



CREATING A **MORE PERFECT** UNION

League of Women Voters ■ 2007-2008 Annual Report



It is with great pleasure that I present the 2007-2008 Annual Report of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and its Education Fund (LWVEF). The financial report (p. 21) covers our fiscal year from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. As so many of our activities were focused on the November 4th general election, we have included programmatic accomplishments up to November 15, 2008.

There have been many remarkable years since the League was founded as a “mighty political experiment” just six months before the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1920. Yet, I consider myself absolutely privileged to have been a part of the League during this inspirational and historic year. The 2008 election proved, beyond any doubt, that democracies endure and grow when the people speak. And, encouraging individuals to use their voice and ensuring that every voice is heard are what the League of Women Voters has been about for the better part of a century.

I am exceptionally proud of the work the League and our members did to prepare the nation for this election. Staggering numbers of new voters exercised the most fundamental right of our democracy. This is a testament to the League’s tireless commitment to registering and empowering citizens to vote, particularly underrepresented groups of Americans. Through our Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project, the League defeated numerous attempts to disenfranchise certain groups of eligible voters, particularly minorities and low-income Americans. Regardless of how each of us voted, it was impossible not to take heart in the historic election of the first African American to America’s highest office, and in the role that women played on the national stage.

Throughout the election, the League was called upon as a source for unbiased, accurate information—by voters, by elections officials and lawmakers, by members of the media and by other organizations. When many state and nationwide voter protection hotlines needed a reliable place to send callers who were looking for their local polling place, they used our special election Web site, VOTE411.org. When CNN needed answers to a list of questions submitted by voters days before the election, they turned to us. Recognized as the nonpartisan authority on issues related to election administration and voter protection, the League was a constant voice in newspaper articles, on Op-Ed pages and on radio and television news programs. And groups from abroad turned to the League in their efforts to strengthen their own democracies.

This election was such a triumph for participation by voters that many feared the electoral system would crash under their weight. Fortunately, the League’s vigilance ensured the system was better prepared to serve them. We enhanced our voter outreach and education tools and helped our state and local affiliates handle an unprecedented volume of questions and concerns from voters. Our VOTE411.org Web site was an indispensable online voter resource. While Election Day brought new evidence that we have remaining reform work to do, the system passed the test, a vital step in restoring Americans’ shaken confidence in our elections.



The nation places its trust in the League of Women Voters because of the work our members do every day in communities across the country. With 850 Leagues in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands, we have energetic and engaged members across the nation. These men and women make an impact by empowering their fellow citizens to take stewardship of our government, locally and nationally. And they take their efforts abroad, as well, to assist citizens in emerging democracies around the globe. This is the most vibrant network of grassroots political activists in the United States—150,000 strong and counting.

Of my various activities as League President, none gives me more pleasure than meeting and sharing with League members, supporters and volunteers. During 2007 and 2008, I traveled to League offices and events in dozens of cities around the country and to our 2008 National Convention in Portland, Oregon, where nearly 1,000 members gathered for five days of boisterous workshops and strategizing. I will be forever impressed by their knowledge and commitment to renewing the health of our democracy. You will see their passion for their work, and for the League, in their comments included as sidebars throughout this report.

Truly, our nation has never needed them more than it does right now. America is facing the worst economic downturn in generations, two wars, a broken health care system and an ever-growing environmental crisis. In FY 2007-08, we also watched the failure of the presidential public financing system and the continued erosion of our basic liberties.

Nonetheless, I am hopeful. The 2008 election was a powerful reminder that the American people are a great and largely untapped resource for solving the nation's problems. In his November 4 election night speech, Barack Obama embraced civic duty, calling for Americans to "summon a new spirit of patriotism, of service and responsibility where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves, but each other."

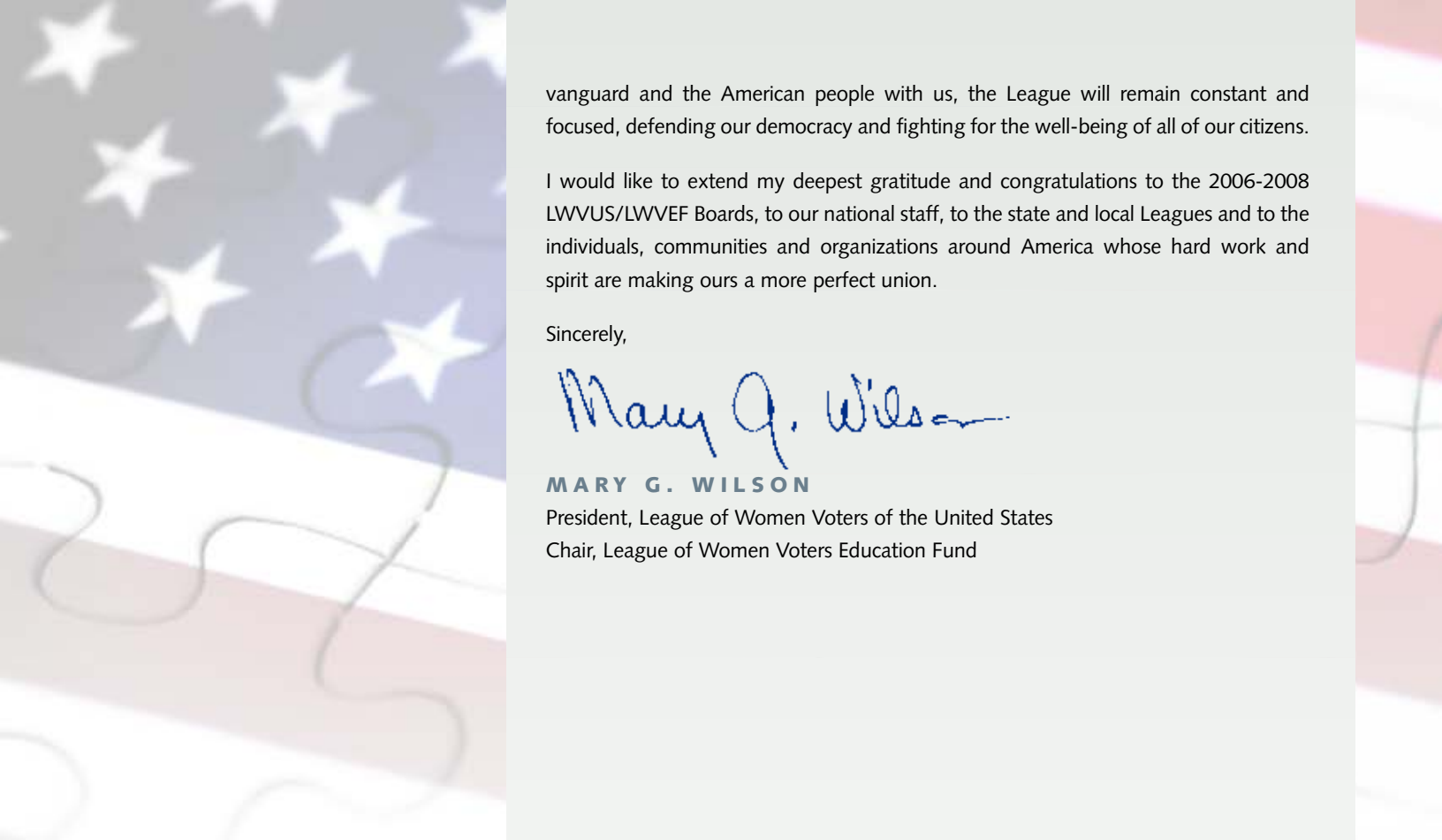
Through the League of Women Voters' grassroots network, this spirit of service is put into action every day in communities across the country. Working with like-minded partners too numerous to list here, we're giving citizens a platform to address our leaders, as well as supporting them to become leaders in their own right—as voters, community activists, advocates, candidates, office holders and policy makers. By bridging the gap between citizens and our government, the League empowers the American people to work for change on the most important issues of the day.

