



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF TALLAHASSEE

Tallahassee

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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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Economic Development in Tallahassee-Leon County: A NEW PLAN



Al Latimer

Tallahassee-Leon County has a new strategic plan addressing economic development and a new structure to implement it. The Economic Development Strategic Plan, developed by the local consulting firm VisionFirst Advisors, will be implemented by the Office of Economic Vitality, a new office replacing the former Economic Development Coordinating Committee. This office, under the direction of the Intergovernmental Agency (the City and County Commissioners), will use the strategic plan to direct \$90 million in Blueprint sales tax money

which will start flowing in 2020 for economic development uses. According to the *Tallahassee Democrat*, "this plan puts professionals - with a heavy dose of private sector leaders - in charge of a well-articulated and developed strategy that leads to a holistic approach to economic development in our community."

What does economic development mean? Under the plan, will tax dollars be spent to entice businesses that provide jobs for all of the residents of Tallahassee-Leon County and not just for highly educated professionals? How do you balance quality of life with the development that might be needed to create jobs? And, where do nonprofit organizations providing social and other support services fit into the plan?

Come to the next Hot Topic luncheon where the speaker will be Al Latimer, Director of the Office of Economic Vitality. Mr. Latimer is a new hire with a lot of experience in the economic development field. The City and the County have each contributed \$500,000 in funding for the effort. Get some details about the strategic plan and how the Office of Economic Vitality plans to get started. Find answers to your questions about how economic development can help improve the quality of life for all members of our community. "Quality of life starts with a quality job,"



November is International Women's Friendship Month

02 Wednesday 11:00 a.m.

Tallahassee/Leon County

Commission
 Status of Women & Girls
 Chiles High School
 7200 Lawton Chiles Lane
 03 Thursday 6:00 p.m.
 Leon County School Board
 Howell Center
 Special Meeting on Lead in
 School Water Fountains
 3955 W. Pensacola Street
 09 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.
 City Commission Meeting
 City Hall 2nd Floor

11 The Vietnam Women's
 Memorial is dedicated in 1993 in
 Washington, D.C. after being
 conceived by former army
 combat nurse Diane Carlson
 Evans and sculpted by Glenna
 Goodacre to honor the 265,000
 women who voluntarily served
 during the Vietnam era

12 Birthday of Elizabeth Cady
 Stanton, organized first U.S.
 women's rights convention in
 Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848;
 first president of the National
 Woman Suffrage Association

14 International Girls Day

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

18 Birthday of Wilma Mankiller,
 first female Chief of the Cherokee
 Nation, 1985-95

16 Wednesday 11:30 a.m.- 1:00

according to Gray Swoopes, President of VisionFirst Advisors. Come see what you think after you get the details.

Date Wednesday, 16 November
Time 11:30 a.m.--1:00 p.m.
Location Four Points by Sheraton
 316 West Tennessee Street
Menu Roast pork or vegetable soup; chef's choice
 starch, vegetable, salad; rolls and butter
Cost Members - \$20 Nonmembers - \$23

**The first three student members
 to RSVP eat FREE!**

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, October 22, 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.

President's Message

October's Hot Topic Luncheon



At our Hot Topic Luncheon last week, members of the League learned that the health of our community is determined to a large degree (40 percent) by socioeconomic factors: education, employment, income, family and social support, and community safety. Another 10 percent is determined by the physical environment including air and water quality and housing and transit.

The report of the Leon County Health Assessment will soon be available on [their website](#). Here are a few highlights from the draft report: Although Leon County ranked 23rd in health outcomes and 24th in health factors compared with other counties in Florida, we scored poorly in physical environment, suffering from air pollution and severe housing problems. Poverty rates in Leon County are 1.4 times higher than the state average. And, although we are the most highly educated county in the State, we also have the second highest disparity between the highest paid and the lowest paid members of our community. The poverty rate has risen from 17 percent in 1990 to 18 percent in 2000 and to 24 percent in 2014. Significant differences in poverty levels between black and white

p.m.. LWVT Hot Topics
Four Points-Sheraton Hotel
316 W. Tennessee Street
21 Monday 9:30 a.m.

CRA Meeting
City Hall 2nd Floor
21 Monday 4:00 p.m.

