MISSION STATEMENT:

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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Public Education at a Crossroads: Supporting Leon County's Under-performing Schools

A free community forum to understand the challenges facing some local public schools, many located on the southside, and finding strategies to support them. A panel consisting of a parent, a teacher, a district administrator, and a state education leader will discuss the issues from their unique perspectives. There will be ample time for questions and comments from the audience. Please come and show your support for our neighborhood public schools.

Please note different location. The school is near Pier 1 Imports and there is ample parking.

Light refreshments will be served.

Participants:
Host: Dr. Rhonda Blackwell-Flanagan, Principal, Hartsfield Elementary School
Moderator: Dr. Sally Butzin, Vice President, League of Women Voters of Tallahassee and Founder of the Institute for School Innovation
Panel: Dr. Michelle Gayle, Assistant Superintendent, Leon County Schools
         Stephanie Parramore, Teacher and Team Leader, Oak Ridge Elementary School
         Melissa Ramsey, Vice Chancellor, Florida Department of Education
         Johnitta Wells, Parent and Chair of the District Advisory Council

Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2019
Time: 6:00 -- 7:30 p.m.
Location: Hartsfield Elementary School
          1414 Chowkebin Nene

Dr. Blackwell-Flanagan
Last week marked the celebration of National Voter Registration Day, reminding everyone to make sure they're ready to vote. Every day is Voter Registration day for the League of Women Voters, and I'm so thankful for our Voter Services cadre out and about each week sharing information about voting. Please remind friends and family that they can register with us at the Saturday Downtown Market and at most local government offices, such as libraries and the tax collector. You can check your registration status at LeonVotes.org and register online at RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov.

There is plenty going on with our active members doing a variety of important projects in the community, which you can read about in this newsletter. I'm impressed with the energy, interest, and skills that our members bring to our work. If you find something that interests you, please contact the project leads listed here and jump in!

Our Centennial commemoration of the League of Women Voters and the 19th Amendment is shaping up with some fun events being planned. We are still hoping to fund our Voting Matters WFSU project in the coming year and appreciate the donations received this far. If you would like to help us inform listeners about voting milestones and information, please visit our donation page and insert "WFSU" in the notation line.

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women is gearing up to celebrate the Centennial of Women's Suffrage by asking women throughout the state to fill out an online survey to learn about the most pressing issues affecting Florida women today. Please go to their website to find out more about this and other news.

Our next Hot Topic will be another free community conversation about our local schools, at Hartsfield Elementary School (see above). Be sure to mark your calendars for the changed location. I look forward to seeing you there!

In League,

Teri Cleeland, President
League of Women Voters of Tallahassee
Climate Change/Sustainability Study and Action Group

100% Renewable Energy by 2035
Over 75 people attended an important presentation about Tallahassee’s transition to renewable energy on September 19 at the Leroy Collins Public Library. Dr. Munir Humayun, professor in the Department of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science, shared his creative insights during a community discussion about how Tallahassee can swiftly move to 100% Renewable Energy. Cheaper solar panels are right around the corner. Improved battery storage technology could make all-electric vehicles cost-competitive with fossil fuel powered vehicles by 2025. EV batteries that can no longer power cars can be reused as storage for excess solar electricity in homes. These are just some of the conclusions drawn from research by Dr. Humayun that predicts how Tallahassee can move to 100% Renewable Energy by 2035.

Update on the City’s Second Solar Farm
The 40 MWV solar farm is on track to be completed by the end of the year. Modules have arrived (much larger than usual at 420 watts per module). They are also 20% more efficient than the ones two years ago. That means a smaller footprint for the same energy. The solar farm is expected to be "commercialized" in the first quarter of 2020. Origis is again using Blattner Energy and Blattner has hired union employees.

Steps You can take today:
Reduce Plastic Waste. Whenever possible, try to avoid single-use coffee cups, disposable utensils, straws and napkins.
Re-purpose and Reuse. Before you go buy something new, consider buying it used. That can also save you lots of money in addition to saving items from ending up in the dump.
Shop Local Farmers Markets. Support your local farmers while also getting fresher ingredients than you might find in the big-box grocery store.

