



THE LEAGUE LOWDOWN

Front &
(Not Quite)
Center



but I do know that 2009-2010 falls in the second category - counts but can't be counted.

I'm concerned with making sure youth issues are heard, and more importantly that youth have a seat at the table to craft the conversation around their issues.

Without doubt, the election was huge for youth but the upcoming census is equally important and arguably more important than the general election.

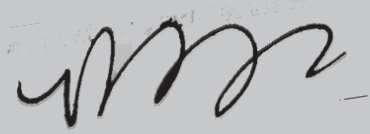
For many of those familiar with the League the next decennial census (2010) will be the first time they are counted in full.

On the face of it the census is just a population count, but there is so much more information held within the numbers and so many things will be decided for the next decade based on the census. Electoral votes, congressional district apportioning, state block grants, funding for school districts, funding for prisons, funding for higher education, and funding for job-training programs are

just a few of the things that are tied to the census data.

Some of you will receive a Questionnaire in the mail, some will actually get a visit from your neighborhood census taker and others will receive a phone interview opportunity from the census....no matter the method of contact please remember you need to take the time (yes there are a lot of questions) to be counted.

In this issue of The League Lowdown you'll find some things that count for us here at the League....like the people who strive to make the League better (Get to Know a Leaguer), or the challenges (good or bad) that count in making us a stronger organization (Program Highlight: ACES), and of course the affiliates spread across the country who make everyday count for the League.



Robert "Biko" Baker
Executive Director

Make it count. You can count on me. This time it counts. All of these things I heard, in varying iterations, over the course of the presidential campaign cycle. But now, post-election, I am wondering:

where are all those voices that wanted me to be counted? Does this means my voice only counts during an election year? If there aren't any voices conjuring me to be counted, are the issues I am concerned about no longer count worthy?

I am reminded of a quote attributed to Nobel Laureate Albert Einstein:

"Everything that can be counted does not necessarily count; everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted."

I don't know how this quote plays out in the field of physics,

Program Highlights: ACES

by: David Dix, National Green Director

Hopefully by now you have heard the House passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES/ HR 2454). While there are elements in the bill that need strengthening, there are components of the bill which hold promise. Through a shift towards a clean energy economy, the bill helps revitalize the American industry while creating thousands of jobs, and providing the job-training resources for the new jobs created.

For communities that have for far too long languished on the cusp of prosperity, ACES represents both immediate and long-term economic help. Given our tough national economic situation the inclusion of fund-

ing for green jobs and training is no small feat. At the heart of the funding inclusion are the many League and Green For All supporters who went to the wire to let their local elected officials know where they stood on the bill, to let their friends and families know why its passage mattered, and who spent many man-hours on the phone rallying support. To the tune of \$860M, the rewards for those supporters are:

- Green Jobs With a Livable Wage
- Local Accessibility to the Green Jobs Marketplace

ACES is a solid step in the right direction for the environment, for community job development, and sustainability. But by definition progress can only happen after multiple

steps, and ACES must now pass through the Senate before President Obama can sign it. Here at the League we are focused on the next step in this process - the Senate. We've launched our push to have the required bill sponsorship, ideal calendaring, and to identify our key allies for bill stewardship.

Outside of its significance to the environment and the American economy, ACES holds significance to us as an organization as it was our first major national legislative push. We were able to work strategically with other organizations through our alliance partner Green for All, we were able to leverage our supporters for effective push efforts, and we were able to work smart to exert pressure on the issue from all angles.

Affiliate Roll Call

The League has 8 affiliates: NY, ME, WI, FL, CA, PA, OH and MN. The affiliates are working on some amazing things, here are a few highlights from the field.

California

The League will be looking to work with good government groups to educate voters on the effects proposition 13 has on California's legislative process. Initially passed in 1978, proposition 13 caps property taxes at 1%, and requires a two thirds majority in both chambers of the state legislature in order to increase state taxes. This year's economic recession along with proposition 13's two-thirds rule has exacerbated California's current budget crisis.

