

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Maine Women's Publications - All

Publications

10-1-1989

The Voter vol. 7, no. 1 (Oct 1989)

Maine League of Women Voters Staff

Maine League of Women Voters

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all



Part of the [Women's History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Staff, Maine League of Women Voters, "The Voter vol. 7, no. 1 (Oct 1989)" (1989). *Maine Women's Publications - All*. 589.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all/589

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Women's Publications - All by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

THE VOTER

Vol. 7, No. 1

The League of Women Voters of MAINE

October, 1989

NOV. 7



WORKSHOPS RECYCLING-PLUS

Next month, Maine voters will make decisions on ballot questions relating to:

1. Campaign Finance (see p. 4)
2. Cruise Missile Tests (see p. 5)
3. Correctional facilities (p. D)
4. *Capital costs for recycling equipment
5. *Capital improvements at the Vocational-Technical Institute System
6. *Sewerage facilities construction
7. *Highway, bridge, harbor and airport improvements
8. Programs for the mentally ill (p. 7)
9. *Removal of asbestos and hazardous chemicals from schools and public facilities
10. *Cleaning and closing hazardous landfills
11. Affordable housing (see p. 6)
12. Constitutional amendment relating to affordable housing (see p. 7)
13. Proposed agreement to dispose of Maine's low-level radioactive waste in Nevada. (See p. A, center)

*The ballot wording for bond issues Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 will be found on page 8.

The state League is working with other organizations and State offices on a series of workshops to explain Maine's new solid waste and recycling law and to suggest ways we can reduce our waste.

Please try to attend one of the following workshops--and take a neighbor, city councilperson, selectperson with you!

PRESQUE ISLE - Oct. 26, 1 to 9 pm, at the Caribou Motor Inn

BANGOR - Nov. 2, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, at the Ramada Inn

PORTLAND - Nov. 13, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, at the Ramada Inn on Congress St.

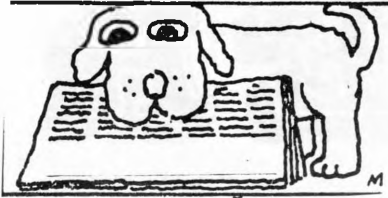
AUGUSTA - Nov. 21, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Augusta Civic Center

The registration fee of \$15 will include lunch, so preregistration is advisable.

Pat Cyphers, our state League Natural Resources Chair, says the workshops will include small group sessions, where participants can ask about local problems and get practical "hands on" advice.

The Maine Municipal Association will be sending notices to municipalities and State offices will also send out flyers. It is not yet certain whether membership lists of the League and other organizations will be used. So, if you have any questions, write or call Pat Cyphers: 422-3625 OR Box 176, Hancock, ME 04640.

Asking about it at your city or town office would be a good idea, too. Encourage your local officials to attend as you obtain registration information.



LUCKY MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST

PERSONALS

PATTY LETCHER, President of the Mount Desert Island League, has accepted a full-time position with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. As field representative, Patty will be working with landowners and others interested in voluntary land-protection techniques and will also assist in the management and monitoring of properties and conservation easements held by the Trust in the coastal area from Belfast to Mt. Desert Island.

Patty is an experienced sailor, so it's logical to wonder if she will be sailing to work (in fair weather, at least.) It would be much the shortest route from her home in Southwest Harbor to her office in Northeast Harbor!

THANK YOU, IRV

A special "thank you" is due to IRV MARSTERS, owner of the Bangor Letter Shop and the VOTER's new printer. He is also a member of the Bangor-Brewer LWV, and in that capacity is donating his labor and time to affix labels, sort by Zip Code and mail the VOTER, thus saving this editor not only time but another trip or two to Bangor.

"Thank you", too, on behalf of all of us, to MARIE HALL, just-past-editor, and all other former VOTER editors who did those tasks in addition to writing, typing, layout.

LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES ON STATE COMMITTEE

RUTH MOSS and ALVIN MOSS (respectively, state board member and first vice-president) are representing the League on Secretary of State William Diamond's new "Elections Advisory Committee."

At the first meeting in August, the committee decided to focus initially on "motor-voter" registration. In months to come, the committee will examine other voter registration techniques, revision of existing state election laws and organizational changes in the Election Division. Legislators and representatives of state agencies also serve on the committee.

AND, WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF ELECTIONS.....

