

THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Champlain Valley

October 2010

CVLWV Board, 2010 - 2011

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Director	Marcia Mason	863-5784
Director	Laura Middleton	879-3515
Director	Louise Ransom	985-8706

Calendar of Events

We sponsor meetings and events for the public and League members.

Local, Statewide, Regional Meetings

Date	Time	Place	Description
Oct. 16	10am-4pm	Fletcher Free Library Burlington	Voter Information Table
Oct. 16	9am – 1:00	Fletcher Free Library Burlington	John Dewey Parade Frank Gonzales Mask-making workshop followed by Parade at 12:15
Nov. 2		Every Polling Place	Election Day
Nov. 10	10:30am	22 Carmichael St. Essex Junction	Champlain Valley Board Meeting
Nov. 13	4:30pm	TBA	State Board Meeting

President's Message

Many people including League members are working hard to encourage people to vote in the statewide election. Absentee voting is becoming more popular. We now need to encourage the candidates to provide us with more information. Don't be afraid to ask them questions. There are many websites and googling has

become a popular way of getting their information, but meeting them in person and being able to ask them questions may help to clarify what's online. So try to attend the many forums that are being held. The League is also considering a more informal way to meet the candidates at fairs where candidates have tables set up so voters can have a chance to meet them in person.

We also need to ask our current legislators about the 'Prop 5' proposal to change the state constitution to allow 17 year olds to vote in the primary if they will be 18 by the November election day. About a dozen other states have done this in hopes of encouraging young voters to take part in our election system.

John Dewey and Voter Education Saturday October 16 at Fletcher Free Library

World-renowned philosopher and educator, John Dewey, was born Oct. 20, 1859 and grew up in Burlington, VT. He believed that experience-based learning and respect for the unique differences in each person is the foundation of education.

From 9 to noon Frank Gonzalez, Artist and Educator, will lead a "hands-on" mask-making workshop for all ages at the Fletcher Free Library. Masks will be made from recycled materials. Bring a bag lunch and at 12:15 pm there will be a parade up Church Street wearing the masks. Families invited. (Children 10 yrs. and younger must also bring an adult.) Call 864-1888 for more info.

League members and volunteers will have a voter information table at the entrance to the library. We have permission to be inside near the circulation desk. Call Jean Hopkins (863-5359) for more information or just show up to help!

Chittenden County Votes

This project, headed by Louise Ransom (985-8706), is in full swing as election day approaches. Volunteers are working in Burlington, South Burlington, Charlotte, Richmond, Jericho, Essex, Bolton, Underhill, Shelburne and Williston with information to get out the vote.

Call Louise to get a red sticker to wear to promote it. She also has voter information that has been compiled on most of the candidates.

Voter Education on the Ballot Question - 'Prop 5'

The question asks voters if they support or oppose allowing 17 year olds who will be 18 by the November election to vote in the Primary in August. This is a constitutional amendment question. Vote yes if you support amending the constitution to allow some 17 year old voters to vote in the primary election for candidates. Vote no if you want to keep the voting age for all voters at age 18.

Issues to consider:

It will give the 17 year olds the opportunity to help decide who is going to be on the ballot in November.

Can 17 year olds vote if they aren't legally permitted to take the Voter's Oath?

Will it encourage more people to vote if they can become active voters as they approach age 18 ?

We need to get this information out to voters before election day because it hasn't been in the news and it's in fine print at the very beginning of the ballot where voters may overlook it or not be able to read it!

www.vote411

The Vermont ballots are now available. You can see who's running in your district plus information on the ballot question. Unfortunately, only a third of the candidates have responded. If you happen to see a candidate, remind or encourage them to post their information and respond to the questions at vote411.