Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

Candidate Forums

Meet the Candidates Live and (Almost) in Person

Are you ready to vote? The **Primary Election is on August 18**, with early voting beginning August 3 through August 16.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic guidelines, **Meet-the-Candidate-Forums** will be conducted virtually through an exciting new partnership between the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee and the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper. For years the League of Women Voters has been a trusted source of unbiased voter information and the Tallahassee Democrat is a trusted source for local news and information. This partnership broadens the impact of candidate forums throughout Leon County.

Our first joint candidate forum was held on Thursday, July 16th with School Board, District 4 candidates. It went very well (though Ms. Rasmussen had some technical difficulty using her phone to participate, which she overcame) with approximately 80 persons watching on Facebook Live and close to 30 persons on You Tube. The Democrat and the League posed questions to the candidates; and viewers were able to post questions remotely through Facebook comments. One of the questions asked was from a viewer, and several from the League originated with two of our partners, the Urban League and the NAACP.

- City Commission Seat 1 (July 21, 1:00-2:00 p.m.)
- City Commission Seat 2 (July 23, 1:00-2:30 p.m.)
- Sheriff (July 28, 1:00-2:00 p.m.)
- County Commission at Large Seat 1 (July 30, 1:00-2:30 p.m.)

Additionally, the League and Tallahassee Democrat are in the process of adding forums for candidates for 2nd Judicial Circuit Judge (Groups 4 and 16) and 2nd Judicial Circuit Public Defender. The Tallahassee Democrat is also hosting a forum on August 4, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., with Democratic Party candidates for Representative in Congress, District 5.

To view candidate forums live, visit Tallahassee Democrat's website ([Tallahassee.Com](http://Tallahassee.Com)) or its Facebook page ([facebook.com/tallahasseeedemocrat/](http://facebook.com/tallahasseeedemocrat/)) during forum times. If you wish, you can download their app, from the App Store or Google Play, to get an alert when a
forum is about to start. All of the forums will be archived for future viewing at Tallahassee.Com/elections.

As a reminder, the City of Tallahassee sponsors a Campaign Contribution Refund Program, where a registered voter in the City of Tallahassee can receive a total of up to $25 for financial contribution(s) to a City Commission candidate(s). Learn more at Talgov.com and click on “Our City” and then “Ethics Board.”

Remember that July 20 is the last day to register to be eligible to vote in the Primary. Go to LeonVotes.org to register and to request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot. Vote-by-Mail allows you to cast your ballot from the safety and comfort of your own home, and helps maintain that critical social distancing. In Florida, any voter can request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot to be mailed (or choose to pick one up) — you don't need a reason. If you request a mail ballot, you can still decide to vote in person at an early voting site or at your Election Day polling place (as long as you have not already voted the ballot mailed to you). You can request a mail ballot through the Leon County Supervisor of Elections website (LeonVotes.org) or by calling their office at (850) 606-8683 during business hours. The deadline to request that a mail ballot be mailed to you is 5:00 p.m. on the 10th day prior to Election Day.

Christine Coble, Kim Dressel, and Sally Butzin

**Must See TV**

**A Woman Photographer Goes to War**

The next two films that we are sponsoring on WFSU TV are both on Monday, July 20. The first one airs at 9:00 PM and also on Friday, July 24, at 3:00 PM. The title is "A Woman Photographer Goes to War." Drawing from an extraordinary archive of unpublished military photographs and personal correspondence, as well as expert and family interviews, the 30-minute documentary tells the story of Charlotte Mansfield’s pioneering career as a Women’s Army Corps photographer during World War II.

The project is a collaboration involving undergraduate students in the Florida State University Digital Media Production Program, graduate students in the FSU School of Communication, and student researchers and archivists at the Florida State University Institute on World War Two and the Human Experience.

Faculty and staff who contributed to the project are Dr. Brian Graves, Associate Professor of Media and Technology in the School of Communication at Florida State University, with specialties in media writing and production, documentary storytelling, public memory, and critical race studies; Dr. Kurt Piehler, Associate Professor of History with an emphasis on the Twentieth Century and Director of the Florida State University Institute on World War Two and the Human Experience; and Mike Kasper, the Institute’s Head Archivist.

**We are the Radical Monarchs**

Set in Oakland, a city with a deep history of
Marilyn Hollinquest, as a way to address and center their daughter's experience as a young brown girl. Their work is anchored in the belief that adolescent girls of color need dedicated spaces and that the foundation for this innovative work must also be rooted in inter-dependent sisterhood, self-love, and hope.