Ruth Moss, whose State Board portfolio is Election Process, reports that NEW voter registration cards will be available September 30. The cards have a space for a voter to indicate if she/he wishes NOT to enroll in a party. Cards previously in use only had provisions for a voter to signify party preference. Sometimes, no one asked about party preference when a voter registered, so the voter was carried on lists as Unenrolled. With the new cards, voters can clearly note whether or not they want to be affiliated with a political party. *(The editor resisted the temptation to title this article "Pushing Political Party Participation.")*

Lorraine Fleury of the State Election Board may be called (from 7 am, Monday to Friday, 289-4106) for up-to-date state election information.

New Mailing List Manager

A reminder: Local League membership chairs (or presidents) and the MAL Coordinator should be sending notices of additions, drops, address changes, etc.

TO: RITA BRETON (883-4651)
23 Spurwink Road
Scarborough, ME 04074

who has taken over this vital job from MARY HUNTER of Bangor. Our appreciation to Mary for past service and to Rita for agreeing to take the position.

Maine's New Solid Waste Law

On July 12, 1989, L.D. 1431 became a Public Law--and the State of Maine had the nation's tightest waste law. This law establishes a State agency which must come up with a solid waste management plan by March 1, 1990. The agency will be comprised of three offices: The Office of Planning, the Office of Siting and Disposal Operations and the Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling. Under the latter, State government will undertake a mandatory office recycling program and local programs will be administered.

No new commercial landfills may be established. All municipal or regional landfills must meet State standards to protect ground water quality and other public protection needs. The State will also own and operate landfills and charge tipping fees. Municipalities that do NOT set up programs to reduce waste and achieve the recycling goals (25% interim goal by 1992 and a 50% goal by 1994) in their waste reduction will be charged a higher tipping fee at State-owned landfills. The State will help municipalities and regional groups through technical and financial support to develop programs to identify, design and establish tire and white goods recycling and disposal facilities.

Among other provisions of L.D. 1431: Advance disposal fees (payable when items are purchased) were established on tires, auto batteries, white goods (e.g. refrigerators) and brown goods (e.g., TV's, microwaves.) These fees will support the agency and recycling grant programs. As of Sept. 1, 1990, flip-top cans, connectors and plastic cans using aluminum or steel and aseptic beverage packs are prohibited. The Dept. of Transportation must look into using recycled materials in construction by January 1, 1991.

--Pat Cyphers
Natural Resources Chair

Editor's Addendum: L.D. 1431 mandates "lifestyle changes" for all of us (though not in that hackneyed term, of course.) What better way to begin to understand what's ahead for our families and our communities than by attending one of the workshops listed on Page 1?

Nov. 7 ▶

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

No. 1. "Do you favor the Changes in Maine Law Concerning Campaign Finances for Candidates for Governor, as proposed by Citizen Petition?"

The Maine League received permission from LWVUS to support this referendum, based on the national position: "Campaign Finance.... Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process."

BACKGROUND: This ballot question would create a VOLUNTARY system of mixed private and public funding for gubernatorial candidates who agree to campaign spending limits.



To run a competitive campaign for Governor of Maine today, a candidate must know that she or he can raise at least \$1.5 million-- and the figure is climbing.

If Ballot Question # 1 (and therefore L.D. 256) is approved, the following spending restrictions would take affect for gubernatorial candidates:

Primary Election: \$400,000

General Election: \$600,000

To qualify for matching funds, a candidate must raise at least \$25,000 from individuals who are eligible to vote in Maine. However, only the first \$250 from any individual, per election, may be counted for this purpose. A candidate who agrees to accept matching funds and her/his spouse are prohibited from contributing more than \$25,000 between them to the candidate's Primary and General Election campaigns combined.

Once a candidate accepts and qualifies for matching funds, all additional contributions shall be matched by the State, \$2 for each \$1 received. The matching funds shall come from a fund created by a voluntary check-off on the state personal income tax form. This check-off allows an individual to assign \$1 of her/his state tax due (not an additional \$1 as on the current tax form.) Couples filing jointly may assign \$2.

YES



NO



1. A system of mixed private and public funding serves to reduce pressure on candidates to raise campaign dollars, decreases the influence of special interests and wealthy individuals over elected officials, and provides candidates with a reliable source of no-strings-attached money.

1. Under provision of this initiative (and LD 256) any shortage of funds resulting from the State Income Tax Voluntary Check-off of \$1 per taxpayer will be made up from the General Fund. General Fund revenues, however small the amount, should not be used to finance campaigns.

Continued on p. 11

Nov. 7 ▸

CRUISE MISSILES

No. 2. "Do you favor stopping cruise missile tests in Maine?"



x 4,000

BACKGROUND: The cruise missile referendum is not solely or even primarily, about testing. It is a way of (1) calling attention to the continuing arms race (despite lessening of tensions); and (2) a way of giving Maine voters the means to send a stronger message to our Maine delegation--and Congress as a whole--than can be achieved with individual letters.

