HEALTH CARE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

On the pull-out sheet enclosed with this Voter, you will find a summary of the health plans or ideas of each of the major Presidential candidates in the Democratic and Republican parties. We hope you will find this useful.

“Every Democratic President since Truman has been elected on a platform of national health insurance and, in spite of public support for the idea by majorities as big as those in Europe, every one of them has failed to get it enacted.”¹ So, what are the chances this time around? Once again, Democratic candidates have very detailed plans and much in their plans is very similar. The Republican candidates do not present detailed plans but rely heavily on market forces with tax credits to people to help them purchase insurance.

Big reforms, and we all know that changing our health care system is a very big reform, require tremendous political will and leadership. The committees of Congress, where most of the work on bills gets done, are made up of independently elected members who must all come together to agree on the details of such legislation. And each member of Congress on key committees will be battered by special-interest groups who will be monitoring their work and trying to steer the legislation every step of the way.

And yet, the “crisis” we face in access to and cost of health care in our country is worse than it was in 2000. Then, there were thirty-eight million uninsured; today there are forty-seven million. We spend more on health care than the French, the Germans, or the British, yet our national health rankings are no better than theirs. Employer-based systems, long the gold standard of our system, have become increasingly expensive for employees as they feature larger co-pays and higher premium sharing. Retirees have particularly seen cuts in their benefits, and companies, as they continue to pay higher costs to insure their employees and retirees, are finding themselves at a disadvantage in the world market.

continued on page 15

HOLIDAY PARTY!

Wednesday, December 12
See page 4 for details.
President’s Message

Sometimes, you need to think outside the booth.

A few weeks ago, I attended a conference in Washington, D.C., sponsored by FairVote entitled “Claim Democracy.” The experience was not unlike opening a Russian doll, with each layer revealing a new delight. The first layer was the realization of how many organizations are engaged in the work that we do. I was familiar with some of the organizations—The Brennan Center and Common Cause, for example. Although the League of Women Voters was not a sponsor, the national executive director was there as a participant, and several members sat as experts on panels. In all, about forty organizations co-sponsored the event, with many others providing speakers for the dozen or so workshops that were held.

The second layer of discovery was in the depth and range of topics addressed at workshops and plenary sessions: campaign finance reform; new ideas in voter registration such as universal registration and election day registration; the National Popular Vote; same day run-offs and proportional voting; felony re-enfranchisement; voter ID issues; no-fault absentee balloting; early voting. I will provide more information on some of these innovations and ideas in the next several months.

The third layer—and the one which was not so delightful—was the realization of how removed New York State is from the forefront of reform. Voting machines were not even mentioned—because with the exception of New York, all other states have apparently figured out a plan with which to comply with HAVA (Help America Vote Act). (I know that some of these states are going to have to scrap the machines they purchased, and I know that New York is proud to have the highest standards for machine requirements, but New York has not yet presented a viable plan for providing accurate and accessible machines!) In areas such as registration and voting techniques, or campaign finance reform, our state lags far behind most others.

The fourth layer—the most eye-opening—was in the realization of a simple truth: that we have the right to vote. And that since voting is a right, it is the responsibility of government to make it as accessible and easy as possible. And that any impediment to registration and/or voting is a violation of that fundamental right. Voting is not a privilege that we earn by remembering to register, or being physically able to get to the polling place on a Tuesday, or by knowing where we will be on election day so that we can go through the hassles of obtaining an incomprehensible form for an absentee ballot, or by proving who we are by presentation of state-issued photo ID. Our registration and voting procedures should be predicated on the basis that voting is a right and, when one begins to think in this way, the need for reforms to our voting and registration system becomes self-evident.

Carol Mellor, Co-President 537-6998
NATIONAL LWV IMMIGRATION STUDY

The Immigration Study Committee thanks the nearly 70 League members and other community residents who attended the informational meeting on current immigration laws and major unresolved immigration issues on November 12. We hope you gained as much from participating as we did from researching this important national issue.