The film follows the first troop of Radical Monarchs for over three years, until they graduate. It documents the co-founders' struggle to respond to the needs of communities across the US and grow the organization after the viral explosion of interest in the troop's mission to create and inspire a new generation of social justice activists.

Watch a trailer here: We are the Radical Monarchs.

Work With the Girl Scouts

We recently received the following message from the Gateway Council of Girl Scouts:

"Hello! My name is April Bartley, Girl Experience Manager with Girl Scouts of Gateway Council. We are currently planning our fall program guide and I am interested in collaborating with the Tallahassee League of Women Voters on civics badges for our girls this fall. We are currently planning programming for Sept 15 through Nov 30. We have several civics badges for each level of Girl Scout (Daisy: K & 1st grade, Brownie: 2nd & 3rd grade, Junior: 4th & 5th grade, Cadette: 6th—8th grade, Senior: 9th & 10th grade, Ambassador: 11th & 12th grade). We also have an opportunity for a women’s suffrage program, and we have new civics badges coming out this month that may also be of interest. We are thinking of planning for both virtual and in-person meetings (with small groups) so we are open to whatever would work best for you."

Many of us were Girl Scouts and even leaders, but prior experience is not required for this project. This is a great opportunity to fulfill a slightly different version of our mission: Educate Future Voters. And a great opportunity to spread our message to the 13,000 Girl Scouts of the Gateway Council, their parents, guardians, and troop leaders. Let's help these girls grow up to be good civic-minded citizens and possibly prepare some future Leaguers to take the reins! We would not be building a program from scratch--the Gateway Council already has a lot of material for us to use. If you are interested in being a part of this project, please email me at lgdavis75@gmail.com and include your phone number.

In addition to helping the girls earn badges, we might learn something ourselves. For instance, in the Gateway Council materials, I found this little nugget of American History I had never heard of:
You know of Paul Revere and his famous ride. But there was someone else who made a similar life-saving ride but was not celebrated in my history texts.

On April 26, 1777, Sybil, the 16-year-old daughter of Colonel Henry Ludington, and her family in Fredericksburg, NY, were warned of an impending British attack across the state line at Danbury, CT. Danbury was a supply depot for the Americans with approximately 200 or fewer Continental troops on guard. Col. Ludington was in charge of a militia unit, the members of which were scattered about the surrounding area.

Sybil mounted her horse and took a 40-mile ride throughout the countryside late that night in a rainstorm, waking militia members as she went. She rode 40 miles (twice the length of Paul Revere's ride), yelling for the militiamen to meet at her father's house. When she finally got home more than 400 troops had assembled there.

The men were not able to save Danbury, but eventually the troops were able to push the British back to their ships at Long Island, New York.

Linda Davis

New Members

Lisa Waxman
Jeannine Sanford
Jeff Liang
Richard and Elaine Hull
Janice Peters
Helen Smith
Barbara Block
Donna Brown

SBA Members

A special thank-you to those (listed below) who joined at the Susan B. Anthony level:

Jeff Liang
Richard and Elaine Hull
What's Happening this Week

N.B.: Even if not so noted, many of these may be virtual meetings. Always check.

Monday, July 20.

12:00 p.m. Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

Tuesday, July 21.

3:00 p.m. Welaunee Master Plan. Virtual Charette.

4:00 p.m. Independent Ethics Board Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

6:00 p.m. Special School Board Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

6:30 p.m. Code Board Public Hearing. Renaissance Center 2nd floor Conference Room.

7:00 p.m. Village Square Virtual Town Hall. Equality in Life Webinar. Virtual Meeting.

Wednesday, July 22.

12:00 p.m. CSWG Health & Development Committee Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

1:00 p.m. City of Tallahassee/Big Bend PBA Negotiations Session. Virtual Meeting.

Thursday, July 23.

12:00 p.m. CSWG Information Session. Virtual Meeting.

1:00 p.m. Special Events Committee Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

1:30 p.m. City of Tallahassee/Firefighters Negotiation Session. Virtual Meeting.

Monday, July 27.

12:00 p.m. CSWG Organization and Bylaws Committee Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

6:00 p.m. CSWG Information Session. Virtual Meeting.
Or contact us at lwvtallahassee@gmail.com
850-309-3005

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