

**The Voter of ODC**



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**October General Meeting**

**Thursday, October 20, 9:45 a.m.  
Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill**

Paul Carrington of the Duke University School of Law will speak on “Reforming the Supreme Court,” followed by group discussions of checks and balances between the three branches of the Federal government.

**November General Meeting**

**Thursday, November 17, 10 a.m.  
Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill**

Three executive directors of Habitat for Humanity —Susan Levy of Orange County, Miguel Rubiera of Durham County and Amy Powell of Chatham County—will discuss Habitat contributions to city and county revitalization, land use, infrastructure and other community issues.

The Hargraves Center is located at 215 N. Roberson Street in Chapel Hill. If you continue west on Rosemary Street from the center of Chapel Hill, turn right at the traffic light past Mama Dips.

**Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Board Candidates Forum**

On Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> the League of Women Voters will sponsor a school board candidate forum in the Council chambers at Carrboro Town Hall. This forum will start at 7 p.m. and be broadcast live by Time Warner starting at 7:30 and ending by 9:00. League member Molly Beacham, Director of Development for Democracy North Carolina, will be the moderator. I hope many of you will attend this forum and support the League’s efforts. Bring a friend or a neighbor. Rebroadcast of this forum will be made on the Peoples Channel on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8 p.m. and Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Check our website for more details.

**School Board Candidates Forum**  
**Wednesday, October 26th, 7 pm.-9 pm.**  
**Carrboro Town Hall**  
**Sponsored by LWV-ODC and CHCCS PTA Council**

**Upcoming Events**

Oct. 20  
Hargraves Center

November 8  
Election Day

Nov. 17  
Hargraves Center

December 15  
Holiday dinner

**See the 2005 election calendar on back page**

## Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Coalition with League of Women Voters

### Jan Richmond

I attended a Chapel Hill-Carrboro PTA council meeting in response to a request for a presentation on how we could work together. The council consists of representatives from each of the schools in the combined school district. A major goal of the council is to inform the public regarding voting choices and issues before the Board of Education. At the end of my presentation, we arrived at three areas of involvement:



First, the council had prepared a questionnaire for school board candidates to answer and wanted our help in mailing the questionnaire. At my suggestion the questions were reviewed by LWV-ODC to ensure the candidate questions were fair to each candidate and of a non-partisan nature. Three questions were submitted to each candidate, accompanied by a letter written jointly by the president of the PTA and me. The letters with questions were

mailed to each candidate by LWV. It was requested they respond to each answer in 100 words or less. Their responses were compiled, printed and distributed to parents and staff of the school district.

Second, we were asked to help them establish and launch a legislative committee. The PTA has developed a plan and I agreed that we would be pleased to advise them. Anyone interested in helping with this project should contact me.

Third, the PTA council asked if we would hold a forum for school board candidates only. Many thanks go the League members who responded on short notice to my calls for help with this request: Bev Kawalec, Andrea Miller, Barbara Hardison, Gay Eddy, Molly Beacham, Anne Bodner and Eve Barkley. Eve has spent many hours organizing and leading this project.

*The Forum will be held October 26 at 7 p.m. at the Carrboro Town Hall.*

League of Women Voters  
Orange/DurhamChatham  
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<http://odc.nc.lwvnet.org>

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Anne Bodner  
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Bessie Carrington  
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489-8668

## Watch Durham and Orange Candidates on Time Warner Cable Channel 24

As announced last month, LWV-ODC and Time Warner have linked to bring viewers a program called Citizen's Choice. All candidates will be taped and have three minutes to discuss a topic chosen by LWV-ODC. Bessie Carrington, Vicki Boyer and Jan Richmond gathered the questions. Bessie actually interviewed people on the streets of Durham to obtain questions for the Durham candidates. We should get some publicity for the League in addition to providing a service for those unable to attend a forum. Please review the listed dates to view candidates in your area. The Chatham Unit choose not to participate due to low cable coverage in this area. We hope to maintain this relationship with Time Warner and serve all three counties in future elections.