I heartily thank my committee members—Afton DiSunno, Joy Lupoletti, Ann Sandford, and Susan Wilson—for volunteering for this committee and for their many contributions to the final effort. Of course, we especially thank immigration history expert and Sag Harbor resident Dr. Richard Gambino for his speech, “How the History of Immigration Illuminates the Problems of Today,” and for his long-term perspective on these issues.

Now to complete the process, we encourage you to attend the members-only consensus meeting on Monday, December 10. Come at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments, to fortify yourself for the 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. discussion. Past-president Jacqui Lofaro will guide us through the national League’s consensus questions. It will be a real work session, so wear your thinking cap. And please bring the four-page consensus questions and other handouts with you to the meeting.

If you have questions, don’t hesitate to contact me, the co-presidents, or any member of the committee.

Arlene Hinkemeyer, Chair 324-6713

Voter Services

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SAYS “NO MORE LEVERS” TO NEW YORK STATE

In the latest episode of the saga of the selection of the voting machines in New York State, the Department of Justice (DoJ) said “no more levers by 2008.” In a motion submitted during the week of November 5 in federal court, the DoJ told New York State they cannot continue to use lever machines, suggesting that the court take over the machine selection process. The State has missed its compliance deadline for replacing the lever machines, but has been waiting to replace them with systems that meet specific rigorous standards. Optical scan with ballot-marking devices would serve the purpose, and there is strong public support for such systems from the League of Women Voters of New York State, New Yorkers for Verified Voting, and many others.

What happens next? The State Board of Elections must respond to the motion within the month, then the judge will make a determination. A hearing is set for December 6. (Excerpted from Verified Voting Foundation News, November 2007.)

LWVH member Barbara Jordan, far right, moderated the October 29 debate featuring, left to right, Southampton Town Supervisor candidates Alexander Gregor, Patrick Heaney, Jim Henry, and Linda Kabot. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

Anne K. Marshall, Chair 537-3257
YOU'RE INVITED!
League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

HOLIDAY PARTY
Wednesday, December 12
6:00 — 9:00 p.m.
Home of Carol Mellor
140 Three Mile Harbor Road, Springs
The house is three miles from East Hampton village, opposite Will Curl Highway.
Please park on Will Curl Highway and cross the street to driveway.
(Flashlight suggested.) Lost? call 537-6998.

RSVP: 631-537-6998
We will be accepting your holiday contributions for East End Hospice.
Please make your check payable to East End Hospice.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

CONSENSUS MEETING
Monday, December 10
6:30 p.m. Refreshments
7:00-9:00 p.m. Consensus discussion led by LWVH former president Jacqui Lofaro
Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse
977 Bridgehampton/Sag Harbor Turnpike
(just south of Scuttlehole Road on the east side)

CONSENSUS MEETING
LWVUS National Immigration Study
Please bring with you the four pages of consensus questions (mailed to you in early November), to better follow the discussion. Jacqui Lofaro will provide background information on each question.
If you are unable to attend the meeting and feel you have enough information to answer the questions from reading the LWVH Voter articles, the National Voter articles, and articles on the lwv.org website, you may mail in your responses by December 10 to:
League of Women Voters of the Hamptons
P.O. Box 2253
East Hampton, N.Y. 11937
Be sure to include your name on the questionnaire, or it won’t count.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

CONSENSUS MEETING
Monday, December 10
6:30 p.m. Refreshments
7:00-9:00 p.m. Consensus discussion led by LWVH former president Jacqui Lofaro
Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse
977 Bridgehampton/Sag Harbor Turnpike
(just south of Scuttlehole Road on the east side)
**December 2007**

**Note:** Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Please confirm with committee chairperson.

The following committees will not meet in December: Education, Fundraising, Voter Services.

No Housing Committee meetings until further notice.

**December 4**  
Tuesday  
Natural Resources Committee meeting. Bridgehampton Library. 11:00 a.m. Contact Sue Avedon at 329-1830 to confirm.

