



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE

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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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Tougher Choices Facing Florida's Future



Carol Weissert, LeRoy Collins Eminent Scholar and Professor of Political Science at FSU, will highlight findings from a recent Collins Institute report charting progress in the state on such policies as primary and secondary education, higher education, Medicaid, infrastructure and the state retirement system.

Carol Weissert is Director of the LeRoy Collins Institute, a nonpartisan, statewide policy organization located at FSU which studies and promotes creative solutions to key private and public issues facing the people of Florida and the nation.

Carol is also the editor of *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, which is the world's leading journal devoted to federalism. *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* is an international journal and is dedicated to publishing work on federalist systems throughout the world. Its goal is to publish the latest research from around the world on federalism theory and practice; the dynamics of federal systems; intergovernmental relations and administration; regional, state and provincial governance; and comparative federalism.

Join us on September 24 at 11:30 a.m. as we learn about various problems in Florida's future and what progress, if any, has been made towards solving them.



02 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.
Leon County Commission
County Courthouse

Date	September 24, 2014 Wednesday (FOURTH WEDNESDAY)
Time	11:30 a.m.--1:00 p.m. Hot Topic Luncheon (buffet followed by speaker)
Location	Capital City Country Club, 1601 Golf Terrace Drive
Menu	Pecan crusted chicken and stuffed manicotti, salad bar, vegetables, rolls and butter, coffee and tea.

5th floor

03 Wednesday 12:00 noon
City Commission
City Hall 2nd floor

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

09 Local Gov't S & A Group
6:30 p.m.
Joan Kanan's house
2974 Bayshore Drive

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

15 Monday 1:00 p.m.
CRTPA meeting
City Hall, 2nd floor

16 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Leon County Commission
County Courthouse
5th floor

22 Monday 4:00 p.m.
City Commission
City Hall 2nd floor

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

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

23 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Leon County School Board,
Howell Center
2955 West Pensacola Street

Cost Members - \$17 Nonmembers - \$20

The first three student members to RSVP eat FREE!!

FOR RESERVATIONS please call 309-3005 or e-mail
LWVTallahassee@gmail.com

Please RSVP by Saturday morning, September 20.

Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled after Saturday, September 20, those who cancel late should reimburse the League for the cost of their reservations.

President's Message

When you join and contribute your dues to the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee, you are also joining and supporting the state and national Leagues. And members of our local League are active in advocating for issues at the national, state and local levels, as well.



This past month, LWVT member Teri Cleeland and I joined Brad Ashwell and Walt Dartland, representing State Voices and Common Cause Florida, in a meeting with Lori Hutto of Congressman Steve Southerland's staff. We were there to talk about the federal Voting Rights Amendment Act (H.R. 3899/S.1945) which is currently stalled in Congress. The amendment, sponsored by Representative Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin, updates the formula for pre-approval of changes to voting rights legislation that was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court last year. Since the ruling on Section 5, 22 states have passed laws restricting the right to vote. We wanted to encourage Congressman Southerland to support the amendment and to encourage fellow House members to consider the bill after their summer break.

At the state level, members of the Tallahassee League observed meetings of the Florida Legislature when they met in a Special Session to redraw congressional voting districts determined unconstitutional by Judge Terry Lewis, following a lawsuit by the League and other civic engagement organizations.

At the local community level, our efforts focus on events that directly affect the lives of local residents, like the proposed amendment to the City of Tallahassee Charter addressing ethics reform. When the City Commissioners turned down a recommendation by their appointed Ethics Advisory Panel to establish an independent ethics officer to address possible conflicts of interest and corruption, we helped Citizens for Ethics Reform collect petitions to get an amendment on the ballot and allow voters to decide how ethics and campaign finance will be addressed locally. Check the status of this unsettled issue and how you can help in the article entitled "High Noon at City Hall" in this newsletter.

24 Wednesday 11:30 a.m.
Hot Topics Luncheon
Capital City Country Club
1601 Golf Terrace Drive

We are trying to make democracy work at all levels of government. By renewing your membership, you support our activities. You are invited to join in the action.

