



TO PROMOTE POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN GOVERNMENT AND TO ACT ON SELECTED GOVERNMENT ISSUES

**THE VOTER**  
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE  
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Tallahassee

Volume 20 Number 3

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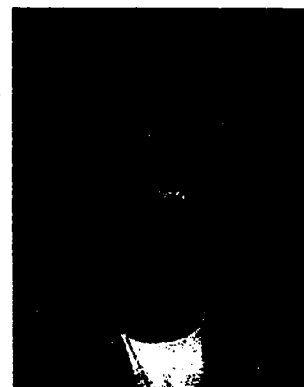
Sustainable Thinking

Join the League!

**Hot Topics: 2011 Election Reform and its Impact on Leon County Voters, with Dr. Carol Weissert**

Dr. Weissert will report on ongoing research conducted in concert with the Leon County Supervisor of Elections Office designed to predict the impact of new elections laws passed in 2011 on young and minority voters.

Dr. Weissert is director of the Leroy Collins Institute in the FSU College of Social Science and Public Policy. She is also the LeRoy Collins Eminent Scholar Chair and Professor of Political Science at Florida State University. Her research focuses on federalism and intergovernmental issues and state policy.



**Save the Date!**

LWVT Annual Membership Meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 21st** 10:30-11:30 a.m.

With Hot Topic Luncheon to follow 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Please mark your calendars.

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, March 21, 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m.  
**Location:** Brokaw-McDougall House

**Lunch**

Choice One:

1/2 Italian Sub to include Genoa Salami, Capocoloa, Pepperoni, and Provolone Cheese with lettuce, tomato, and Greek vinegarette dressing. Chickpea Side Salad.  
\$15.00 per person

Choice two:

Spinach and Roasted Garlic Ravioli (Spinach and roasted garlic stuffed ravioli topped with our homemade marinara and gorgonzola crumbles. Side house Bella Bella Salad and Fresh Baked Bread.  
\$18.00 per person

**Calendar**

1 Thursday 4:00 p.m. Workshop: Comprehensive Plan Renaissance Center, 1st FL 435 N. Macomb Street

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL 309-3005 or EMAIL [LWVTallahassee@gmail.com](mailto:LWVTallahassee@gmail.com)

please RSVP by March 18

*Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled after March 18, those who cancel late should reimburse the League for their reservation's cost.*

8 Thursday 3:00 p.m.  
Health Care  
Committee  
Theresa Chase  
2299 Trescott Drive

8 Thursday 7:00 p.m.  
Local Govt. Committee  
Ruth O'Donnell  
3509 Trillium Court

13 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.  
Leon County  
Commission  
County Courthouse 5th  
floor

13 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.  
Leon County School  
Board  
Howell Center  
3955 W. Pensacola  
Street

13 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.  
LWVT Board Meeting  
LWVF Office  
540 Beverly Court

14 Wednesday 4:00  
p.m.  
City Commission  
Meeting  
City Hall 2nd floor

21 Wednesday 11:30  
a.m.  
Hot Topics Luncheon  
Brokaw-McDougall  
House

26 Monday 1:00 p.m.  
CRTPA Meeting  
City Hall 2nd Floor

27 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.  
Leon County School  
Board  
Howell Center  
3955 W. Pensacola  
Street

28 Wednesday 4:00  
p.m.  
City Commission  
Meeting  
City Hall 2nd floor

## President's Message

It has been an exciting and full February for the Tallahassee League.

Thirty-six people attended our "Protect Your Vote" dialogue on Thursday evening, February 2nd. Our guest speaker, Dr. Arlene Ash, emailed me after the event, saying that she is interested in having our local League participate in a new study in which we would do exit polling of voters in order to collect valuable data about their experiences.

Information gathered in this study would provide data that is needed to fight attempts to diminish voters' access to voting.

There is always more to learn, more to do. Aren't we blessed that scholars and activists all around the country look to the League of Women Voters to lead these battles!

Your LWVT board then met on Monday, February 13 and voted to recommend the 2012-2013 Program and Positions. The board took extra care this year to draft a 2012-2013 Program that precisely reflects LWVT's agenda for action in the coming year.

Please read through the Recommended Program when you receive it (it included in this mailed version of the Voter). On April 21st, at the Annual Membership Meeting, you will have a chance to make additional amendments to the program, then we will all vote on it.

On February 21st, several local members attended the Florida LWV's Legislative Summit, which was launched with a Welcome Reception. The featured speaker was former Florida Senator Alex Villalobos, who implored us to inform ourselves and other voters about judicial retention elections.

The Tallahassee delegation included several local members who had never before attended Legislative Summit, and I'd like to thank them for taking time to represent us so well: Linda Davis, Kim Ross, and Miryam Rubenstein. I wish to thank particularly Jan Rubino who made all the advance appointments, as well as Peggy Ramsey who coordinated our delegation. Thank you to everyone who participated for your willingness to learn from and mentor each other in lobbying for the League.

I'll be traveling for professional work and research through most of March (first to a professional meeting the Dominican Republic, then to visit Haiti for research in music, culture and civic life). While I'm away, Marilyn Wills, LWVT Vice President, will be at the helm. Marilyn's and the rest of the board members' contacts are at the end of this Voter and online. Please reach out to them to address all your questions and great ideas.

-Rebecca Sager



### **NOMINATIONS FOR 2012-2013**

President: Rebecca Sager

Vice-President: Marilyn Wills

Treasurer: Peggy Ramsey

Secretary: Kathy Winn

### **Elected Directors 2012-2014**

Queen Bruton

Margie Thomas

Ben Wilcox

### **2013 Nominating Committee**

Ruth O'Donnell, chair

Mimi Jones

3<sup>rd</sup> member to be appointed by board

### **Continuing Elected Directors 2011-2013**

Christina Crotty

Lanue Ryan

Carol Weissert

### **Appointed Board Members:**

(maximum of 6, to be appointed by incoming board)

(agreeing to serve as appointed board members: Christine Boczarsk, Linda Davis, Janet Findling, Dot Skofronick, Martha Stewart, Shirley Thompson)

## **RECOMMENDED PROGRAM 2012-2013**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Engage with elected and appointed officials of local government in order to be informed of and investigate issues related to the League program and that are of interest to members. Suggest related Hot Topics speakers and issues for discussion.

### **EDUCATION**

Undertake an exploratory study of education in Leon County Schools focused on broadly assessing the extent to which all students in the county have access to a free public education that provides equal opportunity for all. The scope of the exploratory study includes privatization, funding, class size, and assessing certification and compensation of teachers, support staff, and professional personnel. The exploratory study will help define future, more focused studies that lead to new LWVT positions.

### **LOBBY CORPS**

Continue to support the LWVF's legislative advocacy effort at the Capitol, including monitoring the state legislative process and issues of specific interest to the LWVF, like health care, education, energy and natural resources, taxation, and election law.

### **HEALTH CARE**

Support, monitor and take action for ongoing national, state and local health care policy with educational and legislative initiatives that promote socio-economic and racial/ethnic/gender equity in access to quality health care for all and control of costs.

### **ELECTION REFORM**

Monitor effects of 2011 Florida election reform law to analyze the impact of key provisions on voters in Leon County, with particular focus on students and minorities. Disseminate findings widely, including through collaboration with like-minded organizations and a Speaker's Bureau. Conduct a public

education campaign, to be coordinated with the Leon County Supervisor of Elections, to minimize the negative impact of the law on eligible voters in Leon County.

### **VOTER SERVICES**

Conduct and co-sponsor candidate forums, including Big Bend Environmental Forum and WFSU Bandwagon. Advise other organizations on conducting their own candidate forums. Produce an on-line Voter Guide ([vote411Leon.org](http://vote411Leon.org)) to educate voters on issues of importance to League priorities.

Disseminate Voter Education information through Saturday Market and other League activities and in collaboration with community groups. Support Kids Voting. Conduct Speaker's Bureau on pros and cons of proposed ballot measures. Register voters, as directed by LWVF.

### **PROMOTE POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Continue monthly Hot Topics devoted to informing members and the public about selected governmental issues. Continue to hold luncheon and evening meetings on issues.

## **RECOMMENDED POSITIONS FOR ADOPTION**

### **TRANSPORTATION**

July 1994, the LWVT supports a transportation system that protects the environment and neighborhoods and gives incentives for multi-person transit. To this end, LWVT supports parking limitations, dedicated high occupancy vehicle lanes, Transportation Demand Management strategies such as flex-time, telecommuting and ride-sharing. The LWVT agrees that consideration should be given to a light rail system.

The LWVT supports establishment of a countywide bicycle and pedestrian system of bike lanes, bike paths and sidewalks to facilitate motor-free transportation. The LWVT supports creation of a balanced transportation system that emphasizes protection of the environment and underscores the need for alternatives to single occupancy vehicles. Emphasis is placed on accommodating people who cannot or choose not to drive an automobile.

In 2011-2012, LWVT studied a project designed to provide a safer environment for pedestrians and bikers on Tennessee Street—the West Tennessee Transit Pilot Program. The League supports the project which will reduce the number of lanes for cars to four, with turn lanes, and designate the remaining two lanes as bus lanes. The bus lanes may be available to bicycle traffic. Pedestrians will be separated from fast moving automobile traffic by the bus lanes. This project is part of "Moving Tallahassee: Cars Optional," an eighteen-square-mile area in the heart of Tallahassee dedicated to creating a safe environment for pedestrians, cyclists and transit users.

### **CHARTER GOVERNMENT**

July 2000, LWVT supports charter governments in Leon County. We support charter review committees that review charters periodically and that have the power to propose amendments to the charter for direct placement on the ballot at the next general election. We believe all amendments to the charter should be accomplished by a simple majority vote. We support "an achievable percentage" of registered voters to bring about citizen petitions (we oppose requiring 10% of registered voters from each district for citizen

## Privatization Update

The Florida Senate passed a prison privatization bill during the final days of the 2011 session. A lawsuit followed, and the Courts ruled against the legislature, nullifying the law.

When the bill reappeared in the Florida Senate during 2012 session, some senators called for a study before such legislation was passed; they were not convinced that privatizing the prisons would save money, and it would mean a great loss of jobs in the state. Delay tactics were used while the leadership and budget chair tried to convince dissenting senators that the plan would really work. However, there were no facts to back up their assertions, and, during the week of February 13, the bill was defeated by two votes.

Attempts to privatize are going on all over the country as well as in other countries. The LWVUS is conducting a study among its members and will be taking a position on privatization this year. Some local governments are attempting to privatize in areas that include park maintenance, street maintenance, garbage collection, building inspection, information technology, printing services, and even some city governments.

Our League is beginning work on this study, and members are encouraged to participate; there is a great deal of information available. This issue is both timely and crucial; it affects all of us as citizens of the State of Florida and the United States. If you are interested in working on this issue, please email me at [marilynnwills@msn.com](mailto:marilynnwills@msn.com).

-Marilynn Wills

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## Opt Out

The Voter newsletter has now made the transition to a beautiful, well-integrated digital format. The electronic version is also more colorful, arrives days before the paper Voter, costs much less, and uses far fewer natural resources to produce.

If you would like to opt out of the traditional paper Voter (the one that arrives by regular mail), then please send an email to [lwvtallahassee@gmail.com](mailto:lwvtallahassee@gmail.com) with "Opt Out" in the subject line.

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## Adopt a Precinct

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to LWVT members who participated in our Adopt A Precinct fundraiser during the January 31 presidential primary election. Our assigned precinct is located at Tallahassee Community of Christ Church on Timberlane, but some members work at other precincts and also donate their earnings to the League. Members who donated the hard earned wages for this election were:

Marilynn Wills  
Doris Partridge  
Sanford Safron  
Kathy Winn  
Janet Findling

Thanks so much for adding over \$600 to our Board of Directors Fund! These donations go directly to pay for printing and advertising of LWVT's voter service work so that every voter in Leon County will have the information they need to cast an informed vote on a regular ballot.

If you want to participate in this project for the August and November elections, please contact Peggy Ramsey at 386-7589 or [ramsey020@comcast.net](mailto:ramsey020@comcast.net). You must apply to be a pollworker, receive training, work at any precinct site, and then donate your earnings to LWVT. Lots of work, but fun and very educational.

-Peggy Ramsey

## Sustainable Thinking

It's almost time for spring cleaning. I know, big collective "gro-an!" But here are some tips taken from the web site of Sustainable Tallahassee that will reduce your impact on the planet and save money, too.

Here is a list of common, environmentally safe products that can be used alone or in combination for a wealth of household applications.