This past year, we pursued a progressive reform agenda, including lobbying for important legislation ranging from voting registration of veterans to stronger rules to ensure ethical congressional behavior. We celebrated our successes and vowed to continue to fight wherever our efforts fell short. We launched efforts to address health care reform, global climate change and the protection of our civil liberties, and announced a carefully considered position on immigration policy.

Yes, the problems we face as a nation are, indeed, serious. But, we saw this year that the nation's deep well of optimism and fortitude has not run dry. Our democracy is solid, and this country can be renewed through the energetic participation of its citizens—a truly American phenomenon. With the League of Women Voters at the

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vanguard and the American people with us, the League will remain constant and focused, defending our democracy and fighting for the well-being of all of our citizens.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude and congratulations to the 2006-2008 LWWUS/LWVEF Boards, to our national staff, to the state and local Leagues and to the individuals, communities and organizations around America whose hard work and spirit are making ours a more perfect union.

Sincerely,



MARY G. WILSON

President, League of Women Voters of the United States
Chair, League of Women Voters Education Fund

THE LEAGUE STAYS AHEAD

The essential and unique character of the League of Women Voters has not changed since our founding: we are the same grassroots force for citizen-powered democracy today that we were in 1920. Yet, the League is also a vibrant organization. Our priorities change to meet society's evolving needs, and we are constantly looking for new ways to empower citizens, communicate with our members and engage policy makers.

In FY 2007-08, we made progress on several initiatives to expand our reach and capabilities. This was the second year of our Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI), an effort to bring in new League members at the grassroots level, focused on recently retired women, ages 50-65, who are looking for civic engagement opportunities. The LWWUS is helping state and local Leagues across the country demonstrate that the League is THE organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

The League also continues to find new ways to utilize the power and reach of the Internet to engage our members and supporters, providing them opportunities to communicate with the League and contact their elected officials, both locally and nationally, when policy decisions are being made. We made new friends with an expanded presence on social networking sites such as Facebook and Boomster.com and we reached out to thousands of writers in the blogosphere. Meanwhile, the League's burgeoning online engagement program expanded our use of e-mail messaging and surveys to reach thousands of members and supporters on numerous issues and bring new people into the League by encouraging them to take action, support our work and get involved.

After years of declining civic participation, the 2008 election generated an extraordinary level of enthusiasm and engagement. Millions of first-time voters and record numbers of Americans participated in state primaries and in the general election. Even before Election Day, long lines appeared at early voting sites, and polling places risked being overwhelmed by the sheer number of citizens eager to be heard. Throughout the year, the League worked hard to register voters and equip them to exercise this fundamental right, and to make sure our electoral system rewarded the nation's faith on November 4, 2008.

VOTER OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Surveys show that the League is the voters' first and most trusted source for information related to voting and elections. We worked tirelessly to fulfill that trust this year. The League mounted a massive effort to prepare the nation for the 2008 election, using both strong advocacy to protect voters' rights and education to help voters better understand the issues and the candidates.

Early in the year, we developed a targeted plan to share our voter education and preparedness messages with major national media; key regional, minority and student media outlets; and state and local Leagues for dissemination to their local media. Topics included voter registration, poll worker recruitment, fair and equal voting practices, Election Day preparedness, and getting-out-the-vote. This outreach generated more than 200 major media and blog mentions of the League during just the eight weeks leading up to Election Day, in such outlets as The New York Times, O! Magazine, USA Today, Rolling Stone, and MSNBC.

The LWVUS undertook a major overhaul of our flagship voter education Web site, VOTE411.org, to make it the most comprehensive, easy-to-use online tool for voters. With the generous support of Carnegie Corporation of New York, Allergan, Inc. and American Express Company, we redesigned the site's visual presentation and added new content and functions. Users were able to log on to register to vote; find their polling place; get state-specific information on registration deadlines, absentee ballots, voter ID requirements and using voting machines; and much more.

To help voters make an informed decision, we posted our nonpartisan 2008 Presidential Election Voters' Guides for both the primary and general elections on VOTE411.org. The guides contained the candidates' responses to a wide range of questions on the key issues of the election.

VOTE411.org was also enhanced by a new online tool from the Overseas Vote Foundation. The tool allows military and overseas citizens to register, request an absentee ballot and, in many states, complete and mail their ballots. The Express Your Vote initiative provided overseas voters with free or discounted mailing services to ensure that their ballots arrived at elections offices in time to be counted.

To promote VOTE411.org to a broad and diverse audience, the League leveraged the power of a wide range of print and online partners. We undertook our first-ever major advertising campaign. Public Service Announcements for the site, funded in part by the





“When I moved to San Francisco, dozens of issues were being settled at the ballot box and each had supporters and opponents with strident, contradictory campaign materials. I struggled to find unbiased analysis and, for the first time in my life, considered not voting. Then I found a consistent source of straightforward election information I could trust—the San Francisco LWV. I have voted ever since.”

JENNIFER WAGGONER,
LWV OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA

JEHT Foundation, appeared on 200 buses in 10 cities around the country. Google Grants and other grant funding supported expanded online advertising, while Yahoo! provided generous promotional support. Nearly 10,000 Web sites directed people to VOTE411.org, and it was featured on CNN, C-SPAN, NPR and YouTube and in The Washington Post and The New York Times.

