



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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

<http://www.LWVnashville.org>

Volume 73, No. 4

September 2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 17, 2019, 2:30 pm. “Suffragists and Citizenship” with Marjorie Spruill & Rep. London Lamar. Moderated by Margaret Renkl. MTSU Campus, Tucker Theater, Murfreesboro, 37130.

September 21, 2019, 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tennessee Health Care Campaign Health Advocacy Conference. Health Equity in Tennessee is the key focus...looking at state and federal health policy changes that will impact TennCare, Affordable Care Act, and immigrant, LGBTQ, and rural health access to care. **St. Thomas West Conference Center. Registration:** <https://www.thcc2.org/conference/>.

September 23, 2019, 3:00-3:55 pm. Civic Participation, Citizenship & Voting in Tennessee: A Legislative Panel. MTSU Campus, Paul Martin Honors Bldg, Simmons Amphitheater, Room 106 Murfreesboro, 37130.

September 30, 2019, 3:00-3:55 pm. Tennesseans and Voting with Marian Ott, President of the League of Women Voters of TN. MTSU Campus, Paul Martin Honors Bldg, Simmons Amphitheater, Room 106 Murfreesboro, 37130.

October 4, 2019, Noon to 1:00 p.m. Hot Topics: Excluding Individuals with Severe Mental Illness from the Death Penalty. Lentz Public Health Center, Nashville, 37209.

October 7, 2019, 3:00-3:55 pm. Indigenous Native Americans, Citizenship, and Voting with Albert Bender. MTSU Campus, Paul Martin Honors Bldg, Simmons Amphitheater, Room 106, Murfreesboro, 37130.

October 9, 2019, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Hot Topics: Excluding Individuals with Severe Mental Illness from the Death Penalty. Green Hills Library, 3701 Benham Ave., Nashville, 37215.

October 20, 2019, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. TEA WITH HARRY T. BURN. The League of Women Voters of Nashville hosts an afternoon “Suffrage Tea” featuring Tyler Boyd, author and great grand-nephew of Harry T. Burn. Tyler Boyd will give a book talk about his illustrious relative who cast the final vote that passed the 19th Amendment. Home of Cindee Gold, 7 Northumberland, Nashville, 37215. Please RSVP at lwnashville.org.

The League of Women Voters of Nashville



High Tea with Harry T. Burn

Sunday, October 20, 2019

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Home of Cindee Gold

7 Northumberland

Nashville, TN 37215

Join us for a traditional high tea and conversation with author and descendent Tyler Boyd:

*Tennessee Statesman Harry T. Burn:
Woman Suffrage, Free Elections, and a Life of Service*

\$50/person

Secure your reservation by October 16th

at www.lwvnashville.org

or mail your check to LWVN.

Our annual fundraiser celebrates the 100-year anniversary of the pivotal role that Tennessee played in the woman's suffrage movement, 1914-1920, leading up to the passage of the 19th Amendment. However, our work is not done. Your support sustains our non-partisan efforts to increase access to the ballot box for all eligible voters and to promote informed and active participation in government.



President's Message



The **League of Women Voters of Tennessee** has joined a lawsuit against the state to overturn a law that may **punish** groups who register voters. Last week, a federal judge **blocked** the new restrictions from being implemented on **October 1st** with an injunction. The injunction will be in place until the legal process is concluded.

This is good news for the **LWVN**. **Perry MacDonald** and **Kristin Hightower** have been hard at work organizing voter registration at the State Fair, Welcome Week at the Green Hills and Donelson YMCAs. We appreciate their hard work as well as the volunteers who participate.

Jo Singer and **Barbara Gay** represented the **League of Women Voters of Tennessee** at the **TN Woman Suffrage Monument Wreath Laying Event** on **August 24, 2019** in Centennial Park in Nashville. The monument memorializes the suffragists who played a vital role in **1920** for all women to gain the right to vote. Depicted in the statue are **Carrie Chapman Catt**, founder of the **League of Women Voters**, **Anne Dallas Dudley**, **Abby Crawford Milton**, **Sue Shelton White**, and **J. Frankie Pierce**. The monument will be moved to a more prominent position closer to the Parthenon in **February 2020**.

At this event, **Carol Bucy**, League member and Metro Nashville Historian, spoke about the history of the suffrage movement and the **"99 Years of Progress for Women's Rights."** Other dignitaries were also present and gave speeches.