Kathy Winn
President, League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

In Memoriam

LWVT lost one of its 50-year members when Florence Wills passed away in August. Those who knew Florence found her to be a very bright and funny lady, who challenged us to always learn new things and keep laughing. The Board of Directors voted to add a leaf to the Catherine Poynter Commemorative Tree at the LWVF state office in her memory. Her family requested donations in her memory be sent to LWV of Tallahassee. We miss you, Florence!

Peggy Ramsey

Marcia M. Foushee
Will Guzman
Cindy Miller
Donna Northuis
Debbie Gibson
Patricia Curtis
Hentoya L. Maples

John Rutledge
Jack Levine
Sarah Howard Bozeman
Jann Bellamy
Jane Gardner
Binky Greene
Myrtle Bailey



Voter Registration Qualification--Alert



If you were qualified to register voters on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Florida before and during the election cycle two years ago or before, you are **not** qualified to register voters for the current election cycle. The state voter registration regulations have been changed and, therefore, LWVF's training and test has been changed. You must take the training and pass the quiz again before you can register voters for the League.

The League's voter registration quiz can be accessed via the training presentation called "Step 1" on the LWV of Florida's web site at thefloridavoter.org/for-members/voter-registration. After completing the quiz, you will receive an email message from the state staff with further instructions and the next steps.

The League of Women Voters of Tallahassee has only a few people qualified to register voters at this point. We desperately need more people. So, please, take the training and pass the quiz and you'll be good to go!

Linda Davis

Big Bend Environmental Forum 2014--Past and Future

Sponsored by the Big Bend Environmental Forum (a coalition) and the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

Thanks to Marilyn Wills and Dan Hendrickson, and numerous others for setting up our LWV exhibit and our food/drink tables and purchasing drinks, etc., and the member organizations of BBEF for bringing food and other necessities on August 7 to City Hall. The League was able to use some of the great leftovers from Bandwagon earlier in the month. Again, the moderator was Tom Flanigan of WFSU-FM, who also helped moderate Bandwagon.

The next Candidates' Environmental Forum is Thursday, October 9, at City Hall. Please attend to discover the candidates' knowledge and opinions about the environment, energy, sustainability, and growth management issues. The forum will start at 6:00 p.m. but exhibits of member organizations, refreshments, and the candidate meet and greet will start at 5:15 p.m. Contact Janet if you would like to help provide and/or set up the food and/or the LWVT exhibit.

For more information about the Big Bend Environmental Forum contact Janet Findling, Voter Services Co-Chair, [850-942-2291](tel:850-942-2291) (accepts calls till 1:00 a.m.) or janetfindling@comcast.net.

Janet Findling
Voter Services Co-Chair

Bandwagon 2014--Past and Future

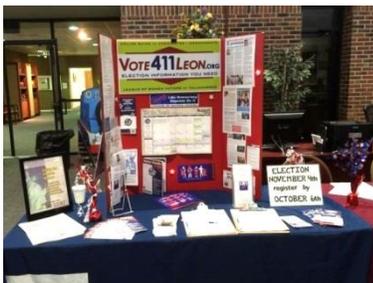
Thank you so much for taking all of the roles for which I sought volunteers for Bandwagon (primary election) 2014 in the August Voter. The WFSU-TV producer and one of the moderators, Suzanne Smith, thought this Bandwagon was the best one we have done so far! I agree. Thanks to everyone for advertising Bandwagon and helping produce Bandwagon on 4FSU Cable live and later on telecasts and on live webcast wfsu.org/bandwagon2014 and later online. Those who worked at the WFSU-TV studio on August 12 and/or 13 are:

Erin Edwards, Frederick Findling, Ann Floyd-Lucas, Dan Hendrickson, Catherine Jernigan, Laura Jernigan, Ruth O'Donnell, Joan Patterson, Pat Ramsey, Peggy Ramsey, Jan RuBino, Richard RuBino, Rebecca Sager, Dot Skofronick, Marilynn Wills, Kathy Winn, Gale Workman.

Let me know if you want to help at Bandwagon (general election) 2014 on Wednesday, October 8, how you want to help, and if you want to bring any food. You need to be at WFSU-TV at 5:30 p.m. The show starts at 7:00 p.m. Many thanks!