Wisconsin

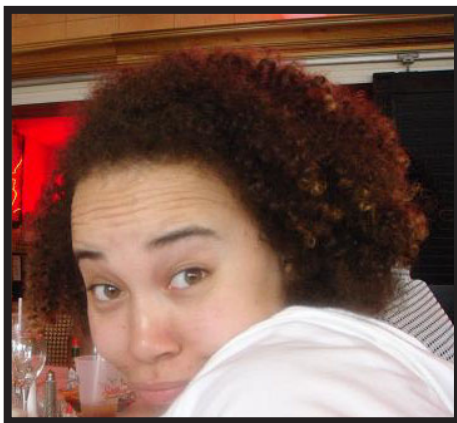
Our Milwaukee affiliate is doing big things on the green front with the Making Milwaukee Green Coalition. July 5th was the first of many block clean ups along with civic engagement efforts to bring a sense of community back to the block.

Maine

Our Maine affiliate batted a thousand for the recent primary season. All five of its endorsed candidates Peter Stuckey, Diane Russell, Justin Alford, Chellie Pingree, and Tom Allen won. What makes this special is it was Maine's first primary slate and the second win in a row.... now bring on the general election.

Pennsylvania

An inclusive democracy... what's not to love? Back in 2006 that's what LYVEF and the PA ACLU thought when they wanted to encourage the formerly incarcerated to exercise their voting rights. Unfortunately, the Allegheny County Port Authority felt differently, citing they did not allow ads of a "non-commercial" nature. Since many buses in Pittsburgh often sport ads of a civic nature, LYVEF and Pa ACLU knew it was time to exercise their legal rights. After a long trip through the court system, we are glad to announce the courts agreed with us. WE WON!!!!



Moni'ca Brown, League Intern

Get To Know A Leaguer

by: Eulalia M. Brooks, Sr. Dev. Associate

This issue's G2Kler (Get to Know a Leaguer), Moni'ca Brown, is not only the development intern but also its all around Gal Friday. I met Moni'ca on my first day of the job, which centered on a visit to the nation's capital and coincidentally was also her first day on the job. I was looking forward to the 3.5 hour bus ride to DC to get to know her, but as things would have it, we didn't travel together. Like most of us, I immediately drew up an 'image' of Moni'ca based on our first phone conversation. I had fabricated an intern who was a French national (it was the apostrophe in the name) or French Canadian, who went to school downtown, and definitely was not a native New Yorker. Two out of three ain't bad (she goes to the New School of Social Research and she grew up in Seattle)...in fact Moni'ca ain't a half bad intern - and that's definitely good. Here are few other things I learned when I finally had an opportunity to chop it up with her.

Q: What did you listen to on your way in today?

A: Actually, I have my girlfriend's playlist in rotation so let me see....Dirt Off Your Shoulder/Jay-Z, Cryin' Out to Me/ Mario-Lil Wayne, Trey Songz. I really wanted to listen to Jay-Z's D.O.A. (Death of Auto-Tune), but she doesn't have it. She listens to more indie/folk stuff...so I was surprised to be able to get "Dirt".

Q: Have you ever googled yourself? Others?

A: Yes and yes, [googled] my girlfriend and her results are way more interesting than mine.

Q: In 20 years where do you see the League?

A: Taking over the world and widening the political process to have broader participation and truer representation - but in an even more streamlined process. the League will definitely be on its way to carving a voice for everyone.

Q: Book you've recently read that made you feel smart? Book you've read and don't understand why people are lovin' it.

A: Derrick Bell's Faces at the Bottom of the Well: The Permanence of Racism really was a watershed moment for me. Everyone should read that book. And A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose by Eckhart Tolle is one of those books that seems so unnecessary-like those books that they make that detail how to live your best life, or 1001 ways to be happy-why aren't we just living our lives? Why don't we just do what makes us happy? But I think it's more about not really getting the whole self-help book approach...

Q: To know the League is to ...

A: Organize.

Q: What recent events have inspired you most to stay connected to the League?

A: The climate change bill has definitely inspired me, as well as the work being done by the League in Milwaukee.

Q: Your favorite subversive pleasure (politically)?

A: Blogging.

Q: If the League was a tv show, who would be the host?

A: Margaret Cho...early Cho circa The One That I Want...not later drag queen-ish Cho.

Q: I define activist as ...

A: Fighting to make a difference in the bigger life of the folks around you and your community.

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