Claridon. She studied home economics at Kent State Normal School and in 1931 married Andrew Paton, who taught aviation at Kent State University. The couple had four sons. Her husband died in 1964. Maurine enjoyed traveling and did so both domestically (to destinations such as Ohio, Connecticut, Florida, Wyoming, New Mexico, Alaska and Vermont) and internationally (such as Japan and Nova Scotia). In later years, Maurine moved from her Carthage Avenue home of 65 years to Blossom Hill Care Center in Huntsburg, Ohio, where she passed away, surrounded by family members.

LEVIES

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The Portage County Health Department serves 112,000 people throughout the county. Services include, for example, water testing; immunizations (such as pneumonia, influenza); school, food, grocery store, swimming pool, spa, septic system, campground and mobile-home park inspections; and monitoring for West Nile virus.

Department personnel also have been trained to respond to incidents of bioterrorism. Some personnel go to area schools and other locations to educate students and adults on a number of health issues, including bird flu.

For the second levy to be decided at the May primary, the Portage County commissioners placed a property tax levy on the ballot for senior citizen services. The 2.0 mill levy would generate approximately \$6,400,000 annually for five years.

On a \$100,000 home, the tax would be \$70 a year.

The levy monies will be used primarily for the following:

- Home delivered meals, personal care (such as bathing and dressing), homemaker services (such as laundry and meal assistance), minor home repairs and adult day care
- Protective services for adults who may be victims of abuse, exploitation and neglect
- Building and operating a community health center for individuals in Portage County aged 60 and over who do not qualify for Medicare
- Senior Center facilities to provide information so older adults know where to get the help they need when they need it

According to the proposal made to the commissioners, the levy would provide services to 1,228 residents of Portage County.

PLANNING

Continued from p. 1

in 1985. The major area of concern was the statement that reads: "The League supports establishing a governmental park district to oversee the development of existing county park lands." This governmental park district currently exists, and the League's position needs to be updated to reflect this. Members also agreed to update the position on Kent city finances with a focus on developing a position on combined district purchasing.

There was some discussion on developing a position on public libraries, but no formal proposal was made. Members agreed to retain the local positions on land use and zoning, the Kent charter, the Portage County justice system and Kent city schools. To learn more about these positions, go to www.lwv.oh.net.org.

The local position recommendations will be presented for member discussion and a vote at the annual meeting later this year.

On the state positions, program-planning participants agreed that the state League should focus on the following issues during the next two years: apportionment/districting, primary- and secondary-education finance and land use.

These recommendations were sent to the state League, where they will be compiled along with the recommendations from the state's other local Leagues. The positions and areas of priority action will be discussed and voted on by the delegates at the state convention May 4-6 in Cuyahoga Falls. For more information on these positions, go to www.lwvohio.org.

IMMIGRATION

Continued from p. 2

ence working with immigration law for the past 20 years. Members were given an overview of the complexity of the laws and regulations that govern entry into the United States and the path to citizenship for immigrants.

As the two-year study progresses, Kent League members will find helpful information at the national League's Web site, www.lwv.org. Go to the "For Members" page, and click on "League Projects and Programs." Scroll down the page, and click on "LWVUS Immigration Study." This takes you to a number of resources. Definitely take a look at "Immigration 101: The Basics." Also read the background papers that have been authored by members of the national study committee.

The Kent committee meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month (except for June through August) at the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County. New committee members are welcome. Call Amie Cajka, chair, at 330/688-9545 for more information.

The VOTER

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LWVK

Coming

Attractions . . .

April

- 11 Kent League Board Meeting**
Pufferbelly restaurant, Franklin Avenue and West Main Street, Kent; 6:30 p.m.; members welcome.
- 14 Issues Forum: Portage County Health Department and Senior Citizen Services Levies**
Kent Roosevelt High School, 1400 N. Mantua Street; 9:30 a.m. (details, see p. 1).
- 19 Candidate Forum: Streetsboro Mayoral Candidates**
Streetsboro High School, 1900 Annalane Drive; 7 p.m. (details, see p. 1).
- 26 Candidate Forum: Kent City Council Wards 5 and 6**
Kentway Apartments, 360 E. Summit Street; 7 p.m. (details, see p. 1).