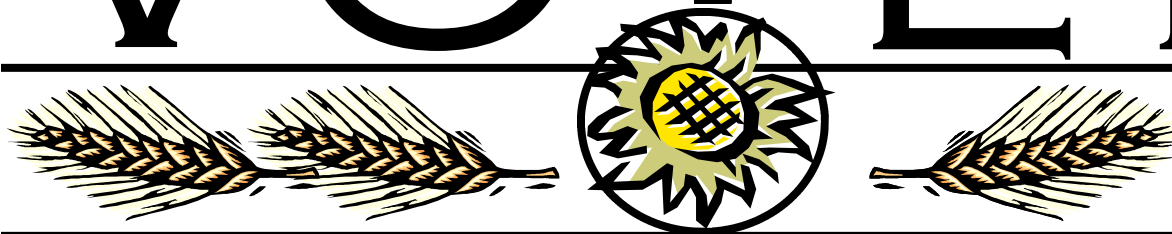


# VOTER



Vol. 52, Issue 2—September 2011

Website: [www.lwvofsalinaks.com](http://www.lwvofsalinaks.com)

Co-Presidents: Carla Strand & Lori Trow

[carla.strand@att.net](mailto:carla.strand@att.net) [loritrow@att.net](mailto:loritrow@att.net)

Editor, Ann Zimmerman

[ann@annzimmerman.com](mailto:ann@annzimmerman.com)

## BOARD OFFICERS

Carla Strand, *Co-President*

Lori Trow, *Co-President*

Janet Juhnke, *Secretary,*

*Lunch & Learn*

Donita Michaelsen, *Treasurer*

*and Budget Chair*

## BOARD MEMBERS

Kaye Crawford, *LWV Kansas*

*Liaison*

Emma Doherty, *Finance Drive*

Jan Mendell, *Nominating*

*Committee*

Kay Tarr, *Member at Large*

Margaret Wyatt, *Membership*

*Chair*

Ann Zimmerman, *VOTER*

*Editor, Past President,*

*Nominating Committee*

## OFF-BOARD LEADERS

Mary Frances Hogg, *Legisla-*

*tive Action*

Ted Mintun, *Emails*

Ardean Maxey, *LaVelle Frick,*

*Janice Norlin, Nominating*

*Committee*

*The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization of women and men of every age, race, background and political belief. Through more than 1200 local Leagues, state Leagues and the national organization, League members work to promote citizen action on local, state, and national issues.*

## **THE FUTURE OF KANSAS COURTS Kansas Chief Justice Speaks to League & Public**

**Wednesday, September 7, 7:00 p.m., Salina Public Library, Prescott Room**

What will Kansas courts look like in the future? One big court in Topeka? A few courthouses spread throughout the State? Who will have access to those courts if substantial distances are involved? Lawton Nuss, Chief Justice, Kansas Supreme Court, will address those and other topics concerning the future of the Kansas judicial system at the annual Membership Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Salina, 7pm, September 7, at the library's Prescott Room, 301 W Elm. The public is welcome.

Chief Justice Nuss, formerly a Salina attorney and a Salina native, is leading the "Pegasus Project" looking at the future of the court system in Kansas, addressing issues like the number and locations of the courts, use of electronic (not paper) documents, and numbers of employees.

One recent legislative proposal would

have reduced the State's 31 judicial districts to 13 – which would significantly impact citizens' travel to appear in court on the one hand, and the number of judicial employees and judges on the other.

While economics play a part in the study, Chief Justice Nuss noted that "this is not just about economics. It is also about access to justice. While it may make the most economic sense to state government to maintain only a central courthouse in the state for judicial needs, justice will be deprived to thousands of Kansans who cannot afford the lengthy and frequent trips there."

The special blue ribbon commission is in the process of taking comments from the public as a part of its study. It will release its conclusion in early 2012.

The Salina League urges everyone to attend this important presentation.

