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Voter Impact
 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE
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Lunch with the League Secure Communities: Follow the Money

Tuesday, November 15, 2011, 12:00 noon

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Haywood Duke Meeting Room
607 N. Greene St. near downtown Greensboro

*The program is free. Reservations are necessary if you'd like to have lunch at a cost of \$10.00 per person. Make lunch reservations by **Wednesday, November 9** by Email to lwvptmail@gmail.com (subject: Reserve) or 643-2131. If you are paying by check, please write your check, in advance, to LWVPT. If you are coming only for the program, please let us know, if possible, so that the appropriate number of seats are available.*

The main speaker for the November lunch with the League meeting is Latino Community Advocate Addy Jeffrey. Her address on Secure Communities: Follow the Money will be followed by panel respondents: David Fraccaro, FaithAction International House; Gema J. Hall, Immigration Attorney, Chapman Law Firm; Kathy Hinshaw, Latino Outreach Coordinator, NC Center for New North Carolinians; Lori Fernald Khamala, American Friends Service Committee NC Immigrant Rights Program; and Heather Scavone, Clinical Practitioner in Residence for the Humanitarian Immigration Law Clinic, Elon University.

Born in New York City in 1963, Addy Jeffrey grew up hearing her parents' and grandparents' stories about the difficulties they faced when they fled communist Cuba and settled in the United States. Addy worked in banking and real estate in Miami where she met her husband Paul, a native of Puerto Rico. Paul's career brought them to Greensboro in 2004.

In 2006 Addy joined the AmeriCorps Access Project at UNCG's Center for New North Carolinians. In May 2008 she was recognized among all AmeriCorps volunteers in North Carolina, and with Kyle and Patty Petty, received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. She joined the Interpreter Access Project at the Center for New North Carolinians. Fluent in Spanish, she works with local health and human service providers and serves as an interpreter with Gateway Education Center and other Guilford County schools.

Addy graduated from the "Other Voices" leadership development program of the Chamber of Commerce in 2009, and in 2011 received their "Change Agent Award" which recognizes outstanding leadership focused on commitment to diversity. Addy



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Email

If you would like to receive news and announcements via email, please send a message to lwvptmail@gmail.com.

VOTER IMPACT NEWS

Voter Impact (PDF format) is currently emailed to all members and elected officials with email addresses. If you have an email address and you are not receiving the VI via email, please check your spam folder. Be certain to add the lwvptmail@gmail.com to your list of acceptable email addresses. If you would like to comment on format, please send email to the same address. **Remember** to check the web page once a week or more for new information and for archived copies of Voter Impact. The web page address runs at the bottom of VI pages.

Board of Directors, LWVPT 2011-2012 Management Team

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Membership and Dues

The LWVPT's fiscal year runs from July to June. Dues are \$56 for individuals. Households pay \$56 for the first member and \$28 for each additional member. Any citizen, 18 years or older, may join the LWVPT. Non-citizens and those younger than 18 may join as associate members. Send dues to LWVPT, POB 9721, Greensboro NC 27429.

To date 102 members have paid their dues.
The LWVPT welcomes three new members

Glenda Clark
Marie Davenport
Walter Salinger

Glenda and Marie have been a part of the very successful National Education study conducted by the LWVPT.

Thank you to the Cone Health Foundation for the contribution for health care education and to Eileen Stirling for her contribution to the general fund. Thanks also to Mary Emler and Sue Mengert for their contributions to the Citizen Education Foundation.

The 2011-12 Membership Handbook and League Bylaws have been sent electronically to the membership. If you do not have internet access and would like a hard copy of these documents, please notify the League Membership Chair at 855-9399.

Marikay Abuzuaiter, Director
abuzuaiter@aol.com

Cassandra Rogers, Director
croggers32@triad.rr.com

Whitney Vanderwerff, Director—Immigration Reform
na4nvp@aol.com

Everything underlined in Voter Impact is meant to be a link to an internet site or to an email address. You just need to click on it. The links should appear in blue to you. Some people may not be able to this. Hopefully, we will learn why and fix it for the next issue.