**December 5**  
Wednesday  
LWVH Board meeting. Bridgehampton National Bank. 7:00-9:00 p.m. Members and guests welcome.

**December 4**  
Tuesday  
Hanukkah begins.

**December 10**  
Monday  
Consensus Meeting on LWVUS Immigration Study. Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 977 Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, Bridgehampton. 7:00 p.m. **Members Only**. See details on page 4.

**December 12**  
Wednesday  
LWVSC Board meeting. Riverhead Library. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

**December 12**  
Wednesday  
**Holiday Party.** See details on page 4.

**December 15**  
Saturday  
Deadline for January/February issue of *The Voter*.

**December 25**  
Wednesday  
Merry Christmas.

**December 26**  
Thursday  
Kwanzaa begins.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**January 2**  
Wednesday  
LWVH Board meeting. Bridgehampton National Bank. **5:15-7:15 p.m.** Members and guests welcome.

**January 14**  
Monday  
General Membership Meeting. Details to come.

**January 22**  
Tuesday  
“Winter Blahs” luncheon. Bobby Van’s Steakhouse, Bridgehampton. 12:30 p.m.

**OTHER MEETINGS OF INTEREST**

**SOUTHAMPTON**

All Southampton Town Board meetings are held in the Town Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, Hampton Road, Southampton.

- **Dec. 11**  
  Tuesday  
  1:00 p.m.

**EAST HAMPTON**

- **Dec. 4**  
  Tuesday  
  10:00 a.m.  

- **Dec. 7**  
  Friday  
  10:00 a.m.  
  Regular meeting. Town Hall Courtroom, E.H.

- **Dec. 11**  
  Tuesday  
  10:00 a.m.  

- **Dec. 18**  
  Tuesday  
  10:00 a.m.  

- **Dec. 21**  
  Thursday  
  7:00 p.m.  
  Regular meeting. Town Hall Courtroom, E.H.
**SUSAN WILSON HONORED BY COUNTY LEAGUE**

Susan Wilson, past co-president of the LWV Hamptons and current chair of the Fundraising Committee, was selected by the Suffolk County LWV to receive its Liberty Award at the Post-Election Brunch held on November 11.

As Lisa Scott, the co-president of the Suffolk League began to describe this year’s honoree, it became clear to the members of the Hamptons League that the recipient could be none other than Sue. Lisa noted the hard work and dedication which Sue brings to all she undertakes on behalf of both the local and Suffolk leagues, which involves, more often than not, arranging wonderful events such as the brunch at which the award was given. Sue does all of this while working both at a full-time job and at a small business which she runs. Sue’s insight, grace, and tact were instrumental, according to Katherine Hoak, the other co-president of Suffolk, in converting a somewhat strident article written by Katherine into a more reserved, moderate, and yet effective piece of writing. All of these qualities are known to us in the Hamptons local, and we were thrilled to see Sue recognized by the County, particularly on Veterans Day since Sue, possessing a quality which was not known to all of us, is a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Written by Carol Mellor

**MIREILLE LISTER HONORED BY LWVH**

At the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County’s Post-Election Brunch, each of the five chapters honored an individual member who made special contributions to that League during the 2007 pre-election season.

This voting season the Hamptons League honored Mireille Lister from East Hampton who received the Voter Services Award. She was recognized for her steadfastness and dependability in helping the League carry out that part of the League’s mission. It was noted that Mireille handles all the phone calls to the Hamptons League year round for us. And that phone, located in her house, brings many inquiries during the busy pre-election period.

Also, during late summer and early fall Mireille spent considerable time at the East Hampton Post Office registering voters and handing out Voter Guides. She also dropped off those guides and the Directory of Public Officials at various locations throughout East Hampton.

And it was also noted that during the Fourth of July parade, she and her husband Peter were instrumental in helping the Hamptons League win a plaque for our “marching” unit with their red convertible leading the trio of red, white, and blue cars festooned with League banners.

Congratulations and thank you, Mireille!

Written by Anne Marshall
Several members of our local and many other New York State League (LWVNYS) members were disappointed to learn that, after several months of work, which included presentation of forums on the issue, their study on the National Popular Vote (NPV) has been stymied by the national League of Women Voters (LWVUS).

