



# THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

PO Box 158369, Nashville TN 37215 | 629-777-5650

<http://www.LWVnashville.org>

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August 2019

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**August 16-17, 2019, 10 am- 4 pm**

**99<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Events at TN State Museum & Bicentennial Mall**

Living history programs, hands-on activities, walking tours, and a “Perfect 3.6 Race for Ratification”,

<https://tnmuseum.org/calendar-of-events/event/1455794>

Sponsored by TN State Museum, TN State Parks, and TN State Library & Archives.

**August 18, 2019, 3 pm**

**Elaine Weiss: *The Woman’s Hour***

Metro Main Library, Auditorium, 7<sup>th</sup> and Church, Nashville, 37219

Sponsored by the Nashville Public Library Foundation, Nashville Public Library, and Parnassus Books

**August 19, 2019, noon-1 pm**

**Kick-off to Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial**

War Memorial Auditorium, 301 6th Ave N., Nashville, 37203

Sponsored by TN Woman Suffrage Centennial Collaborative, TN Historical Society, TN Woman 100.

**August 25, 2019, 5 pm**

**Metro Council At-Large Candidate Forum**

(RSVP <http://wpctn.com/event-registration?ee=25> for chicken & biscuits at 6 pm)

Nashville Farmers’ Market, 900 Rosa Parks Blvd, Nashville, 37208

Sponsored by Women’s Political Collaborative

**August 26, 2019, 7-8 pm**

**Metro Council At-Large Candidate Forum**

Gordon Jewish Community Center, 801 Percy Warner Blvd.

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville

**September 6, 2019, noon-1 pm**

**Hot Topics: Metro Budget 101 with Vice-Mayor Jim Shulman**

Lentz Public Health Center, 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, 37203

**September 11, 2019, 6-7 pm**

**Hot Topics: Metro Budget 101 with Vice-Mayor Jim Shulman**

Green Hills Library Community Room, 3701 Benham Ave, Nashville, 37215

## President's Message



Election season is not over yet. There will be a runoff election for **Mayor, Vice Mayor, Council Members at Large, and some Council Districts** on **September 12th**. Total number of citizens voting in the August 1st election was about 100,000 people out of 400,000 registered voters. Voter turn-out is usually less in runoff elections. The **League of Women Voters** continues to urge voters to the polls and provide information on the candidates to the public. Thanks to **Susan Mattson** our **Vote411** site is ready for the runoff election. Early voting runs from August 23rd to September 7th. Please persist encouraging your family and friends to vote.

Many groups will be celebrating the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. This is a great opportunity to teach the history of the 72 years of struggle for women's suffrage. *The Woman's Hour* by **Elaine Weiss** is a very entertaining as well as informative book. It brings home the importance of a single vote. She will speak at the Downtown Public Library on Sunday, August 18th at 3:00 pm. There is no charge but you must reserve a ticket if you have not done so at <http://salonat615.org>.

The state League has signed up to work with the **National League of Women Voters** to address the issue of gerrymandering. Their campaign is titled, "**A 50-State Approach to People Powered Fair Maps.**" There was hope that the US Supreme Court would outlaw politicians choosing their voters, but they sent the choice back to the states. Many voters feel their vote does not count and achieving nonpartisan districts would be a big step to restore confidence in our system and increase voting. The US League is providing guidance and information and I will keep you informed about how you can participate.

The Nashville LWV Board will meet on **Thursday, September 19th** instead of the usual second Thursday of the month. We will provide a light supper and stay past our usual 7:00 pm time so we may plan for the coming year and address the many goals we have set for the coming year. If you have not renewed your membership, please go online today to do so. Every member makes a difference.

**Barbara Gay**



## In Memoriam

It is with sorrow we note the passing of **Silvine Hudson**. Silvine was a lifetime member of **LWV** and a remarkable leader. She was president of both the Nashville and state **LWV** and received the 2001 Molly Todd Award for her extraordinary advocacy efforts. As an elementary school teacher and founder for the Retirement Learning at Vanderbilt program, Silvine understood the value of education and continued to promote **LWV's** community outreach programs and forums as important tools to inform the public about issues that matter.