City Commission Reorganization
Installation of new City
Commissioners
City Hall 2nd Floor

22 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.
Leon County Commission
Reorganization of Commission &
Regular Meeting
County Courthouse 5th floor
22 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

Leon County School Board
Reorganization & Business
Howell Center
3955 W. Pensacola Street

30 Birthday of Shirley Chisholm,
first African-American
Congresswoman, (D-NY, 1969-
83), first woman and first African-
American Democratic presidential
nominee, received 151 delegate
votes at the Democratic
Convention in 1972

families exist in the county. Black families with children are three times more likely to be poor. An amazing 44 percent of preschool children in neighborhoods served by Title I schools come to school not consistently demonstrating skills necessary to start school.

What can we do to address these factors that determine 50 percent of the health of our community? The next steps in the assessment process include wide dissemination of the results. By May of 2017, the steering committee and working committees will develop Community Health Action Plans to address priority issues.



Our Health Care Study and Action Group will be closely monitoring the process and will closely review the health outcomes. I would like to challenge our other study and action groups (Local Government, Climate Change and Sustainability, and Public Education) to review the findings of the assessment and consider appointing representatives of the League to cover and participate in meetings scheduled by the Leon County Health Department to develop Community Health Action Plans in priority areas. Please let me know if you would like to receive a copy of the draft assessment report. You can reach me by email at kathywinnclan@embarqmail.com.

Kathy Winn, President

League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

Poll-Working Fundraiser

For several elections, LWVT has adopted a precinct and members have donated their pollworking wages to the League as a fundraiser supporting our voter services work. If you work at another precinct, you may also donate your wages, or part of them.

Call or [email Peggy Ramsey](mailto:Peggy.Ramsey@lwvt.org) (386-7589) with any questions you have. Thanks!

Peggy Ramsey, LWVT Treasurer



Speakers Bureau: The Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Kathy Winn, Carol Weissert, Marty Monroe, Linda Davis, and Stuart Baker presented or assisted in explaining the five proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution to the following groups: Leon County Black Democratic Caucus, Leon County Democratic Women's Club, Progressive Democrats at the Uptown Café, Westminster Oaks, Capital City Kiwanis, Leon County Democratic Party, Tallahassee League Local Candidate Forum, Unitarian Universalist Church, Trinity Methodist Church, and Delta Sigma Theta Alumnae. We hope that the Speakers Bureau will continue to be an integral part of the League's efforts to create an informed electorate.

Stuart Baker, Chair of the LWVT Speakers Bureau

October Candidate Forums

The October candidate forums were held on Wednesday, October 12, and Thursday, October 13, in the City Hall Commission Chambers. We want to thank the members of the Local Government Study Group who once again organized the Forums and with the presentations. In addition to Joan and Linda, they were Marty Monroe and Martha Stewart. Thanks to Communications Committee members Pat Curtis and Maggie Lawrence who helped us publicize the forums, and very special thanks to some folks who helped both nights: our moderator Trimmel Gomes, our question screeners Marilynn Wills and Richard Polangin, and our timer Stuart Baker. Stuart also deserves thanks for presenting the League's PowerPoint presentation on the proposed state constitutional amendments. Other League members who helped one or both nights were Peggy Ramsey, Pam Price, Lisa Shuman, Beth Hollister and Meghan Everett.

Candidates for the At-Large County Commission seat, David Hawkins and Mary Ann Lindley, as well as County Commission District 2 candidate Jimbo Jackson, participated in the Wednesday night forum. Rocky Hanna and Jackie Pons, candidates for School Board Superintendent, presented their positions, as did the four candidates for Sheriff: Walt McNeil, Tommy Mills, Charles Strickland and Mike Wood.



Candidates for Sheriff

Thursday night the candidates for Supervisor of Elections, Mark Earley and Alan Williams, had a spirited debate. State Senator Bill Montford, campaigning for re-election, answered questions. Lorraine Ausley and Jim Messer, candidates for State House of Representatives District 9, and Jack Campbell and Pete Williams, running for State Attorney, also participated in the Thursday night event.

The general election in Leon County will be on November 8, 2016. The League of Women Voters encourages all citizens to learn about the issues, the candidates and to vote. Those who were unable to attend the forums may go to Vote411Leon.org to find election information you may need.

