



# The Brown County Voter

April 18, 2013

## Calendar

- April 27-29 IN League of Women Voters Annual Convention  
Turkey Run State Park  
(see page 4)
- Monday, May 13 LWV Brown County board meeting  
10 am Library  
Everyone welcome
- Monday, May 20 LWV Brown County Annual Meeting  
Brown County Library  
6 pm social; 6:30 dinner  
7 pm Michael Potts, BCJH teacher  
“We the People”  
Please come and bring a guest!  
Cost: \$15.00, catered by Marcia Placke  
(chef’s choice, vegetarian option)  
RSVP Mary Perez 988-7087  
or [ellakes@earthlink.net](mailto:ellakes@earthlink.net)  
(see pages 2 & 3)

## Local League member Susanne Gaudin nominated for State League President

The League of Women Voters of Brown County is very proud to announce that our own Susanne Gaudin has been nominated to become the President of the Indiana League of Women Voters. As of this writing, she is the only nominee for this position.

Susanne has served on the state board for the past two years, taking a leadership role in issues such as voter registration, election reform and

League visibility. Locally, she is a member of the League board and has served on the Brown County Election Board since 2009, a role she must drop if she assumes the state League presidency. She also serves as a director for South Central Indiana REMC, LLC and is president of Compassion and Choices of Indiana.

Susanne will replace Karen Kay Leonard, who has served the state as an outstanding president for four years.

## Proposed Slate of LWVBC Board for 2013-2014

### Officers:

President: Julie Winn  
VP & Secretary: Pam Raider  
Treasurer: Marge Cook  
Membership/Nominations:  
Pam Raider

### Directors:

Janet Kramer (Voter Service, Partnership)  
Mary Perez (Voter Service)  
Ruth Reichman (Vision 2020)  
Judy East (Newsletter, Health Study)  
Sue Cannavo (Membership, Nominations)

### Concurrence Needed on Brown County Health Initiatives *Please vote by May 8*

*by Judith East and Ruth Reichman*

At our last Annual Meeting our local League adopted Health Care as one of our program items for study and consensus.

During the past year a group of graduate students from the Kelley School of Business has undertaken a study of health care needs in Brown County and presented their final report at a public meeting. The students found a lack of easily-readable information about existing health services and insufficient communication and collaboration between health providers.

There is a need for transportation to health care facilities. Also, Brown County schools could play an important role to expand health care.

Based on the main points from the students' health report, please answer the following questions (yes or no):

As the League of Women Voters of Brown

County, do we agree to support:

1. Health care facilities in Brown County with affordable services for everyone.
2. Greater collaboration between health providers and with consumers.
3. Dissemination of easily-readable information about existing health services.
4. Improved transportation to health care facilities.
5. Expansion of health care in Brown County schools.

Please answer these questions by Wednesday, May 8, by contacting Judy East by email or phone, [judithaeast@yahoo.com](mailto:judithaeast@yahoo.com) or 988-0865. If for some reason you need additional information or wish to discuss the study, you may contact Judy.

Based on the answers in this concurrence we will formulate a position which will be available at our Annual Meeting on May 20.

### Dorothy Stewart Scholarship

Please think about a donation to the "Dorothy Stewart Scholarship" with the Brown County Community Foundation.

Dorothy was one of our League founding members and its first president. She was killed by a pack of dogs while working on the 2000 Census. The scholarship will go to a Brown County graduating senior who is interested in a political or environmental field of study. Your tax-exempt donation provides scholarships to Brown County students interested in civics.

The Foundation is located at 91 W. Mound St. Unit 4 and the address is P.O. Box 191, Nashville 47448. This is the building at the corner of Mound and Jefferson Sts.

Support your local league with a tax deductible contribution to our education fund with a check made out to lwvin-ed. Send to PO Box 74, Nashville, IN 47448. Or, you can contribute directly to the Foundation, either to the Fund (i.e. endowment) or directly to this year's grant.