The **LWVN Board** is pleased to welcome **Elise Lamar** as our new Secretary. We are looking forward to getting to know her and our other new board members at our extended board meeting on **Thursday, September 19th**.

Barbara Gay



Tennessee Woman Suffrage Monument, Centennial Park, Nashville, TN



Jo Singer, LWVTN member



State Advocacy Update

By State Advocacy Chair Debby Gould

Earlier this summer the **League of Women Voters of Tennessee**, joined by other community partners, sued the Tennessee Secretary of State over the egregious new law that would impose civil and criminal penalties against organizations engaged in voter registration and engagement. We are enormously relieved this week

when a federal judge issued a **preliminary** injunction that **postpones** implementation of the law. See the League's full statement [HERE](#).

LWVN can now continue, without fear of penalties, the important work that we do year-round to ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to vote. Thanks to our conscientious, hard-working volunteers who continue to make this possible!



Notes from September Hot Topics: Basics of Metro Nashville's Budget By Co-Vice President Ethel Detch

At the well-attended September 6th *Hot Topics* meeting, **Jim Shulman, Nashville's Vice Mayor**, explained Metro's budget processes and detailed some of the city's present fiscal challenges.

Each year Metro's budget must be balanced—the expenditures cannot exceed the revenues. In addition, the city must pay its debt obligations and keep the city's bond ratings at a sustainable level. In crafting a budget, policy makers also must look toward the future and be ready to provide basic services in the event of a recession.

The city has both an operating budget, which funds the various departments, and a capital improvements budget, which summarizes all requests for needed changes in buildings and infrastructure, including schools. The **Metro Council** decides which capital improvements to approve in the Capital Spending Plan produced each Fall.

Starting each **January**, Nashville's budget is prepared by the Mayor through a series of hearings within the various departments. It must be submitted to the Council for review by **May 1st** of each year. The Council can pass an amended budget by the **end of June**; otherwise the Mayor's budget becomes law.

The **FY2020** recommended budget is **\$2.3 billion**, a 4.55% **increase** over FY 2019. Shulman provided pie charts illustrating Nashville's sources of revenues, as well as its expenditures. Property taxes and local option sales taxes provide the two largest sources of revenue at 45.7% and 20.6%, respectively. Metro's two largest categories of expenditures are Education (39%) and Public Safety (21%).

For the FY2020 budget, the Council proposed to raise the property tax, but it failed on a **19-19** vote, causing the Mayor's budget to go into effect. The Mayor's budget, however, includes non-recurring revenue earmarked for General Services District Debt Service from the sale of the District Energy System, as well as the privatization of parking, two proposals which have since been reconsidered, leaving a **\$41.5 million funding gap**. In addition, an unusually high number of citizens successfully appealed their last property tax reappraisal, **reducing** projected revenues by \$27 million.

Although Metro has projected annual revenue **growth** of \$103.6 million (4.7%) Shulman noted that Metro must soon face several challenges including a need to improve police and teachers' salaries, and an aging infrastructure.

For another resource on Metro's budget, please visit <https://www.nashville.gov/Finance/Management-and-Budget/Citizens-Guide-to-the-Budget.aspx>



October Hot Topics: Excluding Persons with Mental Illness from the Death Penalty By Co-Vice President Carole Kenner

At our meetings on **October 4th** and **9th**, our speakers will be two knowledgeable and thoughtful women who have long worked in the death penalty arena with those who are on death row and with the impact on families of victims. **Stacy Rector, Executive Director for Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty**, and **Sarah McGee**, an advocate with **Tennessee Alliance for the Severe Mental Illness Exclusion**, will address some of the issues surrounding the question "why should the state exclude individuals with severe mental illness from the death penalty?". It promises to be an interesting and informative topic.



The League of Women Voters of Nashville

Presents

Hot Topics: Excluding Individuals with Severe Mental Illness from the Death Penalty

Presented by Stacey Rector, Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, and Sarah McGee, Tennessee Alliance for Severe Mental Illness Exclusion

First Friday Hot Topics at Lunchtime

Friday, October 4, 2019

Noon to 1:00 pm

Lentz Public Health Center

2500 Charlotte Ave., Nashville, TN 37209

&

Second Wednesday Evening Encore

Wednesday, October 9, 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



Voter Services Update for September 2019

By Voter Services Co-Chair Perry McDonald and Kristin Hightower

Run-Off Election and Turnout

Despite energetic campaigns and good media coverage, **turnout** for the Election of Mayor and Runoffs for Council Seats, including four of the five At-Large Members, **was discouraging**. With an estimated 90,280 votes cast, **fewer** than 23% of Davidson County's registered voters went to the polls.

