

**LWVCA Moderates Candidate Forum  
for Town of Central Elections – October 27, 2009**

About 30 people came to the Central Town Hall to hear candidates for Mayor and Town Council of Central discuss their vision for the future of the town. Bill Hare organized the forum, Michelle Chin, President-Elect, welcomed the audience, Dianne Haselton moderated, Alice Flower timed the speakers, Carol Ward set up an information table, Paula Appling collected questions from the audience and Eleanor Hare took pictures.



*Long-time LWVCA member,  
Dianne Haselton, preparing to moderate  
the Town of Central Candidate Forum*

Both mayoral candidates (Clyde J. (Mac) Martin and David Donald) participated, as did three (Sara Paige Bowers; Alton Benjamin (Benji) Cumbie, IV; Kenneth (Ken) Dill) of the seven candidates for Council. One candidate (John Wallace Palmer, Jr.) informed the League that he regretted missing the forum, but had to participate in a legal action in Charleston. The other three candidates (Jerry Turner, Joe N. Moss and Tracey Reynolds) did not send us any reason for not participating.

All candidates support the current council/manager (also known as the “weak mayor”) form of government, citing the excellent qualifications of their Town Administrator. Candidates said the

current form of government provides needed continuity.

Questions centered about the need to develop the downtown, build and pay for a new sewer plant, and provide more recreational opportunities for youth. In response to a question about financing the Recreation Center, it was suggested that taxpayers be issued a small number of vouchers “to go and see what a great place it is.” One candidate said that when he was growing up in Central, he had to go to Anderson for swimming lessons and now Central has an excellent pool.

In her concluding remarks Dianne reminded the audience that they, as voters, determine the future direction of their town by the votes they cast.

*~Submitted by Eleanor Hare*



*Candidates for Central Town Council (l. to r.):  
Paige Bowers, “Benji” Cumbie, Ken Dill*



*Candidates for Mayor of Central:  
David Donald (left) and “Mac” Martin*