



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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

www.LWVnashville.org

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April 2018

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 11, 2018 through April 26, 2018. Early voting for Davidson County Primary and Referendum Election for May 1, 2018. Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>.

April 28-29, 2018. State LWV Conference in Chattanooga, TN. Program and Registration at <http://www.lwvtn.org>.

May 1, 2018. Primary and Transit Referendum Election. Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>

May 4, 2018, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00p.m. First Friday Hot Topics: Gun Violence from an Academic and Activist Perspective. Presented by **Laurie Woods**, Lecturer in Sociology at Vanderbilt University and **Linda McFadyen-Ketchum** from **Tennessee Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense. New Location: Goodwill Lifsey Center**, 937 Herman St., Nashville, TN 37208. Open to the public. *Note: No lunches are available for purchase at this location so plan to bring your own.*

May 4, 2018 through May 19, 2018. Early voting begins for Special Metropolitan General Election – Mayor and District Council 1. Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>.

May 9, 2018, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Gun Violence from an Academic and Activist Perspective. Presented by **Laurie Woods**, Lecturer in Sociology at Vanderbilt University **Linda McFadyen-Ketchum** from **Tennessee Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense. Green Hills Library Community Room**, 3701 Benham Ave., Nashville, 37215.

May 24, 2018. Special Metropolitan General Election – Mayor and District Council 1. Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>



President's Message

Vote411 (www.vote411.org) is a great way to compare candidates side-by-side and build your own personalized ballot for the **May 1st election**. The decision to elect a new mayor on a **May 24th ballot** has taken us by surprise —along with everyone else. There are 11 candidates who have qualified by the deadline, so we know that **Vote411** will be especially useful to acquaint us with all of the candidates running for this office.

We are promoting Vote411 through the libraries, on Facebook and on Instagram. Please let me know your ideas of the best ways to spread the word about this non-partisan resource.

This past week **Lara Webb, Madeline Garr, Susan Doughty, Carole Kenner**, and I had lively conversations with students of **Jaimie Schimenti** at **Meigs Middle School** about the transit referendum. Oh, if only adults could be equally thoughtful and articulate in assessing the pros and cons on a ballot issue! We are looking forward to more presentations to middle and high school students this spring. It is a great way to prepare our next generation of voters.

With the prospect of at least four election cycles during 2018, the board is delighted that **Perry Macdonald** will join **Hazel Thornton** as Voters Services co-chair.

And finally, be prepared! **The Big Payback** advertising blitz will be starting soon! On **May 2nd**, the Community Foundation will host this on-line effort to promote widespread donor support for the many, many non-profit organizations that benefit our communities in middle Tennessee. In this 24-hour period beginning at one minute after midnight on May 2nd, there will be a variety of matching grants and prizes that will help maximize the impact of your donations. The **League of Women Voters Education Fund** is one that we hope you will want to support.

Are you ready to vote?

www.Vote411.org

Learn about candidates and issues with trusted, non-partisan info from the League of Women Voter

- Compare candidates side by side
- Build your personalized ballot
- Find your polling place



Questions about photo IDs or voter registration? www.lwvnashville.org



Legislative Session Closes Soon!

By Vice President Barbara Gay

Thank you to **League members** for **attending, calling** into the Action Committee meetings, and **responding** to action alerts. You have made a difference supporting and opposing bills. **Stewart Clifton**, our lobbyist, will give a legislative wrap up at our **LWVTN Spring Council** on April 28th and 29th. Please plan to join us for details of the session.

The **LWVTN Action Committee** will **not** meet on Monday, April 23rd but we will meet **in May** (date to be

announced) to evaluate our work, plan our strategy, and discuss how we can improve our effectiveness. You may also share your suggestions with me by phone (615-297-4145) or email (barbara.b.gay@gmail.com).

Again, I appreciate all your important work.