Our Fall Voter Registration Drive beats the heat and the malaise that seems to have settled in on us. We heard from **twelve new members** who are interested in assisting with voter registration. That's a good number in any year; in the absence of a November election it's an excellent one! We held a training for these and "returning" volunteers on September 12 at the Green Hills YMCA. With 8 participants, it was an engaging session. With Judge Trauger's decision 'at our backs' we are newly energized to **register, educate,** and **inspire** the voting community.

We'll be doing all that at the Green Hills YMCA and the Donelson-Hermitage Family YMCA during their Welcome Weeks, **September 16 through 22**. Nashville State Community College has invited us to participate in the Voter Registration/Constitution Day event on **September 17**. Last but hardly least, we look forward again to the **Good Neighbor Festival on September 28** at the Southeast Community Center.

Thanks to all who turned out to help us inform and register folks at the Tennessee State Fair, a first for us!

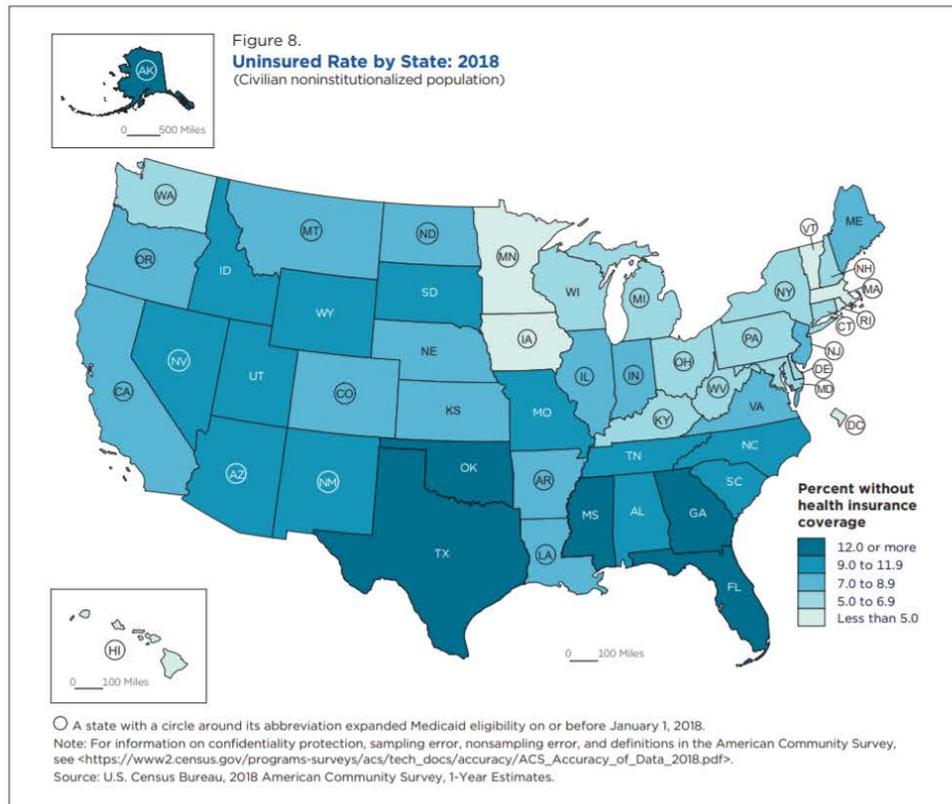
September 24 is **National Voter Registration Day**. **Commemorate** it by remembering all those who sacrifice(d) so much in the long and continuing struggle to achieve full rights of citizenship, including the right to vote. **Celebrate** it by thanking someone who works behind the scenes to assure these rights. Secure it by talking to a 16 or 17-year-old about what voting has meant to you.



