

The Voter of ODC



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October General Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 10:00 AM
Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill

Louisa B. Warren

Director, NC Coalition for Lobbying Reform

speaking on

Lobbying Reform

(what was accomplished, what's left on the table)

and

Redistricting Reform

(what reform looks like, why NC needs it)

see article on page 3

**The Supreme Court:
Does It Need Reform?**

Should there be term limits for
Supreme Court Justices?

Tuesday, November 14
7:00 PM

Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church

**Paul Carrington, Professor of Law,
Duke University Law School**

**Kevin McGuire
Associate Professor of Political Science
University of North Carolina**

see article on page 4

Upcoming Events

Nov. 14
Supreme Court Forum
Binkley Baptist Church

General Meetings

Oct. 19
Hargraves Center

Nov. 16
Hargraves Center

President's Message by Jan Richmond

The board of LWVODC has been very busy planning educational events and advocating good government. At our October meeting it was unanimously decided to oppose the referendum on the November 7 **Chatham County** ballot. The question on the ballot is: **"Shall the structure of the board of county commissioners be altered to provide that one commissioner be nominated and elected from each of five electoral districts by the qualified voters in each district only?"** (At present, all five commissioners are nominated and elected by the qualified voters of the entire county).

Kay Hunt has brought this referendum to the attention of the board and has provided considerable information to the board, including the following: The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the total population of Chatham County in 1950 was 58,002, an increase of 17.6% since the 2000 census (49,329). The percent of black residents in 2004 was 14.6%. The Chatham County Board of Elections voter registrations statistics as of September 2006, showed total registered voters at 37,228. Of these, 5,560 (14.9%) are Black. The highest percent of Black registered voters in any precinct is 24% in precinct 2. Precinct 5 has 21% and the other three are all under 10%.

Using national and local League positions on redistricting, the board adopted the following resolution: **THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ORANGE, DURHAM AND CHATHAM COUNTIES TAKE ACTION TO OPPOSE THE REFERENDUM ON THE NOVEMBER 7, 2006 BALLOT BECAUSE IT DILUTES THE EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY CITIZENS.** A press release will be going out shortly.

As a result, our observer corps will be closely monitoring this situation in Chatham County and attending present and future county commission meetings. If you want to participate in this or other observer corps groups please contact Bessie Carrington.

There is also a referendum regarding redistricting on the Nov. 7th ballot in **Orange County**. In Orange County we have chosen to hold two educational forums on this issue. I have been working with Moses Carey, Orange County Commissioner, who is on the task force to address this referendum. We will be offering a Southern County forum and a Northern County Forum. The date for the first is Oct. 18th at OWASA. The forum will take place from 7:00-8:00 pm. Pros and cons of the referendum will be offered at each event, with a question and answer period to follow the presentations. Vicki Boyer, a past president of LWVODC will moderate the two events. Gay Eddy, Joyce Colaiace, Else Bolotin, Barbara Hardison and I have formed a task force to lead the forums. The northern Orange County forum will take place on November 1 from 7:00-8:00 PM at Battle Courthouse in Hillsboro. Please announce these dates to your friends and any groups to which you belong. Keep checking our website for more information. If you are interested in helping with either of these two events please contact Jan Richmond.

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October General Meeting

Louisa Warren, Director, NC Coalition for Lobbying Reform, speaking on Lobbying Reform and Redistricting Reform

The North Carolina Coalition for Lobbying Reform is a coalition of more than 50 organizations and civic leaders, including such diverse organizations as the League of Women Voters, the John Locke Foundation, the North Carolina Family Policy Foundation, AARP, the Nature Conservancy, the North Carolina Black Leadership Caucus and the Common Sense Foundation. What these organizations share in common is their commitment to promoting lobbying and ethics reform in North Carolina.

The mission of the NC Coalition for lobbying reform is to educate citizens, decision makers and the media across North Carolina about the problems with our current lobbying and ethics laws and urge adoption of meaningful lobbying and ethics reforms that serve the public interest.

Louisa Warren, the Director of the North Carolina Coalition for Lobbying Reform, will be our speaker at the October general meeting. Come hear what the League of Women Voters, as well as each of us individually, can do to bring lobbying and redistricting reform to North Carolina.

November General Meeting

Professor Jonathan Weiler, UNC Department of International Studies, will speak on **Why People Vote Like They Do**. The meeting will take place on November 16, just nine days after the general election, so Professor Weiler should be able to enlighten us as to why the election turned out the way it did. The meeting will take place at 10:00 AM at the Hargraves Center in Chapel Hill.

President's Message

Continued from p. 2

The LWVODC, in addition to making REDISTRICTING a program focus this year is also focusing on providing information regarding an INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY SYSTEM. Our focus group on the Supreme Court, led by Dorothy Mahon, has a stimulating program planned for Nov. 14th at the Binkley Baptist Church.

