### The Florida Legislature vs. Local Control

Florida legislators are once again considering bills aimed at curtailing local governments' authority, raising an outcry from city and county officials who claim the bills threaten the principles of home rule. Issues currently being targeted by legislators range from development impact fees to tree removal.

Authors of this year's bills argue that cities and counties have overstepped their authority in many instances, and are attempting to thwart state and/or federal law. Opponents say this year's bills, like those previously passed, usurp the authority of city and county officials to effectively govern and respond to local needs.

The scope of the proposed bills and their potential impact on local government will be discussed at the League's upcoming February 28 Hot Topic dinner. Presenters will be C. Scott Dudley of the Florida League of Cities and Susan Harbin Alford, Senior Associate Director of Public Policy for the Florida Association of Counties.

A member of the Florida Bar, Mrs. Harbin Alford joined the Florida Association of Counties in 2012, and currently serves as a Senior Associate Director of Public Policy, focusing primarily on local government issues related to agriculture, environment, growth management, and transportation. She has also served as the Association's lead on issues related to health care and human services.

Prior to joining the Association, Mrs. Harbin Alford served as Legislative Counsel for the Broward County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Professional Standards. She is a 2009 graduate of the Florida State University College of Law, and has a degree in Environmental Economics and Management from the University of Georgia.

---

**In This Issue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our New Website</th>
<th>The Florida Legislature vs. Local Control</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Tour of The Grove</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Car Pledge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Car Pledge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change and Sustainability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January Hot Topic a Success</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News about Janet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of the Solar Tariff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Candidate Forums</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Services Opportunities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome New Members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let's Carpool</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Calendar of Events

06 Tuesday 6:8:30 p.m. Village Square (Call to reserve seat) **Order, Chaos & Homo Sapiens, St John's Episcopal Church**

08 Friday 12:00-1:00 p.m. City/County Status of Women & Girls **Committee Meeting**, Oasis Center, 317 E Call Street

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

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

20 Tuesday 1:30-3:00 p.m., **CRTPA Meeting**, City Hall 2nd floor

22 Thursday 5:30 p.m., **Tallahassee Town Hall 2018** Presented by Village Square WFSU 1600 Red Barber Plaza

22 Thursday 6:00--7:30 p.m., Information session **Leon County Solar Co-Op** Northeast Branch Library 5513 Thomasville Road

27 Tuesday 6:00 p.m. **Joint City/County Hearing Comprehensive Plan Amendments**, County Courthouse 5th floor

27 Tuesday 6:00-7:30 p.m. LWVT Board Meeting Graceful Solutions, 603 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blv'd.

27 Tuesday 3:00 p.m. **Leon County Commission**

---

### President's Message

**Happy Valentine's Day!**

The month of February is pretty special. There are a few holidays in this short month: Groundhog Day (2nd), Valentine's Day (14th), and Presidents' Day(19th this year). The whole month of February is celebrated as Black History Month, American Heart Month, Chocolate Lover's Month, and National Bird Feeding Month. I'm not sure how long Mardi Gras lasts but it's also in February.

February is an especially important month this year in the League's 2018 calendar. On the 6th and 7th many members from many local leagues in Florida will make their way to Tallahassee to invade the Legislature, make their voices heard, and gather together to celebrate our most recent victories and honor our allies. It will be a fun time and an educational time. We'll meet with legislators, learn how to lobby, meet members of other Leagues and share ideas. It's always good to find out how other Leagues do things. There will be a wonderful banquet Tuesday, the 6th, at our own Four Points by Sheraton.
County Courthouse 5th floor
27 Tuesday 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Red Carpet/Choose Tallahassee, Senior Center
1400 N. Monroe Street
27 Tuesday 6:00 p.m. Leon County School Board, Howell Center. 3955 W. Pensacola Street
28 Wednesday 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Hot Topics Luncheon Four Points-Sheraton Hotel 316 W. Tennessee Street
28 Wednesday 4:00 p.m. City Commission Meeting City Hall 2nd Floor

by Sheraton and a lovely Gala dinner Wednesday, the 7th, at the historic Woman's Club in Los Robles.