Healthcare Update for September 2019

By Health Care Co-Chair Clare Sullivan

Tennessee experiences one of largest increases in the number of uninsured in nation in 2018



On September 11, 2019, the Tennessean reported the results of an **annual** review of insurance coverage by the **U.S. Census Bureau**. For the **first** time since the Affordable Care Act was passed in 2010, the number of **uninsured** in the United States has increased nearly 2 million Americans to 27.5 million uninsured in 2018 (8.5% of total population). The uninsured rate in Tennessee is even **higher**, now at 10.1% of our population, or an estimated 675,000 Tennesseans. Not surprisingly, as the map above illustrates, overall rates of uninsured remain highest in those states that did **not** expand Medicaid, nearly double than that in states that **did** expand (an average of 12.2% uninsured in non-expansion states, compared with average of 6.6% uninsured in expansion states).

Nationally, the groups with the largest losses of coverage were those on Medicaid, those with lower incomes, those who are immigrants to the U.S. (both documented and undocumented), and those in rural areas, although there were regional differences. Children in the South, for example, are more likely to be uninsured than anywhere else in the nation and experience an uninsured rate increase of 1.2% to 7.7%. While more analysis will need to be done on the causes of these changes, policy changes at the state level (such as imposition of work requirements for caregivers on Medicaid) and at the national level (such as removing the personal responsibility penalty for not having health coverage, or imposing a "public charge" rule that would threaten the permanent residency status of any immigrant who received Medicaid or a subsidy under the Affordable Care Act) have likely had great impacts. The federal administration also began cutting back funding for ACA enrollment Navigators and assisters last year. The rising costs of coverage and the trend toward high-deductible plan offerings are other factors that have impacted enrollment for middle income families as well.

The Tennessean reported that TennCare's total enrollment shrank by more than 120,000 people between 2017 and 2018 and attributed that in part to an outdated system for processing renewals which may have contributed to our exceptionally high rate of change in coverage last year. A new system, **TennCare**

Connect that came on-line in the spring of 2019, seeks to correct those issues going forward. However, many families that lost TennCare have yet to re-enroll.

It is difficult to see how these trends can be reversed in the near future, but there are ways that LWV members and other advocates can work to mitigate additional losses due to misinformation and confusion. The LWV will monitor the impact of TennCare work requirements, if these are approved by CMS, and will closely review and prepare comments on the soon to be released TennCare Block Grant waiver request. League members are invited to receive training through partner organizations like the Tennessee Health Care Campaign to do one-on-one outreach and enrollment of families in TennCare and ACA. If interested, please contact clare.d.sullivan@gmail.com.

September 2019 Membership Update

By Membership Co-Chairs Reba Holmes and Tracy Smith



Annual Membership Drive

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: **Kathryn Anderson, Melinda & Jeff Balsler, Michele Bendekovic, Terry jo Bichell, Anne Carr, Michele Failla, Linda Good, Linda R. Halperin, Carrie Hudson, Raphaela Keohane, Catherine Knowles, Amy Kurland, Frances Lamberts, Rose Lee, Betty & Ken Lichstein, Susan McClanahan, Sue McLaughlin, Diana Page, Virginia Smith, Jan Sobotka, Hazel Thornton & Colin Willis, Laura Webb, Pamela Wilkie, Phyllis Williams, Dana York**
Debby Gould – Anne Dallas Dudley member

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

Annual Membership Drive

Remember we are celebrating 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 **ending**. 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 choose to mail in the membership form found there)."

Comments from members as to why they joined the League

It is important to me to provide as many opportunities to register those in our communities that are marginalized and disenfranchised. For this reason, I am participating in the National Voter Registration Day, September 24.

I often think of the following quote, *'For this Nation to remain true to its principles, we cannot allow any American's vote to be denied, diluted or defiled. The right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties, and we will not see its luster diminished.'* President Ronald Reagan.

Meet Your 2019-2020 Leadership Board!!!

Presidents:

Barbara Gay holds a bachelor's degree in French from Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky. She began her Master of Social Work degree at the University of Chicago, completing it at the University of Toronto in 1977, and received certification in school psychology at Tennessee State University in 1990.

Barbara has been a high school foreign language teacher, practiced social work at St. Joseph's Hospital cancer ward in Hamilton, Ontario, and worked with the Comprehensive Developmental Evaluation Center at Vanderbilt University. A social worker with MNPS for 24 years, she also served as the department's interim director. In addition, she administered a \$1.1 million U.S. Department of Education elementary school counseling demonstration grant from 2000 to 2004.