November 3 7-8 p.m.  
 November 4 7:30-8:30 p.m.  
 November 5 1-2 p.m.  
 November 7 Daytime, probably 1-2 or 2-3.

## Calendar 2005-2006

The Board of Directors has established the schedule of meetings for this year. It provides for a mix of day and evening meetings.

October	Candidate forums in each County	TBA
October 15	LWV-UNA, Friday Center	9 –11:30 a.m.
October 20	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	9:45 a.m.-12
November 17	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	10 a.m.-noon,
December 15	Christmas dinner, Chapel Hill Country Club	6 p.m.
January 19, 2006	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	10 a.m.-noon,
February 16	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	10 a.m.-noon,
March 6	Dinner meeting, Panzanella, Carrboro	6 p.m.
March 16	General meeting, Hargraves Center	10 a.m.-noon
April 20	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	10 a.m.-noon
May 18	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	10 a.m.-noon
May ??	Annual dinner meeting	TBA
1st Tuesday of each month	Board of Directors meeting	Varies

Updated information is on the website, <http://odc.nc.lwvnet.org>.

## General Meeting - September 14, 2005

By Else Bolotin

The meeting took place at the Carolina Club and was attended by about thirty-five people.



Joyce Colaiace, Dawn Stumpf and Mike Ashe

Board of Election directors Mike Ashe from Durham County and Dawn Stumpf from Chatham County gave lively presentations on "Elections-Past and Present" and there was a stimulating discussion afterwards.

We were fortunate to have Ellie Kinaird, State senator from Orange County and Verla Insko, House representative from Chapel Hill, present.

Ellie introduced SB223, which authorizes how we will pay for new elections with HAVA (Help America Vote Act) funds. This bill stipulates that all voting machines must generate paper ballots which can be verified by voters and creates many safeguards for the security of voting machines, including pre- and post-testing of the machines.

The input of both legislators greatly enhanced the discussion and showed us how once the legislators write the bills, the Board of Election people have to put it into practice, which thus creates a possibility for conflicting results.

The new system will centralize a great deal of decision-making at the State level, such as training, surveys and equipment. It authorizes three types of election equipment, namely optical scanners, direct record electronic machines, and paper ballots. The local Board of Elections will be relieved of the responsibility of finding certified vendors.

Optical scanning systems are still the preferred mode of voting in our counties. In Chatham the equipment is troublesome because it is so old that it is difficult to find parts, but they have a 72% voter turnout. In North Carolina we had 67% of the people eligible voting in the Presidential election.

There will also be a Pilot Program, which will allow new technology to be tested. But even if they use the most modern technology, they have to have paper ballots.

Change is not always easy but Mike Ashe is thrilled overall with these changes. He stated "before the State Board did not tell us how to buy equipment and every Board of Elections loves theirs and there are 41 of them! Now the State will be in charge and pay for storage and maintenance and we pay the same price."

*For more information about SB223, Public Confidence in Elections, see next page.*

## Voting Rights and Campaign Reform Status

Thanks to some crucial efforts by the LWV Lobby Corps, Democracy NC, and many others, important legislation affecting voting rights was passed in the 2005 session of the NC General Assembly. Other bills of interest have been carried over to the 2006 session, and several were defeated. For more information about these laws, see [www.ncga.state.nc.us](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us).

### **These bills have been enacted:**

#### Amend Lobby Laws, S-612 – Ratified and signed into law

The bill closes the "goodwill loophole" and requires lobbyists to report most spending over \$10 that benefits a lawmaker, legislative employee, top executive official or their family member. It requires monthly reports when the General Assembly is in session, quarterly otherwise. It increases lobbyists' registration fees and provides penalties and funds to enforce the new law. It requires a 6-month cooling off period before a state official can become a paid lobbyist.

#### Chapel Hill Township Voting Centers, S-98 -Ratified, now law

This bill, sponsored by Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, authorizes a pilot project for "super polling places," where a voter can vote in any of the district's polling sites; it is only for the Chapel Hill Township. Some polling places will be closed; others will be equipped to handle and verify more voters.