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<b>September Lunch &amp; Learn, Calendar, Legislators</b>	<b>PAGE 2</b>
<b>Co-Presidents' Reports, Oct. &amp; Nov. Lunch &amp; Learn</b>	<b>PAGE 3</b>
<b>News and Reports</b>	<b>PAGE 4</b>
<b>Kansas Judges, Clean Air Promise, Library Report</b>	<b>PAGE 5</b>
<b>Education Study Consensus Questions</b>	<b>PAGE 6</b>
<b>Education Study Consensus Questions (cont.)</b>	<b>PAGE 7</b>
<b>Membership Form</b>	<b>PAGE 8</b>

# LUNCH & LEARN, Sept. 13: NEW KANSAS VOTER PHOTO ID LAW

Soon Kansas law will require that each Kansan who goes to vote must present a photo ID at the polls for every election. Beginning January 1, 2012, you must take your photo ID to your polling place. Those submitting mail-in ballots must include either a copy of their photo ID or the number from the photo ID card. By January, 2013, new voters must show proof of citizenship – a birth certificate, for example -- when registering to vote.

**How will this new law affect voters? How will it affect the local officials who run the elections—the 105 County Clerks’ offices across the state? How will it affect the League?**

Don Merriman, Saline County Clerk, will lead a panel discussion at the September 13 Lunch and Learn. Also on the panel: Gina McDonald, Salina Human Relations Director, with a perspective on the law’s effect on Kansans with disabilities. We are also seeking a speaker to discuss the effect on the elderly in Kansas.

No money was allocated in the bill for

training on the new law, so education about the law is a do-it-yourself affair for officials and citizens.

**KANSAS & THE S.A.F.E. ACT**  
**Tuesday, September 13**  
**12:15 to 1:15pm**  
**Salina Public Library**  
**Prescott Room (downstairs)**

One of the League’s fundamental activities from the beginning has been registering new voters and taking registrations for those who have moved or changed their name and need to reregister. League members have performed this service at fairs, festivals and public events. The only equipment needed were a registration form and a pen. Now perhaps the League will need a photocopy machine, and the registrant will need his or her birth cer-

tificate or naturalization papers.

The Saline County Clerk’s office received training on the new law in May through the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association (KCCEOA); Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach and his staff visited Merriman’s office.

Secretary Kobach championed the law, entitled the SAFE (Safe And Fair Elections) Act, to prevent what he indicated was rampant voter fraud by illegal aliens in Kansas. He said his office had received 59 reports of alleged irregularities involving at least 221 ballots since 1997. However, almost none resulted in prosecution or conviction.

About two years ago, Kobach’s predecessor, Republican Ron Thornburgh, in a presentation to the Salina League, described only one or two cases of fraud, none of which involved non-citizens.

## CALENDAR



**SEPTEMBER**

- 7 Membership Mtg - Sup.Ct. Chief Justice Nuss
- 13 Lunch & Learn Voter Photo ID Law
- 20 Board Meeting
- 24 League Day at Capitol

**OCTOBER**

- 2 New & All Member Mtg
- 11 Lunch & Learn Local small loans & grants
- 17 Naturalization ceremony Stiefel Theatre
- 18 Board Meeting

**NOVEMBER**

- 8 Lunch & Learn C.A.R.E. Program
- 15 Board Meeting

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

**GOVERNOR:**  
**Sam Brownback:**  
 Statehouse 241-S  
 Topeka, KS 66612-1590  
 Phone: 877-KSWORKS  
 (877-579-6757)

Email the Governor through his website <http://governor.ks.gov>

**US SENATE:**  
**Pat Roberts,** (202) 224-4774  
 109 Hart Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510-1605  
<http://roberts.senate.gov>

**Jerry Moran,** (202) 224-6521  
 354 Russell Senate Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20510  
<http://moran.senate.gov>

**US HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES:**  
**Tim Huelskamp,** (202) 225-2715  
 309-0572 (Salina office)  
 126 Cannon House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515  
<http://huelskamp.house.gov>



**KANSAS SENATE:**  
**Pete Brungardt,** 827-6188  
 847 Fairdale Road, Apt. E, Salina  
[pete.brungardt@senate.ks.gov](mailto:pete.brungardt@senate.ks.gov)

**KS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES:**  
**Dist. 69—Tom Arpke,** 827-8940  
 512 West Iron Avenue, Salina  
[tom.arpke@house.ks.gov](mailto:tom.arpke@house.ks.gov)

**Dist. 71—Charlie Roth,** 827-3712  
 3 Crestview Drive, Salina  
[charlie.roth@house.ks.gov](mailto:charlie.roth@house.ks.gov)

**Dist. 108—Steven Johnson**  
 785-667-6601  
 10197 S. Hopkins Rd. Assaria 67416  
[steven.Johnson@house.ks.gov](mailto:steven.Johnson@house.ks.gov)

# Co-PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

**CARLA STRAND  
& LORI TROW**

**CARLA says:**

Fall is a good time to participate in events planned for both members and the general public by the Salina League of Women Voters. We are always looking for volunteers to help with these events.