A bit of background: After lobbying and caucusing, delegates attending the N.Y. State Convention in May 2007 adopted the non-recommended study: Should NYS Join the Compact for a National Popular Vote? By the time of the final vote at the Sunday morning plenary session there was only one “no” vote. At the convention, it was understood that National had been asked about the study and had indicated that the issue was not encompassed by National’s position in favor of abolishing the Electoral College, and that if NYS wanted to adopt a position, there needed to be a state study on the subject. In June, the NPV State Study Committee formed and began its research. For four months, local leagues held education sessions, published articles, and educated their members and the public about the NPV compact. The study committee put in hours of research, working under a timetable that would have finished consensus from local leagues by November 30, 2008.

While conducting their research, the NPV Study Committee heard from leagues across the country that they were under the impression that they could/should not do the NPV study for a variety of reasons. This concerned the NPV study committee which, on September 17, requested clarification and assurances from LWVUS. On October 25, LWVNYS was notified by our LWVUS liaison that LWVNYS could not adopt a position on the NPV study because a state league cannot adopt a position on a national issue.

Although distraught that LWVUS allowed precious time, energy, and resources to be spent on this endeavor, many local leagues and members of the committee are redirecting their efforts to placing this issue on the program agenda for the June national convention.

LWVUS INFORMS LWVNYS THAT IT CANNOT ADOPT A POSITION ON THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

Written by Carol Mellor

VETERANS NEED OUR HELP!

At the Suffolk County League of Women Voters Post-Election Brunch on Sunday, November 11, Joe Sledge, Public Affairs Officer for the VA Medical Center in Northport, was a special guest speaker for Veterans Day. He urged all of us to encourage any veteran we know to register online or in person at Northport for the many services now available to our vets.

Two very disturbing points were made that we can act upon. First, many veterans are going hungry and second, almost 25 percent of returning veterans are unable to get the jobs back that they left when activated (this is against federal law).

To provide food for hungry veterans, we can send a check made out to “Hero Hunger Help Project” and mail it to Mary O’Sullivan, Northport Veterans’ Hospital, 79 Millerville Road, Northport, NY 11768. Monies collected will be used to provide supermarket food vouchers to needy vets.

To urge our representatives to uphold the federal law requiring employers to hold the jobs of servicemen and women, we can contact our elected officials in Washington: Congressman Bishop, Senator Clinton, and Senator Schumer (refer to 2006 Directory of Public Officials for contact information).

Our servicemen and women are sacrificing their lives for us in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere around the world. We need to support them when they finally come home.

Written by Barbara Jordan

HEALTH CARE AND THE CANDIDATES

continued from page 1

The League has long held a position calling for national health insurance financed through general taxes. At the time the position was adopted, in the 1990’s, this was known as the “single-payer” approach. The League also supports an employer-based system that provides universal access to health care and opposes a strictly private market-based model of financing. The League also supports a combination of private and public sectors to administer such a plan and supports a general income tax increase to finance health-care reform. In reading through the candidates’ plans, you will not find the words “single-payer” or “tax increase.” Every candidate’s plan relies on the market to some degree and insurance companies will remain active and important parts of the market.

The Health Committee—myself, Valerie King, Judy Samuelson, and Alma Hyman—hope you will find the enclosed spreadsheet useful in helping you to evaluate your choices in the February Presidential primary. After the candidates are selected by their respective parties, we plan to analyze the two remaining plans in detail.

Written by Judi Roth
THE BROADWATER PROJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The Broadwater project proposes a ship-like vessel moored in Long Island Sound to which liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers will travel to unload their cargo, which would be in liquid form, where it will be stored, and then warmed to a gaseous state and piped to Long Island, Connecticut, and New York City. In previous articles, the governmental review process, the need for the project, and safety issues have been discussed. Here, the environmental effects of the project will be explored.