Linda Lee, Chair
Climate Change/Sustainability Study and Action Group

Lobby Corps in Action
A sincere thank you to Lobby Corps Members who participated in Advocacy Training, Delegation Interviews, Press Conferences, and Committee Meetings in September.
The State League and we are focused on seven Legislative Priorities. Our number one priority is, and always will be, related to Government and Election Law. This session we are focused on bills supporting automatic voter registration (opt-out system), same-day registration and improved online voter registration. The remaining six are Education, Gun Safety, Natural Resources, Health Care, Economic Equality & Affordable Housing, and Juvenile Justice. In short, we have our work cut out for us and it should be an exciting session. The 2020 elections and ultimate outcomes will help shape bills and subsequent legislation without doubt.

The 2020 Legislative Session calendar is at right. Pre-session Committee Meetings will occur two weeks in both October & November, and one week in December. Regular Session begins mid-January (yes, it's early this year).

The Lobby Days Conference and Banquet is an opportunity to meet Senators and Representatives and Leaguers from around the state who are also involved in promoting the Legislative Priorities in their districts. This year the banquet will be held on the 22nd Floor of the Capital. Due to the number of League Priorities and also it being our Centennial Year, the State Board expects more interest in attending Lobby Days from your fellow members from around the state. If you are interested in providing free housing to a League member, who may not otherwise be able to come, please let me know by email: Neely.FamE@gmail.com.

As always, if you are interested in state-level legislation, come join us. I promise your day will never be dull.

Trish Neely
Lobby Corps

| Week of October 14th | Committee Meetings |
| Week of October 21st | Committee Meetings |
| Week of November 4th | Committee Meetings |
| Week of November 12th | Committee Meetings |
| Week of December 9th | Committee Meetings |
| January 14, 2020 | Regular Session Begins |
| February 4 & 5, 2020 | LWV Lobby Days Conference and Banquet |
| March 13, 2020 | Regular Session Ends |

**Centennial Corner**

SAVE THE DATE
On Friday, February 28, 2020 the LWVT will honor the 100 years since the founding of the League of Women Voters with a birthday celebration from 6 to 10 p.m. on the 22nd Floor of the Florida State Capitol. So, mark your calendars and plan to join us as we commemorate our past and celebrate our future. More details to follow.

Phelicia D. Stiell

https://ui.constantcontact.com/mavmap/emcf/email/view?flow=view&camefrom=view&campaign=b5a3c921-5bbf-4acb-b430-7cd321941927
Naturalization Ceremony

The last ceremony for 2019 will be at the Federal Courthouse on November 14 at 10 a.m. in the courtroom on the 5th floor. If you would like to attend, please contact Sandra Kendall at fitzkendall841@gmail.com.

Marty Quinn, Linda Lee, Jane Watson, and Sandra Kendall at the October ceremony.

Working with the Girl Scouts

Remember the "good old days" when you were a Girl Scout; the camaraderie of friends, the fun of camping or working on 'Badges'? Well, we have the opportunity to rekindle those good times and assist the Girl Scouts in earning their Citizen Badges! The Pensacola League of Women Voters is helping their Girl Scouts in understanding the workings of the government, and our League would like to do the same. We know that many of you were Girl Scouts and even leaders. With your combined knowledge and enthusiasm, we would like to formulate a committee to explore the possibility of working with the Girl Scouts of Tallahassee and the surrounding area.

Would you please join us? Contact Margaret Boeth rmbt1947@gmail.com (Voter Services Committee), Linda Davis lgdavis75@gmail.com (Communications) and/or Danielle Irwin Danielle.h.irwin@gmail.com (Local Government Committee LWVT) and let's set-up a meeting to talk!

Margaret Boeth
**Seen at the Last Hot Topic**

The gentleman is moderator Troy Kinsey, reporter for Spectrum Bay News 9. In both photos the women reporters on the panel are, left to right, Dara Kam, News Service of Florida, Emily Mahoney, Times/Herald Tallahassee bureau reporter, and Alexandra Glorioso, Florida Policy Reporter for Politico.

**Healthcare Study and Action**

Here's an update on the actions the Health Care Group is working on to combat the opioid epidemic locally. County staff are meeting with the health care providers who receive funding from the county and the medication collection issue is on the agenda! Hopefully, at least one provider on the south side of town will agree to house a collection box. In late October or early November, the Leon County Commission will get a report on needle exchange programs after the Legislature passed legislation last session which allows counties to approve these programs.