*Joan Kanan, Chair
Local Government Study & Action Group*

Voter Services Continues to be Busy



On Monday, September 26, Bandwagon 2016 for the general election took place on two television channels: WFSU 11 or Comcast 5 and Comcast 4. Thank you to Margaret Boeth, Linda Davis, Erin Edwards, Frederick Findling, Janet Findling, Debbie Gibson, Liz Holifield, Ann Megargee, Peggy Ramsey, Marilynn Wills, and Kathy Winn. Thanks also to Leon High School students, Leon County Supervisor of Elections, Gadsden County Supervisor of Elections, and Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections.

On Thursday, October 6, 2016, The Candidates Environmental Forum was held at City Hall. This was organized by the Big Bend Environmental Forum and its coalition members, including the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee. Dan Henderson and Susie Caplowe again made sure we had food and drink. The League members who helped at the forum were Margarat Boeth, Linda Davis, Janet Findling, Debbie Gibson, Dot Skofronick, James Skofronick, and Marilynn Wills.

Trey Foerster, the Peace Corps Campus Recruiter, and Empowering Women Globally, invited us to set up a table at FSU's Askew Center on October 17 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. These two organizations are attempting to recruit volunteers for their groups. Copies of the 2016 nonpartisan VOTER GUIDE by the League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund went fast because many had not previously read anything about the proposed Constitutional amendments.

If anyone worked for the Peace Corp and would be willing to discuss your experience, please let Janet know. Call 850/942-2291 or email janetfindling@comcast.net.

Voter Services has also been busy over the last couple of months recruiting League members to participate in the "Lunch & Learn" programs conducted by Leon County at various community centers in the county. Thanks to Leon County Senior Outreach Programs, we were invited to the following community centers: Miccosukee, Lake Jackson, Woodville, Ft. Braden, and Chaires. We had our display and were able to answer questions, provide Voter Service Guides, register voters, change addresses of voters and, of course, give away the most popular items: the "flag" fans and the mints!! We enjoyed talking to our seniors and they expressed their gratitude to the League of Women Voters. Thanks to Linda Davis, Pamela Price, and Kathy Winn for their assistance in manning the tables.

In addition to all the above, the League had a table at the "Fifth Annual Welcome Back Students" on August 27, at Railroad Square Art Park. Thanks to Ann Floyd-Lucas, Lisa Shuman, Trishia Finkey, and members of the FSU League of Women Voters for their assistance during the day.

Janet Findling & Margaret Boeth
Voter Services Co-chairs

The History of Thanksgiving (According to History.com)

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies.

For some scholars, the jury is still out on whether the feast at Plymouth really constituted the first Thanksgiving in the United States. Indeed, historians have recorded other ceremonies of thanks among European settlers in North America that predate the Pilgrims' celebration. In 1565, the Spanish explorer Pedro Menéndez de Avilé invited members of the local Timucua tribe to a dinner in St. Augustine, Florida, after holding a mass to thank God for his crew's safe arrival.



The First Thanksgiving.

For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

Although the American concept of Thanksgiving developed in the colonies of New England, its roots can be traced back to the other side of the Atlantic. Both the Separatists who came over on the Mayflower and the Puritans who arrived soon after brought with them a tradition of providential holidays--days of fasting during difficult or pivotal moments and days of feasting and celebration to thank God in times of plenty.

As an annual celebration of the harvest and its bounty, moreover, Thanksgiving falls under a category of festivals that spans cultures, continents and millennia. In ancient times, the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans feasted and paid tribute to their gods after the fall harvest. Thanksgiving also bears a resemblance to the ancient Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot. Finally, historians have noted that Native Americans had a rich tradition of commemorating the fall harvest with feasting and merrymaking long before Europeans set foot on their shores.

Gently Needling You!

The Health Care Study and Action Group would like to remind you that it is not too late to get your flu shot. The Centers for Disease Control says flu vaccines cause antibodies to develop in the body about two weeks after vaccination. These antibodies provide protection against infection with the viruses that are in the vaccine. The seasonal flu vaccine protects against the influenza viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming season. So don't put it off any longer -- get that flu shot!

Want to Enjoy Turkey Day But Not Overdo?

You might want to take this amusing quiz from [WebMD: Better Information, Better Health](#).

Heads Up!

There will be no December Voter. Our Holiday Luncheon will be on December 10. You will receive an invitation with details later, but mark your calendars now!

Thomas and Deborah Holt

Sabrina Hartley



Voter Deadline

The next Voter will be the January Voter. The deadline for submission of material is December 27. Please e-mail your material to lqdavis75@gmail.com.

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