Cruise missiles may be sea-launched (submarine or surface vessel) or air-launched. (Ground-launched cruise missiles in Europe have now been banned under the INF Treaty, so widely heralded as a beginning to significant reductions of strategic nuclear weapons (START.) It is the sea-launched version (SLCM) that poses the greatest problem.

Cruise missiles are small (about 18') but extremely accurate. Their perceived military advantage is that they fly very low (as low as 100' above ground) thus can evade radar and other defensive tracking systems. Their flight pattern is guided by an internal computerized map of the target territory. Maine has been selected for tests because its terrain and climate are similar to that of the Soviet Union.

YES



NO



1. Cruise missiles are not needed. The U.S. currently has thousands of nuclear missiles, far more than there are military targets in the USSR. Today's missiles have more than 300 times the destructive power of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. Yes, each of today's missiles is that much more destructive.

2. SLCMs are now THE biggest stumbling block to successful negotiation of a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START.) The difficulty of verifying whether they carry nuclear or conventional warheads is a primary reason. (Why hasn't any U.S. official suggested solving that problem by proposing a ban on ALL cruise missiles?)

3. In response to "NO" argument No. 1:

Strangely, this argument is never used when it is a question of a Governor lobbying to have a defense installation kept open, or to have more defense contracts given to Maine industries.

1. It is wrong and futile to ask the Governor to intervene in a matter of national security "...where he is without a shred of authority under our system of government."

2. Maine citizens should bear their share of the risks involved in developing hazardous weapons.

3. Arms control and reduction negotiations are matters so complex that the ballot box is not an appropriate place for citizens to make their voices heard on those issues.

4. "What if the Soviet side detected that the American position...was vulnerable to uninformed political propaganda? Might they then launch efforts to take their case directly to the American people over the heads of arms negotiators?"

(Continued on page 9)

Nov. 7 - AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Ballot issues Nos. 8, 10 and 11, approved by the Legislature, concern housing. They represent the most significant commitment of State resources to housing and the first new commitment in five years. If they are approved by the voters, the resources will begin flowing in early 1990 to municipalities, nonprofit groups, land trust organizations, public housing authorities and housing developers of all types.

Ultimately, the money will stimulate the housing sector of our economy, creating jobs and business activity for builders, contractors, suppliers, developers, the lumber and home furnishings industries, and others whose wellbeing depends on a healthy economy.

And in the end, the beneficiaries will be the Maine people who want a decent, safe and sanitary place to call "home."

The State LWV Board voted to join the H.O.M.E.S. Coalition to SUPPORT the three bond issues explained below.

No. 11 "Shall a bond issue in the amount of \$11,000,000 be approved to enhance affordable housing opportunities for the people of the State of Maine?"

This bond issue has five components:

1. \$5,000,000 for acquiring land for affordable housing.
Funds will be used as grants or low-interest loans to purchase land and hold it off the speculative market for up to three years while the affordable housing project (either rental or ownership housing) is developed and financing is arranged.

The Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) will administer \$4.5 million for non-profit housing groups, homestead land trusts, public housing authorities and other eligible applicants. The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) will administer \$500,000 for municipalities.
2. \$4,000,000 for municipal infrastructure needs (water, sewer, roads, electric) directly related to the development of affordable housing.
The DECD will administer these funds and take applications from municipalities (for themselves or on behalf of a housing developer.) Funds will be used to provide off-site improvements, such as extensions of water or sewer lines, needed to permit greater densities or better utilization of land for affordable housing.
3. \$3,000,000 for preserving or saving existing federally-subsidized rental housing which is scheduled to lose its subsidies over the next few years.
The MSHA will administer these funds and work with current owners or non-profit groups to obtain longer commitments of affordability in return for re-financing their mortgages at lower rates. More than 18,000 subsidized units are potentially at risk over the next 25 years, including more than 2,000 units by 12/31/90.
4. \$2,000,000 for restoring deteriorating residential neighborhoods.
The DECD will administer these funds. They will be used in conjunction with other resources such as Community Development Block Grants, MSHA funds and municipal resources, to revitalize neighborhoods where the housing stock needs extensive

(continued on page 7)

Nov. 7 -

LLW COMPACT

(LLW = Low-Level Radioactive Waste)

No. 13. "Do you approve of the agreement for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste proposed to be made with the Rocky Mountain Low-Level Radioactive Waste Board whose member states are Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming for disposal of low-level radioactive waste at an existing facility in Beatty, Nevada?"