The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for Monday, October 7 at 11:30 a.m. at the Uptown Café across from Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. Come join us for lunch and some lively discussion on health care issues.

*Kathy Winn, Chair
Healthcare Study and Action*

**Speakers Bureau**

Want to help with one of the League's most important objectives---educating voters? *Then join the Speakers Bureau.* The State League has developed several excellent new presentations. You will learn lots yourself and get to meet lots of interesting people.

Remember: **you don't have to be a speaker to be a part of the Speakers Bureau.** We like to send out teams of two: a speaker and a "resource" person, someone armed with lots of notes and facts to back up the speaker.

Or perhaps you belong to a group, a club, or a church that would be interested in learning about any of these topics.

**To join or to request a speaker, check with Stuart Baker:** sbaker@fsu.edu.

Here is a list of the presentations. More information about them can be found on the [League website](https://ui.constantcontact.com/mavmap/ema?flow=view&camefrom=view&campaign=b5a3c921-5bbf-4acb-b430-7cd321941927).
Local Government Study & Action Group

Comprehensive Plan Update
The LWVT Local Government Study and Action Group has been busy responding to an invitation from the Tallahassee/Leon County Planning Department (TLCPCD) to provide additional feedback and suggestions on the Comprehensive Plan Update, Land Use and Mobility Elements. Working together with Climate Change & Sustainability Committee and President Teri Cleeland, we submitted comments on September 9th that address the urban core, Multi-Modal Transportation District (MMTD), diverse housing choices, renewable energy, lower carbon footprints, sustainability, and monitoring indicators that emphasize quality of life, health, and basic human needs. Comments are prefaced with Leon County population density information and the statutory framework that guides comp plan updates. Additional recommendations are to continue public outreach and public participation in the next phase, which will include a TLCPCD consultant team, and to maintain future visions and regional and global perspectives.

To see the comments and letter: LWVT Comp Plan Comments 9-9-19

For more on the Comp Plan Update: https://www.talgov.com/place/pln-cp-update-project.aspx

Next Meeting
Regular meetings are the first Thursday of the month from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Our next meeting is at the Leon County Collins Main Library downtown on October 3 in Program Room B, 1st Floor, where we will welcome guest speaker City of Tallahassee City Attorney Ms. Cassandra Jackson. Ms. Jackson will present from 6:30-7 on The Role of a City Attorney in Local Government. All are welcome; meetings are open to the public.

Learn more about Ms. Jackson at her website: https://www.talgov.com/Main/attorney.aspx.

Also save the date for our November Local Government Meeting next month on Thursday, November 7, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Main Library.

Danielle Irwin, Chair
LWVT Local Government Study and Action Group

Sheila Curran    Savannah Bass
Sharon Westover  Jaylynn Pierre
Carol Frank     Carol Brittain
Marianne Ghantous  Lisa Caldwell
Gary Goodwyne  
Melissa Dembicer  
Ray Shackelford

Susan B. Anthony Members

A Special Thanks to Those Who Renewed at the SBA Level the Past Month

Sheila Curran  
Kimberly Dressel

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 November Voter. The deadline for submission of material is October 27. Please e-mail your material to sbaker@fsu.edu

Membership Form

Name ___________________________ Phone (home) __________________

Address ___________________________ Phone (mobile) __________________

E-mail ___________________________

Please Circle Annual Membership Level: (May 1--April 30)

Want to help the League make a difference? Please circle all areas where you want to help.
$150.00 Susan B. Anthony household
$100.00 Susan B. Anthony individual
$ 90.00 Household membership
$ 60.00 Individual membership
$ 0.00 Student membership (Now Free)
Optional $5.00 for LWVF Lobby Fund
Additional gift to LWVUS Education Fund

TOTAL:

Education: Advocate for public education
Health Care: Seek better health care for all
Local Government: Keep an eye on local issues
Sustainability/ Natural Resources:
Climate change and more
Communications: Get the message out!
Lobby Corps: Work with the League lobbyist
Membership: Recruit and nurture members
Voter Services: Register and educate voters

Please make all checks payable to LWV of Tallahassee.
Mail to LWVT, 1400 Village Square Blvd, Suite 3, Box 115, Tallahassee, FL 32312-1231.
You may also renew/join at www.lwvtallahassee.org.

LWVT Board of Directors 2019-2020

(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.)

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