

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of HAWAII COUNTY
NEWSLETTER
July 15, 2008**

CALENDAR:

July 24, Thursday - General LWVHC Meeting at Tex's, 11 a.m.

August 3, Sunday - *Westside* Roundtable Candidate Forum, Old Airport Pavilion, 2 p.m.

August 20-21, Wednesday-Thursday - Wiki-wiki Voter Registration (times and places TBA)

September 4, Thursday - *Eastside* Roundtable Candidate Forum, Aunty Sally's, 6 p.m.

September 20, Saturday - Primary Election

GENERAL MEETING, July 24: This meeting is scheduled for mid-week in order to accommodate the speaker. Pam Lichty, a Honolulu LWV member and ACLU President, will discuss LWV's recently completed Drug Policy Study. Because the consensus questions are not yet complete, LWV consensus discussion and voting will be done at a later meeting, sometime before the 2009 legislative session begins. To view the study, go to www.LWV-hawaii.com and follow the links.

Marianna Scheffer is coordinating the meeting. For car-pooling, call her at 934-8137, Eastside, or Sue Dursin at 328-8514, Westside. The public is welcome. Invite anyone you know who's interested in drug policy. There will be a short board meeting following lunch.

WIKI-WIKI VOTER REGISTRATION: LWVHC will be working in conjunction with AAUW once again to register voters before the deadline for primary election registration. As in previous years, the County is arranging the locations, publicity, and set-up. With two days, at three separate locations (Hilo, Pahoa, and Kona,) a sizeable number of volunteers is needed. You do **not** have to be a trained deputy registrar to volunteer. If you are available, please let Sue Dursin, 328-8514, or Sue Irvine, 935-8080, know as soon as possible.

CANDIDATE ROUNDTABLE EVENTS: Plans for the two events are moving forward. The *Westside* forum features both mayoral and council candidates. It begins at 2 p.m. and lasts until 5 p.m. The *Eastside* forum features the mayoral candidates. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the roundtable begins at 6:30. Please tell your neighbors and friends that this is a super chance to interact face-to-face with the candidates and to ask their own questions. LWV volunteers are needed in both locations.

PRIMARY ELECTION: If you are willing to act as a precinct worker, contact the elections office at 961-8277. Training sessions will take place around the island in mid-August. The County is always in need of workers and considers it valuable public service.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: If you have moved since the last elections, you should re-register. If you have not received your yellow card in the mail, you should re-register or call the elections office. If you wish to vote absentee by mail, you need to request an absentee ballot, using the County's form, by September 13th. (Although that date is VERY late.) Request forms are available on-line at www.hawaii.gov/elections or at libraries, election offices, county council offices, and other state agencies. If you wish to do walk-in voting, you can do so at any of the three elections offices in Kona, Pahoa, or Hilo from Sept. 8 through Sept. 18. For those not living in Kona, Pahoa, or Hilo, call the elections office, 961-8277, to find out where walk-in voting is available in other communities.

GOOD NEWS: The public financing bill, HB661, passed without the governor's veto at the end of June. In the 2010 election, Hawaii County Council candidates will be able to use public financing. Thanks are due to the dedicated Big Island residents, a number of League members among them, who pursued the bill relentlessly. Mahalo to Bob Jacobson, Voter-owned Hawaii, and to the entire County Council. Off-island, several legislators and the State LWV worked hard to make sure this bill passed. After several years in the works, this is a real success.

INITIATIVE-REFERENDUM: The ballot wording has passed out of committee and will go to the full Council for a reading. Casey Jarman did a good job in identifying changes to the original charter and creating a clear statement that voters can understand and that LWV can use to promote the amendment. To avoid confusing voters, who may think that this will appear on the *primary* ballot, there will be no LWV promotion until **after** the primary. We'll send the final wording on to you as soon as it has passed the Council reading.

IN MEMORIUM: Farewell to **Glenys Spitze**, 1919 - 2008, an active LWV member for many years. An early childhood psychologist, she was an activist/writer for various environmental and social causes and always could be counted on to engage in interesting discussions and to recommend books to LWV members.