

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK:
Standing Up for Citizens



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

From the League President



It is a tremendous privilege to present the 2011 Annual Report of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). The report highlights our programmatic activities throughout the calendar year, while the financial report covers our fiscal year from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

This past year, American democracy was tested in ways we haven't seen in recent memory.

In 2011, a powerful alliance of partisan operatives and wealthy special interests, emboldened by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, spent lavishly to pursue an agenda that focused not just on promoting its own interests, but also actively threatened the health, well-being and even voting rights of citizens. This agenda challenged the integrity of our system of government and forced the League to play defense all year long.

In state houses and in Congress, the League fought to keep citizens at the front and center of our democracy. Across the country, League activists spoke out against decennial redistricting processes taking place behind closed doors for the purpose of protecting incumbents and making election to Congress a lifetime appointment. Attempts to repeal health care reform and to gut America's landmark public health standards were defeated as the League engaged thousands of Americans on the issue of clean air and climate change through community forums.

Above all, I am proud of the work we did in 2011 to protect voting rights. The right to vote in a fair election is fundamental to our democracy. That right was attacked relentlessly last year. Following the 2010 election, we saw unprecedented nationwide efforts to shrink the electorate through a web of laws designed to create complex, costly and needless barriers to voting. These barriers threaten to silence the voices of those least heard by those in power and most affected by their decisions—the poor, the young, the elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, and those with disabilities. I am proud that we beat back voter suppression schemes in 13 states. But this fight is not over. Efforts to deny as many as five million eligible voters a voice in this year's elections have already succeeded in some cases and will continue.

This is the most widespread attempt to roll back voting rights in a generation, and it goes against everything the League of Women Voters has struggled to achieve for over 90 years. Our democracy only works when all citizens have a voice in choosing our elected officials and shaping public policy, and it fails when any are marginalized. At a time when *Citizens United* has allowed Super PACs to flood our elections with secret money, defending the rights of voters is paramount. No other

organization in the world has been doing that longer or does it better than the League of Women Voters.

In 2012, the League will continue standing up for citizens. Through our *Power the Vote* campaign, we will fight to prevent passage of new laws that suppress voting and will work to minimize the impact of the barriers that have been erected already. We will work to expand the electorate so that it includes eligible high school and community college students, newly naturalized citizens and other under-represented groups. We will educate voters on the voting process, candidates and the issues. And we will pursue litigation and U.S. Department of Justice action when needed to ensure states' compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

On other fronts, we will press for stronger campaign finance laws and a functioning Federal Election Commission. We will work for comprehensive climate and energy legislation and defend the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Air Act. In the global arena, the League is honored to have been selected as the partner non-governmental organization to work with the U.S. and Tunisian governments in organizing the preparatory meetings that will culminate in the ninth G8 *Middle East and North Africa (BMENA) Forum for the Future*.

From self-interested political operatives to Super PACs, the dangers facing our democracy today are very real. Ultimately, however, they are no equal to an active, informed, engaged citizenry. That is what the League and our more than 140,000 members and supporters in over 800 communities across the country strive for every day. Together, we will ensure that citizens—not political operatives or special interests—are the most important force in civic life.

Thank you to each of the members, supporters, volunteers and activists, who play a part in the League's vital work each day. I look forward to our ongoing hands-on work together, standing up for citizens and strengthening our democracy.

Sincerely,



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

The League is using an inclusive definition of "citizen" that connotes one's stake in the community rather than one's legal status.

Standing Up for Citizens:

DEFENDING FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS

Voter Registration and Voter Protection

Last year, we saw a comprehensive effort to roll back voting rights and shrink the electorate, with dozens of states enacting new voter suppression laws that erected burdensome photo ID and proof of citizenship requirements; restricted or eliminated early voting; and threatened independent voter registration drives, which play an essential role in registering minority voters. One such law, in Florida, has forced the League to suspend our registration work there. Taken together, these laws are costly, unnecessary and undemocratic; they could disenfranchise millions of eligible voters in 2012.

