

## LaPorte County Township Trustee Information Survey

Designed for the League of Women Voters of Indiana September 2009

It is anticipated that the League of Women Votes of LaPorte County (LWV-LP) and the LaPorte County Township Trustees will work together to learn about and share the current processes of township government within the county. The League of Women Voters' primary focus is good government.

It was realized after the increased attention to township government in the 2009 General Assembly that the members of the LWV-LP and the general public do not know much about township government. In order for the members of the League and the general public to become more knowledgeable about township government, it was decided to ask the township trustees who would know best how to explain the day to day operations of township government including the budgeting and taxing processes, services provided, expenditures and more. It is hoped through a direct dialogue between the LWV-LP and the township trustees' information can be obtained and shared with the public about their township government in action.

These questions surfaced as the LWV reviewed available reports and published information. It is one way to begin a dialogue for understanding.

### Survey Questions:

1. What prompted you to run for trustee and when?
2. How did you learn the responsibilities of a trustee?
3. Please tell us all the services you provide.
4. What kinds of requests for assistance do you receive?
5. What are the guidelines you use for poor relief assistance? Are these the same guidelines used by other trustees? If no, can you share the differences if known?
6. Is there primary reason people are denied services?
7. How many staff do you have?
8. How do you determine what contract services are used and who to contract to?
9. Do you have major capital expenses?
10. Does the township own property?
11. Describe your public meetings.
12. Does your township financially support cultural and/or recreational services?
13. How do you provide fire protection to your township - by contract services or other arrangement?
14. Do you provide Emergency Medical Services?
15. How many cemeteries are you responsible for?
16. What other government units are in your township? In what way do you work with them or any other government/not-for-profit agencies?
17. What changes would you make in the township system to improve services for your constituents? What are the existing barriers that prevent these changes?
18. What else would you like to share about your township government?