PROVISIONS OF THE CONTRACT:

- Would allow up to 30,000 cu.ft. of LLW from Maine generators to be disposed of for a 3-year period (Jan. 1, 1990-Dec. 31, 1993) at Beatty, Nevada.
- Maine generators will have to pay \$168,750 for each of the 3 years and \$45/cu ft for the first 3,750 cu ft and \$55/cu ft for LLW in excess, whether or not it is disposed of at Beatty.
- The contract can be terminated by the Rocky Mountain Board if Maine does not continue to make progress toward finding a permanent solution for LLW disposal, either by building its own facility or negotiating a long-term contract or compact with other states. Maine must make semi-annual reports to the Rocky Mountain Board on its progress. The contract could also be terminated if Beatty is required to close because its total waste volume exceeds its 1.4 million cu ft capacity.
- Maine may terminate the contract if it is able to negotiate a contract with another state or join a compact that will provide for disposal of Maine's LLW for at least a 10-year period.
- Maine will not be held liable for waste disposed at Beatty.

BACKGROUND:

This contract is necessary because according to the 1985 federal Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act amendments, each state must meet a series of milestones that ensure progress toward having disposal arrangements available for LLW generated within its borders. The next milestone is January 1, 1990. On that date, states have two choices:

- file an application with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a license to build an in-state disposal site, or
- have the Governor certify that the state will be able to take care of its waste after January 1993, when the three existing commercial disposal facilities stop accepting the country's waste. (The Legislature recently passed a bill requiring LLW generators in Maine to provide on-site storage after January 1996.)

This referendum provides a temporary disposal option for a 3-year period only, and is seen to strengthen the Governor's certification that Maine has met the requirements of the federal law. The adequacy of the certification must be agreed to by the U.S. Department of Energy and the other commercial disposal sites in order to avoid surcharges or refusal of access to Maine LLW generators.

Maine will continue to seek the preferred option of joining a compact or contract for out-of-state disposal while at the same time proceeding to plan for building a facility in-state if that becomes necessary.

From the President

Never in my experience have the problems facing our State been more serious.

- Numbers of our citizens are without homes, while others are faced with rising costs of inadequate shelter.
- The garbage slide at Norridgewock and its subsequent closing becomes a symbol of the present crisis in solid waste. Ninety percent of the landfills have less than two years' capacity left. Incinerators, which just a few short years ago seemed to be the solution to waste disposal, now threaten bankruptcy and may be environmentally dangerous.
- Clean, potable, inexpensive water may well be a thing of the past.
- Our roads and sidewalks, our whole infrastructure, is antiquated.
- Declining numbers of citizens participate in electing our government officials and the costs of those election campaigns skyrocket.
- Even a woman's right to make reproductive decisions privately is threatened by the Supreme Court in the Webster decision.

The list of serious problems which confront us seems endless.

If the problems have never been more serious, then the challenges and opportunities to find solutions have never been greater. These are the issues which the LWVME has chosen as Priorities. We are already deeply involved and working in coalitions to find answers.

- For example, in the last regular session of the legislature we lobbied for the adoption of the new solid waste bill which expands the bottle bill and establishes a new solid waste authority.
- This fall, the League, represented by Carol Fritz of Portland, Joan Saxe of Brunswick, Pat Cyphers, an Ellsworth MAL, in coalition with the State Office of Planning, the Bureau of Recycling, the Maine Municipal Association, the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs, the Natural Resources Council, and Maine Audubon will be sponsoring a series of workshops in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta and Portland to explain the provisions of the new legislation and to discuss recycling.
- If the quantity and quality of housing is the problem, Ann Knowles and Janice Carpenter of Portland introduced a bill to the last session of the legislature and persuaded us to join the H.O.M.E.S. coalition in support of the upcoming bond issue and constitutional amendment (Nos. 11 and 12 on the ballot.)
- Pat Cyphers, member of the state board, has completed a Clean Water Survey and has served on the Governor's Steering Committee Studying Maine's Groundwater.
- Pat Richies, a Mid-Coast MAL from Thomaston, has met in a strategy planning session to direct federal monies for transportation toward Maine.
- Ruth Moss, an Ellsworth MAL and state board member, is working with Secretary of State Diamond, who has proposed a Motor-Voter Plan to increase voter registration.

(Continued, next page)

(Continued)

--Ruth Moss, an Ellsworth MAL and state board member, is working with Secretary Of State Diamond, who has proposed a Motor-Voter Plan to increase voter registration.

--Ruth's counterpart, Alvin Moss, Vice-president of the LWVME, has led us to join the Common Cause coalition to limit gubernatorial campaign spending which will appear on the November ballot.