The League of Women Voters has been fighting for equal access to the polls since 1920. League volunteers have helped tens of thousands register or update their registration each election year, focusing on reaching groups that are underrepresented in the electorate. In 2011, the sixth year of our *Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project (PAVP)*, the League aggressively called on state legislatures to repeal and reject a whole range of voter suppression measures. In 18 states, we kept a sharp focus on opposing voter photo ID and proof-of-citizenship legislation, improving administration of statewide voter registration database systems, improving the workings of polling places, diversifying the Election Day workforce, and fighting against last minute barriers to voting. The national League worked in partnership with the state Leagues on hundreds of activities, including written and oral testimony at state legislative hearings; letters to the editor; op-eds and press conferences; activation of the League volunteer activists networks; coordination with allied groups on legal strategy; and pass-through grants to support state-level advocacy. The League generated wide-spread public and media attention through these efforts and succeeded in stopping voter suppression laws in 13 states.



Among the highlights was the U.S. Department of Justice denying preclearance, under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, of a new ID law passed in South Carolina. While the state has appealed that decision, the League continues to actively make its case and remains cautiously optimistic that the law will not be implemented. In Maine, a new law that abolished same day voter registration was overturned by a ballot initiative led by the LWV of Maine in collaboration with other groups.

To directly combat these attempts to disenfranchise specific groups of Americans, the League moved our voter registration efforts into high gear last year. We helped state and local Leagues carry out voter registration drives to register tens of thousands of new voters for the 2012 elections. We also urged state governments to fulfill their obligation to comply with federal laws—such as the National Voter Registration Act—that allow Americans to register to vote when they apply for social services.

In November, members of the House Judiciary Committee invited national League President Elisabeth MacNamara to speak at a forum, *Excluded from Democracy: The Impact of Recent State Voting Law Changes*, where she called attention to the dangers posed by the anti-voter laws sweeping the country and the League's efforts to stop them. The League also spoke out against the U.S. Department of Justice's troublesome decision to allow the state of Georgia to implement the discriminatory requirement that new voters provide a passport or other proof of citizenship in order to register to vote. This new law could effectively prohibit thousands of eligible Georgians from exercising their right to vote because obtaining such documents is surprisingly difficult and expensive.

The League also launched a vigorous defense of the electoral system itself. The U.S. House of Representatives tried to terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). The EAC was set up following the flawed 2000 presidential election to improve the reliability, trustworthiness and administration of America's elections. The League successfully called on Congress not to eliminate the EAC, the only federal agency fully devoted to improving our elections. The League also urged President Obama to appoint two new commissioners to the vacant seats on the EAC to ensure that the agency is better equipped to serve the electorate in 2012.

While the political participation of young Americans has traditionally lagged behind other age groups, the League is ensuring a strong future for our democracy by expanding our efforts to register voting-age high school students. Last year, based on research from our groundbreaking 2010 High School

Voter Registration Project to encourage voter registration by minority and low-income students, the League developed *Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow*. This comprehensive training manual is being used by local and state Leagues, other civic organizations, student groups, and educators interested in conducting effective high school voter registration drives. The manual was unveiled in April at a League-sponsored two-day summit of League leaders, elections officials, and leaders in civic and youth engagement, where we kicked off plans for a larger high school voter registration campaign in 2012.

In 2011, the League also extended *Smackdown Your Vote!*, our successful partnership with World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) that encourages youth voter registration and participation. In July, we announced the winners of the first-ever *Smackdown Your Vote!* Democracy Award, which recognizes state and local Leagues for their outstanding work to engage and empower young voters. The Leagues of Pittsburgh (PA), Houston (TX), and Mobile (AL) were awarded grants to expand their youth engagement efforts in 2012.