Highlights from LWVPT Board of Directors Meeting October 3, 2011

1. The Board unanimously adopted a policy entitled "Friend of the League Membership". This policy establishes a budget line item to provide financial membership support to current or prospective members.
2. The Board adopted a policy for developing community organization partnerships and coalitions. Two partnerships were approved: Cone Health Foundation and the Greensboro Public Library. Roundtable chairs were asked to bring to the November Board meeting a list of other organizations their roundtable would propose for partnership or coalition status.
3. Announcements:
 - Rebecca Klase will moderate a candidate forum in Trinity-Archdale on October 13.
 - Sara White will moderate a candidate forum in Stokesdale on October 25.
 - Trudy Whitacre and Willie Taylor will speak about the work of the LWVPT at a luncheon meeting of the Shepherd Center on October 13.
 - The Shur Institute will conduct a leadership training workshop for LWV piedmont chapters, Saturday, October 29th in Greensboro. The LWVPT will send 3-5 representatives.

Dr. Willie Taylor Wins State Library Award

The Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries selected Dr. Willie Taylor to receive the Champion of Advocacy Award. Greensboro Public Library Director Sandy Neerman nominated Willie for Volunteer of the Year, and the state organization responded. "Willie has worked on many levels of local, state and national advocacy for libraries, so we considered her volunteer work in a special category," notes Sandy Dwyer with the Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries.

Sandy Neerman said the following, "Willie is a tireless advocate and she has been instrumental as a Library champion urging elected officials to remember the importance of our institution particularly during difficult economic times." In addition to leading local advocacy efforts, Willie has worked on state and national Library initiatives as well. For the last two years Willie has traveled with the NC Advocacy team to visit our Congressional delegation in Washington on behalf of North Carolina Public Libraries and the important benefits of the Library Services and Technology Act Funds.

The Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries presented the Champion of Advocacy Award to Dr. Willie Taylor at their annual meeting and awards luncheon on Saturday, October 22 in Pittsboro.

Whitney Vanderwerff stated "It honors Greensboro too -- that the person who won this is from here. I was trying to remember when I first learned about Willie's advocacy for the library and realized it was YEARS ago. She has been steadfast and devoted, orchestrating this with other priorities, with energy I don't see how she finds, but she always does."

The LWVPT congratulates busy Willie.



LWV Privatization Study

The League of Women Voters of the US is studying privatization. Any local League who chooses to do so may read and study the materials prepared by the national League committee. Currently there is a listserv for Leaguers to join in order to understand the scope of the study and to read news articles and other items shared by various members. The privatization study is the second major study on the national level for this year. The first which our League is completing this month was Education. *At this point, we need to know if there are enough interested members to read and study and share information with others in our League.* You will find other material about privatization in this newsletter and also on line at the national League web site. (<http://lwv.org>). Go to the **For Members** area (in dark blue near the top) and then to **Projects and Programs**. On the right hand side you will see Privatization Study. The first paper was posted recently. Contact Marlene Pratto at mrpratto@acm.org or 275-4422 to express your interest.

(from page 1)

serves on several local boards and volunteers extensively at many grassroots venues in Greensboro. As the parent of a child with special needs, Addy also coordinates training sessions on disability awareness for Girl Scouts, Anytown, and the City of Greensboro's Youth Leadership Project.

LWVPT Immigration Reform Roundtable



This roundtable meets regularly and welcomes everyone at the meetings, next meeting TBA. We often communicate via e-mail and have worked together recently to plan the November 15 Lunch with the League program on Secure Communities, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) program to arrest, detain, and deport undocumented workers. Too often, people are picked up on minor infractions, held in a local jail, shifted to a prison in another state, and deported.

The Obama administration has announced its intention to focus on immigrants with a history of criminal activity. But as revealed in the October 18 PBS "Frontline" documentary "Lost in Detention," detention and deportation of immigrants with no history of criminal activity continue, with devastating consequences for women, children, and families. Moreover, as a result of new anti-immigrant laws in Alabama and Georgia, crops are not being harvested because the immigrant workers are staying away, and some children are staying away from school, all in fear.