By Election Day, nearly half a million voters found the location of their polling place on VOTE411.org. In total, approximately 15 percent of U.S. voters (or 20 million people) found VOTE411 and the election information they needed in order to participate in this year's election in conjunction with Google and the Voting Information Project. The Voting Information Project is a partnership of state election officials, foundations and leading technology companies working together to connect voters with the information they need to be more engaged citizens. Hosting by Yahoo! provided VOTE411.org the capacity to accommodate heavy traffic in the days before the election when visitors needed quick and reliable access to information.

As our online presence was expanding, so too were our on-the-ground efforts to reach voters. Backed by a major grant from the American Express Company, we took our Helping America Vote project to 16 cities leading up to the 2008 general election. Through this grassroots initiative, American Express supported the League's voter registration and education activities, including creation and distribution of voters' guides and hosting of public forums on key issues and the candidates. The project also encouraged American Express employees to increase voter participation in their own communities by serving as poll workers and voter registration volunteers and by turning out to vote.

The League found innovative ways to reach underserved voters, including partnering with an array of organizations. The League joined with the National Head Start Association on a major voter registration and education drive, to advance Head Start's goal of empowering families by including them in the political process. We also teamed up with the YWCA USA, which has nearly 300 associations nationwide, representing more than 2 million women, girls and their families. The LWVUS encouraged local Leagues and local YWCAs to work together on voter outreach and education activities such as voter registration drives and debate watching parties. Similar work was facilitated through a relationship with the National Association of Community Health Centers.

In April 2008, we launched the Freedom of Expression through Film initiative in collaboration with VOTE411.org's sponsoring partner Allergan. This outreach campaign worked to raise public awareness of the importance of voter registration and participation. As part of the campaign, Allergan funded, and developed in cooperation with the League, a series of television and radio public service announcements that featured Oscar-nominated actress Virginia Madsen. These spots encouraged voter registration and education, and featured the League's VOTE411.org as a “one-stop-shop” for voter information.

In the period leading up to Election Day, Virginia Madsen, League President Mary G. Wilson and Executive Director Nancy E. Tate appeared with local League leaders at community events in seven cities around the country to support voter registration efforts. Madsen and Wilson also participated in a media tour highlighting the campaign and VOTE411.org.

The League also was proud to join the Every Woman Counts coalition sponsored by Lifetime Television, Redbook, CosmoGirl and Marie Claire. With the ambitious objective of engaging all American women in the electoral process, the coalition launched an interactive Web site, which invited visitors to participate in surveys and discussions on election year issues. The Web site promoted VOTE411.org and provided valuable insight into women's voting patterns and priorities, enabling us to better serve their needs. Additionally, the League helped promote three voter protection hotlines sponsored by other organizations, which, in turn, utilized VOTE411.org to provide crucial information to voters.

The League formed three new media partnerships that opened up new avenues for us to reach Americans with our voter education services. First, we provided nonpartisan election content for "POTUS '08" (President of the United States), the free 24-hour election channel of XM Satellite Radio, a radio company with more than 8 million subscribers. Second, with Women's Entertainment (WE) Television, the League launched WE Vote '08, an initiative to register 1 million women voters before the 2008 elections, using broadcast, print and online media. Lastly, we partnered with National Cable Communications, a consortium of the nation's largest cable companies, to provide nonpartisan information for their video-on-demand channels, which was available free to tens of millions of cable subscribers nationwide.

In response to research showing that people are more likely to register and vote when personally asked, the League launched its 2008 Voter Registration Challenge, a project designed to expand the number of registered voters by challenging Americans to think of five friends to register. Promoted through our media and online outreach, the National Association of Broadcasters, the Freedom of Expression public service announcement campaign and our many partners, our registration efforts received widespread visibility.

The League also reached hundreds of thousands of voters with electronic and printed educational material. We sold a record number of copies of our comprehensive guide to the presidential election process, *Choosing the President 2008*, through our online store. More than 500 Russian attendees of the Open World Leadership Project received Russian language copies and other hosting organizations distributed copies to their 300 international guests. The League together with the Newspaper in Education Institute (NIE) produced a 16-page educational supplement based on *Choosing the President*. These were distributed by Leagues and through NIE's "Newspaper in Education" programs across the country.


The League printed 200,000 copies of our popular VOTE brochure, including 50,000 in Spanish, and distributed them to local Leagues and to community-based organizations like Head Start. This straightforward guide provides new voters with vital information on the basics of voting and Election Day.

In anticipation of a record number of first-time voters participating in the 2008 election, we updated and reprinted our trademark card, *5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day*, in English and Spanish. These simple cards give voters a quick and easy reference guide for preparing to vote and dealing with potential problems they could face at their polling place. As part of the League's Public Advocacy for Voter Protection

"Several years ago, I volunteered to help voter registration at a swearing-in ceremony for new citizens. We intended to catch them on the way out, but we were allowed to witness the event. It was one of the most moving experiences of my life. All four of my grandparents experienced the very same ceremony and the same overwhelming love for their new country. It was a privilege to be part of it. I owe it all to the League."

MAXINE LEWAK,
LWV MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD





project, we partnered with Student PIRGs' New Voters Project, with support from the JEHT Foundation, to distribute the cards on college campuses across the country.

To help educate college students and minority voters on their voting rights and encourage their participation, the League further targeted outreach to nearly 2,500 minority and student radio, television and print media outlets. We also reprised our role in SmackDown Your Vote!, a nonpartisan coalition of groups working to reach out to the youth vote and foster the next generation of politically engaged Americans. This partnership began in 2000 and continues to be a creative force for youth engagement.

The LWVUS worked with Leagues across the country on a number of tools for grassroots voter outreach. We produced and distributed a comprehensive debate watching party tool kit and a best practices manual for creating Voters' Guides, and provided guidance on hosting state and local candidate debates.

Finally, in this historic election year, thousands of naturalized Americans became new voters. To guide them through this daunting process, 250 local Leagues attended naturalization ceremonies to register new citizens and educate them about their rights and responsibilities. In 2009, the LWVUS will build upon its resource guide Engaging New Citizens as New Voters: A Guide to Naturalization Ceremonies, by developing a training program to help local Leagues expand the support they provide to new Americans.

REFORMING THE SYSTEM

"The importance of the League's watchdog role has become crystal clear to me since I became a member of the New York State Assembly. Please continue this crucial work on behalf of taxpayers! I'm proud to be a member."