Through *VOTE411.org*—the League's groundbreaking one-stop election website—we continue to provide nonpartisan information about elections and voting to the public. This indispensable election resource has helped millions of voters find state-specific information on how to register, the candidates and ballot initiatives, voting hours, absentee and early voting, and their polling place location. Even though 2011 was not a major election year, over 250,000 people visited *VOTE411* during the year, and it was used by many Leagues to provide specific candidate information in their communities.

Redistricting Reform

The League of Women Voters has worked for decades to reform the redistricting process, which has long been corrupted by partisan gerrymandering and an appalling lack of transparency. Instead of voters choosing their elected officials, politicians have

been allowed to go behind closed doors and handpick their constituents, in effect undermining our representative democracy.

To ensure that citizens were not shut out of the decennial redistricting process in 2011, the national League, with funding from the Open Society Foundations, launched a transparency-focused redistricting campaign, *Shining a Light*. The national League supported state Leagues in California, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia to ensure that district lines were drawn not to favor any political party or candidate, but to give all citizens their rightful representation. The national League developed a range of resource materials and worked closely with each state League to develop state-specific objectives to promote a more open and transparent redistricting process.

These state Leagues hosted public events to increase public involvement, provided testimony, engaged and educated the media, took advantage of new mapping technology to draw and submit alternative redistricting maps that meet the public interest, and, where necessary, pursued legal action to ensure a fair process. For example, LWV of Georgia organized 27 community programs and reached out to voters in each of the state's congressional districts, generating widespread media coverage. Across Florida, more than 100 League activists gave substantive public testimony before the legislature's 29 statewide hearings. The LWV of California organized a statewide Observer Corps and deployed volunteer League activists to observe and evaluate the state's new Citizens Redistricting Commission, which led to improvements in Commission proceedings.

After repeatedly speaking out against the state's largely nontransparent and overtly partisan redistricting process, the LWV of North Carolina joined with key allied groups and dozens of affected voters in bringing suit against the state over its redistricting plans.

The Texas League joined forces with the national League in urging the U.S. Attorney General to reject the congressional redistricting plan submitted by the state of Texas on the grounds that it was in clear violation of the Voting Rights Act. The Texas plan was by far the most extreme example of racial gerrymandering among all the redistricting proposals passed by lawmakers last year. The LWV of Texas is now working closely with the national League to pursue legal strategies to block the implementation of the deeply flawed plan.

Money in Elections

The 2010 elections were the most expensive midterm campaign in our nation's history, with nearly \$4 billion spent by shadowy pressure groups unleashed by *Citizens United*. In the wake of this U.S. Supreme Court decision, and with control of the White House

up for grabs, special interests, corporations and wealthy individuals are opening their checkbooks at an even faster pace. Fair and clean elections, the pillars of democracy, are threatened by a tidal wave of big and secret money.

The League worked to mitigate the damage caused by *Citizens United* by pushing Congress to take steps to ensure the integrity of America's elections through greater disclosure and a stepped up commitment to remaining campaign finance laws. One of the most important bulwarks against corruption is the presidential public financing system, which has given average citizens a critically important role to play in choosing our presidents. Though the system is outdated, it needs to be repaired, not repealed. In 2011, the League aggressively opposed legislation in both the House and Senate that would have abolished presidential public financing. We continue to call for legislation that would modernize the system to give citizens greater influence in presidential elections and, thus, in the workings of our government.

The Supreme Court struck another blow against clean elections with its decision in *McComish v. Bennett*, overturning Arizona's voter-approved Clean Elections Act, which provides matching funds to make it possible for candidates who opt-in to the public

financing system to compete against more wealthy, privately-funded candidates. The League filed an amicus brief in the case, and remains deeply disappointed that the Court continues to undermine protections against corruption in America's elections.

The sorry state of America's elections is due not only to an unsympathetic Supreme Court and Congress's refusal to pass tougher campaign finance laws, but also to the failure of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to enforce the laws we do have. Five of the six FEC commissioners are serving expired terms, and three of them blatantly refuse to do their jobs. The League called on President Obama to end his inaction and nominate five new FEC commissioners to begin the process of fixing this broken system and restoring the integrity of our campaign finance laws.