# League of Women Voters Plans for 2013-2014

## State and National Programs

### LWVUS:

First priority: Money in Politics and other facets of Electoral Reform

Second priority: Climate Change, Gun Safety and Immigration

### \*\*LWVIN:

State positions on the following shall be retained:

Nomination of Candidates,  
Voter Registration,  
Dissemination of Voting Information,  
Poll Workers,  
Local Government Finance,  
Property Tax Exemption,  
School Finance,  
Juvenile Justice,  
Pre-Trial Release,  
Unified Courts and Merit System,  
Mandatory Kindergarten,  
Children at Risk,  
Domestic Violence,  
Health Care and Illegal Substances.

Hazardous Waste position shall be dropped.

Redistricting position shall be retained until a revision now underway is completed.

General Assistance shall be restudied.

Tax System position shall be restudied unless the Board is able to revise without restudy.

Local government position shall be restudied with particular attention to township government.

Election Recounts position shall be added to Election Procedures.

**\*\* The State program has not yet been adopted as of publication of the Annual LWVBC Program. Any revisions undertaken at the State Convention April 27-28 will be reflected in the final LWVBC Program distributed at our Annual Meeting May 20.**

## Local Program

• Support the Vision 2020 project by supporting the B.C. Partnership, sponsoring community conversations as needed, and undertaking other steps deemed desirable to further this project.

• Sponsor the research and preparation by IU Kelley School students of an assessment of Brown County wellness and heritage tourism assets as well as a marketing plan. Organize community conversations to implement local activities that promote Brown County as a wellness and heritage tourism destination.

• Research the quality, availability, and efficiency of delivery of water to Brown County for needed purposes such as drinking water and firefighting, etc. Revisit our position on the Lake Monroe Watershed to include the Bean Blossom and Indian Creek watersheds in the county.

• Revisit and update our position on emergency services.

• Revisit and update our position on Brown County Schools.

• Revisit and update the LWVBC Bylaws.

• Support the "Dorothy Stewart Memorial Scholarship Fund.

• Attend and participate in the B.C. Partnership.

• Voter Services: Sponsor annual "Meet Your Legislators – Third House Meeting".

• Increase membership and visibility in the League as well as observers for County Meetings.

## Partnership Meeting

*by Janet Kramer*

Linda Welty, SCCMP and Carrel Moore, Habitat for Humanity BC, spoke on "Housing: A Five Point Series." Linda has 45 people on her waiting list for Housing BC - not "homeless," but people who are living with friends and relatives "couch surfing."

Carrel reported on Habitat and as of now, no one is on the waiting list. Funds are limited and he noted the wonderful cooperation of other groups and churches helping. The biggest challenge is finding land to build on.

## April 2013 Observation Report “County Commissioners”

*by Pam Raider*

For some time our league talked of reviving an observer corps covering government meetings. To that end, I made a commitment to put more of them on my calendar for 2013. I will be busy if I try to cover all the special sessions of the new County Commissioners.

As reported on at the April board meeting, the Commissioners have been busy, as a result the meetings are crowded. Road maintenance continues on schedule. With the recent appointment of Mary Fouch to the VB fire board, most of the appointments have been made. Bids for county mowing were accepted, VB fire dept contract awarded to Steve Miller firm, Economic Development Commission is restructured into CRDC (County Re Development Commission). Presentation of new Septic Ordinance was tabled until next time. The April 3rd meeting was posted as Preliminary Determination Hearing to Enter Into a Lease-Remodel and Addition to County Courthouse. There was time for audience comment. They heard from an expert on bonds and then passed their plan to float bonds up to 6 ½ to 8 million dollars, they commented this would take up to 2027 or 13 years to repay and property taxes will have to be raised.

