



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WAKE COUNTY
Working to safeguard democracy through civic involvement

VOTER

September 2009

**MASSIVE WATER AND SEWER EXPANSION
ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS IN PREPARATION**

The eastern Wake County communities of Garner, Knightdale, Zebulon, Wendell, Rolesville and Wake Forest have merged their water and sewer systems with Raleigh, and Raleigh has embarked on a massive expansion of water and sewer capacities to serve growth in its expanded service area.

The first major part of the expansion, the new Benton Water Treatment Plant on Lake Benson, is poised to come online in 2010. Over the next decade or so Raleigh will install hundreds of miles of new water transmission lines and sewer collection lines, dozens of new pump stations, and multiple new elevated water tanks; will expand the Neuse River wastewater treatment plant and the Little Creek wastewater treatment plant; will purchase additional acres of wastewater sludge application fields, and will construct the Little River Reservoir and water treatment plant. The total cost of the expansion is expected to exceed \$1.4 billion.

All of this infrastructure must have state environmental permits. To receive state permits, Raleigh and its partners must produce Environmental Assessments (ES) or if the environmental impacts will be significant, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) that comply with the State Environmental Policy Act. If a federal agency must issue a permit for a project (usually when wetlands or endangered species are affected), a federal EIS may also be required. An EIS must show that there are no reasonable alternatives to projects and detail how the direct environmental impacts of the infrastructure and the indirect environmental impacts of the growth generated by the infrastructure (called secondary and cumulative impacts) will be lessened or "mitigated." The EIS gives permitting agencies the opportunity to negotiate the mitigation activities that will be required. There are supposed to be opportunities for public review and comment on draft EIS documents. An EIS was required for construction of the Benton Water Treatment Plant, but the document received virtually no public attention. Raleigh is in the process of preparing other environmental documents for other phases of the water and sewer expansion. LWV-Wake's Environment Committee will monitor and report on development of these documents.

Secondary and Cumulative Impacts Management Plan. To avoid producing duplicative plans to deal with secondary and cumulative impacts of individual parts of its infrastructure expansion, Raleigh has entered into an agreement with the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources that allows Raleigh and its partners to produce one plan and to refer to that plan whenever secondary and cumulative impacts must be considered for individual infrastructure projects, excluding the Little River Reservoir and water treatment plant.

Raleigh's Secondary and Cumulative Impacts Management Plan details how Raleigh and its partners intend to mitigate the growth-related impacts of this huge water and sewer infrastructure expansion including: land use changes resulting in loss of open space and natural habitat, increased stormwater runoff, decreased groundwater recharge, increased flooding due to loss of wetlands and floodplain storage, increased air pollution, increased noise pollution and more. It is therefore an extremely important document. It is in its final stages. A public hearing was held on August 17.

Little River Reservoir Environmental Impact Statement. Work has also begun on an EIS for the Little River Reservoir. Meetings are now being held basically to get state and federal agency's ideas about what should go into the EIS. However, other groups have also been allowed to participate in these meetings. Jeri Gray will represent LWV-Wake in this process and report as the document is developed. The Little River watershed is a high quality ecosystem containing important forested wetlands and valuable habitat for a number of threatened or endangered species. This EIS will describe what steps will be taken to impact these resources as little as possible and to make up for impacts that cannot be avoided.

Jeri Gray, Environmental Committee Chair

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Wow, what a month we are going to have! We had a very successful Women's Equality Day August 26th. We trust you were there. The Municipal Elections will be October 6th from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm for positions on Raleigh City Council, Cary Town Council and Wake County Board of Education. If necessary, run-off elections will be on November 3rd. Do you want to know where the candidates stand on issues of importance to our community: growth, water supply, transportation, affordable housing, and school policies, budgets, and curricula? We are sponsoring two forums: a Raleigh City Council Forum, Thursday September 10th with WakeUp Wake County, and a Wake County Board of Education Forum, Wednesday September 16th (see Voter Services article). WakeUp Wake County is sponsoring a Cary Town Council Candidate Forum on Wednesday September 23rd (see <http://www.wakeupwakecounty.com/>). Our first luncheon meeting of the year will be on September 25th at The University Club (see pg. 4). We will have an exciting speaker on the topic of health care at lunch from 12:00 to 1:15. See you there.

Lisa Mowat, President

Note: Mark Enloe was inadvertently left off our list of WED Sponsors.