In 2011, the national League received a grant from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, New York, to conduct an educational and advocacy campaign on the importance of limiting money in elections. The League will undertake the campaign in early 2012 to generate public demand for the urgent need for transparent, clean campaign financing.

judicial nomination commissioners on issues related to diversity and transparency.

As our campaign in Kansas was concluding, the LWV of South Carolina was ramping up its *Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary* program. The campaign launched in October 2010 with a major press conference in Charleston and saw immediate positive results – more diversity among the judges appointed to the South Carolina courts. Leagues across the state hosted well-attended programs, including one at the South Carolina League's annual convention, a panel on judicial diversity with local legislators, judges and attorneys.

In August, the League received a one-year grant extension from the Open Society Foundations, which will allow the LWV of Kansas and South Carolina to continue their education and monitoring activities, and allow the League to join the Justice at Stake coalition in Washington State on work to create a more diverse judiciary.

Ethics and Lobbying Reform

The disproportionate influence that special interests and lobbyists wield over our political process breeds corruption and undermines the legitimacy of our system of representative democracy. While the last Congress passed new ethics and lobbying laws, this was just a modest first step in restoring government "of the people, by the people, for the people."

In 2011, the League of Women Voters stood up for citizens by working tirelessly to protect the integrity of America's democratic institutions. We came out strongly against a proposed amendment that would have gutted the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE). While the House Ethics Committee has failed to police congressional malfeasance, the bipartisan OCE has done an outstanding job of protecting the integrity of the House, and the League urged that its role in the ethics enforcement process be strengthened and expanded.

The League also called on the "Super Committee" on Deficit Reduction to disclose the efforts of special interests to influence its decision-making process, as well as the campaign contributions Committee members received during their deliberations. We warned that failure to do so would reinforce the public's mistrust of the process and delegitimize the Committee's work.

Openness in Government

Government transparency and accountability are core to a strong and healthy democracy. In March, the League co-hosted the 6th Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue in Washington, DC. Entitled, *The Road Forward on Open Government*, the event



In South Carolina, the Girl Scouts welcomed participants to an educational forum hosted by LWV of Horry County and LWV of Georgetown County investigating ways to promote diversity on the bench.

brought together transparency experts from inside and outside government to discuss the extent to which the Obama Administration has met its goal of "creating an unprecedented level of openness in government." The event was available via webcast and many state and local Leagues hosted "viewing parties" in their communities. Local Leagues have a long tradition of sitting in on government meetings as observers for their communities. To help Leagues and other citizen groups assess local government's use of online technology to promote openness and accessibility, the national League drafted a resource guide, *Sunshine 2.0*.

National League Executive Director Nancy Tate has frequently been asked for advice concerning implementation of the Knight Commission report, *Informing Communities: Sustaining Democracy in the Digital Age*. Relatedly, she was invited to participate in the Aspen Institute's prestigious *Forum on Communications in Society*, which explored the growing impact of network technologies on communities and citizenship.

Promoting Good Governance

The League strives to ensure that our government works as effectively and fairly as possible at every level. Though issues like Senate rules and appropriations may not sound "sexy," League members recognize them as essential to the functioning of American democracy.

In 2011, the League called for reform of the rules governing the U.S. Senate. In place of a deliberative process that prioritizes open debate, accountability, and cooperation, the Senate has descended into gridlock and partisan warfare at great cost to our nation. The unprecedented use of filibuster and holds, often done in secret and out of the view of the American people, does a disservice to our democracy. The League called upon Senators to

