



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NASHVILLE

### Poll Watching Report for November 2016

The League of Women Voters (LWV) trained 26 volunteers and received credentials from the Davidson County Election Commission to observe various polling sites in Davidson County for the November 8<sup>th</sup> elections. The poll watchers' reports concur that the overall voting process in Davidson County went smoothly and that poll workers were helpful and patient. Most precincts had short wait times for voting and were fully staffed.

Although wait times for voting were reasonable, precincts with a high volume of "Change of Address" requests had longer waits for that service – often 10-25 minutes for these voters. This was, by far, the single area of greatest confusion for voters who were often surprised that this step was necessary in order to vote. In precincts with more transient populations, such as areas with many apartment units, it would be helpful to have a dedicated electronic poll book for the Change of Address worker. LWV hopes that the state's transition to an online voter registration option in July 2017 will make it easier for voters in the future to update their records prior to Election Day.

With few exceptions, poll workers were effective in re-directing voters to their new precinct when their Change of Address necessitated that. A poll watcher did observe one voter who was re-directed to the wrong precinct because a poll worker looked at the address on the driver's license, but did not check the pollbooks.

*"The poll workers made me proud to be a Nashvillian – polite, knowledgeable, charming, welcoming, efficient, well organized."*  
-- LWV poll watcher

LWV poll watchers also observed a handful of voters who believed that they were already registered because they checked the appropriate form at the DMV when they applied for a driver's license, but did not realize that they needed to complete a separate registration form. This is an area of concern that needs to be addressed.

Most voters were able to produce adequate photo ID, although poll watchers at a few precincts in the southeast section of the county reported that a number of individuals did not have sufficient ID with them. We will be interested in reviewing the data on provisional ballots to see if this was a widespread issue.

While a few poll workers were confused by some challenging voter scenarios, the Poll Officers we observed were able to provide the clarification needed for voting to proceed smoothly. LWV applauds the Davidson County Election Commission for its efforts in recruiting and training poll workers for this election.

Submitted by

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