April Hot Topic Follow Up -- Women Standing Together - Next Steps after Women's Day on the Hill 2018

By Voter Editor Madeline Garr

This month we heard from two outstanding women representing two organizations that are involved with women's issues across the state. **Zulfat Suara** from the **Business and Professional Women of Tennessee** (BPWT) spoke first. The BPWT is a statewide organization promoting equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education, and information. Every year, the BPWT selects bills affecting women and children that will be heard and debated in the Tennessee General Assembly's legislative session. **Zulfat Suara** reported on the current status of the eight bills that the BPWT have sponsored and are following this legislative session. These bills range from advocating for equal pay for women to domestic violence issues, from sexual child abuse prevention and guns in schools to TennCare Work Requirements and Women's Health Issues. To date, two of these bills are still active and on the calendar to be heard; two of the bills sponsored by the organization have seen desired outcomes, and four bills have either been put on notice or have had had results that the organization had not supported.

Zulfat asked the question of what we are to do when we have only a **25%** success rate. She listed the following actions:

1. Find people who will work to support women and children.
2. Keep talking to legislators and keep them accountable.
3. Identify people to run for office.
4. Vote and get others to vote.
5. Increase efforts in rural communities.
6. Do not give up.

The BWPT has a website. Go [here](#) for further information.

LaQuita Martin from the **Women's Political Collaborative of Tennessee** (WPC) spoke next. The WPC's primary goal is the full and equal participation of women in government and the political process at all levels. It strives for full and equal participation of women by encouraging women to get involved in their community whether that means serving on boards and commissions, volunteering at the polls on Election Day, getting involved with the political party or candidate of their choice, and making their voices heard among elected officials. The focus of **LaQuita's** presentation was the intersection between the courts and the attorney general positions throughout the state on every level and that of the legislature. She pointed out that who is chosen for the courts can have significant influence on the legislature and that since many of the positions in the courts and those of the attorney generals are appointed, that also can have a great deal of influence on legislative outcomes.

A question was raised regarding the rural/urban divide and **LaQuita's** advice was as follows:

1. Do the research on the rural areas before reaching out to the area or to their representatives.
2. Remember that personal stories that touch the heart and are not county specific.
3. Write letters to the editor or Op. Ed pieces to be submitted to rural newspapers, which often are in need of something different to publish.



May 2018 Hot Topic Information

By Vice President Ginna Foster Cannon

The **League of Women Voters of Nashville** is a **non-partisan** volunteer organization whose goal is to promote an **informed** and **engaged** citizenry. We seek to provide accessible information so that individuals will be prepared to vote on the complex issues and elections that impact the Nashville community. To that end, we are especially interested in helping both our members and the general public learn more about **Gun violence**.

We invite **Laurie Woods**, Lecturer in Sociology at Vanderbilt University, and **Linda McFadyen-Ketchum** from **Tennessee Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense** to speak at our Hot Topics program sessions in May. The title for the program is **“Gun Violence from an Academic and Activist Perspective.”**

It will be a very simple format. Each organization will be given 20 minutes to provide an update on and actionable next steps from Women’s Day on the Hill 2018 as well as describe the benefits of forging partnerships between women’s groups across the state, after which we will open the floor for questions. It is a lot to fit in an hour, I know!



The League of Women Voters of Nashville

Presents

HOT TOPICS EVENTS:

Gun Violence from an Academic and Activist Perspective

Participants:

Laurie Woods, Lecturer in Sociology at Vanderbilt University and Linda McFadyen-Ketchum

FIRST FRIDAYS HOT TOPICS

Friday, May 4, 2018 — 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Lifsey Career Solutions Building

at

Goodwill Industries, 937 Herman Street, Nashville 37208

Bring your own lunch. Program begins promptly at noon.

and

ENCORE HOT TOPICS

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 — 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Green Hills Public Library Community Room

3701 Benham Ave, Nashville 37215

For additional information about Hot Topic programs, contact Debby Gould debbygould@bellsouth.net or (629)777-5650

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

Contact LWVNash@gmail.com for more information

Please remember to LIKE **LWVN** on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVNashville?ref=ts>

Voter Service Report for April

By Voter Services Directors Hazel Thornton and Perry Macdonald

On **April 9**, the **TN Supreme Court** over-ruled a lower court decision on the date for the mayoral election. The election date has been moved forward, and is now scheduled for **May 24**, instead of August 2. Needless to say, this will cause a scramble for the candidates and the Davidson County Election Commission.