Barbara has been a member of the LWVN since 1981. She served as director of the juvenile justice portfolio and on the education committee before becoming second Vice President in 2008 and is now Co-President of the LWVN State Action Committee. She likes to read, paint and draw, swim, and ride horses. She is married to Volney Gay and they have two grown daughters and a granddaughter.

Madeline Garr spent most of her professional life in the classroom teaching and learning from students who came from around the world to learn English as a Second Language. In addition to serving on the LWVN Board as the Voter Editor, she has been active for years in the community as an advocate for accessible and affordable health care for all Tennesseans, a volunteer for the Nashville Public Library, and as a support for TIRCC's ESL classes for immigrants and refugees. Since 2013, Madeline has also been involved in ACA enrollment efforts in the Nashville area and in educating Tennesseans about their health care options. Garr enjoys using her language skills and love of writing in service to LWVN. She is married to Tony Garr and they have two adult daughters as well as a new granddaughter.

First Vice Presidents:

For 28 years, **Ethel Detch** worked with Tennessee's Comptroller of the Treasury, first as a legislative performance auditor, and later as the director of Research and Education Accountability. She continues to work as a public policy analyst. Detch joined LWVN in 2011 and has served as co-chair of Voter Services and Membership.

Ethel holds a bachelor's in political science from West Virginia University and a master's in public administration from the University of Tennessee. She volunteers at the Bethlehem Center's Greater Charlotte Avenue Hot Lunch Program and sings in her church choir. She has been active in the Tennessee Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration for 30 years. Detch lives in Franklin with her husband, Steve Rogers, and has two grown children. She is a native of Lewisburg, West Virginia.

Carole Kenner has lived in Nashville for almost 50 years. She has been active in the community politically and as a neighborhood activist, as well as serving as a member of several non-profit boards and community organizations. She is also an Elder at Second Presbyterian Church. She retired from the faculty at Vanderbilt five years ago. She strongly believes that the quality of life depends upon the quality of folks we surround ourselves with, so she tends to have friends who don't mind laughing out loud and who value honesty, integrity, curiosity, compassion, and character. She believes that a small group of people, working together, can bring about great changes. She is inspired by the obstacles people can overcome and the tenacity they bring to the task. While being too pragmatic to get passionate about much, she does get excited about watching her grandchildren, seeing the first daffodil in the spring, eating orange popsicles, and having dog licks on her toes.

Second Vice President:

Clare Sullivan recently retired from Vanderbilt University Medical Center where she worked as a family nurse practitioner and community engaged research coordinator for 22 years. During her tenure she also worked under contract for the Tennessee Department of Health and Nashville Davidson County Health Department. Prior to attending nursing school, Clare worked on the occupational health and safety staff of the United Paperworkers/PACE/United Steel Workers Union, taught high school, and was an early advocate for school health in Tennessee. She received a master's degree in Health Policy and Management from Harvard School of Public Health and a Master's in Nursing Practice from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. In addition to her work with the League of Women Voters, she gardens, and volunteers with the Tennessee Health Care Campaign and Ten Thousand Villages. She is the spouse of Mark Brooks, and parent of Adria and Cade Brooks.

Secretary:

Elise Lamar is a California transplant with a BA in English from UC Riverside and a PhD in Biomedical Science at UC San Diego, which she earned in midlife. She has spent most of her life working in molecular biology labs in San Diego, Houston, and upstate New York, and, before arriving here, worked as a grant writer for City of Hope cancer center in LA. She now works as a freelance medical writer in Nashville, devoting off-hours to dogs and trying to get cacti and succulents to bloom here. She has volunteered with the Frist and with healthcare-related nonprofits, but her long-term commitment remains to the Antioch office of the Nashville Adult Literacy Council, where she is a proud "regular" in their Start Now program.

Treasurer:

Susan Mattson recently retired from her career as a public policy analyst with the Tennessee Comptroller's Office and other state agencies. She has a B.A. in Economics and Urban Studies from Rhodes College and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Kentucky.

Susan joined the LWVN in 2016 and has coordinated the LWVN VOTE411 on-line Voter Guide the last two years. She also participated in the LWVTN Action Committee in 2018. She serves on the Metro Nashville 9-1-1 Board and participates in several volunteer activities through her church.