In addition, Bessie Carrington has been working on a pamphlet to help explain the judiciary system. We have many questions from voters regarding judiciary candidates. The LWVNC has placed the 2006 Judicial Voter Guide (published with public funding from the Income Tax Check off for public funding for Appellate Court and Supreme Court races) on their website, www.lwvnc.org. Or you can use the link from our website at www.lwvdc.org

When you go to vote on Nov. 7th don't forget to ask a neighbor or friend who may otherwise not vote to accompany you.

Supreme Court Forum

On Tuesday, November 14, at 7:00 PM, the League will hold an educational forum on Supreme Court reform at the Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill. Judie Burke, past president of the LWV/ODC and current president of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina, will moderate the forum.

Two distinguished scholars, Paul Carrington, Professor of Law at the Duke University Law School and Kevin McGuire, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina, will argue the pros and cons of the issue, with special regard to the question of whether there should be term limits for Supreme Court Justices.

Paul Carrington has taught at many law schools in America and abroad. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and the author or editor of eighteen books or symposia and over 120 essays. He is the co-editor of the recently published book titled, *Reforming the Court: Term Limits for Supreme Court Justices*, a symposium of papers presented at a conference held at Duke in 2005. Carrington is now at work on another essay on that subject, reflecting the conference papers.

Kevin T. McGuire's research has focused on a number of issues related to the U.S. Supreme Court, including its responsiveness to public opinion, the impact of the Court's legal community, and the influence of Congress and the President on the Court's policymaking. His most recent book is *Institutions of American Democracy: The Judiciary*, a co-edited assessment of the state of the American judiciary, published by Oxford University Press as part of its multi-volume series on the institutions of democracy. He is currently editor of the *Series on Constitutionalism and Democracy* for the University of Virginia Press.

This forum is funded with a grant from the League of Women Voters Education Fund and the Program on Constitutional and Legal Policy of the Open Institute. It is free and open to the public, so we urge all members to come and invite others to join us for a lively debate on this timely and challenging subject.

A good source for information on the Supreme Court is the court's website: www.supremecourtus.gov.

For more information about the forum, call Dorothy Mahan at (919) 542-7009 or Carol Rist at (919) 490-5718.

League Partners with Time Warner on Candidate Presentations

Relax at home and watch candidate presentations! The LWVODC and Time Warner have partnered once again in providing taped sessions with candidates who are listed on the Nov. 7th. ballot. These three minutes tapes include candidates for U.S congressional districts, NC legislative races and county commissioner races. Candidates were provided with a list of questions from the LWVODC or the opportunity to chose their own topic for presentation.

Coverage will be for all three counties this year; plus the Wake League has joined us for the first time. Broadcasts will be on channel 24, Time Warner on the following dates:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30TH	7:00PM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST	7:30PM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND	12 NOON
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH	12 NOON
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH	7:00PM

Thanks, Betty, Welcome Evelin

Many thanks go to Betty Mutran for her service as membership chair for the past year. Betty has been relentless in keeping the national and local data bases up to date. She finds it necessary to resign at this time.

We are fortunate in obtaining a new chairperson. Please welcome Evelin Brinich as the new membership chair elected by the board of directors of LWV-ODC. Betty and Evelin have already met to make a smooth transition. Please direct any membership questions to her at brinich@unc.edu.

We are pleased to have Evelin join our team. She is a presently a practicing psychologist and lives in Chapel Hill with her husband, Paul. Both are LWVODC members. Our League roving photographer caught the above picture of Evelin enjoying herself at the reception following "1776."



Welcome New Members

We especially want to welcome Louise B. Williams of Chapel Hill, who has converted from a national member to a member of the Local League.

NEW LOCAL MEMBERS

Ruth L. Bierhoff
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CHANGES IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Juanita Donaldson's new email address:
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211 Glade St.
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2064 Carriage Way
Chapel Hill, NC
967-1626

Ms. Aileen Schaller
2701 Pickett Rd.
Durham NC 27705

Mr. Gerald A. Barrett
1021 Laurel Hill Rd. Ext.
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-4448

Election 2006

Your first option on the ballot is whether or not to cast a ballot for a straight party ticket. Don't forget that a straight party vote does not vote nonpartisan offices or other issues.

