Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

From the President

As we enter another month of Corona challenges, I am pleased to report that your League has kept active as the Primary Election approaches on August 18. I hope you have been watching the candidate forums we have conducted in partnership with the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper. Thanks to Christine Coble for representing us well in asking on-air candidate questions, and kudos to the Local Government Committee for developing penetrating questions.

Margaret Boeth, Chair of the Voter Services Committee, along with Barb Licht, have spearheaded efforts to collect candidate information and disseminate it to the Vote411.org website. Erin Edwards continues to provide invaluable technical support in uploading the data and troubleshooting as needed.

I also want to recognize the hard work of Membership Roster Manager Peggy Ramsey for sending out membership renewal letters, and Treasurer Peggy Ball for collecting all new member payments and renewals. Membership Chair Trish Neely spearheaded a successful personal calling blitz to remind lapsed members that we missed them and hope they return. I am pleased to report that we now have nearly 500 paid members, many who joined or renewed at the Susan B. Anthony level to provide extra financial support to our local League.

Finally, congratulations to Trish Neely who was recently appointed to join the League of Women Voters of Florida State Board. Trish also serves as our Lobby Corps chair, so I am pleased that all her hard work and contributions are being recognized at the state level.

Sally Butzin

Candidate Forums

Don’t be an Uninformed Voter -- Find Out What the Candidates Have to
Say!

Stuck on who to vote for in the August primary election? Candidate forums, co-hosted by the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee and the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper, are providing voters opportunities to get to know more about local candidates in advance of the August 18 primary election. During the forums, which are livestreamed on Tallahassee Democrat’s Facebook page and YouTube channel, candidates respond to a series of questions to express their views on local issues. During the events, the viewing public can raise questions through Facebook’s comments section. As this issue goes to press, we have completed seven forums:

- Leon County School Board, District 4 - Thursday, July 16, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.: Candidates Dee Dee Rasmussen and Alex Stemle (4.1k+ Facebook/YouTube views).
- Tallahassee City Commission, Seat 1 - Tuesday, July 21, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.: Candidates Elaine W. Bryant, William Moore, and Jacqueline “Jack” Porter (4.2k+ Facebook/YouTube views).
- Tallahassee City Commission, Seat 2 - Thursday, July 23, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.: Candidates Trish Brown, Lynette Halter, Curtis Richardson, Bill Schack, and Gerri Seay (2.5k+ Facebook/YouTube views).
- Public Defender, 2nd Judicial Circuit - Friday, July 24, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.: Candidates Andy Thomas and Jessica Yeary (3.2k+ Facebook/YouTube views).
- Sheriff -Tuesday, July 28, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.: Candidates Walt McNeil and Tommy L. Mills (2.4k+ Facebook/YouTube views).
- Circuit Judge, 2nd Judicial Circuit, Group 16 - Wednesday, July 29, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.: Candidates Kevin Alvarez and Angela Dempsey (2.3k+ Facebook/Youtube views).
- Leon County Commission, At Large Group 1 - Thursday, July 30, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.: Candidates Robin Colson, Carolyn Cummings, Scott Flowers, Jeff Hendry, Danielle Irwin, and Kelly Otte (2.7k+ Facebook/YouTube views).

There are two more forums before the primary election:

- Tuesday, August 4, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Representative in Congress, District 5, Democratic Party: Candidates Albert Chester, LaShonda “L.J.” Holloway, and Al Lawson (this is forum sponsored and hosted only by the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper).
- Wednesday, August 5, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Circuit Judge, 2nd Judicial Circuit, Group 4: Candidates Tiffany Baker, Nina Moody, Amanda P. Wall, and Pete Williams.

Voters can watch the forums live at the Tallahassee Democrat's Facebook page and YouTube channel, and on Tallahassee.com/elections. Visit Election Central at Tallahassee.Com/elections for archives of all the forums.

- Facebook: facebook.com/tallahasseedemocrat/
- You Tube: youtube.com/channel/UCNKXxyYLaeOJIAanuzBbLbS0Q

Keep these dates in mind as we head into the final primary election stretch:

- Request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot online at LeonVotes.org/Request-a-Mail-Ballot or call (850) 606-8683, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Make the request at least
10 days before the election to have it mailed to you. To request a Vote by Mail Ballot, go to LeonVotes.org.
- Early Voting: **August 3 - August 16**.
- Returning Your Vote-by-Mail Ballot: Voter Services recommends that you either return your voted ballot by mail at least 10 days in advance of Election Day, or put your voted ballot into a Drop Box at an Early Voting site or at the Elections Office. NOTE: Vote-by-Mail ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections office no later than 7 pm on Election Day to be counted; the Post Office recommends mailing your return ballot at least 5 days in advance.
- Primary Election: **August 18**.

*Local Government Action Group*

**Membership Campaign**

**Membership Renewal Campaign Update**

A big THANK YOU to all who have renewed their membership for FY20/21!! At this point we have 66 still unrenewed, including individuals and households who count as 2 members.

The FINAL email reminder will be sent in August. If you do not intend to renew it would be very helpful if you would briefly let us know why so that we can make any changes that would improve our membership opportunities.

Also a big thank you to officers and board members who made phone calls to encourage renewal! This resulted in 22 people being nudged to renew.

On an even more encouraging note, LWVT has gained 56 NEW members since May! As of this date, our membership stands at 500!! Looking for “Good Trouble”....

**New Members**

Season Stark  
Tanzenisha Collins  
David Hood  
Eleanor Hawkins  
Lee de la Fuente

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

![Image of Susan B. Anthony]

Lee de la Fuente  
Joanna Novey

What's Happening this Week

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

**Monday**, August 3.

12:00 p.m. [CSGW Education and Economic Security Committee Meeting](#). Virtual Meeting.

6:00 p.m. [Greater Frenchtown/Southside (GFS) Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting](#). Renaissance Center - 2nd Floor Conference Room. 435 North Macomb Street.

**Tuesday**, August 4.

6:00 p.m. [Leon County School Board Meeting](#). Aquilina Howell Center, 3955 W. Pensacola Street.

6:00 p.m. [Tallahassee/Leon County Planning Commission](#). Virtual Meeting or Renaissance Center, 2nd Floor.

**Wednesday**, August 5.

12:00 p.m. [Architectural Review Board](#). Frenchtown Renaissance Center. 1st Floor Conference Room.

12:00 p.m. [CSWG Health & Education Committee Meeting](#). Virtual Meeting.

1:00 p.m. [City of Tallahassee/International Assoc. of Firefighters Negotiations Session](#). Virtual Meeting.


1:00 p.m. [Code Magistrate Public Hearing](#). Renaissance Center. 2nd Floor Conference Room.

6:30 p.m. [Mayor’s LGBTQ+ Advisory Council](#). Virtual Meeting.

**Friday**, August 7.
11:30 a.m. CSWG Violence & Safety Committee Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

Monday, August 10.

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

Or contact us at lwvtallahassee@gmail.com
850-309-3005

League of Women Voters of Tallahassee | 1400 Village Square Boulevard, Suite 3, Box 115, Tallahassee, FL 32312-1231