Susan is an avid tennis player and enjoys travelling, cooking, and reading. She lives in Nashville with her husband Rick and has two grown children.

Communications Co Chairs:

Harriet Vaughan Wallace is an award-winning multimedia journalist at Fox 17 News in Nashville. She is also co-host and producer of Nashville In Focus. She is the first African American at Fox 17 News to host a talk show at the station.

Harriet is also the lead host and creator of the popular talk show Pumps & Politics. The show and movement have been a pivotal voice in Nashville, hosting courageous conversations about issues impacting families, women and the African American community.

She has created the Pumps-In-Politics internship program for high school girls and college women. Harriet has emerged as a sought-after voice in the Nashville political industry. When she's not practicing journalism, she's teaching it on the collegiate level or learning it as she is pursuing a PhD in Public Administration with an emphasis in Public Policy.

Harriet and her husband Scott Wallace own Wallace Media Group and have helped put dozens of kids through college as well as place athletes on semi-pro and professional football and basketball teams.

Kieran Bailey started her political involvement at 16 knocking on doors for Presidential candidates in her rural Upper Michigan town and it just kind of spiraled from there. She is a graduate of MTSU with a degree in Journalism/Public Relations, has worked in social media for over 10 years, and is currently the Digital Producer at RFD-TV. When she's not creating content for other people, she is occasionally blogging and frequently taking pictures of her cat.

Community Connections Co-Chairs:

Sabina Mohyuddin is a Bangladeshi American Muslim born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee. She graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1993 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. She is an active member of the Muslim community participating in interfaith and youth programs. In 2010, Sabina helped launch the **Sons and Daughters of Abraham Project** which brings together Muslim, Christian, and Jewish youth across Middle Tennessee through interfaith dialogue and outreach programs. Sabina has published a number of articles in *The Tennessean* and was an outspoken critic of the 2011 anti-sharia bill in the Tennessee state legislature. She is a founding board member and current Middle Tennessee Program Manager of the American Muslim Advisory Council (AMAC), which fosters mutual trust and respect among all people through civic engagement, community building and media relations in order to protect all Tennesseans from prejudice and targeted violence. She serves as the chair of AMAC's yearly Empowering Women conference. Additionally, Sabina serves on the Community Nashville board which combats bias, bigotry, and racism among youth and serves on the National Organization of Workforce Diversity board which helps promote diversity in the workplace.

Tamanna Qureshi is a lawyer and qualitative research analyst and provides legal, political, social, and economic research-oriented consultation to a range of clients. She has practiced in areas of labor law, commercial arbitration, securities exchange, mergers and acquisitions, IT, general commercial law, insurance, banking, corporate law, consumer protection, and intellectual property law.

Education Chair:

Lara Webb is excited to serve the LWVN in this capacity. She is looking forward to reaching out to students and teachers to build relationships that foster civic engagement in the next generation. She moved to Nashville in 2000 to attend Belmont University for her Master's in Teaching. She taught for 8 years in the classroom. Lara worked as adjunct faculty for both Vanderbilt University and Belmont University supervising student teachers. She enjoyed this work because it allowed her to travel all over Nashville to

meet and work with teachers and principals. She has taught masters level math and science methods courses for elementary educators. Lara also presented social emotional education workshops and co-authored the book *Doing Science in Morning Meeting* for the Center for Responsive Schools. She teaches classes for gifted students through SAVY at Vanderbilt.

Lara is married and has 3 sons, two of which are school-aged attending Metro schools. She is passionate about public education and has volunteered in various capacities at her children's schools. Lara sits on the Academically Talented Parent Advisory Board for MNPS. Her boys keep her busy with their hijinks, but in her free time, she enjoys being outdoors, reading, or going to Target.

Environment Chair:

Barbara Futter is originally from New York City and moved to Nashville in 1990 to work for the Metro Public Defender's Office and Karl Dean. She is a 1989 graduate of the Washington College of Law at American University. After working for Karl for 5 years, she took time off from law to be the director of the Nashville Dismas House. In 2000 she became a managing attorney at the Legal Aid Society, Murfreesboro office. In 2011 she went into private practice. At present she is semi-retired but works as a volunteer for Stewart Clifton Government Relations.