Reminder: TN now has **Online Voter Registration**, which is available to applicants who already have a TN photo id. www.GoVoteTN.gov. Available at all Metro libraries, and there is also a phone app with the same name. Please spread the word, because there has been no noticeable publicity for this wonderful development.

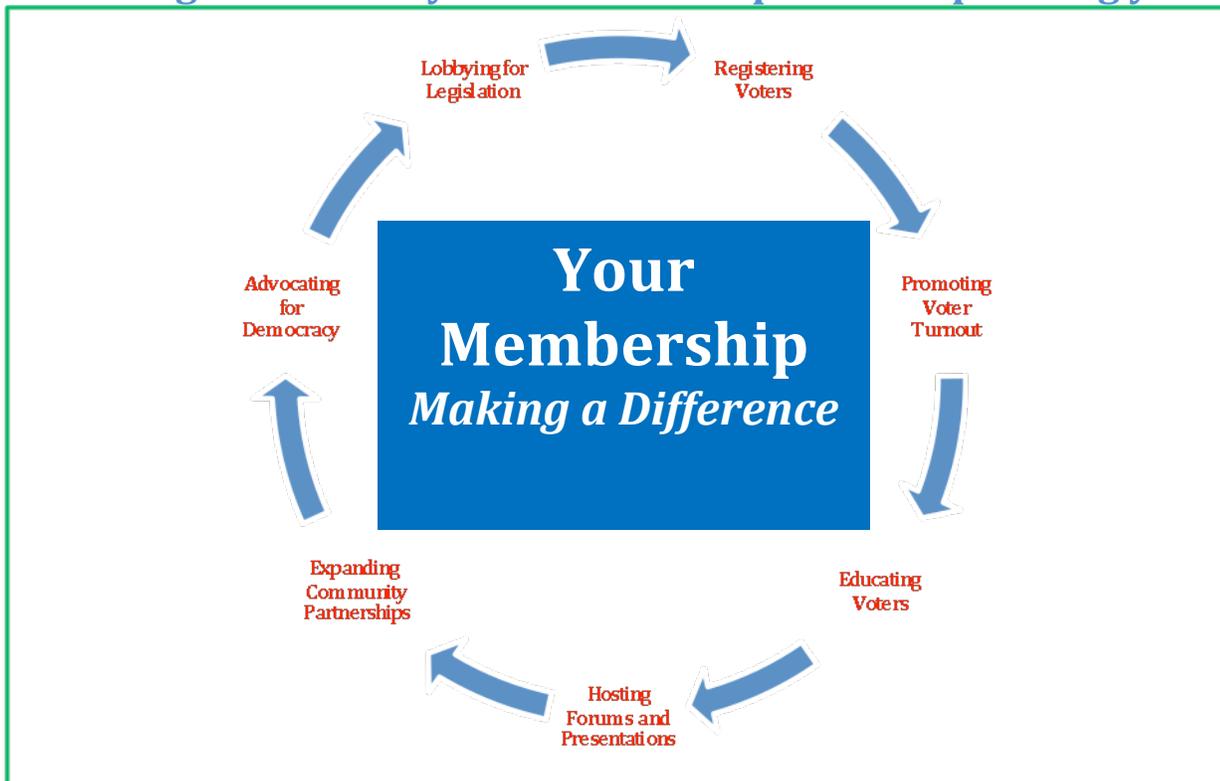
March For Our Lives on March 24– The League and several local groups joined together for a voter registration area. Over **200** registrations were processed, and hundreds of questions were answered. Most registrants were Davidson County Residents, but there were also a few from Sumner, Wilson, Rutherford, Williamson, Maury, and Shelby.