--A number of League members from Brunswick south, shortly to be joined by Barbara Bowler of Bangor and secretary to the LWVME board, are representing the League at the broad-based Maine Choice Coalition.

--Under the leadership of Margy Soule of Portland, we will survey the condition of our public school libraries.

--Immediate past president Marlee Turner Coughlan, will serve on a committee which will introduce a "Citizen's Bee," a competition which will increase knowledge of American history, government, geography, economics, culture and current events into the State's high schools.

The League is involved with all these issues. It is true that the problems which face us are serious, but by being a member of the League you are part of the solution. I ask each of you to become involved by giving of your time, money, or ideas. Working together we can make a difference and improve the quality of our lives in Maine.

The League is on the forefront. You have only to read our mail or answer our phone calls to know how much our work is valued. As we start our League year together, whether you serve on a committee, study, lobby, or do internal organizational work, it is my hope that you will be enriched by your League experience.

--Jane Saxl, President
LWVME

EDITOR'S NOTE: Members of the LWVME have not studied prison issues and therefore the State League takes NO POSITION on Bond Issue No. 3 on the November 7 ballot. The following material was received from the Maine Council of Churches. The VOTER editor had previously agreed to accept the material with the understanding that it would be used only if space permitted after all League material had been provided for. A group supporting both parts of this bond issue was offered the opportunity to submit material under the same condition.

THE WORDING OF BOND ISSUE NO. 3 WILL BE FOUND ON PAGE 8

"The original \$49.5 million proposal was split in two by Maine legislators at the August Special Session: \$14.5 million for upgrading juvenile facilities and \$35 million for maximum security construction at a new prison planned for Warne.

Nearly everyone agrees we have a corrections crisis in Maine. We must address three major areas: outdated facilities, overcrowding and shortages of staff and programming for inmates. We do not believe sinking millions of dollars into a "super-max" prison is the best way to use scarce taxpayers dollars.

For years The Maine Council of Churches has joined others in calling for comprehensive programs that go beyond "bricks and mortar." The smaller bond proposal does just that. We SUPPORT the \$14.5 million bond, because it is part of an overall plan issued by the Juvenile Corrections Planning Commission.

We must, however, OPPOSE the larger bond proposal. It is another, very expensive, piecemeal shot at the prison crisis.

We oppose the \$35 million bond for these reasons:

- Spending \$35 million on a building expansion may eliminate any chance of additional funds to address other aspects of the corrections system.
- Such a costly expenditure without the benefit of a coordinated and comprehensive plan, which addresses all phases of the issue, is simply short-sighted and irresponsible. It is an exorbitant waste of taxpayers' money.
- Even if this expansion happened, it would not create enough space to solve overcrowding problems in the state's prisons. New construction must be coupled with comprehensive planning and sentencing reform to reduce the growth of inmate populations. There is no coordinated state policy overseeing the whole system.
- Maine does not need more maximum security prison cells when the majority of Maine's offenders are minimum and medium security risks, and maximum cells are the most expensive to build.
- Even without this huge drain on the State's financial resources, there is presently a desperate shortage of support people and programs for inmates already in the system.

In light of these facts the Maine Council of Churches believes it would be irresponsible for Maine voters to throw more money, and huge amounts, at another short-sighted effort to deal with a fundamental long-term problems.

Specifically we advocate alternatives to imprisonment (community-based programs, restitution programs, house arrest, intensive probation), sentencing reform and guidelines, as well as more support personnel and rehabilitative programs.

1989—90

Action Agenda

In addition to ongoing Voter Education, The League of Women Voters of Maine will act on issues relating to the following agenda:

Waste Management



...support policies to reduce the generation and to promote reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous waste, and environmentally responsible disposal of the remainder.

Affordable Housing



...support opportunities for the purchase or renting of homes, including the borrowing of money for housing.

Reproductive Choice



...protect the Constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Library Survey



...co-sponsor with the Maine State Library, the Maine Library Association, and the Maine Educational Media Association a survey of all 700 public school libraries serving students K-12 in Maine.

Voter Advocacy



...support improvement of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, and enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and to promote citizen participation in the political process.