## Upcoming Events Celebrating Women's Suffrage

By Debby Gould

As the Events/Fundraising Co-Chairs, **Cindee Gold** and I are already making plans for “Tea with Harry T. Burn.” On **October 20<sup>th</sup>** our featured guest speakers will be **Tyler Boyd** and **Tyler Forrest**, relatives of **Representative Harry Burn**, who passed the final vote needed to ratify the Suffrage Amendment. Please let either of us know if you would be interested in serving on the planning committee for this fun event combining high tea and history.

We are thrilled to see that the arts and history organizations in our community are equally excited about celebrating the 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **19<sup>th</sup> Amendment**. The **Tennessee State Museum** will be hosting a series of living history programs on **August 16-17**:

- 10 a.m.: Meet a Suffragist and Anti-Suffragist
- 11 a.m.: Walking Tour of Nashville Suffrage Sites
- 12 p.m.: Embroidery and Suffrage
- 1 p.m.: African American Experience as Suffragists
- 2 p.m.: Meet a Suffragist and Anti-Suffragist
- 3 p.m.: Registering to Vote in 1920

We have been participating in the **Women's Suffrage Project**, which is coordinating a wide-range of arts and historical groups in Nashville that will highlight this important moment in our history. “72 Steps”, the ballet commissioned by **LWVN** to commemorate the struggles of suffrage, is one of many activities that will be in the spotlight during the upcoming year. Stay tuned for other alerts!



## August's Hot Topic: Homelessness in Nashville

By Co-Vice President Ethel Detch

Homelessness in Nashville was August's Hot Topic. For the lunchtime meeting, **Judith Tackett**, Director of Metro's Homeless Division, spoke at **The Cookery**, a restaurant started and run to help homeless people develop employment skills in the food industry.

Rather than providing direct services the **Metro Homeless Division** works to plan and coordinate services among other organizations. The federal government recently awarded Nashville a two-year grant of \$3.5 million to focus on diverting **unaccompanied youth (people under 24)** who are at-risk for housing insecurity. Youth homelessness is a major predictor of homelessness later in life.

The Metro Homeless Division also operates the **Homeless Management Information System**, which helps track people who are living on Nashville's streets, but Ms. Tackett noted that the system drastically needs investment and improvement. Placing more emphasis on data could also help improve service delivery.

The office also has a number of other **initiatives**:

- making **bus passes** more readily available to help homeless people get to their workplaces.
- working to create more “**after hours**” **services** for people who work during the day; and

- improving “**crisis to engagement**” responses by working with police and other first responders to better meet the needs of homeless people. The Division works with various Metro departments to identify persons with severe health and mental health issues and better coordinate the city government’s response.

Since 2004, Metro has been required to do an annual one-night count of homeless people. The count includes only those people found in homeless shelters and on the streets; it does not include people who may be in motels. Because homeless families are frequently staying in motels, the annual census likely undercounts women and children. The 2019 count found **1,998** homeless people in Nashville, a 14% decrease from the previous year.

An encore presentation of this talk was held at the Green Hills Library on August 14, 2019. Judith was joined by the **Rev. Mike Wilson** of the Downtown Presbyterian Church, which actively serves homeless people.



## **The League of Women Voters of Nashville**

*Presents*

### **Hot Topics: Metro Budget 101**

**Presented by Vice-Mayor Jim Shulman**

### **First Friday Hot Topics at Lunchtime**

Friday, September 6, 2019

12:00-1:00 pm

***New Location!!!!***

The Lentz Health Center, Centennial Room C  
2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203

&

### **Second Wednesday Evening Encore**

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

6:00 to 7:00 pm

Green Hills Public Library Community Room  
3701 Benham Avenue, Nashville 37215

**Free and open to the public. No reservations needed.  
Parking at both locations is Easy & Free!**

*For additional information, contact [LWVNash@gmail.com](mailto:LWVNash@gmail.com)*



## Voter Services Update for July 2019

By Voter Services Co-Chair Perry Macdonald

### New voting machines and the August 1 Metropolitan General Election

By virtually all accounts the new voting machines performed 'as advertised' in both phases of the **General Election**, with some adjustments (relating to the placement of the machines to provide more privacy) made by Davidson County Election officials during the early voting phase. DCEC officials reported at the August 9 regular business meeting that polling place activity ran as smoothly as they had hoped it would. Several members of the public, including **LWVN**, spoke at the meeting, commending the staff for their work in demonstrating the machines in a variety of locations during July and for their efforts to educate the public ahead of the election period. Polling places seemed to be adequately staffed to advise and guide voters through the two-step voting procedure that is required.