We call attention to the LWVUS public policy position: *"In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.....The League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity."*

The Immigration Reform Roundtable: Sally Austin, Ann Davies, Tony Davies, Carol Garlington, Barbara Hughes, Sue Jezorek, Kris Kaiser, Chellie Mason, Alice Patterson, Karen Savage, Trudy Whitacre and Whitney Vanderwerff. Latino community advocate Addy Jeffrey has met with us frequently to plan the November 15 Lunch with the League program.

2011 Education Summit

Wednesday, November 9 7:30 am Koury Convention Center

Keynote Speaker: **Jim Goodnight**, CEO of SAS

"Education is critical to the success of people, companies and nations."

More information is available from the [Guilford Educational Alliance](#).



Privatization Study (See p. 3 and p. 6)

"The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good."

Papers prepared by the study committee include topics such as: identifying Best Practices, some history and how the policy evolution has evolved, descriptions of various types of privatizing that can occur, review of state laws regarding privatizing, differences in the legal framework for public and private entities, different models of privatization and case studies on a variety of topics including privatizing of: education, libraries, railroads, water treatment facilities, etc. Each of the papers, with the exception of the case studies, will be accompanied by an Executive Summary. All papers will be available in Word and pdf formats.

Janis McMillen, Study Chair LWVUS

T.R. Reid in Greensboro

Invitations for a luncheon on November 17 with T.R. Reid were sent to LWVPT members. If you have not sent in your response, please do so now. In the evening, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., come and hear T.R. Reid, one of the country's finest journalists, as he demystifies health care reform. His talk will be followed by a panel and audience discussion. The event is free, but you should make a reservation. This event is sponsored by the Cone Health Foundation, the Greensboro Public Library, and WFDD. To make reservations go to the WFDD website (WFDD.org) and make a reservation. You will print your tickets and parking pass from there. There are only 300 reservations. Other details such as the panel and how to get to Odeon are all at WFDD.



T.R.Reid (photo from www.trreid.net)

Suggested reading; T.R. Reid, *The Healing of American, A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care*, Penguin Paperback, 2010. A short article appeared in the Washington Post in 2009. You may read it online. T.R Reid, [Five Myths about Health Care in the Rest of the World](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/21/AR2009082101778.html). Or (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/21/AR2009082101778.html>)

These links were in the last Voter Impact, but we are repeating them in case you missed them.

For an amazing review of the issues that led to the ACA (some solved, some still waiting for the fix) read this booklet from the League of Women Voters of Arizona (especially pages 7 -13):
<http://norman.ok.lwvnet.org/files/LWVAZHealthIssuesBooklet.pdf>

Or put "Health Care Issues behind Health Reform LWV Arizona" into your search bar.

To read a review of T.R. Reid's book, which will give you a great summary of what he discovered about health care around the world, go to: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/15/health/15book.html> . Or to locate the article yourself, put "One Journey, one injury, ten countries TR Reid" into your search bar.

For a quick look at Reid's Five Myths about health care in the rest of the world, try this link:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/21/AR2009082101778.html> Or to locate the article yourself, put "TR Reid five myths about health care in the rest of the world" into your search bar.

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November 15, 2011, 12:00 noon

Reserve your lunch by November 9

Let us know if you are attending without eating as well.



From the first paper on privatization posted by the LWVUS. The full paper with references is on the web site (see p. 3)

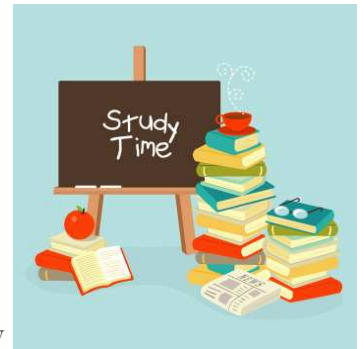
The Legal Framework of Transparency and Accountability within the Context of Privatization Executive Summary

The legal frameworks within which public and private sector entities operate differ. One difference is that, unlike private entities, government entities are statutorily required to conduct their business through open, transparent processes to ensure that they are accountable to the citizenry. This modern practice of open government is viewed as both a key feature and a necessary condition of a contemporary democratic state. It is based upon the conviction that the people can only effectively exercise their constitutional role as overseers of government action where their unfettered rights of access to information about government operations are secure.