Broadwater developers claim, and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) concluded, that the impact on the environment would be minimal. Construction of the project includes pile driving to place the 13,000 sq. ft. piling to which the vessel will be moored; and digging of trenches to lay the 22-mile pipeline, which will connect the vessel to the existing Iroquois pipeline. Although it is conceded that the construction will result in noise pollution, turgidity, and disruption of the marine environment, the project is designed to minimize these disruptions, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has suggested amendments to the proposal to further minimize these disruptions.

Although water exchange will occur between the vessel and Long Island Sound, and between the LNG ships and the Sound, as both will use water as ballast to counteract the displacement of LNG during off- and on-loading, the FERC concluded that the temperature variations would not be significant. The fish larvae and plankton will be disrupted, but the FERC concluded that since the disturbances will be at the mid-water level, and that most fish larvae and plankton reside either at the surface or in the depths of the water, there would not be a significant loss of fish larvae or plankton.

Opponents of the project argue that Broadwater will negatively impact the waters of the Sound in several ways, including thermal impact caused by water discharged from the LNG carriers, which would be an average of 3.6 degrees warmer than ambient conditions. Researchers have estimated that a two- to three-degree change in temperature in Long Island Sound could dramatically change the Sound’s ecosystem. Warmer water reduces the population of cold-water species such as winter flounder and lobster, reduces important native plant species, and encourages the growth of invasive, harmful species. Warmer waters also allow for the devastating impact of hypoxia, or low dissolved oxygen, to impact the Sound. This critical condition kills finfish and shellfish as well as valuable sea grass. In reply, the Broadwater developers state that the amount of water discharged, although of a warmer temperature than the surrounding waters, is not of sufficient volume to cause a harmful effect.

Environmentalists fear that during the exchange of ballast waters, it is very likely that species from foreign waters will be introduced into the Sound and that, as history has shown, the introduction of even one new species can change the stability of an ecosystem. In response, Broadwater has represented that the ships will not exchange ballast in the Sound.

The Long Island Sound has been designated an Estuary of National Significance. It is a thriving waterway used for boating, kayaking, commercial lobstering, and fishing. There is a great disparity of opinion with respect to the extent to which this marine traffic will be disrupted.

Broadwater claims that since the vessel is located in the center of the Sound, and is small in relation to the total area of the Sound, there will be little disruption of marine traffic. However, the Coast Guard has mandated a “no public access zone” of 1.5 square miles will surround the LNG terminal. No fishing, boating, canoeing, swimming, or sailing will be allowed. Further, there will be an additional moving “No Access Zone” around the LNG tankers. Each week, two or three LNG tankers would enter the Sound through the Race (named for its strong currents and navigational challenges), which is the main passageway into the Sound. The U.S. Coast Guard Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) mandates a moving “no public access zone” around the incoming LNG tankers that would be 2 miles in front, 1 mile in back, and 750 yards on each side. Armed escort boats would surround the tankers as they traverse the Sound, marking the moving zone and requiring all vessels to get out of the area. The DEIS states that it would take up to 35 minutes to clear the Race for the tankers to enter into the Sound.

Many of those opposed to Broadwater base their opinions on a belief that the data upon which the decision is being made is deficient. The FERC report has been criticized for being based on incomplete and/or outdated data. For example, the geology report relied upon is not the latest or most accurate available, and the report failed to conduct a statistical analysis of the marine organisms present. Other conclusions about the ecological damage to the Sound from both the construction and operation of the project have been called into serious question by scientists who study the marine life of the Sound. The assessment of the security risks has been questioned since the Coast Guard, although admitting it does not have sufficient resources to protect and monitor the project, has made no attempt to ascertain the costs of providing those resources, or the extent to which it will rely on local governments to do so. The Government Accountability Office report on LNG (not limited to the Broadwater project) concludes that many questions about the safety of these kinds of

continued on next page
projects remain unanswered. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued a letter in which it identifies several areas of concern about the project, including the possible impact on sea turtles and whales, the effect of intake and discharge of millions of gallons of water each day, the disruptive effect on commercial and recreational boating, and the disruption of the floor of the Sound in connection with installing the pipeline. The NMFS concludes that these issues have not been adequately addressed in the DEIS, and that it cannot issue a recommendation until more information is available.