### Voter participation and the Run-off election

Turnout for the election was poor. With just over **101,000** votes cast, only **25%** of Davidson County's registered electorate voted. The run-off election will include the two top mayoral candidates, 8 council district run-offs and 8 candidates running for 4 Council member-at-large seats. (**Bob Mendes** was elected to an at-large position by sufficient percentage to avoid run-off.) The run-off election will be held on September 12. Details for early and absentee voting can be found on the DCEC website [http://www.nashville.gov/election commission.aspx](http://www.nashville.gov/election%20commission.aspx).

### Voter registration and education

We have been contacted by the **Director of Vanderbilt's Central Library**, requesting that LWVN conduct a program to focus on the **100th anniversary** of the ratification of the **19th Amendment**. Those of you who assisted last year at the VU Library in their voter registration campaign will remember what a lively...and inspiring.. day that was!

We have been invited back to the **Green Hills YMCA** to register voters during their Welcome Week in September and heard from the **Franklin Y** that they are interested in hosting our volunteer 'registrars' as well. Similarly, we have been invited to return with our tent and volunteers to the **Recovery and Good Neighbor Festivals**. September promises to be a very busy month for us! Please come out for a few hours to assist in this most essential of our services to the Nashville community.



## August 2019 Membership Update

By Membership Co-Chairs Reba Holmes and Tracy Smith

It is with great delight that we announce and welcome our new and returning members that joined the **Nashville League of Women Voters**. It is our privilege to welcome these individuals to the organization:

**Vanessa Allwardt, Danna Bennett, Meredith Booten, Jan Bossing, Kathleen Clemmons, Stewart Clifton, Susan Edwards, Barbara Futter, Carole Kenner, Amanda McClendon, Nancy & Jack McFadden, Margaret Norris, Maureen & John Organ, Ann Roberts, Kevin Warner**

Many thanks to these members and all our members for their support of the League's activities, programs and underwriting support.



### *Annual Membership Drive*

We need you to join in the celebration of the **100-year anniversary** of the right of women to vote, and the 100-year anniversary of the **League of Women Voters**. The League is a vital part of the community because we are an organization that offers forums and education on issues in a non-partisan format open to the public at large. Your involvement will allow us to continue to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

"The 2019-2020 membership drive for the **League of Women Voters** is coming to a close. To continue to receive information about upcoming Hot Topics presentations and Suffrage celebrations as well as legislative, voting and election information in 2020, visit <https://lwvnashville.org/join/> to fill out an online membership form (or pay by check if you chose to mail in the membership form found there)."

### **Comments from members as to why they joined the League**

I recognize the benefits of collaborating with other civic minded groups; these partnerships are vital to expanding our registration efforts exponentially.



## **The Status of Women's Reproductive Health Care in Tennessee** **By Constance Caldwell, Healthcare Co-Chair**

Regardless of which end of the spectrum on abortion you stand, the right to make the decision should be the privilege of the individual. Our nation, in many states, has seen the steady attack on reproductive health in the last two years. It appears that these acts are racing to overthrow the **1973 Roe vs. Wade** decision to allow abortions as part of the woman's reproductive health care. This year alone, **thirty** states have introduced, passed or signed into law multiple bans on abortion.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, the **Tennessee Senate Judiciary Committee** met to discuss a bill which would ban abortions outright. If the committee moves forward with the bill, it will be up for consideration in 2020 when the full legislature is back in session. The law would redefine "viability" as being when a heartbeat is detected. At this point, many women may not be aware that they are pregnant. This law, if passed, would force women to seek abortions and support outside of the state which will greatly impact the poor, women of color, and women already with children. **Planned Parenthood** is currently waiting for federal court intervention to stop the ban on health clinics from receiving federal

monies if they provide or refer patients for abortion proposed by the current administration. They need this ruling before August 19, 2019 or they will have to withdraw from its **Title X Program**. The **Tennessee Judiciary Committee** did not act on the measure but decided to continue to study the proposed law in the coming months.



**2019-2020 LWVN Board of Directors**

President: **Barbara Gay and Madeline Garr**  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: **Ethel Detch and Carole Kenner**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: **Clare Sullivan**  
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*Voter* Newsletter Editor: **Madeline Garr**

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Nominating Committee Members: **Betsy Walkup, Diane Dilanni, Cindee Gold, Michelle Steele**