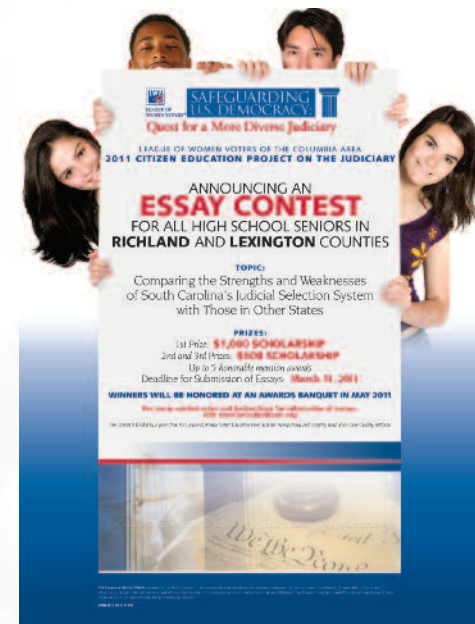
Standing Up for Citizens:

PURSUING FAIRNESS, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Fair and Impartial Courts

With ongoing support from the Open Society Foundations, the League continued our *Safeguarding U.S. Democracy* educational campaign to promote the importance of fair and impartial courts nationwide. In the spring, the League completed our 18-month focus, *Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary*, in support of greater gender diversity and more transparency in the Kansas Judiciary. Throughout the campaign, Leagues across Kansas held 38 public forums, reached approximately one million people through media coverage and web resources, and involved dozens of judges, legislators, nominating commissioners and other members of the legal profession.

The League's campaign was an unqualified success. Our efforts led to increased transparency in the Kansas judicial system: the Kansas judicial merit selection commission for the state Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opened its candidate interviews to the public; a new official outreach program was developed for Kansas judges; more information about judicial diversity was made available to the public; and judicial appointments at all levels of the Kansas Courts now better mirror the state's population. The LWV of Topeka also helped subsidize the cost of training 87



The LWV of the Columbia Area, SC held an essay contest for local students on the South Carolina Judiciary, one in a range of educational, advocacy and engagement activities sponsored by the League as part of our "Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary" campaign.

reform the Senate rules in a way that maintains the chamber's best traditions and ends needless obstructionism.

The League spoke out in opposition to the inclusion of any policy riders in appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2011. This was in response to passage of the House Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1) in February, which included riders that made extensive and damaging cuts to critical public health, worker safety, consumer, civil rights, and environmental programs—without the full deliberation and debate afforded by the normal legislative process.

Standing Up for Citizens: DEFENDING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

League members and supporters are some of the nation's most politically active and engaged citizens. Consequently, the League has a diverse, ambitious policy agenda that is not static and reflects the current needs of society. Because the League only takes a stand on an issue once we've done thorough research and reached consensus among our members, we bring a thoughtful, rational, respectful perspective to often divisive and controversial issues.



Clean Air Defense

The League has long worked for strong public health and environmental protections. In 2011, we fought tirelessly to defend every American's right to clean air. We urged the House to pass the Capps Amendment to clean up polluting power plants and turned back an array of bills, amendments, and resolutions. This included the TRAIN Act, which would have gutted the Clean Air Act and prevented the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from regulating greenhouse gasses, voided the lifesaving rule that

The League was equally vocal during the debt ceiling negotiations. As part of a diverse coalition of 117 organizations, we urged Congress to reject mandatory federal spending caps or entitlement caps, such as those in the Corker-McCaskill proposal, as well as any balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Imposing spending limits would require massive cuts in numerous programs for the neediest Americans, and could catastrophically impact efforts to stabilize a weak economy.

protects people in states downwind from polluting power plants, and blocked standards that would curb toxic mercury emissions. Many of these bills were part of the House Majority Leader's legislative agenda memo from August, which laid out an extreme ideological agenda that prioritizes the narrow interests of politically-connected polluting industries over the health of America's children, families and communities.

In April, with funding from the Partnership Project, the national League launched a television advertising campaign in Massachusetts and Missouri. The campaign called public attention to votes by Senators Scott Brown (R-MA) and Claire McCaskill (D-MO) to block new air pollution standards. The hard-hitting ads, part of our ongoing "People not Polluters" campaign, helped provide the public with a greater understanding of the impact of their Congressional representatives' actions. The ads generated nationwide media coverage and increased League visibility and impact as a voice for clean air.