#### Public Confidence in Elections, S-223 – Ratified, signed by Gov. on 8/26/2005

Sponsored by Reps. Kinnaird and Allran; the bill requires all voting machines to generate a paper ballot or record that voters can look at to verify their choices before their vote is cast. It also creates many safeguards for the security of electronic voting machines and vote counting, including pre- and post-testing of voting machines, reviewable source code, and hand-to-eye recounts using paper records.

#### Counting of Provisional Ballots, S-133 –Ratified, signed by Governor, 3/2/2005;

Sponsored by Dan Clodfelter and many others, this bill clarifies that provisional ballots shall be counted for registered voters who vote in their home county but not in their home precinct. A voter's residence--where they sleep or intend to return to--defines which ballot they receive but not where the ballot must be cast.

#### Election Administration Amendments, H-1115 - Ratified, signed by Gov 9/22/2005

This bipartisan bill, introduced by Reps Ross and Moore, Election Law Committee co-chairs, permits voter assistance during early voting in the same manner as on Election Day. It allows political parties to use runners (not candidates) to pick up voter lists from polls and moves the canvass (vote count) back three days in even years and permits electronic poll books. It authorizes the State Board of Elections to allow known voters whose votes were lost (as in Carteret County in 2004) to cast ballots during a two-week period after the election. It changes the deadline for filing a protest from 6 p.m. to 5 p.m and makes other changes.

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

Campaign Finance Amendments, H-1128 – Ratified, Gov. signed on 9/22/05

This bipartisan bill requires an audit trail for a campaign contribution made by money order. It requires "electioneering communications" that are not "express advocacy" to be paid for with non-corporate/non-union money from a separate bank account whose big donors are disclosed. Campaign treasurers must get training on campaign rules, even if only from a CD. If a Judicial Voter Guide is mailed, it must be delivered one week before Early Voting begins.

Election Contests, S-82 – Ratified and signed

This bill sets forth the procedure by which the General Assembly exercises its responsibility under the state constitution to resolve contested elections for Council of State members.

**Bills ready for action in 2006 session**

Same-Day Registration at One-stop Locations, H-851 – Action for 2006

This bill would allow a citizen who missed the 25-day cutoff for registering to go to a One-Stop, Early Voting location, show ID, register, and vote all at the same time. It includes safeguards against fraud and funds a study of the feasibility of expanding same-day registration, eventually to include Election Day itself.

Voter-Owned Elections for Council of State, S-1042/H-1563 – Action for 2006

This bill would give the eight agency heads in the Council of State the option to run their campaigns with public funding if they obtain enough qualifying support from voters. The bill was not heard in 2005 because the sponsors want to develop a clear plan for financing the program, with a small surcharge on fees collected by Council of State agencies.

Instant Runoff Voting, H-1024 – Passed House, in Senate Judiciary Committee

Sponsored Rep. Paul Luebke; the bill authorizes up to 10 counties to use Instant Runoff Voting, a method where voters rank their choices 1-2-3 when there are multiple candidates, to end any need for a second primary.

Electoral Fairness Act, H-88 – Passed House, in Senate for action in 2006

This bill would have made it easier for a third party or independent candidate to be on the ballot. but it was amended to keep NC as one of the most restrictive states in the nation. Reformers want the bill changed because it now provides little positive change.

Independent Redistricting Commission/Amend Constitution, S-430 – Eligible for 2006

This bill, by Sens. Horton and Kinnaird, creates an appointed commission to draw legislative and congressional district lines, rather than the General Assembly. Leaders in power oppose it.

**Other bills of interest which failed:**

Public Campaign Fund Amendments, S-539 -Dead in this form but parts adopted in other bills

Presidential Electors by District, H-386 – Dead in this form

Sponsor: Goodwin. Harrison, Insko, and Fisher; co-sponsors: Luebke and Weiss.