THE HONORABLE JANET DUPREY,
LWV PLATTSBURGH AREA, NY

Since its inception, the League has worked vigorously to ensure that our nation's democratic system is open, available and accountable to all its citizens, just as we have worked to engage all citizens in every aspect of the system. In FY 2007-08, the League continued to foster active involvement in our democracy. Equally important, we fought to reform our government so that it is worthy of the participation of its citizens. We campaigned for a return to ethical practices in the U.S. Congress, fought to take the presidency off the auction block and lobbied to combat oppressive laws that discourage voters from engaging in America's political process.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION REFORM

For nearly 90 years, the League's signature issue has been voter protection. Casting a ballot is our most fundamental freedom, and it is often a person's first experience in participatory democracy. The League and its members remain committed to working at the grassroots level and in the halls of power to protect every American's right to cast a vote and have it counted. And we had many successes, particularly at the state level.

The foundation of these efforts has been our ongoing Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) project, now in its third year. With generous support from a private donor and grants from the Democracy Alliance/Election Administration Fund of the Tides Foundation and the JEHT Foundation, the LWVUS worked closely with state Leagues in 14 states to prevent the disenfranchisement of eligible citizens, particularly such underserved populations as minorities, people with limited resources and the elderly.

Through the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project, the League's national office collaborated with these Leagues to enhance their public education and advocacy efforts in order to push back against the assault on voters' rights. The PAVP project also helped to advance new reforms that ensure America's electoral system serves the democratic principles of fairness, equality and justice. LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson traveled to 17 PAVP cities in nine states in the two months leading up to the general election, meeting with elections officials, community leaders, the media and voters in an effort to increase electoral participation. Our focus in 2007-08 was on (1) opposing restrictive voter identification and proof of citizenship requirements; (2) improving administration of statewide voter registration databases; (3) guarding against unnecessary restrictions on voter registration; (4) improving polling place management; and (5) improving poll worker recruitment, training and supervision. Significant voter protection advances were achieved by working through the state legislatures, state courts and state and local elections offices.

One of the most urgent and widespread threats we tackled was onerous voter ID requirements. As many as 21 million Americans do not have government issued picture identification cards, with minorities and the poor disproportionately less likely to have photo ID showing a current address. The LWVUS worked with Leagues to oppose or mitigate the impacts of these requirements. For example, in September 2007 the LWVUS and the LWV of Georgia joined forces to garner public support to overturn the state's restrictive voter ID requirement. By narrowly defining the type of photo IDs voters must provide, the law discriminates against people of color, the elderly, disabled people and the poor.

Two months later, the LWVUS joined the LWV of Indiana to file an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of citizens who were prevented from voting because they lacked photo IDs. These qualified voters, overwhelmingly elderly women, disabled people and the rural poor, had neither the financial resources nor the ability to travel to get photo IDs. In April 2008, the Court dealt a blow to voters' rights; it ruled that the requirement was not "excessively burdensome" and allowed the law to stand.

The tide turned in our favor in May. In response to overwhelming public demand, the Missouri State Senate ended its session without acting on a proposed constitutional amendment that would have required documentary proof of citizenship and a photo ID as prerequisites for voting. The LWV of Missouri estimated that the amendment would have prevented as many as 240,000 Missourians from voting. The League hailed the legislature for sending a clear signal to lawmakers nationwide that it is their job to protect voters, not to deny them their rights.

In the area of voter registration, in July the League called for improved voter registration processes for veterans, in collaboration with Common Cause, Demos and the American Association of Persons with Disabilities. Our coalition challenged the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prohibition against nonpartisan groups like the League registering veterans in VA offices and medical facilities. Each organizations' grassroots affiliates lobbied election and VA officials in defense of veterans' voting rights.

We enlisted senators and secretaries of state who recognized that the prohibitions were preventing thousands of veterans, particularly those with disabilities, from voting. In





“Our local League drafted a code of ethics that the County Commissioners adopted last year. This was an important step in building a stronger community. While I have served my community in many other ways, my League experiences are by far the most rewarding.”

MARY GILROY,
LWV PIKES PEAK REGION, CO

the fall, companion bills were introduced in the U.S. House and Senate requiring the VA to provide voter registration opportunities to veterans and allowing nonpartisan registration activities at VA facilities. While the bill passed the House, it stalled in the Senate and many veterans who were disabled in service to their country did not receive the full opportunities to register to vote that they deserve.

The League also was an effective voice for all voters in our work with the federal Election Assistance Commission (EAC). We supported the transfer of responsibility for maintaining voter registration regulations from the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to the EAC. In late 2007, the League welcomed the EAC's decision to elicit public opinion whenever it considers changes in voter registration systems. We encouraged the EAC to develop and make public internal procedures for invoking its authority under the Help America Vote Act of 2002, which created the EAC.

Later in the year, the Pew Charitable Trusts and the JEHT Foundation invited the League to participate in a working group in recognition of our work in developing the groundbreaking Successful Practices for Poll Worker Recruitment, Training, and Retention, a vital resource that the EAC adopted. The working group focused on online poll worker training and used the League's expertise as a basis for its work. The objective was to avoid the problems that dogged recent elections by improving the quality and number of poll workers nationwide.

Recognizing the leadership role that the League of Women Voters holds as a guardian of voters' rights, in July 2007 the Senate Rules Committee invited LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson to testify in support of the Ballot Integrity Act of 2007. Wilson applauded the bill's provisions that protected voter registration drives and provided for poll worker training, equitable allocation of polling place resources and the counting of the provisional ballots of all eligible voters.

President Wilson also called for permanent federal funding for election administration to ensure that minorities and the traditionally disenfranchised have equal opportunities to register and vote. She talked about the important contributions of organizations like the League and the need to reinforce, rather than restrict their efforts. As supporting evidence, she referenced 2004 data showing that 15 percent of new African-American and Hispanic voters, compared to only nine percent of new white voters, registered as a result of voter registration drives by non-governmental organizations like the League.

Finally, the League established an Election Audits Task Force to examine the issues related to election audits. The Task Force is issuing its report to the LWVUS Board of Directors in 2009.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

The presidential campaign financing system, although serving the public well since its inception in 1974, has failed to keep up with current spending expectations. With the primary season extended and more states participating, spending limits are unrealistically low. Therefore, it was a disappointment, but not a surprise, when Barack Obama became the first major party nominee to refuse public financing in the general election. This was the first billion dollar presidential election in U.S. history—an alarming reminder that the White House remains at risk of being sold to special interest groups and major contributors.

To revive the public financing system, the LWVUS, with the grassroots support of our members and activists, lobbied hard for passage of the Presidential Funding Act of 2007. The proposed legislation would have increased spending limits for the primary and general elections and provided public funds to primary candidates earlier in the process—making it a viable option for candidates facing opponents running on private funds. These and other provisions in the bill would have ensured that candidates could compete on a level playing field and would have insulated them—and our government—against corruption. Despite broad bipartisan support, the bill died in committee.