The LWVUS also kicked off our *Clean Air Promise* campaign to engage citizens, elected officials and community leaders around the country to join in making a simple promise to protect the health of our children and families by supporting clean air policies and other public health protections. With funding from the National Resources Defense Council and the Energy Foundation, the League aired TV ads in July on Washington, DC, network and national cable television stations and supported the efforts of state and local Leagues to encourage their communities to stand up for clean air.

To bolster our advocacy on this issue, the League commissioned nationwide opinion polling to demonstrate the widespread public

support for cleaner air. Our polling showed that 70 percent of Americans disapproved of the President's ongoing failure to issue new clean air standards for ozone smog pollution. Also, nearly four out of five Americans want the EPA to hold corporate polluters accountable for what they release into the air we all breathe.

Health Care Defense

Passage of the Affordable Care Act was one of the League's most celebrated victories of 2010, and one the League had to defend aggressively in early 2011. The League lobbied U.S. Senators to oppose legislation that would have repealed the law. We argued that health care reform was already improving coverage and access for millions of Americans, and that repealing the Affordable Care Act would add \$230 billion to the national deficit over the next 10 years and leave about 54 million Americans without insurance.

The League also pressed the Senate to reject the 2012 Budget Resolution passed by the House of Representatives on the grounds that it ignored the need for a well-thought out balance between increased revenue and budget cuts.

Global Climate Change

The League recognizes that global climate change is one of the greatest threats to our nation's security and environmental and economic health, and believes that strong U.S. leadership to address this issue is imperative. In March, as part of a diverse coalition, the League urged the U.S. Senate to block House-passed cuts to international investments to address the causes and consequences of a changing climate. These modest investments are vital to promote global stability and security, create economic opportunities for U.S. businesses and workers,



address global health challenges, and ensure cost savings through disaster preparedness measures.

Throughout the year, the League was a consistent and influential voice of opposition to the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline. The League sent a letter to President Obama urging him to reject the pipeline, which would have carried tar sands oil from Canada across the U.S. to Texas, where it would be refined for export overseas. Putting the pipeline over the Ogallala Aquifer would have threatened the drinking water of millions of Americans. The League welcomed President Obama's decision to block the pipeline, and encouraged him to take additional action to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil and stabilize the climate.

In 2011, the League also completed our partnership with Oxfam of America through which we have been working to advance policies that will reduce global warming pollution; provide resources to help the poor peoples of the world who are disproportionately dealing with the negative consequences of climate change; and address the impact of climate change on the food security of women globally.

Standing Up for Citizens: PROMOTING GLOBAL DEMOCRACY



Members of the League of Women Voters of Tunisia with League Global Democracy Program Senior Director Zaida Arguedas. The League helped to create this independent civil society organization in the wake of the country's Jasmine Revolution of January 14, 2011.

The League's commitment to democracy does not end at America's borders. Through our Global Democracy Program, League staff and members provide hands-on assistance to grassroots activists and organizations around the world, helping them increase civic engagement, make their governments more open, accountable and responsive to all their citizens, and build more democratic institutions from the ground up.

In 2011, the LWVUS was contracted by Democracy International (DI) to assist with USAID-funded projects in Bangladesh and El Salvador. Zaida Arguedas, senior director of the League's Global Democracy Programs, traveled to Bangladesh to work with leaders there to devise strategies that will encourage party leaders to support women political candidates.

Ms. Arguedas also traveled to Egypt and Tunisia to meet with women leaders of civil society organizations and urge them to play a leading role in their historic transition to democracy. In addition, she traveled to Cuba where she spoke at an international conference on the role of women in the 21st century.

