



# NJ Voter

*The League of Women Voters of New Jersey*

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The LWVNJ  
204 West State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608

### Mark your calendars!

Tuesday, June 8 – Primary Election  
June 11–15: LWVUS Convention in Atlanta

Want to help LWVNJ go green?  
Send your name and address  
to [contact@lwnj.org](mailto:contact@lwnj.org) to  
receive the NJVOTER by e-mail!



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## Bulletin Board

### Join the LWVNJ!

Become an informed voter and make a difference in the decisions that affect your life. If you are a member of a local League, please be sure to renew your membership directly with them. If there is no local League in your area, become a member of the LWVNJ. Go on-line to the LWVNJ website at [www.lwnj.org](http://www.lwnj.org) to become a member today!

### Stay Informed about League

Bookmark the website of the League of Women Voters of NJ ([www.LWVNJ.org](http://www.LWVNJ.org)) and the website of the League of Women Voters of the US ([www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org)) for interesting information about the League.

### Share your stories with your fellow League members . . .

Does your League have an interesting program or project you can share with us? Please send details to Dottie Dunfee at [dunfeet@aol.com](mailto:dunfeet@aol.com).

### NJ Citizens Guide to Government

The 2010 New Jersey Citizens Guide to Government is now available for purchase. This invaluable resource puts government at your fingertips and provides useful tips about communicating with your elected officials.

#### You can use the Guide to:

- Contact your elected officials to express your views on important legislation;
- Educate yourself and your community about voting in New Jersey and your rights as a voter;
- Teach children important civic information;
- Give a guide to first time voters in your neighborhood, civic organizations, or religious communities;
- Donate this vital resource to nonprofits, schools, or libraries in your community; and
- Become a better informed, empowered voice in government.

To order the guides please visit [www.lwnj.org](http://www.lwnj.org) and print out an order form. If you have any questions about ordering or pricing, contact Jesse Burns at [jburns@lwnj.org](mailto:jburns@lwnj.org) or 609-394-3303.

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### 2010 ELECTION DATES



- May 11:** Nonpartisan Municipal Election
- May 18:** Last day to register or change address for Primary Election
- June 8:** Primary Election
- November 2:** General Election Day

A complete list of the 2010 election deadlines and dates is listed in the *Citizens Guide* and also on the LWVNJ website under the tab "Elections."

LWVNJ's Annual Member Appeal  
is drawing to a close.  
Please send your contribution today!

## Alternative Energy For New Jersey . . ADA BRUNNER, Natural Resources Committee

America's dependence on overseas fossil fuels makes energy policy literally "a matter of life and death," former Governor James Florio told attendees at a LWVNJ conference on Alternative Energy on April 10 at the New Jersey Hospital Association Conference Center in Princeton.

Barbara Greer, LWVNJ Natural Resources Committee chair, opened the conference by dedicating it to Pearl Schwartz, a long-time League and NR Committee member who died recently (*see the article on page 3*).

### Keynote Address

In his keynote luncheon address, Florio explained that energy policy is a matter of life and death because the overseas fossil fuels we rely on come from such "volatile" nations. Although fossil fuels will still be needed as part of our energy mix for years to come, alternative energy systems will play a vital role not only in reducing our dependence on overseas resources but also in regard to climate change.

These are difficult times to make policy because of complex changes in society. Florio compared the situation today to the changes that occurred in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries when the nation moved from an agricultural to an industrialized economy. What's needed now are analytical intelligence, courage to make difficult decisions, and the will to resist the temptation to "go along." In a tribute to the League, Florio said the LWV epitomizes those attributes.

### Panelists

In a talk on energy efficiency, **Scott Minos**, senior policy and communications specialist with the U.S. Department of Energy, said that 50 percent of the energy generated is being wasted. To make energy efficiency more effective, the focus must be on investment in education for a green economy, along with "a little imagination" and the political will to achieve change.