The League also joined seven other government watchdog groups to press Senators Barack Obama and John McCain to live up to their commitments to disclose information about their campaign funding sources. In June 2008, our coalition sent joint letters to the Senators, urging them to disclose the role being played in their campaigns by “bundlers,” who can raise huge sums of money and conceal the identities of the original contributors. As a result, both campaigns increased their level of disclosure.

ETHICS AND LOBBYING REFORM

Following the lobbying scandals and ethics breaches that dominated political headlines in 2006, Congress reacted swiftly to adopt new checks against corruption. However, the credibility of those reforms was quickly undermined by a series of troubling incidents in FY 2007-08, none worse than the failure of the House Ethics Committee to deal with the Jack Abramoff case, the worst congressional scandal in 30 years.


Over the summer, the LWVUS campaigned aggressively for the meaningful ethics and lobbying reforms that had been promised by the leadership of the 110th Congress. We expressed grave concerns about legislation creating an Office of Congressional Ethics, noting the office's lack of investigative power and inability to issue subpoenas made it inadequate for cleaning up the House and protecting the public interest. The League urged House leaders to ensure that the new Office would have the independence and authority to effectively enforce House ethics rules.

We also lobbied the Senate to pass the Public Prosecution Improvements Act of 2007, which would give federal prosecutors the tools, and assign more of them, to root out corruption and hold public officials accountable for abuses of their office, including bribery and extortion. Although the bill moved out of the Senate Judiciary Committee in November 2007 and was supported by the Department of Justice, it was stalled on the Senate floor for the duration of the 110th Congress.

In spite of these setbacks, the League won a landmark victory in September 2007, when Congress passed groundbreaking legislation to curtail the undue influence of lobbyists and their contributors on our lawmakers. The new law prevents members of Congress from accepting lobbyists' gifts, meals, entertainment and trips and, most importantly, requires lobbyists to disclose the sources behind their “bundled” contributions. These are the most important lobbying and ethics reforms enacted by Congress since the Watergate era.

To secure passage of the bill, the LWVUS joined forces with the Campaign Legal





Center, the Committee for Economic Development, Democracy 21, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG, while local Leagues and thousands of League members and activists voiced their support through a powerful grassroots letter-writing campaign. Our coalition continues to work together to ensure that the new ethics rules are effectively implemented and enforced.

We saw the extent of the challenge when, less than a year after the bill's passage, the House Ethics Committee issued indefensible new guidelines that weakened regulations in the new ethics law intended to prevent members of Congress from attending lavish, lobbyist-funded events. This is an invitation to lawmakers to circumvent and ignore the new rules—and an opening to lobbyists to buy access and influence. In response, the League strongly challenged all members of Congress to strictly follow the spirit and letter of the ethics law.

The League also joined with our partners in pressing Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and House Republican Leader John Boehner to act swiftly when Representative Al Wynn chose to remain a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee after accepting a job as a lobbyist. He resigned from the Committee and the House in May 2008, only after the efforts of the coalition publicized his flagrant ethics violation. Recognizing that this is a much broader problem than this one incident, the League pushed House leaders to adopt new rules to prohibit House members from negotiating or accepting a job involving “lobbying activity” until after a successor to their seat has been elected.

To coincide with the League's 88th birthday, February 14, 2008, the LWVUS released a clear accounting of the voting record of all senators and representatives on ethics and lobbying reform and other critical issues in 2007. The list, available at www.lwv.org, allows citizens to look up their representatives and see how they voted on key legislation.

TAKING A STAND

The League's legislative priorities change to reflect the needs of society and the concerns of our members. A democratic organization in practice, not only in principle, the League solicits the opinions of our members and builds consensus on the issues that are of greatest importance to them. This year, we fought to extend fundamental voting rights to all citizens, including residents of the District of Columbia, and advocated to protect the health, liberty and security of all Americans. Our work took us to the halls of Congress and to state and local governments across the country.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SELF-GOVERNMENT

During 2007 and 2008, the League continued our push for self-government for residents and taxpayers in the District of Columbia. Our actions were bolstered by national surveys indicating that almost 90 percent of Americans believe that DC residents should have the same voting rights accorded other citizens. In a series of letters, the League implored the Senate to act decisively on the DC House Voting Rights Act. Tragically, the bill died after a filibuster—the first time since segregation that the Senate had filibustered a voting rights bill. The League called the Senate's failure to

act the “great civil rights tragedy of our time” and vowed to continue the fight until all Americans are treated equally under the law.

The League also lobbied against the National Capital Security and Safety Act, a misleadingly titled bill that would strip Washingtonians of their power to enact local gun laws and that poses a serious threat to public safety. While the bill passed the House in September 2008, it died in the Senate.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Recognizing that global climate change is already having an impact on our nation and our planet, and responding to our members’ deep concern, the League took a leadership role on this issue in FY 2007-08. Throughout the year, we added our voice to that of other environmental, conservation, health and advocacy groups supporting sustainable energy policy, including lobbying for passage of the Climate Security Act to reduce America’s greenhouse gas emissions and offer incentives for the development of more efficient, clean energy technologies. The bill had majority support in the Senate before it was blocked by a filibuster driven by special interests. The LWVUS also lobbied Congress to pass the clean energy tax incentives included in the Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008, and called for a moratorium on new construction of coal-fired power plants. The League’s national Climate Change Task Force, made up of a select number of committed and knowledgeable League members, produced fact sheets and white papers to inform the public and help guide League action at all three levels of government.

HEALTH CARE POLICY

The League is a tireless advocate for the health and reproductive freedoms of all Americans. This year, we joined a coalition of partners voicing strong objection to the “Provider Conscience” rule under consideration by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The rule would allow health care providers, health systems, hospitals and insurers to withhold treatment, counseling or medical information based on individual religious or moral beliefs.

The League also lobbied for the reauthorization of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) that provides health care coverage to six million low-income children. We called on Congress to add funding for the nine million American children who are still uninsured, then implored President Bush to sign the bill before it expired. When President Bush vetoed the bill, overriding the overwhelming support it received in Congress, we publicized his decision to leave millions of poor children without health insurance.

Building on the momentum for health care reform seen during the presidential campaign, the League created a Health Care Education Task Force, whose goal will be to design a program for educating the public about the issues involved in reforming our complex and broken health care system. The task force is comprised of health care professionals, professional writers and other highly qualified individuals, all with a strong League background.

“I pass out information on the League’s stand on issues very proudly, because I know we take positions only after careful study. The League fills an important role in creating an informed citizenry, which is essential to a functioning democracy.”