We currently have 15 members of LWVT registered for Legislative Summit! This might be a record for us, but there is certainly room for more. Don't pass up the opportunity to attend a League of Women Voters of Florida state-wide meeting right here at home - no bag to pack, no long-distance driving, and you get to sleep in your own bed! Come help us show the rest of the state what Tallahassee hospitality is really like. Click here for details and to register.

Don't delay -- last day to register is tomorrow, February 1!

Linda Davis, President
League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

Happy Valentines Day from me to all of you

Check Out the New LWVT Website

Erin Edwards, our webmaster, has put our new, spiffy website together! Check it out! Among other things, you can now join or renew your membership entirely online. Leaguers always want to know how to get involved, and our website will provide you with lots of choices.

League Member Exclusive! Private Tour of The Grove

Few historic sites in Florida have witnessed as much history as The Grove. For nearly two centuries, the people connected with this place have figured prominently in the moments that defined Tallahassee and Florida history. Built by Florida's first Governor Richard Keith Call, generations of his descendants made their mark here. Learn about the issues of their days, from slavery and the Civil War, to the rise of women entrepreneurs, to the civil rights achievements of Governor LeRoy Collins and his wife Mary Call Collins on this tour led by Director Johnathan Grandage.

We expect this tour to fill up quickly, so it is limited to members only. We can consider a future tour during a weekday if there is popular demand.

Date: Saturday February 17

Time: Noon
Parking: 902 N. Monroe, Tallahassee, FL 32303
Cost: $1.00 donation to the museum

RSVP: TeriCleeland@gmail.com

Note: There will be an outdoor nature walk open to the public that same day at 10:30 am. You can combine the two experiences or just join the nature walk if you wish. No RSVP is needed for the public nature walk. Click http://thegrovemuseum.com for more information.
Consider Serving on the Board of Directors!
Nominations Are Open Until February 10

This year will be a change election, with open seats and lots of opportunities and we're just talking about our League's Board of Directors! All four Officers and three Board slots will be up for election at our April Annual Meeting. The Board will also appoint up to six additional members for one year.

Our nominating committee will provide a slate of candidates for election in the March Voter.

All that is required is that the nominee be a voting member of our League and that they give their permission to be nominated. A little more information on how they might contribute to League leadership is also welcome.

Please contact any or all of the committee members below if you have any questions or want to make a nomination. You can also leave a message on our phone line at 850-309-3005. Nominations must be received BY FEBRUARY 10, 2018.

Teri Cleeland tcleeland@embarqmail.com
Marilyn Wills marilynnwills@msn.com
Jan RuBino rubinojan@yahoo.com
Carol Weissert cweissert@fsu.edu
Steve Urse surse2@comcast.net

Next Car Pledge

By choosing an electric vehicle (EV), instead of a gasoline or diesel car or truck, you will immediately reduce your emissions, help support new clean technology and protect the health of generations to come.

Transitioning to electric vehicles will also save you money in reduced maintenance and fuel costs, and support local economies through job creation and increased income. To find out more go to: https://www.nextcarpledge.org/.

Much News from the Climate Change & Sustainability Group
The Leon County Rooftop Solar Co-op is Launched
Solar UnitedNeighbors of Florida, along with their partners, is forming a solar co-op in Leon County to act as a buying club to secure the best price for solar panel installation and simplify the installation of solar power. Partners in this effort include Big Bend Sierra Club, League of Women Voters of Tallahassee, Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund, ReThink Energy, and Sustainable Tallahassee.

The Leon County Solar Co-op launched January 10 at the Leon County Extension Office. Interested homeowners and businesses can learn more at solarunitedneighbors.org/florida.

Joining the co-op is not a commitment to purchase panels. Once the group is large enough, Solar UnitedNeighbors of Florida will help the co-op solicit competitive bids from area solar installers. Co-op members will select a single company to complete all of the installations. They will then have the option to purchase panels individually based on the installer's group rate. By going solar as a group and choosing a single installer, the participants see higher quality, greater value bids.