Speaking about America's huge consumption of energy today, Minos said, "We would need seven planets to sustain our life-style if everyone in the world consumed like we do in the United States."

**Arjun Makhijani**, president of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, spoke on "The Smarter Grid."

The grid used today is based on a 100-year-old concept that was wonderful in its day, but has not kept up with changing times. What is needed today is actually two grids: one to deliver electricity, like today's grid does, and a second to deliver information.

For example, advanced technology will allow the smart grid to recognize when electricity storage bins are full, at times when usage is low, and automatically turn on your washing machine at that time if you want to do laundry. It also will allow you to override it and use your washing machine at peak periods — but for extra cost. Smart grid goals will include a better quality of power by using a mix of alternative energy sources such as wind and sun.

### Alternative Energy Reports

Members of five NR Committee groups which have been studying various forms of non-carbon based energy for the past year reviewed their work. Their full reports can be accessed on the LWVNJ website [www.lwvnj.org](http://www.lwvnj.org).

Barbara Curtis (Monroe Township LWV) reported on **geothermal energy**, energy which uses the heat stored in the earth to heat or cool a building or produce power.

Dawn Clarke (Union Area LWV, state

Board member) and Dr. Phil Eisner, retired physicist and volunteer consultant to the committee, discussed **solar energy**. This fast-changing field has exploded since the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but long before that Thomas Edison said, "I hope we don't have to wait to run out of coal and oil to take advantage of solar power."

Paula Gotsch (Ocean County LWV) discussed **nuclear power**, noting that the cost of constructing nuclear plants is so huge that private companies won't undertake to build them without government subsidies. She also warned of the dangers of nuclear power, including the problem of disposing of radioactive materials.

Ellie Gruber (Ridgewood LWV) introduced three members of her League who spoke on facets of **biomass**, which uses organic materials to produce energy. Joan Coan described the use of wood and plants, Diana Wing discussed how algae can be used to make energy and Hope Dingley spoke on sewage sludge.

Kimberly Diamond (Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission) said that though New Jersey has "excellent potential" for offshore **wind power**, wind farms can impact the environment. She noted that this country is far behind Europe, which has installed 577 megawatts of wind power in the past year.

(photo right) Congressman Rush Holt (D-12), LWVNJ President Anne Maiese, and keynote speaker James Florio at LWVNJ's Alternative Energy Conference



(photo below) Former Governor James Florio praises the League for its careful analysis of issues.



**From the President . . . ANNE MAIESE**

My thanks to everyone who has donated to the state League during our Annual Member Appeal and the state Board and local League members who called other members asking for donations. Many of you were very generous, supporting us with time and money, and we appreciate it.

Despite our combined efforts, however, donations overall are down, and as of this writing, we anticipate falling short of our budgeted Annual Appeal income for the fiscal year by \$18,000!

Plainly put, unless we can make up a significant part of that shortfall, we will have to make drastic cuts in League programs and services very soon. As you review how our funds are spent, please consider how much you value these programs and want to see them continue. *I enlist your help in maintaining as many of them as possible — it would be a real shame to “celebrate” the League’s (and LWVNJ’s) 90<sup>th</sup> birthday year by reducing our impact!*