LORRAINE FORCE,
LWV OAKLAND, CA





WORKING FOR THE RIGHTS OF DISABLED PEOPLE

As a member of the Board of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the League joined dozens of civil rights organizations in urging Congress to vote in favor of an amendment to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 that returns the letter of the law to its original broad intent. It extends coverage to people with diabetes, epilepsy, debilitating heart conditions, mental disabilities, and certain cancers and supports the right of disabled Americans to work when they have the ability and the desire to do so.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

On April 2, 2008, LWVUS President Mary Wilson announced the League's official position on immigration reform, a critical public policy and moral issue. We released our position after a comprehensive survey of nearly 850 local Leagues and following 18 months of exhaustive study and discussion.

The League's policy supports the right of unauthorized immigrants currently living in this country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by working, paying taxes, learning English and meeting other criteria. The League opposes deportation of unauthorized immigrants who have no history of serious criminal activities, but supports increased monitoring of borders and serious penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers. Finally, we announced our intention to continue championing due process for all residents, regardless of citizenship status.

ADVANCING CIVIL LIBERTIES

Throughout our history, the League has worked not only to extend fundamental freedoms to those who have been denied them, but also to safeguard the liberties that are the cornerstones of American democracy. In FY 2007-08, the League worked to protect citizens' freedoms that were under assault from aggressive anti-terrorism measures. We partnered with like-minded organizations to sponsor the June 26 Day of Action to Restore Law and Justice. The event brought home the threats and highlighted the need for citizens to take personal responsibility for defending their constitutional rights.

One of the pillars of our democracy is a fair and independent judiciary, which the League is working hard to uphold. The League continued Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting Fair and Independent Courts, our multi-year public education program funded by the Open Society Institute. In FY 2007-08, 240 state and local Leagues in 32 states, including all 22 states with contested judicial elections, conducted activities. This work included educating citizens about judicial elections by producing, distributing and promoting voters' guides with judicial candidate information. Local and state Leagues hosted Constitution Day activities to educate high school students about the vital role of the judiciary in our democracy. And nearly 30 state Supreme Court and lower court judges participated in panel discussions and workshops that reached an estimated 10,000 voters.

LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson joined prominent government, judicial and civic leaders in addressing a public forum of California's Commission for Impartial Courts in July. The Commission is responsible for recommending judicial actions that will safeguard the quality, impartiality and accountability of California's justice system. "As informed and involved citizens, we each have an obligation to assure that the court system is impartial," Wilson said. "In neither of the other branches of the government is the citizen's role so crucial. Citizens are the 'customers' of the court system."

On other fronts, the League won an important victory when the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the constitutionality of North Carolina's judicial public financing program. North Carolina's program allows candidates running for the state's appellate court to receive public funding if they agree to strict spending and fundraising limits. The milestone verdict sent a strong message to the rest of the country that the

impartiality, integrity and independence of the judiciary were not for sale to special interest groups. The LWV of North Carolina, supported by the LWVUS and other organizations, brought the case to the court and, together, we celebrated the precedent-setting win for judicial integrity.

At the federal level, we lobbied members of Congress whenever important civil rights measures came to the table. In September 2007, we urged Congress to place reasonable limits on the FBI's authority to access the personal information of American citizens by passing the National Security Letter Reform Act. We fought for provisions that would prevent the government from performing warrantless electronic surveillance, nominally targeting suspected enemies abroad, but with the potential to be abused against citizens at home.

The League also challenged amendments to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) that would have provided blanket immunity to telecommunications providers that assist the government in illegal acts. We also asked that any revisions to intelligence laws include basic protections like requiring appropriate court authorizations before surveillance can begin, preventing the wholesale monitoring and collection of U.S.-based communications and providing robust congressional oversight to prevent abuse.

Finally, the LWVUS is developing a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Audit Resource Kit for distribution to local Leagues, with funding from the Herb Block Foundation's Defending Basic Freedoms program. The kit is a continuation of the League's Citizen Initiative for Transparency and is a valuable addition to our ongoing Looking for the Sunshine and Observing Your Government in Action publications, which promote openness and accountability in our government. As part of this work, Leagues will perform a citizens' rights audit in ten communities and release the results to the media and public on the FOIA's anniversary, July 4, 2009.

"We were an early voice in fighting for clean air; we helped prevent the creation of a segregated school district; we got out the vote; we fought for the Equal Rights Amendment and brought the national business community into the battle."

MADELEINE G. APPEL,
FORMER LWVUS BOARD MEMBER,
HOUSTON, TX

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

For 88 years, America's voters have counted on the League to provide them with thought-provoking and unbiased information whenever they make important political decisions. With our well-earned reputation as unbiased and nonpartisan, we are able to foster vibrant debates, convene forums and inform citizens on a broad range of topics. This year, the difficult and often emotional issues of race and gender were at the center of our national conversation. The League provided forums for voters to address them courageously as they faced one of the most important elections in recent history.

COMMUNITY FORUMS

To tackle the increasingly acrimonious political divide plaguing our country today, the League partnered with Elderhostel in sponsoring a nationwide series on the "red-blue" divide. The first forum, held in the nation's capital, featured noted political scholar Marvin Kalb and other premier academics and political experts. The Leagues of Phoenix and Philadelphia held follow-up panel discussions on issues such as the role of the media, women as political leaders, and partisan polarization and how it impacts issues like gun control and health care.

"The League has introduced me to so much more than current political affairs. League members demonstrate wisdom, kindness and, that generally overlooked trait in the political world, civility."

CHARLENE ARMSTRONG,
LWV MERCED COUNTY, CA



On the important topic of climate change, we held a series of 18 public forums, panel discussions and conferences in 11 states involving more than 3,200 citizens. Sponsored by Oxfam America and held in partnership with a broad range of environmental and human rights organizations and local governments, the conversations focused on the need for the United States to help poor people everywhere adapt to the inevitable negative consequences of climate change. LWWUS President Mary Wilson spoke at the Oxfam launch of its eye-opening DVD, *Sisters on the Planet*, at a special event in Washington, in October 2008.

Finally, building on our belief that freedom can thrive only when a people are secure, the League sponsored 14 public forums on *A Safer, More Compassionate World*. Sponsored by Our Voices Together, the series kicked off on August 30, 2007, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, and continued at venues across the country through the end of the year. The forums explored ways in which citizens can help minimize terrorism by engaging communities and building international understanding. The forums engendered hopeful, informed discussions about non-governmental approaches to ensuring the security of the United States and its people. The series was a continuation of similar, popular forums the League sponsored on college campuses to mark the fifth anniversary of September 11th.