The League of Women Voters of Maine

335 Water Street, Augusta 04330

(207) 622-0256



1989-91 STATE BOARD

Jane Saxl
President
37 Pond Street
Bangor, Maine 04401
945-5786

Alvin M. Moss
First Vice President
Ellsworth League President
P.O. Box 305
Sorrento, Maine 04677
442-3627

Barbara Bowler
Secretary
RFD #1 Box 34
Bradford, Maine 04410
327-1111

Madeline Brown
Treasurer
59 Allen Avenue Ext.
Falmouth, Maine 04105
(H) 797-0939
(W) 775-6661

Judy Harrison
Finance
Bangor-Brewer President
27 Poplar Street
Bangor, Maine 04401
942-1545

Polly Roberts
Public Relations
2 Winslow Place
Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04007
767-4580

Ethel Schwalbe
VOTER Editor
Box 137B, Good's Point Road
Steuben, Maine 04680
546-7436

Pat Cyphers
Natural Resources
Box 176, Hancock Point
Hancock, Maine 04640
442-3626
(summer) 422-3225

Nellik Doble
Membership
MAL Coordinator
Brooklin, Maine 04616
359-4433

Martha Mickles
Human Resources
15 Lindenwood Road
Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107
799-4341

Alice Conkey
Publications
Brunswick Area Co-President
53 Ward Circle (Oct.-May)
Brunswick, Maine 04011
729-5289
Box 2231 (May-Oct.)
Jefferson, Maine 04348
549-3026

Margaret Soule
Library Survey
79 Presumpscot Street
Portland, Maine 04103
772-0589

Nan Amstutz
Brunswick Area Co-President
15 Blueberry Lane
Brunswick, Maine 04011
729-4135

Pamela Greenman
Mid-Coast Co-President
27 Knowlton Street
Camden, Maine 04843
236-9544

Marjorie Roberts
Mid-Coast Co-President
2 Central Street
Camden, Maine 04843
236-8803

Patty Letcher
Mount Desert President
P.O. Box 104
Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679
244-4317

Carol Fritz
Portland Area President
9 Hunt Club Woods
Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107
767-3737

Margaret Tragard
York County President
P.O. Box 658
Cape Neddick, Maine 03902
646-4068

repairs and renovation in order to save the neighborhood. This will enable municipalities to address systemic problems rather than taking a piecemeal approach.

5. \$1,000,000 to capitalize a mortgage insurance fund.

The MSHA will administer the fund, which will enable more Maine people to obtain homes with affordable mortgages and small downpayments. It will also enable MSHA to develop a "sweat equity" program which will enable people to count the value of their own labor toward the downpayment on their home.

Bond issue No. 11 is extremely important because it will inject new resources into the housing industry, with particular attention being focused on significant obstacles to affordable housing.

No. 12. "Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended as proposed by a resolution of the Legislature to insure the payment of mortgage loans for affordable housing for Maine citizens, not to exceed \$25,000,000 in the aggregate?"

This amendment would permit the State of Maine, through the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) to insure mortgages for low- and moderate-income people and would pledge the "full faith and credit" of the State to back up the mortgage insurance fund.

The availability of a mortgage insurance fund backed with the full faith and credit of the State will offer several benefits, including:

1. Lower costs for mortgage insurance at the time of closing, thus saving the home buyer several hundred dollars.
2. The ability to offer "5% down payment" mortgages, instead of the typical 20% down payment requirements, to low- and moderate-income homebuyers. This would be extended to buyers who make more income than the Federal limits on MSHA mortgages would allow but who still can't buy an affordable home because they don't have 20% of the purchase price for a downpayment.
3. Greater flexibility in underwriting requirements for mortgages.
4. The ability to provide mortgage insurance for multi-family housing projects.
5. The ability to develop "sweat equity" mortgage programs to more households because the State's "full faith and credit" will leverage more resources than could be obtained without it.

No. 8. "Do you favor a \$7,000,000 bond issue to provide funds that would be available through grants and a loan fund, for programs serving persons with mental illness?"

\$4,000,000 of this bond issue is targeted to housing for persons with mental illness.

The Maine State Housing Authority would administer the four million dollars to "acquire, construct or rehabilitate" housing. This could include homeless shelters, boarding care facilities, group homes, supervised living facilities and independent living arrangements. While the bond issue does not provide much guidance on uses, resources

(Continued on p. 8)

Nov. 7 - OTHER BOND ISSUES

Following is the wording of the ballot questions for which no additional explanation is provided in this VOTER (but note LEAGUE SUPPORT of Nos. 4 and 10.)

The State Board voted to SUPPORT the following two bond issues relating to solid waste, based on prior consensus on environmental issues.

No. 4. "Do you favor a \$5,000,000 bond issue to fund grants to solid waste regional commissions and associations and municipalities to pay for the capital costs associated with purchasing recycling equipment and facilities?"

No. 10. "Do you favor a \$6,000,000 bond issue for cleaning up and closing solid waste landfills that pose a hazard to public health and to ground water quality?"

