Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

Women Power the Vote

On August 12, 2020, at 1:00 p.m., LWVUS Chief Executive Officer Virginia Kase will sit down with LWVUS President Deborah Turner for a one-hour discussion on what lies ahead for democracy in America, and how all women can be active participants.

This conversation will be streamed live on the LWVUS Facebook page and will include a live question and answer portion to provide an opportunity for viewers across the country to pose questions through social media.

Click here to join the conversation on August 12.

Linda Davis

Vital Voting Information

Important Voting Dates
• 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. If you miss this deadline, you still have the option to pick up a Vote-by-Mail ballot up to and including Election Day.

• Early Voting: August 3 - August 16.

• Returning Your Vote-by-Mail Ballot: Voter Services recommends that you either return your marked ballot by mail at least 10 days in advance of Election Day, or put your marked 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.

• Primary Election: August 18.

Voter Services

Successful Candidate Forums Completed

The League of Women Voters of Tallahassee, through a unique partnership with the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper, recently completed the 2020 primary election candidate forum marathon with great success. We recognize and applaud the many contributions of the Democrat’s Randi Atwood, William Hatfield, and James Rosica who invited the candidates and served as broadcast moderators. They coordinated with the League’s Local Government Action Group to develop questions for the candidates, and committee members monitored the broadcasts for viewer questions.

LWV Local Government Chair Christine Coble and Vice President Phelicia Stiehl joined the broadcast as co-moderators. Thanks also to our forum contributors (the Tallahassee NAACP, Tallahassee Urban League, and the Alliance of Tallahassee Neighborhoods) for thoughtfully preparing questions.

Participation was far greater than the in-person forums of past years. We thank the viewing public for watching, participating, submitting questions, and sharing the events. Finally, we thank all the candidates for running for office and for participating in the forums. Tallahassee-Leon County is a healthy community because our citizens care and get involved.

Visit Election Central at Tallahassee.com/elections for archives of all the forums (tallahassee.com/news/tlh-elections-2020/).

Local Government Action Group

Use It or Lose It

“The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have
in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it." John Lewis, the civil rights leader and congressman, wrote these words shortly before he died. His words urgently ring true today.

Today we see active measures to suppress the vote and create chaos, confusion, and distrust. There are gaps in voter registration for persons of color. And we are in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

The 1965 Voting Rights Act has been severely hampered by a 2013 Supreme Court ruling which struck down its key enforcement provision in the case Shelby v. Holder. The League urges that members call Senators Scott and Rubio to act on the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act that is stalled in the Senate.

Senator Rick Scott, email https://www.rickscott.senate.gov/contact_rick
716 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, Phone: (202) 224-5274
Senator Marco Rubio, email https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
284 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, Phone: (202) 224-3041
US Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121.

Dr. Sally Butzin, President, League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

Suffragist: The Musical

Theater lovers, take note! An unusual event will take place on August 13 at 7:00 p.m. After the pandemic caused the closing of New York’s theaters, the New York Times conceived a new series for theater-starved patrons to help fill the void.

The second episode of Offstage is a new way to tell a story near and dear to our hearts. The musical “Suffragist” was due to premiere this fall. Then, everything changed. The creators and cast of the show will discuss the interrupted journey of “Suffragist,” and watch two numbers from the work in progress. The show tells the true story of the growing rivalry between the seasoned organizer Carrie Chapman Catt and the young radical Alice Paul, along with many other suffragists. We’ll also see the entire cast perform the show ballad “How Long,” and see Tony Award winner Nikki M. James, who plays Ida B. Wells, sing her solo song “Wait My Turn.”

This event is free to register and join. Login details are shared on R.S.V.P. confirmation and on the day of the event. CART captioning is available for this event and shared upon confirmation. Reach out to timesevents@nytimes.com with questions.

Click https://timesevents.nytimes.com/offstagesuffragist to learn more and R.S.V.P.

Linda Davis and Sandra Kendall

New Members
Joy L. Anderson
Bonnie Fesmire
Betty Serow
Denise Whitlock
Jean Phillips
Jan Cuddington
Patricia Zick

SBA

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

Patience Gaia
Denise Whitlock

What's Happening this Week

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

Monday, August 10.

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

6:00 p.m. Joint City/County Bicycling Workgroup. Virtual Meeting.

Tuesday, August 11.

6:00 p.m. Leon County School Board Meeting. Aquilina Howell Center. 3955 W. Pensacola Street.

6:30 p.m. Environmental Board Meeting. Frenchtown Renaissance Center. 1st Floor Conference Room. 435 North Macomb Street.
**Wednesday, August 12.**

9:00 a.m. [Tallahassee/Leon County Planning Commission](#). Virtual Meeting OR 2nd Floor Conference Room, Frenchtown Renaissance Center.

**Thursday, August 13.**

4:00 p.m. [Council on Culture and Arts Executive Committee Meeting](#). Virtual Meeting. Contact 850-224-2500.

**Monday, August 17.**

12:00 p.m. [Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority Meeting](#). Florida Room, City Hall.

1:30 p.m. [CRTPA Board Meeting](#). City Commission Chambers.

Or contact us at [lwvtallahassee@gmail.com](mailto:lwvtallahassee@gmail.com) 850-309-3005

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