



## The Voter

April 2009

**Board of Directors**  
**League of Women Voters of**  
**Greater Birmingham**  
205 583-5000  
[admin@lwvgb.org](mailto:admin@lwvgb.org)

Virginia Randolph, President  
Nancy Ekberg, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Cissy Bennett, Secretary  
Sarah McDonald, Treasurer  
Paulette Rowe  
Connie Arwine  
Joyce Lanning, Natural Resources  
Kathryn Kerchof, *Editor*  
*The Voter*  
Yvonne Brakefield,  
Chair Nominating Committee  
Jean Johnson,  
Off-Board Technical Director  
Ann Smith,  
Off-Board Observer Corps Water  
Works  
Karen Threlkeld, Voters Service  
Amanda McGriff, Membership  
Co-Chair

### Wade In and Support Our Democracy!

April is when we wrap up the year, hold elections and plan for the next year. It is the end of my term as president and I want to thank everyone for the support in our activities through the past two years. It has been a pleasure serving you and the League. The board you elected to serve with me was terrific, as were members of our off board. No organization can function without the support of the members and it has been fun to meet more of you and to work with you. We undertook several projects that initially were a little daunting but we just waded in and it worked or we tweaked it to work. Please plan to give the new board your support and I promise I will too. Our important work supporting democracy continues.

Please plan to attend our important Member Business meeting April 30<sup>th</sup> at Richard's Bar B Que (see article). Your input on Program, Board election, Budget, Bylaws and plans for the next year are needed.

At the April Board meeting we decided we would include some of the items from the LWV Leadership mailing in a shortened form in our electronic newsletter, but have a link so that you may find more information if you wish. Since LWV is no longer mailing paper newsletters and magazines, we wanted to be sure you were aware of the current efforts and activities.

This past month we contacted the Cahaba River Society to lend our support for their efforts at water conservation and efficient management. The issues of long term water resources which our national natural resources positions address are the same as taken by the Cahaba River Society. While we have had an abundance of rain recently, as a community we have not planned for the long term growth and water issues. These steps are important and the Cahaba River Society is leading this effort.

The LWVAL Convention will be in Birmingham in the 5 Points South area. Everyone is welcome (see article). Good speakers and workshops are planned, including our own LWVGB Joyce Lanning.

### Ginny



Ginny encourages all of us to wade into the unpredictable waters of our great democracy! You will be glad you did.



### Y'all Come!

Don't forget that the LWVAL Convention will be held here in Birmingham on Saturday and Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Highland Center on Southside.

The registration form and additional information are on the LWVAL website. Or you can call Sarah McDonald at 967-2829.

We hope to see many of you at the convention!



## April 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting

Richard's BBQ at I-459 and Acton Road  
The following reports are submitted for the agenda:

- Nominations
- By-Laws
- Program
- Budget

Meeting begins at 5:30.

You will be able to order your dinner when you arrive.

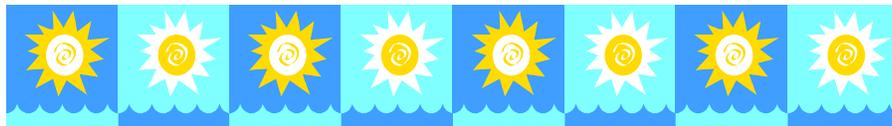
**No reservations required – But Your Presence is desired!**

You, as an LWVGB member may nominated other people, including yourself, to the Board of Directors. make suggestions for other changes in the By-Laws, Program and Budget.



## Jefferson County Manager in the News

As you have probably seen in the newspaper, the Alabama House of Representatives passed the bill for a County Manager. The bill was introduced by Paul DeMarco and co-sponsored by every member of the Jefferson County House Delegation. Subsequently Senator Jabo Waggoner introduced the companion bill in the Senate. Senator Pro-Tem Roger Smitherman held a meeting of the Jefferson Senate delegation and invited the County Commissioners. Nancy Ekberg and Sarah McDonald attended and presented a statement on behalf of LWVGB. At this point, the bill is stymied. We welcome your letters and telephone calls to your senators and county commissioners expressing the need for a county manager for Jefferson County.



## Sunshine Week

Several of our members attended governmental meetings during Sunshine Week. Ann Smith, chair of our Observer Corps prepared a short statement for each of us to read, highlighting the importance of an open government and the freedom of information for the public. Several members reported positive reception. One had exceeded the length of time allotted, but the Board asked her to continue because they felt it was important. One completed the statement, and an employee asked to add to the comments by saying that more information would be available shortly on their web site. It was also a good time to just interact with our elected officials and let them see why we should always have a place at the table!