**Next Rooftop Solar Co-op Information Meeting:**

At our recent first Rooftop Solar Co-op information meeting January 16, 58 people attended and learned about the benefits of joining a rooftop solar co-op. The next meeting will be held Thursday, February 22, at 6:00 p.m. at the North East Branch Library located at 5513 Thomasville Road. RSVP at the Solar UnitedNeighbors website: www.solarunitedneighbors.org/leon.

**Free Movie: Catching the Sun**

On Wednesday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. will be a free showing of the award winning movie, *Catching the Sun*. It will be shown at the Blue Tavern, located at 1206 North Monroe Street.

We will have a short announcement about the Leon County Solar Co-Op at the start of the film including instructions for signing up for the next information meeting. Come early, as seating is limited.

*Linda Lee, Chair*
*Climate Change/Sustainability Action & Study Group*

**Our Top Cops at the January Hot Topic**

Police Chief Michael DeLeo and Sheriff Walt McNeil provided an extremely informative program for a most attentive audience.
News About Janet Findling

Our long-time member Janet Findling, who suffered a stroke several months ago, has moved to an assisted living facility in Wichita, KS, to be near her family. Her address is:

Janet Findling  
Oxford Grand  
3051 N. Parkside Street #106  
Wichita, KS 67205  

We will miss Janet terribly and I’m sure she will miss her League activities to which she devoted so much of her time and energy. She would love a note or a card now and then and an update on what we are doing as we strive to uphold the high standards she set for us in the area of voter service.

The Impact of the Tariff on Residential Solar

Many of you may be worrying about what the recent tariff on solar panels will do to our efforts to go solar. You will be interested in this letter Linda Lee received from Anya Schoolman of Solar United Neighbors.

Dear Linda,

As you likely saw, the U.S. government has decided to impose a 30% tariff on solar equipment manufactured outside of the country. While it is too early to assess the full impact of the tariff, we are confident that homeowners who want to go solar will still be able to do so.
Solar panels are only one part of the cost of going solar. Other costs include system components besides the panels, such as racking and inverters, and non-equipment costs such as labor and permits. The tariff will not raise these costs. We estimate the 30% tariff will add about 10-15 cents per watt, or about 6% of a system's total cost. The increased cost of panels adds about $1,050 to the total system cost. Minus the 30% federal tax credit, and that additional cost lowers to $735.

The biggest threats to our ability to go solar have been, and will remain, at the state level. Utilities across the country are working to roll back net metering policies. Net metering ensures solar customers are fairly compensated for the electricity our systems generate. We'll continue to monitor attacks on solar at all levels of government to ensure your right to go solar is protected.

Best,

Anya Schoolman
Executive Director
Solar United Neighbors

Also: Remember the information session on the Leon County Solar Co-Op on February 22, 6:00--7:30 p.m. at the Northeast Branch Library, 5513 Thomasville Road.

Rooftop Solar Workshop

Photos from are from the first rooftop solar workshop on January 16 held at the Leon County Agricultural Building. Clearly there is lots of interest in solar!

Opportunities in Voter Services

"Do We Have Some Options For You ...!!!"

We are at the brink of an exciting election year and we need your help!!! The Voter Services Committee is gearing up for many opportunities to educate the public and register voters. There will be a meeting open to the League membership to briefly explain events and answer questions. You don't need to join the committee or make long-term commitments - we would be happy for your assistance for whatever time you want to offer. Please join us -- here are some options of how you can be involved:

REGISTER VOTERS at the parks or other invited locations.
SENIOR CENTERS: "LUNCH & LEARN." There are six Senior Centers in Leon County. Sign-up for a Center, for a couple of hours and oversee a table with information on important issues and to register voters. As with all League tabling events, there will be a team of two, so you won't be by yourself.

If you like 'COMPUTER' WORK: VOTER GUIDE & VOTE411LEON. You may volunteer to assist the webmaster, and in gathering candidate information, or writing or entering data.