Janet Findling
Bandwagon 2014 Coordinator
Voter Services Co-Chair

Bandwagon August 12 & 13, 2014





About Vote411Leon.org

To help voters gain easy access to information they need to make a more informed choice on election day, volunteer members of the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee have created this impartial, nonpartisan online guide available at Vote411Leon.org.

"Whether it's 2 a.m., 2 weeks or 20 minutes before you go to vote, Vote411Leon.org has the Election Information You Need."

All candidates running in Leon county, including judges, are included; the General Election voter guide coming soon to Vote411Leon.org will also contain pros and cons on the constitutional amendments; these constitutional ballot initiatives will appear on your November 6th General Election ballot.

Because Vote411Leon.org is impartial and nonpartisan, you will feel good about emailing all the voters you know to tell them about Vote411Leon.org -- colleagues, friends, and family members will all appreciate knowing that this valuable online election tool is available to them.

Please send the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee your comments and ideas for how our Voter Guide Committee can make our Vote411Leon.org online voter guide better and easier to use. Please send to janetfindling@comcast.net or call (850) 942-2291.

More About Vote411Leon.org

From Vote411Leon.org, voters can link to see "What's on my ballot?", learn "Where do I vote?", and "What's my district?" Voters can find their polling place, learn when and how to cast a ballot, and read how to contact the Supervisor of Elections for immediate assistance on election day, such as to report or resolve questions or problems with voting.

Each candidate's page includes:

- * brief job description and salary for office sought
- * candidate's biography
- * candidate's campaign contact information with live link to their campaign website
- * responses to questions revealing candidate's priorities and values on issues of immediate public concern
- * link to view candidate's campaign contributions
- * link to candidate's 3-minute video messages (recorded at WFSU's Bandwagon on August 1st & 2nd)
- * link to Tallahassee Bar judicial polls results (for judicial candidates only)

Vote411Leon.org will continually be updated with the latest, accurate information.

VOTE411LEON.ORG

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE

HIGH NOON AT CITY HALL

On Friday, August 29, Circuit Court Judge Charles Francis ruled in favor of Citizens for Ethics Reform, stating that the amendment should be placed on the ballot.

City Attorney Lewis Shelley did not close the door on a possible appeal by the city. If that were to happen, it would be impossible to meet the deadline for placing the ethics amendment on the ballot.

The City Commission will meet on Wednesday, September 3 at noon to vote on placing the amendment on the ballot. We need lots of citizens to attend that meeting to show their support for placing the ethics amendment on the November ballot.

Mark your calendars, Leaguers, and attend the City Commission meeting on Wednesday. The statutes state that the commission "shall place the amendment on the ballot," but that didn't stop the city from filing suit to keep it off the ballot. We want to ensure that we always have an ethical government in Tallahassee. BE THERE to show your support for the amendment.

Marilynn Wills



My League Story by Ruth O'Donnell

I joined the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee in 2008, just after resigning my full-time employment as Executive Director of the Florida Library Association. I had been anxious to join earlier but didn't have the time to participate. My reasons for joining are several. First, I wanted to join a civic group with a strong reputation for credibility and service and that defines the League. Secondly, I wanted to find a group of intelligent, professional people willing to discuss issues in a reasoned fashion and lastly, I hoped to find a group where I could become an active member very quickly. I found all these and more in my League and am grateful for the opportunities membership has afforded me.

Story gathered by Martha Stewart

Health Care Study and Action Group



The Health Care Study and Action Group met on July 28 to discuss the status of CareNet funding for health care services for the uninsured and to follow-up on the Baby Friendly initiative. It was decided that Kathy Winn would contact Tallahassee Memorial Hospital for an update on the status of the Baby Friendly initiative and that group members would attend related events sponsored by the Breast Feeding Coalition on Friday, August 1, 2014. The group will follow up on discussions about charging for breastfeeding and infant CPR classes at TMH and Capital Regional.