Voters in Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties will elect members to the North Carolina Supreme Court:

For Chief Justice:	For Associate Justice	For Associate Justice	For Associate Justice
Rusty Duke	Rachel Lea Hunter	Eric Levinson	Ann Marie Calabria
Sarah Parker	Mark D. Martin	Patricia Timmons-Goodson	Robin Hudson

and the Court of Appeals:

For Court of Appeals Judge:	For Court of Appeals Judge:
Kris Bailey	Linda Stephens
Robert C. (Bob) Hunter	Donna Stroud

The LWVNC has placed the 2006 Judicial Voter Guide (published with public funding from the Income Tax Check off for public funding for Appellate Court and Supreme Court races) on their website, www.lwvnc.org. Or you can use the link from our website at www.lwvdc.org

Voters in **Orange and Durham Counties** will elect the **Member of Congress from the Fourth Congressional District:**

David Price	DEM
Steve Acuff	REP

Voters in **Chatham County** will elect the **Member of Congress from the Second Congressional District:**

Bob Ethridge	DEM
Dan Mansell	REP

Contested races in **Chatham County** include:

**NC State House
District 54**

Joe Hackney	DEM
Alvin Reed	REP

**County Commissioner
District 4**

Tom Vanderbeck	DEM
Carl Ernst	REP

Superior Court Judge District 15B

(You may vote for Two)
Charles (Chuck) Anderson
Allen Baddour
Carl R. Fox
Adam Stein

**School Board
County District 3**

Ken Harris
Andrea Repasz-Batsche
Kathie Russell

**School Board
County District 4**
(You may vote for TWO)

Doug Burke
Charles (Chuck) Grubb
Clyde Harris

Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor
(You may vote for TWO)

Blake Lindley Andrew, Jr.
John (Johnny) Glosson
Richard Hayes

County Commissioner Referendum

“Shall the structure of the board of county commissioners be altered to provide that one commissioner be nominated and elected from each of five electoral districts by the qualified voters in each district only?” (At present, all five commissioners are nominated and elected by the qualified voters of the entire county.)

(See president's message on pages 2 and 3 for the League's position on this referendum.)

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
ORANGE DURHAM AND CHATHAM COUNTIES**

Contested races in **Orange County** include:

<p>NC State Senate</p> <p>District 23</p> <p>Ellie Kinnaird DEM E. B. Alston REP</p> <p>Sheriff</p> <p>Lindy Pendergrass DEM William (Buddy) Parker REP</p>	<p>County Commissioner</p> <p>(You may vote for THREE)</p> <p>Alice Gordon DEM Barry Jacobs DEM Mike Nelson DEM Jamie Daniel REP</p>	<p>Superior Court Judge District 15B</p> <p>(You may vote for TWO)</p> <p>Charles (Chuck) Anderson Allen Baddour Carl R. Fox Adam Stein</p>
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**REFERENDUM ON THE QUESTION OF AN ALTERATION IN THE STRUCTURE OF AND
MODE OF ELECTING THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Shall the structure of the Board of Commissioners of Orange County be altered as follows:

1. change the board from five members to seven members;
2. change from the qualified voters of the entire County nominating all candidates for and electing all members of the board to a structure in which there is one three member district (District 1), one two member district (District 2), and two members at large; members shall reside in and represent the districts according to the apportionment plan adopted; the qualified voters of each district shall nominate candidates who reside in the district for seats apportioned to that district, and the qualified voters of the entire county shall nominate candidates for seats apportioned to the county at large; and the qualified voters of the entire county shall elect all the members of the board.

(enumeration of district boundaries)

3. *(transition process)*

To read the complete text of the question, which can be found on the Orange County sample ballot, go to the Orange County website, www.co.orange.nc.us.

The League has no position on the Orange County referendum. We are planning two forums to educate the public about this question. The forums will be held on:

<p>South Orange County Forum October 18 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Orange Water and Sewer Authority 400 Jones Ferry Road Carrboro</p>	<p>North Orange County Forum November 1 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM F. Gordon Battle Courtroom 106 E. Margaret Lane Hillsboro</p>
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Contested races in **Durham County** include:

<p>District Attorney District 14</p> <p>Mike Nifong DEM Lewis Cheek UNA</p>	<p>District Court Judge District 14</p> <p>Nancy E Gordon Anita L. Smith</p>	<p>District Court Judge District 14</p> <p>Tracey Hicks Barley Ann McKown</p>
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The Voter...ODC...The Voter...ODC...The Voter

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization for men and women that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen over 18, male or female, may become a voting member of the League. With that membership comes the opportunity to work on local, state, regional, and national program issues.

The Voter is printed on recycled paper.

League Calendar

October 18 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Orange County Referendum Forum	Orange Water and Sewer Authority 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro
October 19 10:00 AM	October General Meeting Louisa Warren, NC Coalition for Lobbying Reform	Hargraves Center 215 North Roberson Street, Chapel Hill
October 30 thru November 6	Time Warner TV candidate presentations	Time Warner Cable
November 1 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Orange County Referendum Forum	Battle Courthouse 106 E. Margaret Lane, Hillsboro
November 7	Election Day	Don't Forget to Vote!
November 14 7:00 PM	Supreme Court Forum	Binkley Memorial Baptist Church 1712 Willow Drive, Chapel Hill
November 16 10:00 AM	November General Meeting Why People Vote Like They Do Professor Jonathan Weiler, UNC	Hargraves Center 215 North Roberson Street, Chapel Hill