The NMFS concludes that these issues have not been adequately addressed in the DEIS, and that it cannot issue a recommendation until more information is available.

A letter from the Department of the Interior in response to the DEIS identified several errors, including in the assessment of earthquake risk in this area, and several deficiencies in the substance of the report, including the failure to include longitudinal and latitudinal references so that the placement of the project could be ascertained.

Written by Carol Mellor

SAVE THE DATE!

Set aside Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 12:30 for the LWVH “January Blahs” lunch at Bobby Van’s in Bridgehampton. Each year, members invite their friends and neighbors to this get-together for those who are remaining here during January’s dark days and cold nights. You’ll renew friendships, forge new ones, and hear firsthand about the League’s plans for 2008.

Appealing Menu

You can choose on the spot from the famous Bobby Van burger or lobster roll, chicken parmigiana sandwich, rigatoni carbonara, or Chinese chicken salad. Dessert of apple betty is included.

Reserve Ahead; Pay at the Door

Make your reservations by contacting Pat Arceri (LAAscua@aol.com or 631-267-3062) or Julia Kayser (KAYJULLEE@aol.com or 631-324-1498) by Wednesday, January 16. Please pay at the door with a check made out to Bobby Van or cash only. The price is $22.00 per person, including tax and tip.

You, your friends, and neighbors will enjoy a convivial afternoon. Bobby Van’s offers great food in a welcoming atmosphere. Your LWVH offers the company you enjoy. See you there!
We are into the season when many of us will be leaving (or have already left) the area for warmer weather. If you plan to be away, and you wish to receive The Voter, please let us know your alternate address and your schedule. If one of your Voter issues is returned to us, we will suspend further mailings to you until May. In the interim, you may access The Voter at our website: www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/hamptons.htm. Year-round LWVH members will not experience any change in the delivery of their Voter.

For the LWV members who do remain in the Hamptons over the winter months, our annual “Winter Blahs” luncheon will take place on January 22. Please look for more details on page 17 and in the January-February Voter.

While our next membership article will not appear until the March issue, the Membership Committee will still be functioning. You can contact Barbara Jordan at 324-6144.

The LWV of the Hamptons closes its books for the year on December 15, 2007. By that date all unpaid members will be deleted from our membership list. Please be sure to pay this year’s dues prior to December 15.

Have a wonderful winter and we will speak again in March of 2008.

Arlene Makl, Chair 324-8662
Arlene.Makl@Gmail.com

CONDOLENCES
The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons expresses its condolences to Jeanne Abbott on the loss of her husband, W. Lee Abbott. Jeanne is a former president of the LWVH.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS
Carol Heinze
P.O. Box 1666, West Hampton Beach, NY 11978
631-288-1992

Carol is equally at home in the spheres of literature or medicine — years after earning a master’s degree in literature, she went to nursing school and worked as a registered nurse for 25 years. She raised her family in New Jersey, retired and recently moved to her West Hampton Beach home on a full-time basis.

“I was a member of the League of Women Voters during the 1970’s,” said Carol. She’s pleased to have rejoined an organization she respects, and expressed interest in the work of the Health Committee and Voter Services Committee in particular. First, though, she plans a trip to Japan. In addition to travel, Carol’s interests include opera and theater. She’ll find plenty of fellow music and theater enthusiasts in LWVH!

Barbara McClancy
P.O. Box 1633, Amagansett, NY 11930
631-324-5743
BCCM342@aol.com

Friends in the Trails Preservation Society (Joy Lupoletti and Arlene Makl) brought the LWVH to Barbara’s attention. She enjoys their hikes and her activities as a Friend of Guild Hall member. She plans to get to know our organization before deciding where her interests and abilities best fit within its committees.

Barbara moved to Amagansett full-time four years ago, upon retiring as Inspector General of Kennedy Airport. She rose to this position after joining the Port Authority police force as one of the first five women to be accepted into a training class. She chose her Amagansett home ten years ago, after summering in the Hamptons or the North Fork since childhood.