State and local Leagues play a unique and vital role in fostering democracy abroad through exchange and hosting programs. With funding from the Open World Leadership Center, five local

Leagues in three states welcomed visitors from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan for firsthand exposure to the U.S. political process and intense programming around themes of municipal governance, elections, media and participatory government. As part of our ongoing Legislative Fellows Program, Ms. Arguedas led two groups of U.S. Fellows, including League members, to Colombia and Brazil to promote grassroots dialogue, share political and cultural understanding, and strengthen bonds among citizens in the Americas.

Finally, the League maintained its constant presence at the UN through our one official and two alternate observers, as we have done since 1945. In 2011, the League used its status as a UN Observer to promote women's role in democracy, the rights of women and girls, and environmental sustainability.

The League of Women Voters has remained a relevant and vital force in American society for almost a century by continually bringing in new members and supporters and training confident, creative leaders. In 2011, the national League continued bringing our *Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Program* to more state and local Leagues across the country. More than 300 Leagues in 32 states and the District of Columbia now participate in this program, led by 17 *Ruth S. Shur Fellows* and over 100 state coaches. Since its inception in 2006, the program has made terrific strides in strengthening the League's volunteer leadership base, increasing League visibility within communities, and bringing more members into the organization. The remaining 18 states will be brought into the program in 2012 and 2013.

To gain a better understanding of how the public views the League, the national League contracted with Lake Research Partners to hold a "summit" of Washington-based pollsters and conduct three telephone focus groups of registered voters. We learned that the public appreciates the need for the League to educate and inform citizens in a nonpartisan way and that they believe we should be more aggressive in standing up for their rights.

The League launched its new website at www.lwv.org. After nearly a year of planning, designing, building, and testing, the site "went live" on December 1, 2011. The new, more interactive website

Standing Up for Citizens: STRENGTHENING THE LEAGUE



The 2011 Class of Ruth S. Shur Fellows

provides creative ways for the League to engage our members, supporters and volunteer activists, the media, and the public, while enlarging our online community. The site also features our new blog, which launched in September with stories about national League President MacNamara's activities on the road and commentary and insights on a range of issues. Overall, the response from visitors and members to www.lwv.org has been overwhelmingly positive. In 2012, the League will continue to improve the site by adding new features and more dynamic content targeted to visitors' interests.

Standing Up for Citizens: LOOKING AHEAD

In 2012, the League of Women Voters will be active on many fronts, both domestic and international. However, with a presidential election on the horizon, the League is placing special emphasis on helping the public navigate the election system, ensuring all eligible voters are allowed to register and exercise their right to vote, and fighting for an outcome that is decided by the voters, not special interest money. Below are a few highlights of the League's agenda for the months ahead:

- Undertaking the *Power the Vote* campaign that includes advocacy for voter protection as well as voter registration, education and mobilization activities.
- Fighting for the rights of voters by opposing new voter suppression laws; working to mitigate the impact of anti-voter laws passed in 2011; and pressuring the Department of Justice

to investigate whether these laws violate the Voting Rights Act, other federal laws or the Constitution.

- Galvanizing broad collaborations with others interested in expanding the electorate, by targeting voter registration at high schools, community colleges, naturalization ceremonies, public transit hubs and other places serving underrepresented populations.
- Strengthening and expanding the use of VOTE411.org, the League's one-stop online election resource that provides voters a trusted, nonpartisan source for issue, candidate and ballot information.
- Pursuing legal actions to prevent the implementation of harmful redistricting maps. Such actions include bringing suit, filing

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES AND LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011 2010



Voter Registration



Redistricting

amicus curae briefs, intervening in key federal and state court cases, and urging the Department of Justice to deny or object to redistricting plans that violate the Voting Rights Act.

■ Pressing President Obama to appoint new commissioners to the Federal Election Commission and ensuring that the Commission does its job enforcing the nation's campaign finance laws.

■ Pressing for comprehensive climate and energy legislation—focusing attention on the massive public health, economic and national security benefits of reducing the nation's air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, while countering the false assertions that environmental protections hurt our economy—and opposing all new attempts to gut the Clean Air Act and prevent the EPA from doing its job.