Public transparency laws thus have been enacted throughout the United States at both the federal and state level for the purpose of maintaining free and open access to the government's proceedings, deliberations, decision-making and records. Such laws include sunshine or open meeting laws, which seek to ensure that the public may observe the meetings and deliberations of government bodies, and freedom of information or public record acts, which seek to ensure public access to the documents and records of government.

Privatization raises particular issues with respect to transparency, however, because as a general matter, such transparency laws apply exclusively to public bodies, and not to private entities. Where the provision of government services are transferred into private hands, what then becomes of the public's right of access to information regarding the provision of those services?

Judicial and legislative efforts to address concerns regarding public transparency within the context of privatization have emerged over several years. Some state courts, for instance, have adopted a judicial doctrine that subjects a private contractor to the applicable transparency law when the contractor is performing a government function in such a manner that it may be deemed the "functional equivalent of the public body." In addition, state legislatures have been modifying their public accountability statutes over the years in order to make such laws applicable to certain private entities carrying out government functions. Public accountability advocates nonetheless are concerned that public access to information in the hands of private contractors often is frustrated when statutory language does not adequately cover the private entity or a court ruling is not obtained. Moreover, even when private contractors are subject to such laws, they often dispute it or are not aware of such requirements, and, thus, refuse to provide the information.



A recent example involves one of the nation's largest not-for-profit providers of community-based supervision and treatment services to individuals within the criminal justice systems. The company is 97 percent publicly funded from sources such as state departments of corrections and the federal prison bureau. Following revelations of certain unusual and high profile expenditures by the private contractor in Kentucky (including hundreds of thousands of dollars in stadium suites, sponsorship of a university basketball team and extravagant social events), the Kentucky state auditor sought to examine how its tax dollars were being spent. The private contractor, however, refused to provide the state auditor with the requested financial information, and neither the state public records law nor any decision by a state court required the contractor to provide the information. This case illustrates the importance of yet another approach to ensuring public accessibility of information and records in the hands of a private contractor: that is, using the bidding or contract negotiation process of the privatization deal itself to require agreement on the part of the private contractor to make all pertinent information available to the government agency with which it is contracting before any privatization of services is put in place.

Finally, this paper concludes with a call by accountability advocates for special transparency requirements to apply to any privatization proposal. The notion, here, is that government action to privatize is of such import and consequence that special (super) public accountability procedures should apply with respect to the initial privatization decision itself in order to ensure the proper constitutional role of the people as overseers of government action.

Diane Dilanni

Mark your calendar now...

- Nov 8** Municipal Election Greensboro and some other cities/towns
- Nov. 9** Deadline for lunch reservation for Nov 15
- Nov 9** Education Summit, Koury Convention Center, 7:30 a.m.
- Nov 15** Lunch with the League, Understanding Secure Communities
- Nov 17** T.R. Reid, Odeon Auditorium, Coliseum Complex, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- Nov 24** Happy Thanksgiving
- Dec 6** Great Decisions Discussion Group, Friends Home Guilford, First Floor Living Room, 2:30 p.m.
- December** Happy Everything
- Jan 1 2012** Happy New Year
- Jan 17** Lunch with the League

GREAT DECISIONS

A group of League members meets monthly to discuss Great Decisions topics at 2:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Friends Home Guilford, First Floor Living Room. Contact Marilyn White (315-7689) with questions and for topics information.

2011 Education Summit
 Wednesday, November 9 7:30 am Koury Convention Center
 Keynote Speaker: **Jim Goodnight**, CEO of SAS
 "Education is critical to the success of people, companies and nations."
 More information is available from the [Guilford Educational Alliance](#).



If you have an announcement for Lunch with the League meetings, bring copies of your announcement on paper, preferably colored paper. Your announcement will be placed at the check-in tables.

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Please bring your comments about Voter Impact (VI) to the next lunch meeting. Leave this paper on the table and we will pick it up.

- What do you like the best?
- The least?
- Is VI too hard to read?
- What should be added?
- What should be left out?
- Do you print or read it on the screen?

✂

"The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy."