



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TALLAHASSEE

Tallahassee

Volume 26 Number 7

March 2017

OUR PURPOSE:

To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected government issues

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Is There a Solution to Wastewater Pollution?



Debbie Lightsey

served 21 years as a city commissioner, and Pamela Hall, an ecologist and Sustainable Tallahassee board member, what you can do to save our beloved Wakulla Springs.

Wakulla Springs is one of the largest freshwater springs in the world. It was once clear and blue with diverse aquatic vegetation and animal life. After decades of poorly managed growth and development, our aquifer and Wakulla Springs are polluted -- and in need of our help.

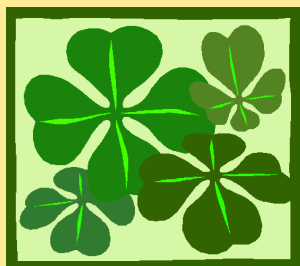
There may be more than one solution to wastewater pollution. Please come to our Hot Topic luncheon in March and find out from Debbie Lightsey, who



Pamela Hall

<i>Date</i>	March 22, 2017
<i>Time</i>	11:30 a.m.--1:00 p.m.
<i>Location</i>	Four Points by Sheraton 316 West Tennessee Street
<i>Menu</i>	Shepherd's pie or vegetable primavera, vegetable, salad, rolls and butter
<i>Cost</i>	Members - \$20 Nonmembers - \$23

The first three student members to RSVP eat FREE!



MARCH EVENTS

FOR RESERVATIONS please call 309-3005 and leave a message or email LWVTallahassee@gmail.com.

Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled after Saturday, March 18, those who cancel late must reimburse the League for the cost of their reservations or find someone to take their places at the Hot Topic.

07 Tuesday 1:30 p.m. City/County workshop on 2017 comp plan amendments, City Hall, 2nd floor

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

07 Tuesday 5:00 p.m., Public hearing on medical marijuana ordinance, County Courthouse, 5th floor

13 Monday 6:30 p.m.
LWVT Open Primary Consensus Meeting, United Church in Tallahassee, 1834 Mahan Drive

21 Tuesday 1:00 p.m.
CRTPA Meeting, City Hall 2nd Floor

21 Tallahassee Ethics Board Meeting 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., City Hall 2nd Floor

21 Tuesday 6:00 p.m., LWVT Board Meeting, 1834 Mahan Drive

22 Wednesday 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., LWVT Hot Topic
Four Points-Sheraton Hotel
316 W. Tennessee Street

22 Wednesday 4:00 p.m., City Commission Meeting, City Hall 2nd Floor

23 Thursday 9:30 a.m., CRA Board Meeting, City Hall 2nd floor

28 Tuesday 9:00 a.m., Legislative Dialogue, County Courthouse

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

March is Women's History

Month. Celebrate by going to see "Hidden Figures." First told in a book by Margot Lee Shetterly, *Hidden Figures* is the amazing true story of black female mathematicians who worked for NASA in the early '60's and who made critical contributions toward America's winning the space race. The book and the movie are both accurate in their portrayal of the time when segregation was still practiced and the hardships under which the women worked and how they managed to be successful. Truly inspiring!

President's Message



Last month, I wrote to you about the Women's March and the follow-up activities to this amazing event. The organizational meeting that followed identified eight issue areas:

1. Safe and Affordable Health Care
2. Environmental Sustainability
3. Free and Equal Education
4. Social, Economic and Legal Justice
5. Fair and Equitable Treatment for Immigrants
6. LGBTQ Justice
7. Economic Justice
8. Fair Criminal Justice System and Gun Control

Many of you will be in agreement with the positions on these issues that have been established by the movement. According to the website, you can contact the Tallahassee/Panhandle chapter of the group at wmwflpanhandle@gmail.com. They are also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/64653973551872/.

One of the immediate action items identified at the meeting was addressing voter suppression, specifically the withholding of the right to vote from convicted felons once they have completed their sentences (including probation and parole). For over a year now, the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee has been collecting petitions for a constitutional amendment that would automatically return the right to vote to former felons. I will be working with other League members who attended the follow-up meeting to ramp up this activity. I will provide more information on other activities to return the right to vote once they are formalized by the group.

In the meantime, you may have read or heard about other groups that have been formed to advocate for support of the Affordable Care Act, protest the current administration's immigration policies, or to address the administration's appointments to key positions. As an individual, the League encourages advocating for the things that you believe in. However, please be aware that the League name cannot be used to advocate for or against candidates for office or elected officials. And, I would encourage you to adopt the League's method of advocacy which calls for being knowledgeable and having the facts about the issue you are addressing and engaging in respectful discourse with our elected governmental representatives. What is the southern saying? "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."

Kathy Winn, President

League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

LWVT's Annual Business Meeting in April

The League of Women Voters of Tallahassee will hold its annual business meeting and luncheon this year on Saturday, April 22, at 11:00 a.m. at Four Points by Sheraton. The membership will vote on the following items of business:

1. Officers for 2017--2018. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee is:

President: Linda Davis

Vice-President: Teri Cleeland

Secretary: Margaret Boeth

Treasurer: Peggy Ramsey

2. Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws.

Article III, Section 2(a). Last summer at the National Convention, the League of Women Voters of the United States amended its Bylaws to change the minimum age to join the League from 18 to 16 years of age, and to remove the citizenship requirement. We are required to amend our bylaws to reflect the same changes. This is called a conforming amendment and no vote of the membership is necessary. The amended Section 2(a) will read as follows:

Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of the LWVUS.

Article VIII, Section 1, Nominating Committee. The LWVT Board of Directors has proposed to amend Article VIII, Section 1, by adding the underlined sentences below so that the section reads as follows:

The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall consist of three to five members, at least two of whom shall be board members. The Nominating Committee shall receive nominations for officers and directors from any voting member. The period of time for submitting suggested nominees to the Nominating Committee shall be announced in the January Voter. The announcement shall include the names of the members of the Nominating Committee and their contact information. Persons suggesting nominees shall secure the willingness of their suggested nominees to serve.

3. Proposed Program for 2017--2018. The proposed LWVT Program for 2017--2018 is as follows:

Voter Service

Register and educate voters during the Saturday Downtown Market, at League activities, and by tabling at allied organization functions and community events. Educate the public on voter registration changes, voter systems and voter rights. Work with Leon County Supervisor of Elections to advance election reform. Support efforts to restore voting rights of convicted felons who have completed their sentences.

Promote Political Responsibility

Continue to inform members and the public about civic responsibilities and issues through monthly Hot Topic meetings as well as through a variety of community events. Promote League positions taken on proposed constitutional amendments. Support anti-corruption legislation. Hold workshops on how to advocate with elected officials using the speakers' bureau. Encourage citizen participation at Constitutional Revision Commission hearings.

Local Government

Engage with elected and appointed officials and staff members of local governmental entities in order to be informed of and investigate issues related to the League program that are of interest to members. Monitor

City of Tallahassee and County Commission agendas and minutes to be alert to evolving issues and to promote efficient and responsible local governments. Participate in related state and national League studies. Study the current city and county land use and zoning planning criteria and process to determine the impact on quality of life in Leon County.

Education

Continually monitor Leon County Schools to determine the extent to which students in the county have access to a free public school system, in keeping with LWVUS and LWVF policy and position statements. This would include monitoring standardized testing reduction efforts, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program (vouchers), the privatization of public education, early childhood education, and defacto segregation in our county school system.

Health Care

Support, monitor, and take action for ongoing national, state, and local physical and mental health care policies with educational and legislative initiatives that promote socio-economic, racial, ethnic, age and disability equity in accessing affordable, quality health care for all and control of costs. Provide information on the Affordable Care Act and potential changes to the Act. Support funding for providers of health care for the uninsured and initiatives to reduce infant mortality and food insecurity. Support accreditation of local hospitals and birthing centers as Baby Friendly. Advocate for mental health courts and crisis intervention training. Support women's reproductive rights.

Climate Change and Sustainability

Educate League members and the community on climate and environmental sustainability issues. Promote local and regional initiatives to ameliorate climate change and enhance long-term sustainability. Support increased use of solar energy.

Social and Economic Justice

Promote existing League positions and activities that address economic disparity. Seek to enhance educational and economic opportunity, education reform, progressive taxation, children and families, juvenile justice and access to health care and affordable housing in the local area. Promote the expansion of the City of Tallahassee's digital canopy to low-income areas including South City and Frenchtown. Support initiatives to identify and prosecute human trafficking.

Lobby Corps

Continue to support the LWVF's legislative advocacy effort at the Capitol by training volunteers in citizen advocacy, including monitoring and reporting on state legislative action of specific interest to the LWVF, such as health care, women's health and reproductive rights, gun safety, education, energy, land use, natural resources (especially water), taxation, and election law.

4. Recommended Positions for Re-adoption. The LWVT positions recommended for re-adoption for 2017--2018 are as follows:

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.

April, 2012, the LWVT supports a safer environment for pedestrians and bikers on Tennessee Street. The League supports a reduction in the number of lanes for cars to four, with turn lanes, where the remaining

two lanes are designated as bus lanes also available to bicycle traffic that separate pedestrians from fast-moving automobile traffic. The League supports "Moving Tallahassee: Cars Optional," the creation of 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 petition; we oppose requiring 10% of registered voters from each district for citizen 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

In 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 official 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)

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.

5. Proposed Budget for 2017--2018. The proposed projected LWVT budget for 2017--2018 is as follows:

Income Category	Projected 2016--17	Estimated 2016--17	Projected 2017--18
Member dues	10000	12000	12000
Meetings with meals	9500	8800	10000
Fundraiser: miscellaneous	300	300	300
Voter services publications	500	500	0
U.S. education fund	300	500	1000
State lobby fund	300	300	300
Member donations	4000	3500	900
Board of directors fund	1500	1410	1500
Susan B. Anthony membership	1200	1100	1200
Memorials	100	110	100
Other	200	200	200
Carry forward	3810	3810	3500
Total Income	30210	31120	29500
Expenses			
Administration:	2710	2458	2700
Board expenses	810	581	800
Advertising	1900	1877	1900
Communications	1700	1335	1400
Meetings with meals	9500	10000	10000
Membership recruitment/retention	800	800	800
State/national meetings	2000	1912	2000
Per member payments/PMP	9000	8710	10000
National	5800	5257	6000
State	2900	2753	3000
US education fund	300	700	1000
State lobby fund	300	300	300

Outreach	2000	2242	500
Tabling and materials	1700	2000	200
Student scholarships	300	242	300
Committees/study & action groups	700	60	700
Study & action groups	400	60	400
Membership committee	100	0	100
Communications committee	100	0	100
Voter service committee	100	0	100
Intern stipend/expenses	1000	547	600
Board of directors fund	500	2500	500
Total Expenses	30210	30864	29500



This is not a call for volunteers, folks -- It's a real job for real money!

The League of Women Voters of Florida is in search of a new bookkeeper. The responsibilities include all financial reports on a weekly and monthly basis, detailed recordkeeping, including all donations from two organizations with multiple line items for each, processing all checks received and printing all payments, making deposits and helping the State Board Treasurer to balance the books. Must be EXPERT in QuickBooks, able to work in a fast paced office with expectations for efficient and accurate work. There is a 4-question QuickBooks exercise to be completed in 45-minutes, maximum.

The successful candidate may work from home but bi-weekly meetings in the office will be required. The position is 20 hours per week at \$15 per hour, with an increase in hourly rate subject to satisfactory performance.

For questions or to make an appointment with Penny Walker Bos, Executive Director, please contact the LWVF Office Manager by writing to LWVFOffice@gmail.com.

Constitution Revision Commission Shaping Up

Twelve members of Florida's 2017--2018 Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) have been named by the senate president (9) and the chief justice of the supreme court (3). The names and backgrounds of the appointees may be found here: [CRCAppointments.pdf](#). The remaining 24 members will be named by the governor (15) and speaker of the house (9) before the March 7th convening of the legislature. The attorney general serves as the 37th member of the CRC. The governor will appoint the commission chair. The CRC meets every 20 years and is tasked with recommending changes to the constitution. The commission's recommendations will go directly to the ballot in 2018. The two previous commissions (in 1977--78 and 1997--98) have made far-reaching recommendations including the right to privacy, a smaller

cabinet, funding of state courts, gender equality and public campaign financing.

The League of Women Voters of Florida is part of the Partnership for Revising Florida's Constitution and the Tallahassee League has had presentations on the importance of the CRC. The next stage is for League members to attend CRC meetings and testify in the public hearings the CRC will hold throughout the state. More information on the CRC may be found on at the Partnership webpage: [ReviseFlorida](#).

*Carol Weissert, Board Member
League of Women Voters of Tallahassee*

Solar PV: Is It For Me? Become an Educated Consumer at UF Extension Seminar



University of Florida Extension in Leon County is partnering with the League of Women Voters-Tallahassee, Sustainable Tallahassee, and ReThink Energy Florida to sponsor a 3-hour primer on solar photovoltaic (PV) (electricity from solar). Instructors include solar professionals with Independent Green Technologies, City of Tallahassee Utilities, Talquin Electric Cooperative and the Leon County Office of Sustainability.

You'll become conversant with all aspects of solar PV from the financial to the technical. The seminar will include expert insight into trends in the solar industry and local utilities; options for components and installation; and how to calculate energy production and return on investment (ROI)-- everything pertinent to helping you decide: "Is solar PV for me?"

It's on Friday morning, March 24th, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon. At Leon County Extension, 615 Paul Russell Road. \$10/person for singletons; \$7.50/person for family groups, friends, coworkers, neighbors, the whole kit-and-caboodle.

Register at: <http://solarPV-2017seminar-LeonExtension.eventbrite.com>

*Steve Urse,
Climate Change and Sustainability Study and Action Group*

Health Care Study and Action Group

Calling all League members interested in health issues! The Leon County Health Department has scheduled an organizational meeting to begin developing a Community Health Improvement Plan to address the problems identified in last fall's Leon County Community Health Assessment. You can participate in one of eight subcommittees organized to work in the following strategic areas: mental health; neighborhood safety; education; economic stability; HIV/AIDS & STIs; maternal/child health; health communication and information; or nutrition and physical activity. The organizational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Health Department location at 872 West Orange Avenue.



Please share information about any credible reports of plans offered to replace the federal Affordable Care Act with me so that I can share this information with League members. If you know of meetings, events or activities to advocate with elected officials concerning the Act, please let me know so that I can inform League members who may want to participate. I can be reached via email at kathywinnclan@embarqmail.com or by phone at (850) 766-2612.

*Kathy Winn, Chair
Health Care Study and Action*

LWVT at the Tallahassee Marathon February 2017

It was a gorgeous day for running a Marathon. LWVT set up the water station at mile 14 on the Tallahassee Marathon course. We had cups out and filled, the signs in place, Suffragists, Susan B. Anthony, Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty dressed and ready to cheer as the runners rounded the corner.

Our station was along Circle Drive and Chapman Pond was our backdrop. We knew the runners had to climb a long hill and turn left to see us. And we knew they would be getting tired and thirsty at that point. With all the cheering and music there was a new spring in the steps.

We had the most enthusiastic team! Many thanks to Marty Monroe (Susan B, Anthony), Richard RuBino and Jim Skofronick (Uncle Sam), Maggie Lawrence (Lady Liberty) and well dressed Suffragists Linda Davis, Kathy Winn, Teri Cleeland, Marty Quinn, Lisa Shuman, Peggy Ramsey and Dot Skofronick.



Also on the cheering team were Jane and Dave Jordan, Miryam Rubinstein, Steve Urse and our official photographer, Erin Edwards.

We got thanks, high fives, hugs and some runners took selfies with us, so we must have made a good impression on the runners because, when they voted for best water table and the votes were counted, we won first prize again! And if they had a prize for having the most fun we probably would have won that, too!

*Dot Skofronick,
Tallahassee Marathon Water Station Chair*

League of Women Voters of Florida's 2017 Legislative Summit

Help the League make a difference in the 2017 Legislative session. Join League members from all over the state at the League 2017 Legislative Summit.

The Legislative Summit begins Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. at the Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown
316 W Tennessee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
and continues till March 29, 2017, at 9:00 p.m.



You can register [here at the League website.](#)

Well Attended February Tavern Talk

Our thanks to Dr. Larry Polivka and Dr. Deana Rohlinger for an extremely interesting and informative presentation on the results of the November election and what it is likely to mean.



Dr. Deana Rohlinger



An interested Tavern
Talk crowd



Type caption text here.

Other Events of Interest to Involved Citizens

- 3/3/2017
12:00 noon
EST
Webinar: Potential Restructuring of the Medicaid Program and the Implications for Low Income Floridians. **rsvp**
at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5005284074098343170>
- 3/8/2017
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Democratic Caucus Meeting. This joint meeting of the Equality, Progressive and Black Caucuses of the Democratic Party of North Florida will discuss the return of voting rights to former felons.
Members of Women's March Florida in Tallahassee are invited to attend along with members of the League. Discussion will include organizing to gather petitions for a change in the State Constitution to provide for the automatic restoration of voting rights to most convicted felons once they have completed their sentences, including probation and parole. At the Downtown Leon County Public Library.
- 3/22/17
10:00 a.m.
Reclaiming Florida's Future. A rally at the Florida Capitol sponsored by Re Think Energy Florida in support of banning fracking in Florida.

Madeline Hollon
Jamie Ito
Kay Trammell
Kathleen Allman
Sue Skinner
Kathleen McCharen
Barry Munroe



Darwin Gamble
Elizabeth Kuhlmann
Faith and Andrew Harkey
Kelsey Klopfenstein
Steven Carter
Phyllis Thomson
Sylvia Ifft
Margaret and Tom Clark

Voter Deadline

The next Voter will be the April Voter. The deadline for submission of material is March 30. Please e-mail your material to lgdavis75@gmail.com.

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