- Baking Soda - cleans, deodorizes, softens water, scours.
- Soap - unscented soap in liquid form, flakes, powders or bars is biodegradable and will clean just about anything. Avoid using soaps which contain petroleum distillates.
- Lemon - one of the strongest food-acids, effective against most household bacteria.
- Borax - (sodium borate) cleans, deodorizes, disinfects, softens water, cleans wallpaper, painted walls and floors.
- White Vinegar - cuts grease, removes mildew, odors, some stains and wax build-up.
- Washing Soda - or SAL Soda is sodium carbonate decahydrate, a mineral. Washing soda cuts grease, removes stains, softens water, cleans wall, tiles, sinks and tubs. Use care, as washing soda can irritate mucous membranes. Do not use on aluminum.
- Isopropyl Alcohol - is an excellent disinfectant. (It has been suggested to replace this with ethanol or 100 proof alcohol in solution with water. There is some indication that isopropyl alcohol buildup contributes to illness in the body.)
- Cornstarch - can be used to clean windows, polish furniture, shampoo carpets and rugs.

Coming up next month: Formulas for making your own cleaning products.

-Linda Davis

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## Welcome New Members

Dan and Nicole Krassner  
Liz and Ed Holifield  
Peggy Lentz

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## THE LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT in a nutshell (no they are not all nuts!)

Five members of LWVT attended the Legislative Summit: Sue Gross, Kim Ross, Miryam Rubenstein, Linda Davis and Peggy Ramsey. It was a very busy, fast, educational and fun three days. Visits (arranged by Jan RuBino) with our legislators Sen. Charlie Dean, Michelle Rehwinkel-Vasilinda, and Bill Montford's aide were most informative. The disclosure by several politicians of the shenanigans that transpire when an individual does not toe the party line was most interesting.

Next year, give it a whirl.....I promise you will be amazed and entertained!

-Peggy Ramsey

initiatives.) We support establishing oversight of constitutional officers. We oppose allowing county ordinances to supersede city ordinances.

In 2002, Leon County became a charter county; LWVT supported the amendment.

We support a non-partisan election of the Supervisor of Elections, city and county commissioners.

We support fair and equitable representation.

We support the removal of non-judicial functions from the Clerk of the Circuit Court position.

In 2010, both the city and the county appointed charter review committees; LWVT was represented on both committees.

### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

1960-1961, LWVT supports measures in the Tallahassee Comprehensive Plan leading to long-range City and County planning.

February 1964, LWVT advocates continued attention be paid to community planning with support of measures that will provide the best long-range comprehensive planning for the community.

1979, LWVT commits to actively participating in the Comprehensive Plan decision-making process and commits to encouraging citizen input.

We support full implementation of the official comprehensive land use plan.

### CONSOLIDATION

October 1971, LWVT reaches consensus in support of the consolidation charter. (Charter failed)

April 1973, LWVT supports the new Charter for Consolidation including changes made by the Charter Commission. They include: (1) addition of a Department of Planning (2) procedural change in the recall of elective officials, by increasing the percentage of qualified electors who must sign a petition from 10% to 20% (3) accountability for county officials (all officials would be required by the commission to submit "uniform estimates or budgets for the operation of their offices...") and, (4) taxation rate: "The commission shall provide and maintain a fair and just differential between the tax levy in city and county". (Charter failed)

September 1991, LWVT supports the concept of consolidation if it provides for efficient and accountable government, including support for citizen initiative, referendum, and recall. Under consolidation, we support: a reduction of duplication of services; an appointed, qualified administrator with clearly defined lines of authority and responsibility and the power to appoint and fire department heads; coordinated countywide law enforcement; adequate and equitable revenue sources with tax in proportion to service provided. (Charter failed)

Summary: LWVT has supported consolidation of city and county governments since 1968. However, public support has never reached the threshold needed to adopt the consolidation measures on the ballot. While the two governments have never merged, there has been some functional consolidation in the areas of storm water, growth management, planning, parks and recreation, animal control, fire departments, and a joint dispatch center for emergency services. LWVT continues to support functional consolidation that provides for efficient and accountable government, that reduces duplication of services, and improves coordination of law enforcement countywide.

2012 Annual Meeting  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE

League of Women Voters/Tallahassee  
FY 2012/13 PROPOSED BUDGET

Income Category	Budget 2010-11	Actual 2010-11	Projected 2011-12	Estimated 2011-12	Projected 2012-13
<b>Income Category</b>					
Member Dues	4750	4704	5800	6500	6800
Annual Meeting	900	660	1000	1000	1000
Holiday Brunch	1100	1200	1200	1320	1300
Hot Topics	4000	5080	4300	4429	4500
Fundraiser: Miscellaneous	250	0	1280	354	700
Voter Services Publications	750	550	0	0	900
US Education Fund	350	275	400	495	500
State Lobby Fund	200	195	250	674	500
Board of Directors Fund	1000	2743	1750	1823	2600
Susan B Anthony Membership	450	340	550	600	600
Member Donations	250	2215	1100	1023	2000
Memorials	100	25	100	200	0
Other		163	0	0	0
Interest Income	200	140	125	5	100
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>14300</b>	<b>15547</b>	<b>16105</b>	<b>16600</b>	<b>18900</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>					
<b>Administration:</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>575</b>
Board Expenses	95	150	200	216	200
Fund Raising	100	0	100	0	100
Postal Box	250	255	250	70	70
Uniform Business Report	75	71	75	71	75
Voice Mail	130	130	130	130	130
<b>Communications</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>1384</b>	<b>2150</b>	<b>1173</b>	<b>1600</b>
includes voter mailing, printing and Constant Contact	350	50	350	126	
	1000	1334	1800	1049	
<b>Events</b>	<b>6050</b>	<b>6295</b>	<b>6500</b>	<b>6698</b>	<b>7100</b>
Annual Meeting	900	677	1000	1000	1000
Hot Topics	4000	4444	4300	4032	4500
Membership Events	500	0	0	354	300
Holiday Brunch	1100	1174	1200	1312	1300
<b>Meetings</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1000</b>
includes State Convention/Council, Legislative Seminar, and National Convention					
<b>Per Member Payments/PMP</b>	<b>4050</b>	<b>4712</b>	<b>5600</b>	<b>5674</b>	<b>6150</b>
National	2200	2529	3300	2870	3400
State	1300	1463	1650	1635	1750
US Education Fund	350	485	400	495	500
State Lobby Fund	200	235	250	674	500
<b>Voter Service</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>2918</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1675</b>
Bandwagon	100	159	0	0	175
VS Outreach		1945	0	0	500
Voter Services Publications	750	814	0	0	900
Kids Voting	100	0	0	0	100
<b>Board of Directors Fund</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>800</b>
includes State and Local Program Activities					
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>14500</b>	<b>17474</b>	<b>16105</b>	<b>15348</b>	<b>18900</b>



## Board of Directors

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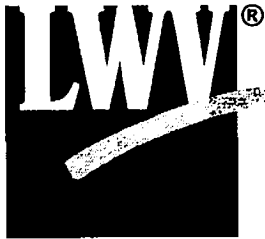
## Off-Board Specialists

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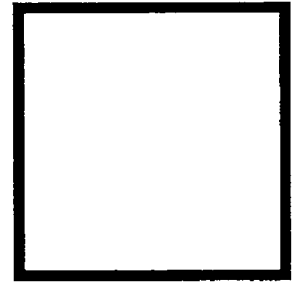
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League of Women Voters of Tallahassee  
 P.O. Box 10216  
 Tallahassee, FL 32302-2216



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
 (Please Print Legibly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle Annual Membership Level  
 (May 1, 2011 - April 30, 2012)

- \$100.00 Susan B. Anthony membership \_\_\_\_\_
- \$ 90.00 Household membership \_\_\_\_\_
- \$ 60.00 Individual membership \_\_\_\_\_
- \$ 30.00 Student membership \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$5.00 for LWVF Lobby Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Additional gift to LWVUS Education Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle any topics  
 that interest you:

- Voter Services
- Local Government
- Fundraising
- Health Care
- Lobby Corps
- Sustainability/Natural Resources
- Publicity
- Membership
- Hot Topics
- Education
- Hospitality/Events

Please make all checks payable to LWV of Tallahassee. Mail to LWVT, P. O. Box 10216, Tallahassee, FL 32302-2216. You may also renew/join at [www.lwvtallahassee.org](http://www.lwvtallahassee.org). There is a \$2.00 charge for using PayPal.