Just after Labor Day is the annual membership meeting with Kansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Lawton Nuss at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 7 at the Salina Public Library (see p. 1). It is not often one gets a chance to see a Supreme Court justice outside the courtroom. Bring a friend as well.

Tuesday, Sept. 13, will be the first Lunch and Learn of the year. Join league members as we get to hear Saline County Clerk Don Merriman and

others discuss changes in voting registration coming to Kansas next year (see page 2).

Lunch and Learns are also planned for the second Tuesday of October, November, February, March and April.



A special League meeting to hand out new member notebooks and discuss program planning for the rest of the year is set for 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2 at 316 N. Santa Fe (see p. 4). Past-president Ann Zimmerman, always a great league supporter, is gra-

ciously hosting this event at her office. We need your assistance that day. Besides welcoming new members and discussing programs for the rest of the year, we will also discuss the League's state council meeting which will be held in Salina on Saturday, April 28, 2012. We will need all league members to help either before or the day of to make that event a success.

Also coming up Monday, Oct. 17, the Salina League has been invited to help new citizens during a special naturalization ceremony at the Stiefel Theatre in Salina (see p. 4). If possible, come join us as we welcome new citizens to our great country.

**LORI says:**

Carla said it all this time!

## OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER LUNCH AND LEARN PRESENTATIONS

**TUE., OCT. 11, 12:15-1:15pm:**

**Salina's new small loan and grant programs: SASSE, Women Helping Women**

Come learn about two new programs that are assisting individuals and families in the Salina area.

The Salina Area Savings, Service and Education (SASSE) program provides loans of up to \$500 for low-income working people. The program is a collaborative effort by private donors, University United Methodist Church, Catholic Charities of Salina, and Bennington State Bank.

Women Helping Women, a fund at the Greater Salina Community Foundation, is a way for women to support other women who may be in crisis or at the end of their rope. WHW hopes to help women take the next step toward independence or relief from poverty.



**TUE., NOV. 8, 12:15-1:15pm:**

**C.A.R.E. (Community Action for a Renewed Environment) Program**

Salina is receiving CARE funding from EPA to tackle local environmental issues with input from local people.

For the past couple of years, Salina residents have studied and prioritized our environmental challenges. Water issues posed the greatest concern. Radon and lead paint ranked third and fourth. See the documentation at [www.sbeap.org/CARE](http://www.sbeap.org/CARE). The study groups proposed

solutions in case the next level of funding came through—and it has! EPA has granted funds for the city of Salina to address Healthy Homes issues like radon and lead. In the next two years, funding will also go toward promoting water conservation, surface water quality protection, pharmaceutical and household hazardous waste disposal, and local organic food sources, especially in underserved parts of the city.

**JOIN US ON AT THE LIBRARY, PRESCOTT ROOM— SECOND TUESDAY—FEEL FREE TO BRING LUNCH AND EAT IT THERE.**

## NEWS & REPORTS

### FALL LEAGUE DAY IN TOPEKA Chance to Meet and Learn Saturday, September 24

Twice each year, League members from across Kansas gather in Topeka for learning and fellowship.

Fall League Day is September 24, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 1717 SW Topeka Boulevard.

Topics of discussion:

- ◆ The state study—Taxes in Kansas: Who Should Pay?
- ◆ The national study—The Role of the Federal Government in Education;
- ◆ Leadership training and membership recruitment initiatives.

The cost is a bargain: \$30, including snacks and lunch. Talk to board members in advance to see about carpooling (and mark your calendars for the NEXT League Day in Topeka, February 15, 2012).

#### HERE'S THE SEPT. 24 SCHEDULE:

**8:30** Coffee, tea, donuts

**9:00** Kansas Taxes—Who Should Pay? (panel of experts, questions & answers)

**10:00** Break

**10:15** Kansas Taxes (continued)

**11:15** Break

**11:30** Luncheon & Speaker: Diana Cubbage, Retired Superintendent & Education Consultant, "The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education"

**12:30** Grow Your Dynamic League, presented by the Kansas Leadership Coaching Teams.

**2:30** Adjournment

If you plan to go, your reservation must be sent to LWVK, P.O. Box 2366, Topeka, KS, 66603 before the September 20 deadline.

### NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION and ALL-MEMBER PLANNING MEETING October 2, 3-5pm

Sunday, October 2 is your chance to learn about the League, meet your fellow League members, and help us plan our upcoming activities—especially the 2012 biennial State Council in Salina for the Kansas League of Women Voters.

No advanced skills are necessary except good thinking and a willingness to discuss. We'll meet at 316 N. Santa Fe, Ann Zimmerman's law office north of Elm Street, east side of the street.

From 3:00 to 3:30 new members (and others wanting a review of the ways of the League) will meet. Then at 3:30 and after, all members are welcome to join the discussion, share some snacks and look toward the future. Some of us will be bringing refreshments. If you have questions, please call Lori (643-6417) or Carla (820-8069) or email them at their email addresses on Page 1.

### Special Naturalization Ceremony in Salina, October 17

In celebration of the 150th birthday of the Federal District Court of Kansas, our state is holding new U.S. citizen naturalization ceremonies around the state instead of just in Topeka, Wichita and Kansas City.

Salina's Stiefel Theatre will host the ceremony here on October 17, and the League gets to register these brand new citizens to vote.

Can you help with this important job?

The start time is up in the air until they confirm the key note speaker's availability. Dennis Smarker from the U.S. District Court in Topeka tells the League they hope to bring in Senator Jerry Moran.

We will let you know when we find out more details.

#### "LIKE" THE SALINA LEAGUE'S NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!

A great way to keep up with Salina League of Women Voters activities is to go to the new Facebook page and click "LIKE." Updates will come straight to your email Inbox.

To find the page, search Facebook for "League of Women Voters—Salina, Kansas." If you're not sure how to participate in Facebook, ask your younger (or older) family members and friends.

#### REPORT FROM THE SALINA LWV PICNIC, JUNE 25

Next to the train engine at Kenwood Park, the Salina League held a lively summer picnic on June 25.

Here are some of the topics members hashed over:

- ◆ Janet Juhnke and Ted Hale's recent experiences in Washington, DC, with the anti-poverty group, RESULTS. (They met with the staffs of our local senators and congressmen—one staffer suggested that people who are short of money should eat fewer steak dinners.)
- ◆ Charlie Rose, the 14th Amendment and

defaulting on the national debt.

- ◆ Kansas songs (several were sung!).
- ◆ Kansas governors Sam Brownback and Kathleen Sebelius.
- ◆ The speaking abilities of Bobby Jindal, Kathleen Sebelius and Paul Ryan.
- ◆ One member's attack cat and the use of invisible fences.
- ◆ Sprinkler systems and soaker hoses.
- ◆ The motivation (or lack thereof) of high school students.

The picnic was great fun—but it would have been better if YOU had been there!

## JUDICIAL STUDY

As the Kansas League finished its Judicial Diversity Project, Washburn Law School did a study of gender diversity in the Kansas courts. Here's a summary:

The study asks three questions: 1) How big is the gender disparity among Kansas judges? 2) What obstacles make diversity difficult? 3) How can the system be made more diverse?

First the study had to determine fair target numbers. In 2010, 12% of Kansas judges were women. Women made up half the Kansas population, but since they made up only 30% of Kansas lawyers, and state judges must be lawyers, the study chose 30% as the optimal proportion of women judges for now. They also looked at judicial districts—Kansas has 31 of them—to compare percentages of women attorneys and judges. Only 8 districts scored as “reasonably diverse.”

They found reasonable diversity on both the Supreme Court (28.5% or 2 out of 7—later increased to 3 of 7) and the Court of Appeals (23% or 3 of 13).

The 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial District—Saline and Ottawa Counties—is one of the more gender-diverse in the state, with 25% of attorneys being women and 25% (1 out of 4) of the district judges being women (that woman is Judge Rene Young). Seven other districts were “reasonably diverse.”

For instance, the 12th District (CD, JW, LC, MC, RP and WS Counties—all north of Salina), has a woman as its *only* judge—Judge Kim Cudney—making its percentage 100%. Douglas County (Lawrence) judges are 50% female (3 of 6).

At the other end of the spectrum, the 28 judges in Sedgwick Co. (Wichita), are all men—making the 18th district “significantly below the target for gender diversity.”