Bios written by Judy Samuelson

Do you have an e-mail address? We need everyone’s e-mail address to update our files. Please do not assume we have it. Your address is never shared and is treated as a private matter. Take a moment now and send your e-mail address to Arlene.Makl@gmail.com.
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### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues may be sent to: LWVH, P.O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937

- _____ Full-time Student $15  
- _____ Individual $55
- _____ Household $85
- _____ Supporting $85  
- _____ Education $125*  
- _____ Donation $_____

Dues Year is June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008.

- _____ Member Renewal  
- _____ New Member

Please make checks payable to LWVH and mail to:

LWVH, P.O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937

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## REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RUDY GIULIANI</th>
<th>JOHN McCain</th>
<th>MITT ROMNEY</th>
<th>FRED THOMPSON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stated Goal</strong></td>
<td>Provide access to affordable care by paying only for quality health care, have plans that are diverse and responsive to individual needs, and encourage personal responsibility.</td>
<td>Provide access to affordable quality health insurance for every American and slow the rate of inflation in health-care spending.</td>
<td>Free-market solutions to achieve coverage for all that is affordable, accessible, and portable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Estimated Annual Cost</strong></td>
<td>Not available.</td>
<td>Not available.</td>
<td>Not available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Restrictions on Insurance Companies</strong></td>
<td>Free-market forces. Must be sold across state lines.</td>
<td>Coverage must be portable and bridge time between retirement and Medicare eligibility. Insurance can be sold across state lines.</td>
<td>Denegrate and reform health insurance to lower insurance costs and facilitate consumer choice. Mandate benefit package, community rating, and direct access to specialists. Define length of time that coverage can be denied for pre-existing conditions. Employer plans must be portable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Requiring Coverage for All Americans</strong></td>
<td>Opposed to requiring all Americans to purchase coverage.</td>
<td>No provision. Opposes mandates for coverage.</td>
<td>Shift responsibility to the states (Federalist approach) through block grants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paying for the Plan</strong></td>
<td>Tax cuts.</td>
<td>Tax credit to individuals and families so they can purchase insurance. Contain costs through “payment changes” to providers.</td>
<td>Finance by redirecting existing subsidies for care of the uninsured. Shift responsibility to the states. Provide premium assistance for private health insurance plans for low-incomes. Help middle-income people by encouraging state-level health insurance. Increased competition; streamlining of regulations; free-market solutions. No tax increase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public and Private Options for Insurance</strong></td>
<td>Tax deduction to purchase private insurance for non-employer based plans and tax credit to low-income families to help with purchase.</td>
<td>Promote competition and individual choice of insurance sold across state lines. Allow small businesses and self-employed to purchase through organizations or associations.</td>
<td>No expansion of public options proposed, but would give states full flexibility to restructure Medicaid by removing administrative requirements. States could use block grants to buy private coverage for low-income uninsured. More choices to buy affordable policies to meet their individual needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employer Responsibility</strong></td>
<td>Shift from employer based to individual insurance marketplace.</td>
<td>Remove favorable tax treatment of employer-sponsored insurance.</td>
<td>No provision.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SOURCES

In compiling the information for these tables, the following sources were used.

- Health08.org, sponsored by the Kaiser Family Foundation.
- Ontheissues.org/health_care
- Commonwealthfund.org/publications

- Every candidate’s website.