PROMOTING OPEN DIALOGUES

Inspired by a remarkable presidential contest that crossed not only race, but gender lines, the League joined with the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum in Washington, DC, to sponsor a three-part series on *The Changing Face of Power: Women in Politics*. Each forum, *Women as Candidates*, *Women as Office Holders* and *Women as Voters and Activists*, was moderated by Eleanor Clift, Contributing Editor of *Newsweek*, and featured an impressive lineup of expert panelists focused on key questions related to emerging trends among women in the political process. Panelists included current and past women office holders, candidates and thought leaders from think-tanks, academia and politics.

The League also continued to examine the role of the media in shaping the political process. In October 2008, *Examining the Influence of the Media on America's Political Dialogue and Debate* brought Celinda Lake, a principal in Lake Research Partners, and Lee Rainie, the founding director of the PEW Internet and American Life Project, to the National Press Club in Washington for a spirited and thought-provoking exchange.



THANKS, LEAGUE, IT WORKS!

"It occurs to me to say 'Thank you!' for the work of the League of Women Voters. Your collective and well-managed efforts have informed countless Americans about issues and candidates in communities throughout the country. The League of Women Voters is an indication of what is going right in America. Thank you!"

KIM KLEE
SEATTLE, WA

In nascent democracies around the globe, local leaders look to the United States as an example of democratic success. Many are exploring self-rule for the first time and civil society groups must learn basic coalition building and organizational skills that we take for granted. For the individuals and civic institutions working to build democratic institutions and societies from the ground up, the League of Women Voters is a vital resource. A tireless champion of democracy around the world, the League shares its expertise and provides technical support and impartial observers to emerging democracies. In 2007 and 2008, we extended our partnerships with budding democracies in Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

For the fourth consecutive year, we partnered with the Open World Leadership Center (OWLC) to bring 42 Russian and Ukrainian civic leaders to the United States as part of the Civic Hosting Program. The popular program provides visitors with a practical experience of democracy at the grassroots level, as well as of American life and culture. Seven local Leagues around the country developed programs for the visitors to meet with elected and appointed officials, participate in community events and exchange ideas with state and local leaders.

In March, the OWLC announced that it had chosen the League to host guests from Azerbaijan and Tajikistan as part of the same program. 15 participants from Azerbaijan and five from Tajikistan had the opportunity to visit during the height of the election season; they had the unique opportunity to see American democracy in action.


In May 2008, the League, the Armenian Assembly of America and the NGO Center of Armenia launched a joint project in support of the thousands of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working to foster a sustainable democratic process in Armenia. Funded by the generous contributions of two Armenian-American League supporters, the initiative provides young leaders of NGOs with the knowledge and skills to build and maintain coalitions so that they can successfully address issues such as the environment, human rights, conflict resolution and reducing corruption. Like other League initiatives, the collaboration in Armenia strengthens and advances the rule of law and participatory democracy at the local, grassroots level.

A visit to the League of Women Voters has become a port of call for almost every group of international visitors that visit Washington to learn about our democracy. This year, the League greeted visitors from Great Britain, Colombia, Chile, China, Georgia, Sweden and Thailand. In the final days of the election period, LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate and Deputy Executive Director Zaida Arguedas were interviewed by various foreign journalists on the importance of women voters in the 2008 U.S. Presidential Election.



"In 1993, I visited the former Soviet Union to take part in a League-sponsored seminar on Making Democracy Work. The Russian women who attended were well-educated, but had lived in a dictatorial state and had no idea of how to work together to solve problems. We had no idea if the women would be able to use any of the ideas we presented. Two years later, on my second visit to Russia, I learned some results of our first visit. The women came running to greet us and told us how we had changed their lives. One woman was writing legislation for the Dumas and another woman had organized her refugee group and successfully lobbied for additional benefits. It was a very heady moment for me and the other League trainers."

NIKKI HARRIS,
LWV OAKLAND, CA

The background of the page features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white. The flag is slightly blurred and has a soft, ethereal quality.

This year the League received official recognition as a Private Volunteer Organization (PVO) from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The recognition makes the LWWUS eligible to apply for USAID grants to advance our work in developing countries around the world. And the League saw some of its previous work to build democratic principles in Kenya come to fruition this year when four Kenyan women were appointed by Kenya's new government to positions of leadership in their communities. These women were hosted by LWW-Wichita (KS) and LWW-Tucson (AZ) in 2005-2007. Finally, throughout FY 2007-08, the League maintained its presence at the United Nations, as we have since 1945 at the invitation of President Harry Truman, through our one official and two alternate observers.

LOOKING AHEAD

The work of the League of Women Voters doesn't end on Election Day. Once voters speak through the ballot box, we work in a sustained fashion to keep voters engaged with the issues and their government. In the year ahead, the League will not take for granted that the high voter turnout in 2008 will guarantee continued engagement or future turnout. We will continue working to register voters, particularly among underrepresented communities, to educate voters both new and returning, and to engage the public in various ways. And we will remain the nation's foremost voice for voter protection and election administration reform, to ensure that every eligible voter has a chance to cast a ballot and have it count.

In the year ahead, the League will also pursue an ambitious progressive agenda to roll back the worst policies of recent years and to help realize the promise of change that was at the heart of 2008's history-making election. As the nation's leading nonpartisan grassroots citizen organization, the League will engage the public in meaningful opportunities to shape that change. And we will hold decision makers accountable for their pledges to engage in civil dialogue with each other and to create a more transparent and responsive government.

We will confront the looming challenge of global climate change, vigorously pursuing the strategies designed by our Global Climate Change Task Force. The League will also continue working with Oxfam America to inspire citizen activism and congressional action on this issue. Oxfam and the LWWUS will host a series of forums in targeted states to engage constituents in conversations with their Congressional representatives who can be influential in shaping national and international climate policy. LWWUS President Mary Wilson will serve as an Oxfam Sisters on the Planet Ambassador and will attend selected Oxfam events throughout 2009.

Health care reform is also high on our agenda. Our newly charged Health Care Education Task Force will soon begin designing a program to educate our members and other citizens about policy changes and proposed legislation on key health care issues. The League is a strong proponent of guaranteed access to quality, affordable health care for all Americans, and our grassroots network is pushing hard to increase funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to cover millions of children who are today uninsured.

We recognize that to achieve meaningful change on these and other issues of vital importance to our members and all citizens, we also must reform the campaign financing system that has given special interests so much control over the national agenda. In FY 2008-09, the League will continue our leadership to take our democracy off the auction block and make our lawmakers accountable once more to the American people, not Big Money campaign contributors.