The study sites such possible reasons for lack of diversity as “implicit bias” against women as judges and a lack of support for women nominees. Diversity also is generally greater where judges are selected by committee rather than elected, so the authors encouraged that selection process and suggested more women be on the committees. Read the whole study at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1898252>.

## CLEAN AIR PROMISE

The League of Women Voters is asking members of Congress, respected community leaders and citizens around the country to promise to protect the health of children and families from air pollution.

This is a social commitment that citizens make to each other and elected officials in Congress should be able to be depended on to carry out and safeguard.

A number of state and local Leagues have begun urging their Governors, Senators, Representatives and “grasstops” in their area to make the Promise. The League has been a leader in enacting, improving and protecting the Clean Air Act for decades and this Promise is a new effort to continue this special role in protecting public health through this historic law.

Recent debate has focused on “overregulation” and featured false assertions that environmental protections hurt our economy.

According to LWWVUS President Elizabeth MacNamara, “The ‘**Clean Air Promise**’ is an issue campaign aimed at changing the debate over the Clean Air Act to one focused on protecting public health. By unifying our message to one on public health – one that encompasses all the key issues from smog to toxics to carbon pollution – we can win this debate **and stop politicians from destroying the Clean Air Act**. Throughout this effort, there will be broad public and media outreach to be sure that everyone understands our commitment to protecting the public health and clean air.”

Go online to see the League’s quick and powerful new public service video: [www.youtube.com/Leagueofwomenvoters](http://www.youtube.com/Leagueofwomenvoters).

The League asks that members and supporters take this “Clean Air Promise” to town hall meetings, in letters to the editor and to members of Congress to make the Clean Air Promise to protect America’s children and families from dangerous air pollution.

You can also go online and take the pledge yourself at the League’s special website: [PeopleNotPolluters.org](http://PeopleNotPolluters.org).

## NEWS ON THE LIBRARY

From reports by Observer Mike Wilson

The children’s summer reading program had more than 2,000 enrollees. The teen program had more than 1,000. Almost 100 peoples attended the late summer adult reading party. “Get Caught Reading” at the River Festival involved 82 children and 391 adults, more than double last year’s total.

Library staff will received a 1% salary increase for 2012—some will receive a 3% step increase. The 2011 increase was 2%, the 2 previous years: 1%. Most library employees earn \$9.56 to \$13.23 per hour. Entry level jobs for professional librarians have a salary range of \$33,994 to \$47,056. The staff is covered by KPERs and the city health insurance plan – employees pay 25% and the city pays 75% of the premium. The library will not raise its mill levy.

Interlibrary Loan Development Program (ILDLP) funds were received for more than 25 years and recently totaled more than \$25,000 annually. Those funds are no longer available.

Recent small security-related incidents include stolen bicycles and movies. More security cameras have been installed as well as additional locked interior doors.

In May, Friends of the Library reported a balance of about \$61,000. FOL income is from book sales and memberships. FOL spent \$2300 on summer reading programs, \$600 on children’s literacy and \$25,000 on furniture for adult section remodeling. The next book sale is Oct. 21-22. FOL has begun selling red tote bags at the children’s desk for 50¢ apiece. By mid-August, 250 of the 500 available bags had been sold.

There is a continuing discussion about offering e-books. Some features might be a maximum number of times an e-book can be borrowed and the use of Kindles, iPods and other electronic readers to download books. A state-wide consortium may develop a test site.

Catherine Rominger was recently-hired as a librarian. She previously lived in Salina, is a recent graduate of the University of North Texas and worked in the UNT music library. Mayor Samantha Angell, Sally Donatell and Christi Manley are new board of trustees members.

## NATIONAL LWV STUDY—WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PLAY IN EDUCATION?

LWVUS ASKS LOCAL LEAGUES TO DISCUSS & ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS BY NOVEMBER 20

[NOTE: The “**CONSENSUS QUESTIONS**” here are in **BOLD PRINT**. Other information just gives background for the questions. Consider whether you would be willing to meet with Salina League members between now and the end of November to reach consensus on these issues, which are crucial to forming a new League position on the federal role in education. Let the board members hear from you. Much of this information is in the new Kansas VOTER, but some questions may be missing there.]