April 2009



## Notes from LWV

Passage of comprehensive health care reform is a major priority for the League of Women Voters of the United States in the 111th Congress, and LWV looks forward to working with Leagues to pass meaningful health care reform. For the next few weeks, the LWVUS Lobby Corps will be lobbying all 100 Senate offices in support of comprehensive health care reform legislation. For more information on Health Care and the LWV role check out [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) where you will find two publications (linked below) on this important subject:

**Quick Facts On Health Care Costs.** This list (without the original endnotes) is from "A Reporter's Toolkit: Health Care Costs" (an Alliance for Health Reform Toolkit produced with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and is reproduced here courtesy of the Alliance for Health Care. <http://www.lwv.org/AM/TemplateRedirect.cfm?template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=13347>

**At-Risk Americans: The Uninsured And Underinsured** *By Janis McMillen* Data from multiple sources agree that in 2007, 47 million Americans (15.6 percent of the total U.S. population) lacked any kind of health insurance coverage. When these numbers are adjusted for age (excluding those 65 years and older), the uninsured percentage of the population rises to 17.9 percent. Moreover, it is estimated that 25 million adults under age 65 were underinsured during 2007, despite having insurance all year. In total, 42 percent of *all* adults (86.7 million) were either uninsured or underinsured during 2007. <http://www.lwv.org/AM/TemplateRedirect.cfm?template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=13346>

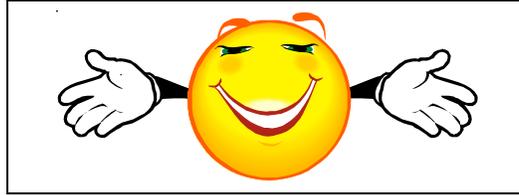
**Complete Count Committee to Support Census 2010** Local and state League members can play a crucial leadership role in Census 2010 by joining Complete Count Committees (CCCs) in their communities. The CCC program consists of community and government leaders dedicated to building awareness of the 2010 Census. [Click here for a guide to the program.](#) The LWV is an official partner in the 2010 U.S. Census. A 2010 Census webpage at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) is coming soon. This year-long effort provides lots of opportunities for Leagues to get involved. Contact [zarguedas@lwv.org](mailto:zarguedas@lwv.org) for additional information.

There is more on the LWV web site, above is just a sample of the activities our National League is leading. Take a moment at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) to see the many resources available to us to educate us on today's issues. If you have not ever logged into the member section, take the few seconds to set that up. It leads you to a wealth of information. You may want to sign up to receive the legislative alerts. This makes it easy to contact your Congressmen as the alerts contain links for you to you're your Congressmen a message.

If you wish to subscribe to some of the topic list serves with LWV, you may do so by going to the web site and login and then selecting League Sponsored e-Mail lists and select the topics of interest to you. ( <https://member.lwv.org/Login.asp> )

# The Voter

April 2009



## Y'all Come!

Don't forget that the LWVAL Convention will be held here in Birmingham on Saturday and Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Highland Center on Southside.

Non-delegates are very welcome to attend all or parts of the two-day meeting. On Saturday Liz McNamara, national board member, will speak at lunch and possibly stay to talk about membership developments in a workshop. Jim Sumner, chair of the Alabama Ethics Commission will be our dinner speaker.

On Saturday afternoon, in addition to Ms McNamara, we will have our own Joyce Lanning conducting an environmental workshop. Other offerings are still in the planning stages.

The registration form and additional information are on the LWVAL website at [www.lwval.org/LWVAL\\_Convention\\_2009/index.html](http://www.lwval.org/LWVAL_Convention_2009/index.html) Or you can call Sarah McDonald at 967-2829.

We hope to see many of you at the convention!

## Climate Change Workshop: An Interactive Primer

**Presenter: Joyce Lanning\***

What are the issues and what's at stake? A quick overview of climate science  
What are the opportunities and challenges? The economy, energy and the environment  
What's happening at the federal level? The budget, the stimulus package, legislation before Congress  
How about the international challenges? Toward a new binding greenhouse gas emissions treaty, Copenhagen, 2009  
What's what and who's who at the state level?  
What are the LWV positions and resources?  
How can you respond to a global warming skeptic?  
Where can you go for more information on options:  
    for individuals and households?  
    for business and industry?  
    for advocacy?  
What is your personal action plan? A moment for reflection.  
continued on next page.

# The Voter

## Climate Workshop (continued from previous page)

Joyce Lanning, Ph.D., a native of Birmingham, AL, is a volunteer environmental educator and supporter, and a former Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Public Health, Department of Health Care Organization and Policy at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She serves as Natural Resources Chair for the LWVGB and LWVAL and is on the Climate Change Task Force for the LWVUS.

She's joined We at [www.wecansolveit.org](http://www.wecansolveit.org) and can be found on that website explaining why you should join too. In addition to giving talks and serving as Alabama manager for The Climate Project, she's involved with various environmental groups and environmental faith initiatives including the Environmental Issues Workgroup of the Alabama Faith Council and the Interfaith Environmental Initiative of Alabama.

Joyce continues to be energized by her two granddaughters and the hope that we can leave to them and to the young of all species the legacy of a planet that is as habitable and supportive of life as the one we inherited.



Speaking of Wading in the Waters!  
Joyce Lanning dips her toes in the frigid waters of the Antarctic Ocean!  
Now that is true dedication to climate change research.



## LWVGB Upcoming Events

<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
April	30	5:30 p.m.	Annual Business Meeting	Richard's BBQ 2409 Acton Road
May	2,3	Registration is from 9 – 10 Meeting begins at 10	LWVAL Convention	Highland Conference Center at Five Points 1023 20th St S Birmingham, AL 35205 (205) 933-9555
May	5	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Transitional	
June	13		LWV Council	

LWVGB  
P.O. Box 530522  
Mountain Brook, AL 35253