



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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October's Hot Topic will be a discussion of the Urban Land Institute Study of South City. This study sets out a blueprint for environmental, social and economic development of the southern portion of the city of Tallahassee. League members may go to the [ULI Website](#) to see the 50-page report that is the basis for our discussion.



David Powell

There will be a three-person panel headed by David Powell, chair of the ULI Technical Assistance Panel on Tallahassee--South City. David is a shareholder in the Tallahassee firm of Hopping Green & Sams. He practices in the field of land use and real estate development.

He will be joined by Gabriel Menendez, the Director of Public Works for the City of Tallahassee since 2003. Mr. Menendez has over 31 years of engineering experience at the state and municipal level in both the public and private realms.



Gabriel Menendez

The third panel member is Torrio Osborne, a principal with Washington & Greenard, a law firm involved in business development. Mr. Osborne was a representative of South City on the ULI study.



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

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

13 Tuesday 6:00 p.m. Leon County Commission Public Hearing, Zoning Map Amendment, County Courthouse, 5th floor

14 Wednesday 12 Tallahassee Ethics Board Meeting, City Hall 2nd floor

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

19 Monday 9:00 a.m. CRTPA Meeting, City Hall, 2nd floor

21 Wednesday 3:30 p.m., City Commission Workshop, City Hall, 2nd floor

27 Tuesday 1:30 p.m. County Workshop on MWSBE (Minorities, Women & small Business Enterprise), County Courthouse, 5th floor



Torrio Osborne

This study looks at several of the issues selected by the Tallahassee League for investigation, including increased web access for students living in South City, improved economic development for the area, and better transportation for the economically disadvantaged and elderly.

The panel will explain the recommendations of the ULI study and we will look at how the LWVT can participate in their implementation.

Joan Kanan
Chair of Local Government Study & Action Group

Date October 28, 2015
Time 11:30 a.m. -- 1:00 p.m.
Location Capital City Country Club
1601 Golf Terrace Drive
Menu Grilled salmon or eggplant Napoleon, tossed salad, vegetables, rolls and butter, coffee and tea
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 24, those who cancel late should reimburse the League for the cost of their reservations.

President's Message

Even before the regular session begins next year, important things are happening this fall in the Florida Legislature, both in committee meetings and a special session.



27 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.
Quality of Life Target
Issue Comm. Meeting,
City Hall, Tallahassee
Room

27 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.,
Leon County
Commission Meeting,
County Courthouse, 5th
floor

27 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Joint City/County Public
Hearing on Cycle 2015-2
Comp Plan Amendments
County Courthouse, 5th
floor

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

27 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
LWVT Board Meeting
United Church in
Tallahassee, 1834
Mahan Drive

28 Wednesday 11:30
a.m. -- 1:00 p.m.
LWVT Hot Topics
Capitol City Country
Club

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

The League is following bills that address gun safety. Those include House Bill 163 which allows people with concealed weapons permits to display firearms in public ("open carry"). This proposed bill, which is matched by Senate Bill (SB 300), will be considered by the Criminal Justice Committee beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Room 417 of the House Office Building on Tuesday, October 6. Wear your button and come out and support League opposition.

A Special Session to redraw the State's Senate Districts is scheduled for October 19 through November 6, 2015. If you are interested in being an observer (and they say it will be much more interesting than the congressional district map discussions!), please let us know. The League phone number is (850) 309-3005.

The regular session of the Florida Legislature will begin early next year and is scheduled to happen between January 12 and March 11, 2016. Between now and then, there will be a lot of committee work on bills. You may want to join the Lobby Corps and work with Debbie Harrison Rumberger, the State League Advocacy Coordinator, who is always watching for bills that touch on the priorities of the League of Women Voters of Florida.

Between now and then, local Leagues have been asked to conduct interviews with members of their legislative delegations. For us, that's Bill Montford, Michelle Rehwinkel-Vasilinda, Alan Williams, and Halsey Beshears. Interview guidelines are available, and we always go in pairs.

There are a lot of opportunities to get involved. I apologize for always asking you to volunteer for something, but your presence does make a difference. We couldn't do what we do without you!

Kathy Winn
President, League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

Seen at the Last Hot Topic



Matt Chentnik



Rebecca Sager

Juliett Reilly

Karen Wendland



The League Studies Open Primaries

Did you know that Florida has one of the lowest primary election voter turnout rates in the country? Would changing our closed primary system to an open system increase voter turnout?

The current League of Women Voters state study is attempting to answer that question. Local Leagues are conducting face-to-face interviews with their supervisors of elections and leaders of the major parties, as well as the leaders of the top two minor parties in each county. Locally, primary election turnout in the last four primary elections ranged from 24 percent to 36 percent. Hopefully, this study will produce some pertinent information that will enable us to increase voter turnout.

Marilynn Wills

The FSU League is Busy!



The FSU League conducted a straw poll as a fundraiser. Students threw their change into the glass holding the stick image of their candidate.



The FSU League also registered dozens of voters on campus on National Registration Day



Keep up the good work!!!

Health Care Study and Action Group

Members of the LWVT should be pleased to learn that the Leon County Commissioners voted at their September 29th Budget Hearing to continue Primary Healthcare Funding at just over \$1.9 million. This figure continues funding at the same level as in the 2015 budget and provides funding for Bond Community Health Center, Neighborhood Medical Center and Apalachee Mental Health Center to continue to provide primary care and mental health patient visits for uninsured people. Rather than independently contracting with these programs for a predetermined number of patient visits, the current plan is to pool the available funding allowing each program to be reimbursed for patient visits up to the maximum amount of the funding pool. Twenty percent of the pool is reserved for mental health visits. While the most of the \$1.9 million is allocated to primary care and mental health patient visits, funding is continued for the Capital Medical Society Foundation's We Care Program, FAMU Pharmacy Pharmaceutical Services, the FAMU Pharmacy Diabetes Partnership, and the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Trauma Center.



The State League is expecting to continue funding local Leagues to work on expanding health care access. Last year, the program was known as the Closing the Gap campaign and the emphasis was on encouraging the Florida Legislature to accept federal Medicaid funding to expand health care coverage for people with incomes below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. This year, the campaign will be focused on supporting bills in the Legislature that generally expand health care availability.

The Health Care Study and Action Group is planning a presentation on mental health for the November Hot Topic luncheon. Be sure to watch your November Voter for specific details about that luncheon, which is scheduled for November 18, 2015.

Kathy Winn
Chair, Health Care Study & Action Group

Leaguers Out and About

First, there is former LWVT member Ruth O'Donnell who is now a transplant to a League in North Carolina. Apparently, the Appalachians aren't high enough for our adventurous friend. Ruth and Walter took a trip out west and here is Ruth on top of Lone Mountain (elevation 11,162 feet) in Montana.



Ruth O'Donnell

And then there are those of us who prefer a good cocktail party. Linda Davis, Jessica Lowe-Minor, Erin Edwards, and Peggy Ramsey raised a glass at the INIE's (Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence) Nonprofit After Dark Networking Social at The Edison. Jessica is INIE's new Executive Director. We made some new friends in other nonprofits and had a good time. Thanks for inviting us, Jessica!



Voter Deadline

The next Voter will be the November Voter. The deadline for submission of material is **Wednesday, October 28**. Please e-mail your material to lqdavis75@gmail.com.

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