On Wednesday April 10th, at 10 am the Commissioners held a Special Session to discuss formation of a county wide sewer district. John Kennard told the audience that we need to combine Helmsburg and Bean Blossom sewer systems. Helmsburg is about 60% capacity having lost the sock factory and Bean Blossom needs more customers, it is losing residents. Even still, this is not large enough to apply for grants to build sewer systems. One solution would be to combine all the separate sewer systems – Gnow Bone has one now. A state employee was on hand to explain how this could be done and answer questions from the audience which was mainly sewer personel. The town of Nashville could agree to go in or remain on its own. Details would have to be worked out and different bodies agree. The model sounds similar to the Fire District proposal so I expect there will continue to be fireworks at the Commissioner meetings in the future.

## LWVIN Convention at Turkey Run State Park, April 27 & 28

*by Susanne Gaudin*

Over 70 delegates, observers and guests will be attending the upcoming State LWVIN Convention in historic and beautiful Turkey Run State Park. They'll meet at the Turkey Run Inn for two days of workshops, speakers, League business (program and budget approval), a silent auction, a Saturday night movie with discussion to follow, networking, reports from local Leagues, displays and great food and camaraderie. The theme for this year's convention is "The League for the Future."

Speakers include Julia Vaughn from Common Cause of Indiana "Reflections on 2013 Legislative Session"; Dr. Robert Steele, Prof. Journalism Ethics Depauw University "Values of Civility and Importance of Civil Dialogue In our Society Including the Political Arena and in the Media"; Susanne Gaudin, LWVIN board of directors "Where is the Next Great Generation Coming From and How do we Engage Them?"; Pat Donath – LWVUS Secretary/Treasurer "5 Most Important Ways LWVUS office and Board serves State Leagues" and "Call to 2014 Convention in Dallas"; Dr. Raymond Scheele – Co director Bowen Center for Public Affairs Ball State University "2012 Hoosier Survey."

Workshops will span both Saturday and Sunday and cover Elections for the Future (Brown County will be presenting a segment on Poll Worker Training), Membership & Leadership Development to Grow the Future League, Visibility Opportunities for the Future, and Securing Financial Support for the Future.

Saturday evening includes a time to kick back and enjoy the film "Patriocracy." Professor Hadley from Wabash College will lead a lively discussion on the film.

In addition, a silent auction will be held throughout the two days (there will be a "Brown County" basket created to draw competing bids) and the LWVIN is honored to have Princess Jusu from Liberia among our guests.

# The Petition and Remonstrance Process re: the Brown County Courthouse

by Susanne Gaudin

At the April 3 County Commissioners meeting, the Commissioners by unanimous vote determined that “a need exists for the construction, installation, and equipping of an expansion and renovation of the Brown County Courthouse.”

The Board further agreed “to take all of the necessary steps to finance all or any portion of the costs of the Project by entering into a lease between the building corporation, as lessor, and the County, as lessee, relating to the Project.”

The lessor, also known as the Building Corporation, will finance the cost of the Project (which also includes the financing costs associated with the Project) through the issuance of bonds.

The maximum annual lease rental to be paid by the County under the proposed lease is \$780,000. The maximum lease rental over the term of the lease is \$8,250,000.

As stated in the Public Notice section of the April 11 *Brown County Democrat*, “Any owners of real property within the County or registered voters residing within the County who want to initiate a petition and remonstrance process against the proposed lease rental payments must file a petition requesting the application of a petition and remonstrance process with the Brown County Circuit Court Clerk, Brown County Courthouse, 1st Floor, 20 East Main Street, Nashville, Indiana, not later than thirty days after the date of the publication of this notice in the manner provided by Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.1.”

## What is the Petition and Remonstrance Process?

The process gives the voters and homeowners a voice in how their tax dollars are spent. A Remonstrance is conducted through a petition drive. A Referendum (also known as a Local Public Question) allows voters to voice their opinions through their votes on a ballot initiative. The Remonstrance Process is a race for signatures rather than a race for votes.

The Petition and Remonstrance Process consists of two phases. Phase One is reserved for voters/homeowners who are opposed to the project. That opposition can be for any reason.