She served on the board of directors of the ACLU and Reconciliation Ministries. At present she also sits on the board of Tennessee Environment Voters. At LWV, she participated in voter registration and the LWV of Tennessee State Action committee.

Fundraising Co-Chairs:

Cindee Schreiber Gold hails from Brunswick, Georgia. After graduating from Newcomb-Tulane College in 1982, she worked for Sara Lee in Chicago until 1989 when she moved to Nashville. She is married to Dr. Michael Gold and is mom to Ilissa, age 28, and Benjamin, age 25.

Gold is past president of Reading is Fundamental, Book 'em, Hillel at Vanderbilt University, and the Temple Sisterhood. During her term as president of the Temple Sisterhood, she also served on the executive committee of the National Women of Reform Judaism. Gold's hobbies include reading, ballet, triathlon sprint, travel, and playing Words with Friends. She likes to raise money and is very excited to be part of the LWVN Board.

Debby Gould has been an active member of LWVN since 2006 and also served as board president for 6 years. She is currently vice-president for LWVTN and chairs the state's Advocacy Committee.

Previously, she served as executive director for the Nashville Public Education Foundation as well as positions at the Peabody Research Institute at Vanderbilt University, PENCIL Foundation, and other non-profit organizations. She currently serves on the Planning Committee for the TSU Campus Democracy Project, the Public Policy Committee of United Ways of Tennessee, and the Advisory Council for the Pre-K Expansion in Metro Public Schools.

She holds a BA from Vanderbilt University, a MA in sociology of education from the University of Manitoba, and a master's in public administration from Middle Tennessee State University.

Health Care Co-Chairs:

Constance Caldwell is a native of Durham, North Carolina. By professional training she is a Registered Nurse, now retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Tennessee Air National Guard. She

holds a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, NC, a Master's of Public Health Degree from the School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master's of Science Degree in Counseling from Tennessee State University.

She loves to travel, and that experience has acquainted her with the varied statuses of women in different cultures, especially in the area of women's health. She currently serves as the Coordinator of the Mission Ministry for her local church, Temple Baptist Church, here in Nashville where they are involved in outreach ministries in Haiti and Belize, Central America. She also serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for Samaritan Ministries, Inc. and was nominated by her sorority chapter, Nashville Metropolitan Alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as a candidate for the ATHENA Award in 2012.

Clare Sullivan (See above Bio)

Metro Government Chair:

Winnie Forrester has a lifelong commitment to social justice issues and the environment having been born into a family whose dinner table conversations centered upon the importance of diversity, civil rights, education, and service to the community. Ms. Forrester is a retired Certified Financial Planner and a former Associate Vice-President with Wells Fargo Advisors. She is currently President of the Haynes Heights Neighborhood Association and a founding member of the Haynes-Trinity Neighborhood Coalition. She has served on the State of TN Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities. She lives in Nashville with her two children.

Membership Co-Chairs:

Reba Holmes is particularly interested in helping people achieve their highest potential and protecting them as they chart paths to success. A graduate of David Lipscomb University, she is director of human performance at Comdata. Holmes believes that the League is an important link to nonpartisan information allowing individuals to make educated decisions about issues and candidates. Her interest in voting issues began in high school, prompting her to work as a volunteer on several local, state, and federal campaigns.

Holmes also takes customer service and quality issues seriously and has achieved the Black Belt level in Six Sigma, a data-driven approach and methodology that statistically measures the quality to perfection of a company product or service. This level of expertise allows her to serve as a corporate leader giving voice to customers in order to meet profitability and growth objectives aligned with corporate goals. She also is an advocate for children and works to help them achieve higher self-esteem.

Tracy Smith, a native Tennessean, has been interested in social justice movements since attending college in Memphis during the Sanitation Workers Strike in the late 60s. She received master's degrees in both teaching and in library science and believes deeply in the importance education and access to accurate information to our democracy. She has taught in many different school environments in Atlanta and Boston as well as in Nashville before serving as a librarian at Dupont Elementary, Meigs Magnet, Harpeth Hall, and Hume-Fogg. After she retired in 2011, she has served as a volunteer in many areas, including coordinating with schools and libraries to expand community outreach services and tutoring at the Nashville Adult Literacy Center.