We also registered voters at **Nashville State Community College** on March 28 and 29. Sean Siple of Planned Parenthood organized the event.

A *Voter Registration Training session* will be held on Sunday, **May 6**, 2pm at the home of Hazel Thornton. RSVP hazethorn@gmail.com



Don't forget to renew your membership for the upcoming year!



TennCare Work Requirements
By Healthcare Co-Director Rashonda Lewis

The **Tennessee General Assembly** introduced three bills this session that propose work requirements for “able-bodied” TennCare recipients. According to bill supporters, work requirements will encourage independence and get more people into the workforce. The bills include exemptions for certain enrollees including persons with a disability, persons over the age 65, enrollees receiving substance abuse treatment, caretakers of children under age 6 and enrollees who are already exempt from SNAP or Families First work requirements.

According to a February 2018 report by the **Sycamore Institute**, the proposed work requirement would apply to an estimated 86,000 TennCare enrollees. If approved and implemented, the work requirement is estimated to have a **net cost of \$34 million per year in FY 2020-2021**, of which the **state would pay \$18.7 million per year**.

In January of this year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued guidelines for states that wished to design and propose test programs that require Medicaid enrollees to work or undergo job training. States were invited to propose such requirements through a Medicaid waiver application that would have to be approved by CMS. Kentucky, Indiana and Arkansas were the first states to get approval for waivers that tie Medicaid coverage to work. Other states that are seeking federal approval for work requirement waivers include New Hampshire, Maine, Wisconsin, Utah, Kansas and Arizona.

Over 160 organizations, including the **Tennessee Justice Center**, have spoken out **against** these types of work requirements. **Four** criticisms that stand out are:

1. These programs drive up state spending rather than save state dollars;
2. These programs create hurdles to enrollment and drive up the number of uninsured;
3. The loss of health coverage and attendant health care will make former enrollees less likely to work instead of less likely to work; and
4. The legality of imposing work requirements through a waiver process is not settled. The new Kentucky policy is currently before a federal judge in Washington.

The current bill, **SB1728/HB1551** sponsored by **Sen. Mike Bell and Rep. Beth Harwell** has stalled in the Senate.



Education Outreach Update

By Education Co-Director Lara Webb

Last week, several volunteers visited a **6th grade** social studies class at **Meigs Middle School** to talk to the students about the importance of voting and the transit referendum. Even though these students are a few years away from voting, they were engaged and asked great questions! We will be visiting **MNPS’s Big Picture High School** at the end of the month for an assembly on voting as they kick off their student government elections. Teachers are eager to help their students be more engaged in civic matters especially after the March for Our Lives and student walkouts.

Thank you to all the volunteers that attended the recent meeting about outreach, and thank you to the volunteers that made time to go to **Meigs**. If you are interested in volunteering or you know of any high school teachers that might be interested in our outreach, email lwebbteacher@gmail.com.



Stay Informed about Upcoming Calendar Events!

If you get the electronic version of the **Voter**, we want you to know that the upcoming calendar events are

available on our wonderful, new website – www.lwvnashville.org. On the right side of the home page the calendar scrolls on the events of the current and upcoming events thanks to **Tracy Depp**, who keeps the calendar current. If you haven't taken a look, do so to make sure you mark **your** calendar so you won't miss a thing!



ATTENTION: *The Nashville Voter* is a digital publication. If you have received this copy of the *Voter* in the mail, it means LWVN does not have an e-mail address for you. Inclusion on our e-mail database ensures your receipt of all LWVN newsletters, event invitations, meeting announcements, and Call to Action alerts. Thank you, *Nashville Voter* Editor **Madeline Garr** (mgarr2@gmail.com)



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