In other areas of government reform, the League will be working in Washington, D.C., and in communities across the country, to enact tougher ethics and lobbying laws and promote greater transparency to restore the public's faith in our government. We will also push back against partisan redistricting that has insulated politicians from their constituents, and educate the public on how they can minimize the gerrymandering efforts likely to occur after the 2010 census.

In the international arena, the League is anticipating hosting a fifth round of visitors from Russia, Ukraine as well as other Eurasian countries. A delegation of League members to Russia is planned for May 2009.

Because our power stems from the daily efforts of our state and local Leagues, we will continue a number of initiatives to give our members and activists the tools and training they need to make progress on the issues of greatest concern to all Americans.

The problems facing our nation today are grave. But the League's members, board, staff, supporters and volunteers are equal to the challenge. With their dedication and know-how, engaging our fellow Americans in the hands-on work of strengthening our communities and our democracy, we will overcome these challenges and create a more perfect union.

"I've been privileged to work with incredibly knowledgeable and dedicated women and men. And, I learn every day about such diverse subjects as civil liberties, judicial independence, school funding and water privatization. It's a gift for which I'll be eternally grateful."

ROBBIE DAVIS,
LWV PASADENA AREA, CA

HOW THE LEAGUE WORKS

GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY AT WORK

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) in Washington, DC, is the hub of a thriving network of more than 850 state and local Leagues that, together, work effectively at every level of government.

At every level, the League is volunteer-based and citizen-powered. Our roots grow in the soil of local, ground-up activism. Much of the League's success and credibility is a credit to the passion and influence of our dedicated members and supporters who work tirelessly in their communities to improve civic life. League members act to protect the health of America's democracy and educate and engage their fellow citizens about issues that affect them. In fact, we are one of the few "grassroots" organizations for whom that is actually true.

While state and local Leagues have the freedom to pursue activities on issues of concern to their home communities, they work closely with the LWVUS on many national issues. The LWVUS and state and local Leagues communicate regularly through high quality e-communications tools, including our monthly LeagueE-Voice

"I am proud to call the 'University of the League of Women Voters' my alma mater! My League experience is at the center of the way I process information and view the world. Discovering the League truly altered the course of my life."

JOANN HASSE,
LWV NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DE



“I’ve been active in the League for 25 years. It has taught me so much and shaped who I am today. I have met wonderful, smart women and men who care about their communities and work hard to turn those concerns into ‘informed and active participation.’ I feel honored to call myself a ‘Leaguer.’”

KAYRON BEARDEN,
LWV ATLANTA-FULTON COUNTY, GA

online newsletter, weekly e-mail “leaders’ updates” and a comprehensive Web site—sharing information, ideas and best practices—at www.lwv.org. Representatives of the League’s three levels also meet annually.

Although perhaps best known for its involvement in elections, the League has long pursued opportunities to influence public policy on other issues of concern. While strictly nonpartisan, the League takes a strong stand on the issues that are of the greatest importance to our members and to the nation. The League does not endorse political parties or candidates, but undertakes meticulous analysis and study to arrive at member consensus on critical issues. We have published more than 40 position statements on a range of topics.

While the specific issues on which the League takes a principled stand change over time, the organization remains true to its basic purpose: to make democracy work for all. Through the energy and passion of thousands of members—citizen-powered democracy in action—the League of Women Voters improves our society every day.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY IN ACTION: HOW WE DO IT

NATIONAL LOBBY CORPS

The National Lobby Corps, founded in 1971, is a group of dedicated League members from the Washington metropolitan area that delivers the League’s perspective on a range of critical issues to Members of Congress. The LWWUS Advocacy staff briefs the volunteer group on specific issues once a month.

GRASSROOTS LOBBY CORPS

The Grassroots Lobby Corps is the League’s e-mail alert network designed to generate action on important legislative issues. It rapidly mobilizes members to write or call their senators and representatives, contact the media and take other types of action on urgent issues. Throughout this year, the League’s action alerts on topics ranging from health care for children, ethics and lobbying reform and climate policy generated tens of thousands of e-mail messages to Congress.

ONLINE ADVOCACY TOOLS

The League’s public Web site (www.lwv.org) is a powerful resource for citizen education and activism. Visitors to the League’s online Legislative Action Center can read in-depth coverage of the issues, review recent key votes, find contact information for their elected representatives and the local media, and sign up for local and regional League events.

The generous contributions of the public, corporations and foundations, and the support and volunteer work by League members across the nation make the League's program activities possible.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES AND
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

for the Year Ended June 30, 2008

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
EXPENSES				
<i>Program Services</i>				
Communications	858,373	-	-	858,373
Member services	808,660	-	-	808,660
Election services	622,138	-	-	622,138
International programs	293,248	-	-	293,248
Lobbying	239,839	-	-	239,839
Convention and council	238,074	-	-	238,074
Judicial independence	164,026	-	-	164,026
Civic engagement	53,143	-	-	53,143
Immigration policy study	15,861	-	-	15,861
Total Program Services	3,293,362	-	-	3,293,362
<i>Supporting Services</i>				
General and administrative	1,257,636	-	-	1,257,636
Fundraising	2,009,478	-	-	2,009,478
Total Supporting Services	3,267,114	-	-	3,267,114
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,560,476	\$-	\$-	\$6,560,476
Change in Net Assets	(497,742)	1,011,958	-	514,216
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$5,125,316	\$397,069	\$69,075	\$5,591,460
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$4,627,574	\$1,409,027	\$69,075	\$6,105,676

A SPECIAL THANKS

The League's success is made possible by the thousands of members, supporters and partners who contribute to our programs and help us realize our mission every day. We are enormously grateful for all they do, and we are pleased to recognize the donors who made gifts between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

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The following are individuals who have informed us that they have provided for the League of Women Voters in their estates by either naming the League in their will, participating in our pooled income fund, obtaining a charitable gift annuity, designating the League as a beneficiary of their insurance policy, IRA, trust, or through another planned gift vehicle.

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Please notify our Development Office at 202-263-1336.

OUR MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With more than 89 years of experience and 850 local and state affiliates, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations. At the national level, League activities are coordinated and staffed by two distinct but complementary organizations.

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) is a 501(c)(4) advocacy and membership organization. Dedicated to promoting political responsibility, the LWVUS encourages active and informed participation in government.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) is a 501(c)(3) citizen education and research organization. Established in 1957, the Education Fund provides research, publications and conferences on public policy issues and disseminates information and training that help citizens, in the United States and abroad, to thoughtfully engage in the democratic process.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1730 M STREET, NW, SUITE 1000

WASHINGTON, DC 20036

(202) 429-1965

WWW.LWV.ORG

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2008-2010

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