Voter Service Co-Chairs:

Perry Macdonald returned to Nashville in April 2014 after a 30-year 'sabbatical' in the Washington, D.C. area, where she earned a J.D. degree from Columbus School of Law and then worked as an attorney for

technology-based corporations. She holds B.A. and M.A.T. degrees from Vanderbilt and worked as a public-school teacher, health educator, and administrator in non-profit organizations both before and after the years of law practice.

A longstanding League member, Macdonald remembers many Saturday afternoons in the 1970s registering voters outside the Baskin Robbins in Hillsboro Village. After moving to Alexandria, Virginia, she joined the efforts of the local League to finally move voter registration out of City Hall and into the community. Moving later to Reston, Virginia her commitment to assuring voter registration and access continued.

Macdonald volunteers at Planned Parenthood, the Tennessee Prison for Women and the St. Augustine's/Thistle Farms community. She is currently serving as President of the Arden Place Board of Directors.

Kristin Hightower recently retired from serving for thirteen years in the Federal Workforce in order to join her family in Nashville. As a Program Analyst for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) at TSA Headquarters in Washington D. C., Kristin provided program planning, execution, evaluation, oversight and analysis of training programs and contracts to DHS/TSA Senior Leadership.

As a Program Analyst at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), Kristin performed multiple diverse complex tasks based on mission needs for the Federal Security Director including oversight and development of the Management Control Objective Plan (MCOP), Real Estate needs, and projections, and analysis of the Management Objectives Report (MOR).

Before joining the Federal Workforce, Kristin spent eighteen years as President and CEO of her own retail company in Charlottesville, Va.

Kristin did undergraduate coursework at the University of Virginia, specializing in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis on creative and analytical thinking, decision-making, and organizational behavior. She is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society through the University of Virginia.

Two of Kristin's favorite quotes:

"Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development." ~ Kofi Annan

"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." ~ Thomas Jefferson

Nashville Voter Editor:

Madeline Garr (See above Bio)

Nominating Committee:

The LWVN nominating committee consists of three elected members.

Brenda Gilmore chairs the nominating committee. Gilmore, a former Metro councilwoman (1999 to 2006) and former state representative for District 54 (2006-20018) and is presently Senator for District 19 in the

Tennessee General Assembly. Her career includes almost twenty years as director of University Mail Services for Vanderbilt University.

A strong voice of advocacy in the community, Gilmore has served on a number of boards in Middle Tennessee and received numerous awards. Among those: the board of Vanderbilt's Susan Gray School for Abused and Special Needs Children at the John F. Kennedy Center and as board chair of the Margaret Cunningham Women's Center. She is currently a member of the boards of TSU Women's Center and Fifty Forward. In addition, she chairs the Davidson County Delegation, is vice president of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators, and co-chairs the STEM Caucus.

A life member of the NAACP, Gilmore holds membership in the Music City Chapter of the Links, Inc., Top Ladies of Distinction, the National Council of Negro Women, and is president of both the National Hook Up of Black Women and the Minerva Foundation.

Betsy Walkup has long been involved in issues that impact children and youth in Nashville. She is a former member and chair of the MNPS Board of Education. She has also served on the board of directors and is current co-chair of the Middle Tennessee Advisory Board for Youth Villages, a nonprofit that works with children and youth who are in state custody. In addition, she is a member of the board of trustees for the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

Betsy has a bachelor's degree in English from Millsaps College and a master's in library science from Emory University. She and her husband, Knox, have two grown daughters.

Diane DiIanni, an attorney who began practicing law in Boston over two decades ago, focused her practice in the areas of complex civil litigation, civil rights litigation, public sector law, and government relations. Currently, she is an adjunct Professor of Law at Vanderbilt Law School. DiIanni has been long active in professional ethics and judicial selection issues, and in 2013, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights appointed her as chair of its Tennessee State Advisory Committee. Since 2008, DiIanni has served on LWV committees at the national, state, and local level, most recently as a member of the LWVTN Action Committee. She earned her bachelor's from the University of New Hampshire *cum laude*, her master's from the University of Virginia, and her juris doctorate *cum laude* from New York University School of Law.

DiIanni also is a playwright and was selected into the Tennessee Repertory Theatre's Ingram New Works Lab and Festival during its inaugural season.



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Voter Newsletter Editor: **Madeline Garr**

Nominating Committee Chair (2017-2019) *Off Board*: Chair **Representative Brenda Gilmore**

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