■ Finalizing a study of the criteria for use by citizens and government officials in deciding what public services are appropriate for privatization.

■ Serving as the partner non-governmental organization with the U.S. and Tunisian governments in developing the themes and agendas of the preparatory meetings that will culminate in the 9th G8 *Middle East and North Africa (BMENA) Forum for the Future*.

■ Building local Leagues and their leaders through the MLD program as we move toward the organization's 100th anniversary—and beyond.



Voter Education

Unrestricted activities

Revenue and support	\$3,614,838	\$3,374,559
Grants and contributions	1,231,158	1,279,744
Per-member payments	917,401	651,454
Contributions in lieu of per-member payments	214,163	235,500
Mailing list rental income	183,425	146,429
Council and convention registration and other fees	69,900	190,240
Publication sales and other income	35,781	28,475
Change in value of annuity agreements	11,868	(2,667)

Net assets released from restrictions - satisfaction of program restrictions

Total revenue and support

Expense

Program services

Civic engagement	1,938,985	233,917
Communications	817,631	748,122
Election services	766,383	647,409
Member services	405,657	622,318
International programs	399,284	324,976
Advocacy	312,200	346,109
Judicial independence	171,581	137,864
Council and convention	111,889	204,677
Total program services	4,923,610	3,265,392

Supporting services

Fund raising	2,086,932	1,782,395
General and administrative	1,185,956	1,165,935

Total supporting services

Total expenses

Change in unrestricted net assets

Temporarily restricted activities

Grants and contributions	2,297,166	993,356
Investment income	144,015	49,210
Change in value of annuity agreements	7,147	6,912
Net assets released from restrictions	(2,726,929)	(864,005)

Change in temporarily restricted net assets

Permanently restricted activities

Contributions	—	600,000
Change in permanently restricted net assets	—	600,000

Change in net assets

Net assets, beginning of year

Net assets, end of year

Thank you!

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 grateful for all they do and wish we had space to list each and every one.

Below, we are pleased to recognize our members, friends, corporations and foundations who have donated \$1,000 or more during the past fiscal year, July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Leaders for Democracy

As the League's most committed and generous supporters who make annual contributions of \$1,000 and more, **Leaders for Democracy** receive special benefits such as invitations to participate in semi-annual conference calls with the League President and senior staff members, special recognition at Convention, personal invitations to League events, complimentary copies of League publications, recognition in the League's Annual Report and more.

For more information about the **Leaders for Democracy** or to make a contribution, please visit www.lwv.org or call 202-263-1355.

Champions (\$10,000+)

Anonymous
Julia M. Marsden
Eleanor Revelle
Dr. Barbara Starfield*
Ann S. Wolff

Visionaries (\$5,000+)

Anonymous
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Members of the **Catt Legacy Society** receive special benefits such as invitations to participate in semi-annual conference calls with the League President and senior staff members, special recognition at Convention, personal invitations to League events, complimentary copies of League publications, recognition in the League's Annual Report and more.

The **Catt Legacy Society** is our way of thanking members and friends for remembering the League in their estate plans and serves as a visible way for our members and friends to demonstrate their faith in the future of the League and to inspire others to follow their generous example.

For more information about remembering the League in your estate plans, or to let us know that you have already included us, please contact Aimee Olivo at 202-263-1355 or aolivo@lwv.org.

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OUR MISSION

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government.

Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. Rooted in the movement that secured women's right to vote, the League has been at work for over 90 years. With more than 800 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. LWVUS works with its state and local affiliates to increase understanding of public policy issues and to influence particular policies through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) is a 501(c)(3) citizen education organization that helps people, in the United States and abroad, thoughtfully engage in the democratic process. This includes, but is not limited to, providing information about elections and the voting process.

The League of Women Voters neither supports nor opposes any candidate for office, nor any political party.



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