The League takes no position on the following:

No. 3 "A. Shall a bond issue be authorized in the amount of \$14,500,000 to build and repair correctional facilities, \$9,520,000 of which shall be for juvenile correctional facilities?"

"B. Shall a bond issue be authorized in the amount of \$35,000,000 to build, repair or renovate adult correctional facilities?"

No. 5. "Shall a bond issue be authorized in the amount of \$20,210,600 to make capital improvements at all campuses of the Maine Vocational-Technical Institute System?"

No. 6. "Do you favor a \$4,400,000 bond issue for sewerage facilities construction?"

No. 7. "Do you favor a \$21,000,000 bond issue for highway, state and local bridges, harbor and airport improvements?"

No. 9. "Do you favor a \$12,000,000 bond issue for detection and removal of asbestos and other health-related indoor air quality hazards to state facilities and public schools and removal of hazardous chemicals from public schools?"

NOV. 7 -- AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(Continued from page 7)

would be directed to community-based mental health and housing organizations with a goal of developing some innovative models while providing badly-needed housing for persons who, because of their mental illness, have few other housing options.

--Ann Knowles, Chair, Housing Committee
Portland Area LWV

WHY A LOT OF PEOPLE CAN'T AFFORD HOUSING: "Although total personal income rose 7.3% (1979-1986) for the population as a whole, the real income of the bottom 40% fell. The average income of those in the bottom one-fifth, with incomes of less than \$15,446, was fully 11% lower...."

(The Washington Spectator, quoting a report by the Economic Policy Institute)

YES



NO



4. Geography favors the USSR.
 "...America, with long coastlines and heavily populated and industrialized seaboards, presents a more inviting target for attack than the Soviet Union. Most Soviet cities and industries lie deep in the Eurasian land mass, and access to Soviet coasts is controlled through narrow sea lanes patrolled by attack submarines."

"*Ban This Missile From the Seas*," by Prof. Leon Sigal, Wesleyan University, in the NYTimes, June 9, 1988.

5. SLCMs increase the risk of nuclear war in a time of crisis. Their radar-evading capability makes them useful for one side to launch a sneak attack--and therefore tempts the other side to launch a pre-emptive strike in order to protect its own offensive weapons.

6. These former arms control negotiators and defense officials (in administrations of both political parties) have favored elimination of sea-launched cruise missiles:
 Paul Nitze, Paul Warnke, Gen. Brent Scowcroft (ret.)

5. How do we know that the current non-confrontational relationship between the US and USSR will continue? Or, what if Gorbachev is deposed and hard-liners take over?

We would then need to continue adding to our weapons arsenal and to continue development of new types of missiles.

(NOTE: Arguments 1 through 4 are taken from editorials in the Bangor Daily News and the Ellsworth American. Argument 5 is from letters to the editor.)

What concerns me about scientific, or humanistic, illiteracy is the barrier it poses to rational democratic governance. Democracy occasionally gives in to technocracy -- a reliance on experts on matters such as genetic engineering, nuclear waste disposal or the cost of medical care. That is fine, but the people must be able to vote intelligently on these issues. The less we know as a nation, the more we must rely on experts and the more likely we are to be misled by demagogues. We must know more. □

Roald Hoffmann, 1981 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, Professor, Cornell University, in a NYTimes OpEd article, Sept. 14, 1989.

"When you're all done arguing, what have you got? Have you built a house? Have you helped somebody? Have you created a better world? Have you fought a battle worth fighting? Or are you banging into shadows on the wall of a cave? It seems to me there's nothing produced from it and you've divided the nation."



Bob Kerrey, freshman U.S. Senator from Kansas and Medal of Honor winner in Vietnam, commenting on the furor over flag desecration.
 Quoted in the NYTimes, Sept. 3, 1989

"This is a nation that currently rises to the defense of its flag more fervently than to the [schoolchildren] who pledge allegiance to it. Of course, a flag can be folded up at the end of the day and children need a bit more attention."

From a NYTimes book review of *Among Schoolchildren*, by Tracy Kidder, Sept. 17, 1989

Local League News

MIDCOAST:

The Midcoast MAL Unit met at noon on September 21, at Marge Roberts' home in Camden to plan for an October meeting, which will focus on the referenda and bond issues to be voted on November 7th.

Midcoast also met on August 29th, when they heard an interesting presentation on the United Nations by Jim Brown, who is starting a chapter of the United Nations Association (UNA-USA) in the area.

--Pam Greenman

ELLSWORTH:

The Greater Ellsworth Area MAL Unit will meet on Saturday, October 14th, 11 a.m., at the Meadowview Apartments, Phase II, in Ellsworth.