Kathy reported that funding for CareNet programs is included in Leon County's proposed budget for 2014-2015 at the same amount as for previous years (\$1.7 million). Public hearings on the budget are scheduled during an Intergovernmental Agency meeting between City and County Commissioners at 5:30 p.m. on September 15 (in the second floor Commission Chambers of City Hall) and during regular Board of County Commission Meetings at 6:00 p.m. on September 16 and 23. Members are encouraged to attend.

The Group is responsible for coordination of the Hot Topics Luncheon in November and members of the League are encouraged to suggest ideas for topics and speakers.

Contact Kathy Winn at [850/766-2612](tel:8507662612) or send an email to kathywinnclan@embarqmail.com.

*Kathy Winn
Health Care S & A Chair*

Climate Change and Sustainability Study and Action Group

We are working with the Sustainable Tallahassee Solar Advocacy Group to figure out the right approach to encourage bringing a solar community garden to the city of Tallahassee. Both this group and our LWVT Study and Action Group were working on similar issues so we decided to join forces to achieve more!

Also, our member Kim Ross, President and Founder of ReThink Energy Florida, a nonprofit dedicated to engaging, educating and empowering citizens to take action to achieve energy independence in a healthier, more sustainable environment, spoke to the Democratic Club of North Florida at their luncheon meeting recently on the subject of Fracking in Florida. The meeting was held at the Leon County Library. She was joined by Brian Lee, also a League member, and co-founder of ReThink Energy Florida and currently serving as the Director of Research and Policy. The diverse group asked some very thought-provoking questions. Kim and Brian are available to speak to other groups at other venues.

New members of our group are always welcome. At the League's recent new member orientation we met some other persons interested in Climate Change and we would love to have them join our group. Meetings are generally held late afternoon at 565 E. Tennessee Street. Contact Dot Skofronik at dsjs@embarqmail.com or 222-8544 for details about the next meeting.

Kim Ross and Dot Skofronik

LWV Tallahassee Voter Summer Education/Outreach

We now have two complete exhibit carts with big LWVT banners. The carts are stored at Kathy Winn's home. We also have acquired some Grade 6 civics textbooks for display purposes and as information for parents.

Thanks to the following who participated in 16 events for a total of 64 hours of outreach:

At the Downtown Market

May 31	Marty Monroe, Linda McCarthy	July 12	Kathy Winn
June 7	Marty Monroe, Sandra Kendall	July 19	Sandra Kendall, Carol Lee
June 14	Marty Monroe, Zana Raybon	July 26	Marty Monroe, Zana Raybon
June 21	Kathy Winn, Linda Davis	Aug. 2	Peggy Ramsey, Erin Edwards
June 28	Dot Skofronik, Ann Parker	Aug. 9	Donna Erlich, Carter McMillan
July 5	Bill and Carol Weissert	Aug. 16	Ruth O'Donnell, Connie Sauer-Adams

At the Flea Market

July 21	Marty Monroe, Miryam Rubenstein	Aug. 9	Marty Monroe, Judy Etemadi
Aug. 2	Marty Monroe, Judy Etemadi	Aug. 16	Marty Monroe, Judy Etemadi

Random comments from the flea market:

Thanked us for participating in the city ethics petition (3 tea party members)
Thanked us for participating in the congressional map court appeal
Thanked us for being at flea market (work during the week and can't get to libraries)
Requested LWVT speak at Gadsden County Souls to the Polls Sunday August 17
Indicated don't like to vote/proud not to vote (5 individuals)
Liberal perceptions of the league (3 individuals)
Asked where we stood with the Leon County Commission increase of fire department fee
Asked what type of identification is needed to vote
Asked the location of voting precincts
Stopped to chat on August 16 -- 32 people

We noted a large percentage of Wakulla and Gadsden residents at the flea market.

It's less than 10 weekends before the election, we need your help. We are looking for volunteers to staff our outreach tables each Saturday. The hours are 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon at the Downtown Market and 9:00 a.m.--1:00 p.m. at the flea market. Please send dates you can help to martymonroe@me.com.

Marty Monroe

VOTER DEADLINE

The next Voter will be the October Voter. The deadline for submission of material is Friday, October 3. Please e-mail your material to lgdavis75@gmail.com.

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