VOTER SERVICES

The Board of Education Candidate Forum will be held on Wednesday, September 16th from 7-9 PM at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church located at 2723 Clark Avenue, Raleigh (corner of Clark and Brooks Avenues). The Forum coincides with our fall general meeting. Cosponsors are the Junior League of Raleigh, the YWCA of the Greater Triangle, the Wake County PTA Council and El Pueblo.

Voters will choose four from among 12 candidates running for these positions. All twelve candidates have confirmed their participation in the BOE Forum. Candidates will have an opportunity to express issues central to their campaign in their opening and closing statements and will answer questions prepared by the sponsoring organizations.

This is our opportunity to learn about candidates' views on important issues to the citizens of Wake County. We encourage Leaguers to attend and invite your friends and relatives to the Forum.

Please contact Maryanne Olsen at (919) 465-1509 or mgocary@yahoo.com if you have questions.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will meet on Thursday, September 3 from 3-4:30 pm at the League office to plan topics for the year. Also, most members have read the book, *Hope and Despair in the American City: Why There Are No Bad Schools in Raleigh*, which will be discussed. The Board of Education Candidate Forum on September 16 will be on the agenda as well as participation in future Wake Ed Partnership events. The Education Committee will host and select the speaker for the League March 2010 luncheon. We invite all members, especially new members to attend.

Joann Robertson, Chair

LWV-W Calendar 2009-2010

Sept 10 Thurs	6:30- 8:30 pm	Raleigh City Council Candidate Forum	Temple Beth Or 5315 Creedmoor Road
Sept 16 Wed	7:00- 9 pm	Board of Education Candidate Forum	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 2723 Clark Avenue, Raleigh (corner of Clark and Brooks Avenues)
Sept 24 Thurs		Raleigh Hall of Fame	
Sept 25 Fri	12 noon- 1:15 pm	Lunch with the League	University Club 4200 Hillsborough Street
Oct 6 Tues		Election of City Councils and Board of Education Members	
Oct 13 Tues	7:30- 9 pm	Evening with the League	
Oct 23 Fri	12 noon- 1:15 pm	Lunch with the League	Hargett Street YWCA 554 E. Hargett Street
Nov 3 Tues		City Council and Board of Education Runoff (if needed)	
Dec 13 Sun	2-4 pm	Holiday Party	
May 11	evening	Annual Meeting	

Board of Director meetings – 2nd Thursday, 7 pm at League Office

Committee Meetings (open to all members and guests)

Education	1 st Thursday, 3-4:30 pm at League Office
Environment	4 th Wednesday, 7 pm at League Office
Lunch with the League	4 th Friday, noon-1:15 pm, Hargett Street YWCA (during Jan.-Apr.)

2009-2010 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFF BOARD MEMBERS

President	Lisa Mowat	Action Chair	Betty Ellerbee
1st Vice-President	Marie Moylan	Environment Chair	Jeri Gray
2nd Vice-President	Beth McAllister	Lobby Corps	Louise Romanow
Secretary	Ann Berry	Lunch with the League	Marie Moylan
Co-Treasurers	Karen-Marie Allen Betty Ellerbee	Reservations	Pat Butler
		Website	Trudi Kappel
Pat Butler	Mary Martorella		
Elizabeth Fensin	Maryanne Olsen		
Victoria Gerig	Joan Robertson		
Claudia Kadis	Joan Sullivan		
Janie Kirkeby			

League of Women Voters of Wake County
3509 Haworth Drive
Suite 404
Raleigh, NC 27609
919.783.5995 - Phone
lwwwake@bellsouth.net
www.lwwwake.org

BOARD BRIEFS

It's Raleigh Hall of Fame season again; at its last meeting the Board discussed perhaps submitting a nomination for the late Betty Doak in 2010; the late Sylvia Ruby's name is already on the active candidates' list, though not as a League nominee. Both women's contributions, to League and community, were enormous. Letters in support of them, or other suggestions, would be welcome.

FALL LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

- WHEN:** Friday, September 25th at noon
- WHERE:** NCSU University Club, 4200 Hillsborough Street
- TOPIC:** Health Care
- COST:** \$15
- RSVP:** Reservations must be received by September 21st. You can either mail a check to the League office, call the office at 783-5995 (Mailbox #2), or e-mail lwwwake@aol.com. Checks will be accepted at the door for reservations made in advance.
- QUESTIONS:** Marie Moylan, 781-5449 or ncrealtor@mindspring.com