Prepared by the Health Committee of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

December 2007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stated Goal</th>
<th>JOSEPH BIDEN</th>
<th>HILLARY CLINTON</th>
<th>CHRISTOPHER DODD</th>
<th>JOHN EDWARDS</th>
<th>BARACK OBAMA</th>
<th>BILL RICHARDSON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comprehensive plan for coverage of every American starting with universal coverage of children.</td>
<td>Affordable and high-quality universal coverage through a mix of private and public insurance.</td>
<td>Universal affordable health insurance coverage through mix of private and public coverage.</td>
<td>Universal coverage through mix of private and public insurance.</td>
<td>Universal coverage through mix of private and public insurance.</td>
<td>Affordable and secure universal coverage through a mix of private and public insurance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Annual Cost</td>
<td>$26 billion for children</td>
<td>$110 billion</td>
<td>Not available.</td>
<td>$90 billion to $120 billion</td>
<td>$50 billion to $65 billion</td>
<td>$104 billion to $110 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Restrictions on Insurance Companies</td>
<td>Have to accept all applicants and agree to community rating in order to receive “rebate” for catastrophic plan from federal reinsurance.</td>
<td>Would prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of health problems or pre-existing conditions; couldn’t charge them higher rates.</td>
<td>Require private plans to agree to specific standards such as guaranteed coverage, comprehensive benefit packages, and portability.</td>
<td>Would prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of illness or pre-existing conditions.</td>
<td>Would prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of illness or pre-existing conditions.</td>
<td>Cost controls so they spend at least 85% of revenue on direct health care. Must cover standard set of services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requiring Coverage for All Americans</td>
<td>Start with catastrophic plan and insuring children under 18. An individual mandate requiring everyone to sign up like auto insurance.</td>
<td>During first term through a mix of public and private plans. Require everyone to get insurance once a plan is in place to make it affordable.</td>
<td>Start with coverage for all children and provide subsidies to make health care affordable for all Americans. Employers to offer benefits to employees or contribute to cost of new public program.</td>
<td>All must sign up for health insurance like auto insurance but would be phased in.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying for the Plan</td>
<td>Roll back tax cut for top 1%. Rolling back Bush tax cuts for those earning more than $250,000.</td>
<td>Universal coverage will not require a new tax. Much of the plan can be paid for by eliminating the existing inefficiencies in the system. Universal HealthMart will be financed primarily by employer and individual premiums and contributions. Use money saved by ending war in Iraq.</td>
<td>Rolling back Bush tax cuts for those earning more than $250,000.</td>
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<td>Rolling back Bush tax cuts for those earning more than $250,000.</td>
<td>Refundable tax credit based on income. Eliminate tax shelter for high-risk plans. Limit overpayments to Medicare HMO plans. Home visits for Medicare to save on ER visits and hospital admissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public and Private Options for Insurance</td>
<td>Establish federal reinsurance pool to reimburse employers for 75% of catastrophic costs (over $50,000/person) for active and retired employees and their families. Expand Medicaid for low-income adults. Could keep existing coverage, choose plans similar to those available to federal employees or enroll in a cheaper plan similar to Medicare. Create new health insurance provider: Universal HealthMart as publicly administered pooling mechanism that offers choice of several private and public plans and entitles every American to purchase same benefits and types of plans as members of Congress.</td>
<td>Create new health insurance provider: Universal HealthMart as publicly administered pooling mechanism that offers choice of several private and public plans and entitles every American to purchase same benefits and types of plans as members of Congress.</td>
<td>Create regional health care markets with competing insurance plans, including a public plan, and provide tax credits to subsidize costs.</td>
<td>Set up national health insurance exchange, to watch the private insurance market. National health plan would offer programs similar to one for federal employers.</td>
<td>Working families and small businesses to purchase coverage that Congress has. Those ages 55-64 to get coverage from Medicare. Low income to get Medicaid and SCHIP. Veterans to get care in their community, not just at VAs.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer Responsibility</td>
<td>Allow small businesses to use reinsurance pool if they comply with state laws and do not undercut state benefit mandates. Require large employers to use reinsurance pool if they comply with state laws and do not undercut state benefit mandates.</td>
<td>Make federal premium subsidies available to businesses obtaining coverage through HealthMart based on their ability to pay.</td>
<td>Require employers either to cover their employees or to contribute to the cost of covering them through health care markets.</td>
<td>Require large employers to provide or contribute to the cost of insurance for their workers.</td>
<td>Require large employers to provide or contribute to the cost of insurance for their workers.</td>
<td>Contribute to coverage on a sliding-scale basis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>