CANDIDATE FORUMS: There will be at least 2 to 4 that will need volunteers to assist with logistics and the opportunity to meet candidates and listen to their platform.

BANDWAGON (Primary & General Elections): Would you like to get a behind-the-scenes look at how WFSU TV puts together its candidate forum or assist with the candidates? There are many volunteer jobs that day.

CANDIDATE LIAISON: A League member will be selected to be the "communicator" from the League to each candidate for information concerning forums, Band Wagon and other events that the League is sponsoring. Only that one League member will be contacting the candidate to answer questions they might have about the League events.

REFRESHMENTS: Maybe you would prefer to occasionally make cookies or purchase a food item, or be in charge of a refreshment table. Maybe you would just like to be on a Refreshment Committee.

If there is something else that would be under "Voter Services" that we have forgotten, please let us know and we'll put you to work.

There will be a meeting:

February 27, Tuesday from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Supervisor of Elections Office
2990-1 Apalachee Pkwy
Tallahassee, FL 32301

This meeting is open to any League member who might be interested in participating in a Voter Service function. Please come and join us!

Please reply to voterserviceslwvt@gmail.com if you think you might attend the meeting, so we will have a general idea of how many to expect. (We want you there, whether you send an e-mail or not).

For questions, please email us at voterserviceslwvt@gmail.com or call:
Margaret Boeth 504-8492 (H) 508-4800 (C)
Barb Licht 254-5578 (C)

Margaret Boeth, Chair
Voter Services

Melissa Turner
Mark Ervin
Danielle Irwin
Christine Graham
Mayra Mendoza
Liz Coughlin
Let's Carpool!

Anyone needing a ride or seeking to drive less, reduce their carbon footprint, or just get to know their fellow League members better can sign up for carpooling to Hot Topics or other League events by sending their name, address, phone number and/or email address to metaorleans@gmail.com. We need sufficient numbers to make this work. Thanks. You would be amazed at how many members practically live next door to each other, but we need your permission to put you together.

Voter Deadline

The next Voter will be the March Voter. The deadline for submission of material is February 24. Please e-mail your material to sbaker@fsu.edu

LWVT Board of Directors 2017-2018

(Board members are either elected or appointed. Those elected are so indicated by "E" and their term of office. Appointed members (A) serve one year but may be re-appointed. Officers are elected for one year.)

Linda Davis, President
Communications
878-7320(h), 559-0935(m)
lgdavis75@gmail.com

Teri Cleeland
Vice-President
Membership Chair
703-201-1391m/668-6383h
tcleeland@embargmail.com

Margaret Boeth, Secretary
Voter Services Chair
504-8492h/508-4800m
rmbt1947@gmail.com

Peggy Ramsey
Treasurer
386-7589(h)
ramsey020@comcast.net

Liz Holifield (E 2016-18)
574-2792h/556-8548m
lizholifield@yahoo.com

Margie Thomas (E 2016-18)
Public Education Chair
270-9750h
margie.thomas2010@comcast.net

Erin Edwards (E 2017-19)
Webmaster
615-419-5546
erinedwards22@comcast.net

Joan Kanan (E 2017-19)
Local Government Chair
294-7763m
joankanan03@yahoo.com

Sandra Kendall (E 2017-19)
251-421-5663m
fitzkendall841@gmail.com

Sabrina Hartley (A)
559-2027m
sabrina.hartley878@yahoo.com

Linda Howard (A)
216-2108m
lschaden@comcast.net

Steve Urse (A)
385-2864h
surse2@comcast.net

Carol Weissert (A)
297-0111h
carolweissert@gmail.com

Off-Board Specialists

Kathy Winn
Public Health Care Chair
766-2612(m)
kathywinnclan@embargmail.com

Linda Lee
Climate and Sustainability Chair
894-0080h
leelindaLWV@gmail.com

Ramona Abernathy-Paine
Local Government Chair
656-6182
Rapweaver@embargmail.com

Stuart Baker
Editor
Speakers’ Bureau Chair
386-1036
sbaker@fsu.edu