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Local Organizations Promote Citizen Participation on Election Day Nov 4

Four nonpartisan local volunteer organizations are collaborating to Get Out The Vote (GOTV) this year and support National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 23, just 7 weeks before the election on November 4. Tam St. Claire, President of the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition said, "For the first time the AAUW-Lower Bucks, AAUW-Doylestown, the League of Women Voters-Bucks County and the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition are working together to encourage eligible voters to register, to learn about candidates and issues from trustworthy sources, and to vote on November 4." Judy Franlin, President of LWVBC added, "While about 80% of eligible voters are registered, our Get Out The Vote Campaign seeks to register those who are less likely to participate in elections, such as college students, low-wage workers, and people who have recently moved."

In order to participate in the election on November 4, one must be registered by October 6. Voter registration events will have volunteers to help people with their forms at Delaware Valley College and St. Mary's Hospital on September 23, Warrington Community Day on September 27, and at Bucks County Community College on October 1 and 2. Voter registration forms will also be distributed to Central Bucks High Schools, and are always available at local post offices and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The collaborating organizations have also assembled a nonpartisan toolkit "Your Vote is Your Voice" that they are distributing to 65 nonprofit agencies, schools, food banks, faith-based groups, and health clinics around Bucks County. An electronic version of the toolkit will be available on the websites of the LWVBC www.lwvbucks.org and BCWAC www.bcwac.org.

On November 4, voters will choose a Governor, state legislators, and US Congressman. In the last Gubernatorial election in 2010, only about 50% of registered voters turned out to vote. The nonpartisan organizations will hold several events in October designed to help people learn about the candidates. The list of candidate debates are on the LWVBC website.

Morgan Pitchard, President of AAUW-Doylestown said, "Our organizations are very concerned about the lack of citizen participation in critical mid-term election." Barbara Price, President of AAUW-Lower Bucks added, "The candidates who are elected this year will have a direct impact on everyone for years to come. Citizens have the power to hire or fire many of our representatives based on their performance and vision for the future. This is our opportunity to make our voice heard."

Visit lwvbucks.org for more information about dates and times of the Voter Registration events, as well as forums with the candidates, and informative programs on the issues.