State Representative Ruth Foster will discuss the questions to be on the November 7th ballot. A question and answer period will follow.

Those planning to attend are asked to bring their own bag lunch. A beverage will be served. Members of the community are also being invited to attend, and handouts about the ballot issues will be distributed.

--Ruth and Alvin Moss

Updates

SCHOOL LIBRARY SURVEY

Margy Soule, Portland Area League member and State League coordinator for the survey of school libraries (being carried out in cooperation with the Maine State Library) has reported that the actual survey work, initially scheduled for October, will now be done in January 1990. Work is proceeding on the survey forms.

If you have already volunteered to survey your local school library or libraries, you have received a letter from Margy. If October was not a convenient time for you, but you can help in January, let Margy know (Margaret Soule, 70 Presumpscot St., Portland, ME 04103.)

LEAGUE DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

There was a disappointing response to the July VOTER's article on League Day at the United Nations (sponsored by LWVUS), October 21st. We hope this does not indicate a lack of interest in the UN's work--and recent successes.

It is not too late to let Jane Saxl (37 Pond St., Bangor 04401-OR 945-5786) know if you would be interested in carpooling to New York for this event.

COASTWEEK 1989



Coastweek 1989 will run from September 16 to October 9. Started in 1982 as a one-week observation, it is a measure of the fouling of our shores that it has been extended to three weeks. Last year, volunteers collected nearly seven tons of debris from 114 miles of Maine's beaches, marshes and rocky shore. Sixty percent of the debris was plastic, 13% paper and 10% glass. Plastics have a life-span of 20 to 400 years, and can entangle marine wildlife and disable boats.

Let's all of us try to do our share in helping to clean up our coast.

--Pat Cyphers

NOV. 7 -- CAMPAIGN FINANCE

(continued from p. 4)

YES



2. Citizen confidence will be restored that Maine gubernatorial candidates will be as responsive to the average citizen as they are to the big contributor. (The Governor supports strict limits on corporate contributions.)

3. In response to criticism that partial public financing would place a new financial burden on the taxpayer:

The current "private" contributions become directly or indirectly "business" expense of the contributors. The fees and prices affluent contributors charge in their businesses are increased to make up for their donations. So the question becomes: Do we want these private contributions/costs to be hidden (out of sight) or to be open and a matter of public record for all to see?

4. The Governor favors the proposed expenditure limits of \$400,000 (Primary) and \$600,000 (General Election.)

5. Over 50,000 Maine voters signed the Citizen's Referendum Petition for proposed legislative bill LD 256 (now ballot question No. 1.)

NO



2. If there is a shortage in the Checkoff Fund and General Fund revenues must be used, fewer dollars would be available to provide citizen services.

3. Under the present system, candidates for governor are able to raise the campaign funds from private sources without any assistance from public financing.

4. The opportunity to get matching funds will possibly generate more candidates for governor, after they have met the \$25,000 minimum to qualify for matching funds.

5. The wording of the ballot question is too imprecise for voters to know what they are really voting for or against. Not all can be expected to read and remember explanations in the media.

--Alvin Moss

("No" Item 5 added by editor)



THE NEW BLUE BAG

The tree-saving, landfill-friendly REUSABLE SHOPPING BAG advertised in this space in the June VOTER is now also SOIL-RESISTANT.

That's because it has been changed to NAVY BLUE canvas, with RED handles and WHITE League logo and message:

LEARNING THE NEW "3 R's"

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Unfortunately the wholesale price has gone up, but it is still a great bargain. Alysian Hooper suggests they be sold for \$7 each. (Check your next LLB or other catalog--you'll find similar bags--but without the educational message!--for \$12.75 and more!)

The new quantity prices are: \$5.25 each for 100 or more; \$5.50 for 50 to 99; \$5.75 for 25 to 49; \$6 each for 5 to 24. For more information, hints for selling, or to order, write or call: Alysian Hooper, P.O. Box 201, Biddeford Pool, ME 04006 OR 284-5492.

Dec. 1 - EARLY DEADLINE FOR JANUARY VOTER

Material for the January 1990 VOTER should be in the editor's hands by Dec. 1, 1989. Mail neat copy to: RFD, Box 137-B, Steuben, ME 04680



207-622-0256

© LWVME, 1986

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
Paid
Bangor, Maine
Permit No. 46

The Maine VOTER is published quarterly by The League of Women Voters of Maine
Jane Saxl, President;
Ethel M. Schwalbe, Editor.
Subscriptions with membership in League of Women Voters of Maine.
Non-member subscriptions, \$7

Jane Saxl
37 Pond Street
Bangor, ME
04401