- The state League publishes and distributes the annual *NJ Citizens Guide to Government*, a handy reference that makes it easy for anyone to contact their elected officials and learn about government and voting.
- We also publish nonpartisan and balanced ballot question analysis, as well as candidates’ answers to policy questions — both of which help voters make informed decisions.
- Our staff answers our toll-free voter hotline, 1-800-792-VOTE, year-round, extending hours on election days, to help NJ citizens exercise their voting rights and responsibilities.
- With Board input, our staff sends weekly “e-voters” to League members and friends, updating them about events of interest around the state and linking them to valuable information.
- We publish this quarterly **NJ Voter**, sent by mail and e-mail, highlighting current issues and events held by LWVNJ and local Leagues.
- We hold educational forums on important and timely public policy topics, like health care reform and alternative energy.
- We provide leadership training through workshops on fund-raising, membership recruitment, treasurer responsibilities, public relations and debate moderating.
- We coordinate debates across the state on all levels of government by providing moderators and sponsorship.
- We protect New Jersey voters by analyzing problems reported on election days and recommending improvements, like better training for poll workers, to state and county officials.
- We maintain a strong media presence, using op-eds, letters-to-the-editor, blogs, and press and radio interviews to educate the public on election issues and to advocate for increased accountability by elected officials and better civic education in high schools.
- We participate in many coalitions and partnerships that enable us to advocate for League positions more effectively.
- Our staff also alerts members so they can fight for legislation like those that extend and protect voting rights, equalize educational opportunities and improve the Open Public Records Act.



Please use the enclosed envelope or visit [www.lwvnj.com](http://www.lwvnj.com) to donate to the Annual Member Appeal, or re-donate as I plan to do, so that LWVNJ can continue to serve you and the public!

## NJ Voter

### Spring 2010 — Volume 81, No. 4

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters is a nonprofit membership organization functioning on local, county, state and national levels.

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You are welcome to quote briefly from the **NJ Voter**. Please request permission from the LWVNJ for more extensive reprints.

The NJ Voter is printed on recycled paper.

## In Memory of PEARL SCHWARTZ

. . . **BLANCHE KRUBNER, Ocean County LWV**

When Pearl Schwartz and her husband Ed came to Ocean County in 1971 to spend their retirement years, they sought ways to keep busy working for causes in which they believed. Pearl joined the League in 1973 just as the environmental movement, which the League backed, was getting underway. Before long she volunteered to serve on the LWVNJ’s Natural Resources Committee where she was a valued member for the remainder of her life.

Pearl wore many League “hats.” She served as the Ocean County LWV’s president, moderated numerous debates, coordinated Callathon, and spent decades serving as vice president for Voter Service. She was a model of citizen participation, attending weekly Freeholder meetings and speaking her mind on agenda items.

A vigorous advocate for recycling, Pearl was appointed to the Solid Waste Advisory Council and the Ocean County Environmental Agency. Pearl and Ed are remembered for helping to persuade the Freeholders to buy Cattus Island and turn it into a county park, and for working as volunteers to help maintain it in good condition. On October 3, Pearl participated in the annual Cattus Celebration, as she had for decades, and presided over the League’s voter registration table.

On January 16, Pearl came to our board meeting and stayed for the general membership meeting. It was her last public appearance. She was taken to the hospital the following week and passed away on February 22 at age 93.

## League Stresses Importance of Being Counted

... JANE DeLUNG, Lawrence LWV

"The 2010 Census is an enormously important government effort that sets out to count all Americans." Thus, according to Mary Wilson, president of the LWVUS, "the League is joining this effort as a partner with the U.S. Census Bureau to enable our local, grassroots members to help achieve this goal."

In support of this effort, the Lawrence LWV hosted a public forum on the 2010 Census on February 24. Lawrence LWV President Nicole Plett urged everyone in the audience to return their census forms and introduced the panelists.

**Ms. Jennifer Jones, U.S. Census Bureau**, told the audience "if you don't respond to the Census, you won't count." That could lead to a loss of federal money flowing into New Jersey as well as the loss of political representation at the federal and state levels. The census has been taken once every 10 years since 1790 and is used to determine the number of representatives and amount of support each state and district should have.

**Len Preston, NJ Department of Commerce**, described efforts to increase the response rate across the state and some of the potential consequences of the results of the 2010 Census. The state has formed a state-wide Complete Count Committee and supported the county Complete Count Committees. They have also worked closely with the business community to encourage them to publicize the 2010 Census.

**Marino Posso, president, Latino Merchants Association of Mercer County**, pointed out that getting an accurate count of the Hispanic population is very difficult because the undocumented community is leery of government and government officials, even though the information is not turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Lawrence Township and the Census Bureau need to work through churches and civic organizations to convince this population of the importance of responding to the census.