We are in Phase One of the Petition and Remonstrance Process. When the Commissioners voted to move ahead with the project and gave notice through the Public Notices section in the *Brown County Democrat* newspaper under IC 6-1.1-20-3.1, published in the April

11th issue, Phase One began.

## If you oppose the Project, what do you do?

Go to the County Clerk’s Office and request a Petition;

The carrier and signers must be owners of real property or registered voters;

The carrier must be a signatory on at least one (1) petition;

After the signatures have been collected, the carrier must swear or affirm before a notary public that the carrier witnessed each signature; and

Govern the closing date for the petition period.

Brown County registered voters and/or property owners can carry one petition and gather signatures of other registered voters and /or property owners who oppose the Project. Each petition has room for 25 signatures.

You may specifically ask for additional petitions to give to someone else to carry. The Clerk’s office can mail a petition upon request to a voter or property owner if they cannot get to the office to pick it up.

Persons requesting forms may be required to identify themselves as owners of real property or registered voters and may be allowed to pick up additional copies to distribute to other property owners or registered voters.

Each person signing a petition must indicate whether they are signing the petition as a registered voter or is signing the petition as the owner of real property.

A person who signs a petition as a registered voter must indicate the address at which the person is registered to vote. A person who signs a petition as a real property owner must indicate the address of the real property owned by the person.

You must file the petitions with the County Clerk’s office not more than thirty (30) days after the publication of the public notice in the *Democrat* newspaper. The deadline to return a petition is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 10, 2013. No petitions will be accepted after that time.

## Verification of signatures:

The county voter registration office must determine whether each person who signed the petition is a registered voter. That office must within fifteen (15) business days after receiving a petition forward a copy to the county Auditor.

Within ten (10) business days after receiving the copy of the petition, the county Auditor must provide the county voter registration office a statement verifying:

Whether a person who signed a petition as a registered voter but is not a registered voter, as determined by the voter registration office, is in fact the owner of



real property; and,

Whether a person who signed the petition as an owner of real property within the political subdivision does in fact own real property.

The county registration office must within ten (10) business days after receiving the statement from the county Auditor make a final determination of the number of valid signatures.

A person is entitled to sign a petition only one (1) time in a particular remonstrance process, regardless of whether the person owns more than one (1) parcel or real property and regardless of whether the person is both a registered voter and the owner of real property.

**If one hundred (100) valid signatures are collected by the deadline, Phase Two begins.**

County Commissioners publish a public notice stating the applicability of the petition and remonstrance process within 30 days of the Clerk's certification of the number of valid signatures;

That legal notice must include a statement that any registered voter or property owner who want a petition in favor of or remonstrate against the proposed debt service (bonds) must file petitions and remonstrances between 30 and 60 days after publication of the legal notice.

30 to 60 days after the legal notice of the applicability of the petition and remonstrance process is pub-

lished, petitions in favor of the bonds and remonstrances against the bonds may be filed out by property owners or registered voters. These are available at the Clerk's office.

Each signature must be dated, and the date of the signature may not be before the date on which the petition and remonstrance forms may be issued.

Petitions and remonstrances must be verified and filed with the county voter registration office by the 60th day.

Verification of valid signatures is then processed by the voter registration office and the county Auditor using the same method as in Phase One.

Within 35 business days of the filing of the petition/remonstrance containing 10,000 signatures or less, the county voter registration office must file a certificate with the Commissioners.

If a greater number of people who are registered voters or property owners sign a remonstrance (against) than the number that signed a petition (in favor of), the bonds petitioned for may not be issued or the lease petitioned for may not be enter into. The Commissioners may not issue bonds or enter into a lease for a controlled project that is not substantially different within one (1) year of the county voter registration office's certificate.

If the greater number of qualified persons sign a petition than a remonstrance, the bonds may be issued or the lease may be entered into.

LWVBC  
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