The LWVUS Education Study scope is broad. It includes the following areas under the role of the federal government in Pre-K to grade 12 public education: the history, funding, and equity issues addressed under the “Elementary and Secondary Education Act,” and the common core standards/assessments which are required for many federal grant programs but are national, not federal. Consensus—not a vote but a general mutual agreement, if there is one—from each League is sent to the national office by November 30. Background materials on the national web site (also accessible via the LWVK site) help explain the issues.

- 1. The current role of the federal government in public education is: Much too small, too small, about right, too large, or much too large.**
- 2. What should be the role of the federal government in public education? (Rank)**
  - a. To ensure that all students preK-12 receive a quality education.**
  - b. To develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so that they achieve adequate yearly progress.**
  - c. To mandate Common Core Standards for all students K-12.**
  - d. To monitor state efforts for funding**
  - e. To measure teacher effectiveness through test data.**

(This looks like an easy question but will be important in forming a strong position for future action.)

- 3. A quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy: Strongly agree, Agree, No consensus, Disagree, or Strongly disagree**

### **COMMON CORE STANDARDS**

One whole section of the study deals with

*Common Core Standards* and the related assessments. These are national standards, developed by the National Governors’ Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). They are not a federal government mandate, even though acceptance of the standards was a requirement to qualify for “Race to the Top” funding. Remember—this is a national study and the question is how these should relate to national programs, not to any given state standards. Pages 3 and 4 of the “Common Core Standards and Assessments” research paper give helpful background.

Educational *standards* define the knowledge and skills students should possess at critical points in their educational career. *Curriculum* is an educational plan that spells out which goals and objectives will be achieved, how to achieve those goals and what topics should be covered as well as the methods and materials to be used for learning and evaluation.

There is a logical progression from *standards* to *assessments based on these standards* to *curriculum aligned with the standards and tests*. How much of a role do we think the federal government should have in this continuum? (See p. 3 of Common Core Stdds paper)

- 4. Currently the governors and state education officers have developed Common Core Standards that are national but not federal. Should the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding for: (Choose one)**
  - a. Special grant programs such as Race to the Top**
  - b. All programs under Elementary and Secondary Education Act where the needs qualify for funding.**
  - c. All programs receiving federal funding from any source**
  - d. All of the above**
  - e. None of the above**

This is a key follow-up to the previous question. If your group rejects the national standards, then the answer will be easy. If they accept the common core standards, then this will be an important discussion. Pages 1-9 of the “Common Core Standards” paper discuss the assessments that are being developed, the ways different states use them and the costs involved.

- 5. Should there be a national assessment aligned with the common cores standards? Yes | No**

- a. If Yes, Should implementation be voluntary or federally mandated? (choose one)**

- 1. Voluntary**
- 2. Mandated**
- 3. Mandated, if fully funded**

- b. If No, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (choose one)**

- 1. Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.**

- 2. Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the *Stanford Achievement Test* or *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*.**

- 3. Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically**  
A potentially logical next step could be to develop a national curriculum that would meet the standards and be aligned with the assessment tools. Carefully consider this in light of answers to the two previous questions and strive for a consistent answer. What should the federal role be? Is this different from a national role that is not mandated? (See p. 11 Common Core Standards and Glossary)

- 6. National standards should lead to: (choose one)**

- a. A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.**
- b. A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.**
- c. A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.**
- d. No national curriculum.**

This question concerns the current two consortia who have won \$3.5 million to develop assessments that follow the Common Core State Standards by 2014. This is where streams get mixed, as they have received a federal grant to prepare assessments based on national standards. What should be the goal(s) of these groups? (See p. 7 Common Core Stndards)

- 7. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (Rank order)**

- a. Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.**
- b. Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.**
- c. Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.**

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

**d. Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.**

**e. Provide diagnostic information on each child.**

This question focuses upon the purpose of a national assessment program. The purpose of any mandated, nationally normed (see Glossary) test has been much debated. This goes to the much debated parts of NCLB, to value-added statistical models for evaluation of teachers, merit pay and similar topics often in the news. (See pp. 8-11 Common Core Standards)

**8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (choose one)**

**a. Data should be “norm referenced” (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.**

**b. Data should be “criterion referenced” and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.**

**c. Data should be used to determine “cut” scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.**

**9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one):**

**a. Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels**

**b. Reward schools that achieve high scores**

**c. Rank teachers based on student test score data**

**d. Reward teachers who have exemplary scores**

**e. Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.**

#### **FUNDING AND EQUITY**

This part of the study deals more with the traditional federal involvement in public education and how it has evolved. Timetable and history are posted on the lww.org website. This part asks questions such as if funds should be distributed mostly based on need, population and enrollment or given only to those who best qualify for competitive grants. And how should mandates and funding be related, or should they? What should the relationship be?