**Harold Vereen, Eggerts Crossing Civic Association, Lawrence**, said that there is also a "trust factor" involved in getting responses from the black community. His organization is working with many community groups to convince them that the information will not be used against them and that it will only be used to count people. Ms. Jones pointed out that there are heavy fines and jail time for any census worker who divulges census data.



**Panelists Len Preston (NJ Complete Count Committee), Marino Posso (Latino Merchants Asso.), Harold Vereen (Eggerts Crossing Civic Asso.), Jennifer Jones (U.S. Census Bureau) and moderator Nicole Plett (Lawrence LWV) discuss the importance of 2010 Census.**

### League Leadership Circle

The League Leadership Circle acknowledges those who make a significant donation to the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. To those "leaders" who donated \$500 or more to the League (either NJ or EF or total combined) in the last two fiscal years, thank you!

Jean Aires ('08-09)  
 Katherine Becker ('08-09)  
 Michelle Bobrow ('08-10)  
 Danzey Burnham ('08-10)  
 Eleanor Campbell ('08-10)  
 Dawn Clarke ('09-10)  
 Dorothy Dunfee ('08-10)  
 Ed Gracely ('08-10)  
 Nancy Hedinger ('08-10)  
 Betty Wold Johnson ('08-09)  
 Andrea Kahn ('08-09)  
 Susan and Peter Lederman ('08-10)  
 Kate Liebhold ('09-10)  
 Deborah Macmillan ('08-10)  
 Anne and Mario Maiese ('08-10)  
 Sandra Matsen ('08-10)  
 Katheryne McCormick ('08-10)  
 Ruth Ann Mitchell ('09-10)  
 Louise Murray ('08-10)  
 Vicki and Jim Ray ('08-10)  
 Lois Riskin ('08-10)  
 Cindy Schafer ('08-10)  
 Janie Schildge ('08-10)  
 Shirley Shapiro ('08-10)  
 Roberta and Eric Spray ('08-10)  
 Marie Utzinger ('08-09)  
 Ellen Wales ('08-09)  
 Lindy and Gerry Wilson ('08-10)  
 Naida Wharton ('08-09)  
 Jim Wooldridge ('08-10)  
 Toni Zimmer ('08-10)

### Tributes

Tributes are contributions made to the LWVNJ or the Education Fund in honor of or to remember special friends, family and colleagues.

#### *In memory of Pearl Schwartz*

Danzey Burnham  
 Barbara Curtis  
 Barbara Greer  
 Ellie Gruber  
 Andrea Kahn  
 Janet Larson  
 Anne Maiese  
 Louise Usechak

#### *In memory of Joan Palin*

Alberta DeMartini

#### *In memory of Sissy Danforth*

Ann Dickinson

#### *In honor of Judy Cambria receiving the Marilyn Morheuser Award*

Sydelle Hirsch  
 Doris and Jerry Weisberg

#### *In memory of Rita Cohen*

Kate Liebhold

#### *In memory of Claire Davis' husband*

Judy and Norm Perkus

#### *In memory of Naomi Beck's husband*

Judy and Norm Perkus

#### *In memory of Sally Garvin*

Marcy Rosner

#### *In memory of Helen Booth*

Brietta Savoie

#### *In honor of Dorothy Albert's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

Doris and Jerry Weisberg

#### *In memory of Ester Cherdack*

Anita Yarossi

### Amazon.com offers

### LWVNJ percentage

Need to purchase a birthday gift, a shower gift, or that book you've been dying to read? If you do it through **Amazon.com**, a small percentage will be donated to the LWVNJ!

You must click on the Amazon button on the League homepage — [www.lwvnj.org](http://www.lwvnj.org) — before shopping so that Amazon credits our account accordingly. Thanks for "shopping" with the League.