This bill would allocate NC's Electoral College votes based on the presidential winner in each Congressional district instead of statewide. Not enough Democrats liked it, so it was shelved. **This legislation was supported by LWVODC Electoral College focus group in 2005.**

## Membership

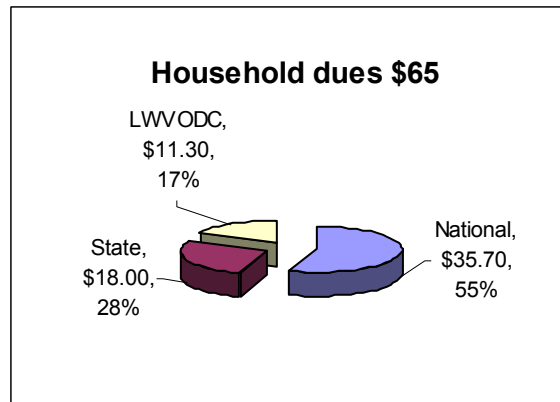
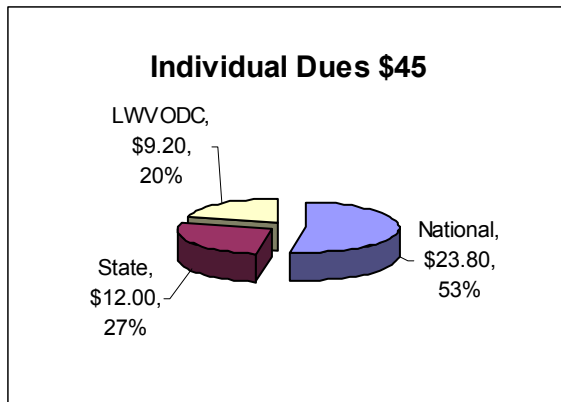
### Betty Mutran

#### Have you ever wondered where your dues go?

Since I have been in the League for only a few years, I am just learning about the tiered system of membership and why our local League needs national members to join at the local level. I asked our treasurer, Barbara Hardison, to explain it to me.

Our annual dues are \$45 for an individual, \$65 for a household, \$30 for a student. The League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham (LWVODC) contributes \$23.80 to the national organization (LWVUS) for each local member. For the second household member or for a student, the amount transferred is \$11.90. For honorary life members, there is no fee. If a person joins at the national level, we receive only a \$5 local credit.

In addition, we contribute \$12 for each member to the state organization (LWVNC). For the second household member or for student members, we contribute \$6. What little is left provides our operating funds. And so in figures, we have:



In the next *Voter*, I will share more on how the different levels of the League work towards our common objectives of improving our systems of government, encourage informed and active participation of citizens in government, and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy.

#### New Members

Please welcome a new member to the Orange, Durham, Chatham League of Women Voters, Florence G. Ziegler. Before coming to NC, she was a long-time member of LWV, Dallas, TX.

Florence G. Ziegler (C) [fgzh@aol.com](mailto:fgzh@aol.com)  
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 542-1730

#### Changes and Corrections

Marie Eldridge (O) [mdeldridge@fusionbb.net](mailto:mdeldridge@fusionbb.net)

Katherine Emerson (D) 2600 Croasdaile Farm Pkwy, Apt. A-339

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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.*

## Fall Elections 2005

**Election Day is November 8.**

Municipal elections will be held in Pittsboro, Siler City, Goldston, Durham, Carrboro, Hillsborough and Chapel Hill, as well as Chapel Hill/Carrboro school board. More information can be found at [Orange County](#), [Chatham County](#), or [Durham County](#)

Activity	County	Date
Voter registration deadline	Durham (primary)	September 16
One Stop voting begins	Durham	September 22
Municipal primary	Durham	October 11
Voter registration deadline	Durham (municipal)	October 14
One Stop voting begins	Durham	October 20
Absentee ballot begins	Chatham	October 7
Voter registration deadline	Chatham	October 14
One-stop voting begins	Chatham	October 20
Voter registration deadline	Orange	October 14
Absentee balloting begins	Orange	October 7
One Stop voting begins	Orange	October 14