**10. In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need.**

**Schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive grants are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain federal requirements, such as Race to the Top. Which would be appropriate: (choose one)**

**a. Non-competitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements**

**b. A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants**

**c. Competitive grants only.**

**d. No federal funding**

Mandates are not always a bad thing. Integration was a mandate, so was Title IX (gender equity). Most school administrators would emphasize the need for federal mandates to be federally funded. Some are; some, like Head Start, are only expected to do what the funding allows. Others, such as Special Education, have never been fully funded. Think carefully about this one. What is the “common good?” (See pp. 3-5 Equity and Funding)

**11. If the federal government’s role is the concern of the “common good” then: (choose one)**

**a. Mandates only should be sanctioned.**

**b. Mandates and funding should both be provided.**

**c. Funding should be provided through grants only.**

**d. A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.**

**e. No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available.**

Equity is a word that has had an evolving definition (see Glossary). It is not the same as equal funding as there is a growing awareness that some students are more expensive to educate than others. Others talk about “adequacy,” “equity of opportunity,” and “opportunity to learn” – ideas that deal with access to what

is deemed necessary in order to have an equal opportunity, opportunities that are often denied children of poverty.

While not all of these may be considered the responsibility of the local educational system, is it a federal responsibility to tackle them? Is it a local responsibility? Should these non-academic issues be considered? This is more fully discussed early in the “Equity and Funding” paper. (See pp. 3-4 and 8-10 Equity and Funding)

**12. Equity in public education means equitable access to: (Rank order)**

**a. high quality teaching/learning**

**b. adequate and current learning materials**

**c. clean and well maintained physical facili-**

**ties**

**d. food and health care**

**e. safe and secure neighborhoods**

**f. secure housing**

Traditionally all federal funding has been aimed at special groups, those that were deemed underserved by Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) authorizers. These may be minorities -- those with disabilities, living in poverty, not speaking English as a primary language or with other identifying characteristics. Each population and its justification are discussed in the paper on special populations. Many of these numbers are growing nationwide, and funding does not always keep up with the growth. The question is, should this funding still be targeted to individual groups? Or should it be either block granted, where it can be used for multiple purposes, and/or blended into the general fund? (See pp. 1-4 Equity and Funding and all pages of Special Populations on Equity and Funding)

**13. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered “categorical” rather than for general use.**

**This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs:**

**Strongly agree, Agree, No consensus, Disagree, or Strongly disagree.**

Much current educational research emphasizes the role of early childhood education in giving all children an even start when entering kindergarten. The following questions concerns the role of the federal government: in that issue.

Should it play a role in extending this to all children? (See pp. 1-5 Early Childhood)

**14. The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children.**

**Strongly agree, Agree, No consensus, Disagree, or Strongly disagree.**

**15. Federal support for early childhood education programs (e.g. Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health as needed.**

**Strongly Agree, Agree, No consensus, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree.**

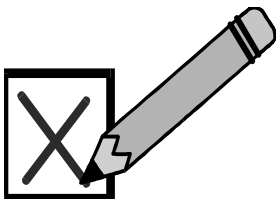
**b. This funding should be extended to: All children, only those with special needs, or special needs first**



**League of Women Voters of Salina**

PO Box 502  
Salina, KS 67402-0502  
www.lwvofsalinaks.com

**JOIN US**



**JOIN IN THE ACTION:** Become a member of the League of Women Voters of Salina or renew your League Membership. There is no better time than NOW for you to join the League. Please take a moment now to become a member.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League at the following level:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Single Membership (circle one)
  - Contributing Level \$55.00
  - Sustaining Level \$47.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership (circle one)
  - Contributing Level \$80.00
  - Sustaining Level \$68.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student/supported or other \$20.00

\_\_\_\_\_ I am unable to join the League at this time, but enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

For more information, please contact: **Margaret Wyatt, Membership Chairperson**  
4401 W. State Street Road, Salina, Kansas 67401  
Telephone: 823-2806 Email: gretchenskiski@aol.com

Make checks payable to: **The League of Women Voters of Salina**, and mail to **PO Box 502, Salina, KS 67402-0502.**