



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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

www.LWVnashville.org

Volume 72, No. 2

July 2018

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 13-28, 2018. Early Voting for August Primaries. Find time and locations at <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx>. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>

July 14, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Forum for Metro School Board District 6 Candidates. Lakeshore Christian Church, 5434 Bell Forge Lane East, Antioch, TN 37013

July 17, 2018, 6:30 p.m. Forum for Metro School Board District 8 Candidates. First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville. 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville, 37215.

July 19, 2018, 6:00 p.m. Forum for Metro School Board District 8 Candidates. JT Moore Middle School. 4425 Granny White Pike, Nashville, 37215. Sponsored by Moore Middle School.

July 24, 2018, 7:00 p.m. Why Nashville Needs a Community Oversight Board. Congregation Ohabai Sholom (The Temple) 50515 Harding Pike, Nashville, 37205. Sponsored by The Temple and Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable.

July 24, 2018, 6:30 p.m. Forum for Metro School Board District 6 Candidates. Antioch United Methodist Church, 41 Tusculum Rd. Nashville. Sponsored by NOAH.

July 26, 2018, 6:30 p.m. Forum for Metro School Board District 2 Candidates. Judson Baptist Church, 3900 Franklin Pike, Nashville. Sponsored by NOAH.

August 2, 2018, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Election Day. Federal and State Primary Elections, County General Election, and Municipal Election for Oak Hill. Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>

August 3, 2018, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. First Fridays Hot Topics: Sustainability Movement in Tennessee- Challenges from a Policy and Community Development Perspective. Goodwill Lifsey Center, 937 Herman Street, Nashville, 37208. *Program starts at Noon. Bring your own lunch.*

August 8, 2018, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Encore Hot Topics: Sustainability Movement in Tennessee- Challenges from a Policy and Community Development Perspective. Nashville Green Hills Branch Library. 3701 Benham Ave. Nashville, 37215.

President's Message

It is a privilege to be asked to serve as the League President of such a distinguished Past President and Board. **Debby Gould** has led the League to increased membership, recruited an outstanding Board, and we are indebted and grateful to her. Her continued service on the Board is deeply appreciated.

It is time to **Vote!** Voters will choose candidates for Governor, U.S. Senator, and U.S. Representatives in the Democratic and Republican primaries, as well as some state senate and house candidates. Some districts will also include School Board and Judicial contests. Early voting is underway at the **Howard Office Building, 700 2nd Ave. South**. All early voting sites are open **July 19th through July 28**. Election Day is **Thursday, August 2nd**.

Every registered voter should have received a sample ballot in the mail. The **LWVN** has activated our <http://www.Vote411.org> website. Thanks to **Susan Mattson** and **Jo Singer** for their work on this project. It is easy to type in your address and pull up your ballot. You can compare candidates' responses to **League-crafted** questions to understand how each candidate will address issues.

Tennessee has the **worst** voter turnout rate in the country. Please help the **League** turn this around by reminding your family and friends to vote. Send a **reminder** email to your other groups to encourage them to vote.

Barbara Gay



Update on the National LWV Convention

By Fund Raiser Co-Chair and LWV Tennessee Vice-President Debby Gould

As **LWV Tennessee** vice-president, I was delighted to represent state at the **National LWV Convention** this past month. It was a great opportunity to be inspired by some of the exciting work that others are doing throughout the nation to engage disparate communities in civic activities. I was especially interested in programs that had been successful with middle and high school students and hope that we can replicate them in Nashville. The **Voter Girl** program, for example, creates a partnership with Girl Scout troops to provide resources for girls to earn a citizenship badge.

Broadening our membership so that it is a truer reflection of the diversity of Nashville has been one of our ongoing goals. During this national convention, diversity and inclusion was highlighted as a national organization goal as well.

The Convention was also an opportunity to hear about transformational changes to increase the efficiency of the national office and its interactions with state and local leagues. **Virginia Kase** was introduced as the very freshly hired CEO. Her last position was as a chief operations officer for an immigrants' rights group and her enthusiasm for her new position was infectious.



August 2018 Hot Topic Information

By 1st 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 the

issues.

We invite each of you to our **August Hot Topic Events**. The title of the August program is “**The Sustainability Movement in Tennessee from a Policy and Community Development Perspective.**” Speakers are: **Laurel Creech**, Chief Service Officer of the Mayor’s Office of Transportation and Sustainability and **Andrea Zink**, Citizen’s Climate Lobby Nashville Chapter.

It is a lot to fit in an hour, I know!



The League of Women Voters of Nashville

Presents

HOT TOPICS EVENTS:

The Sustainability Movement in Tennessee from a Policy and Community Development Perspective

Participants:

Laurel Creech, Chief Service Officer of the Mayor’s Office of Transportation and Sustainability and **Andrea Zink**, Citizen’s Climate Lobby Nashville Chapter

FIRST FRIDAYS HOT TOPICS

Friday, August 3, 2018 — 12:00 to 1:00 pm

Lifsey Career Solutions Building

Goodwill Industries, 937 Herman Street, Nashville 37208

Bring your own lunch. Program begins promptly at noon.

and

ENCORE HOT TOPICS

Wednesday, August 8, 2018 — 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Green Hills Public Library Community Room

3701 Benham Ave, Nashville 37215

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/LWVNNashville?ref=ts>



Voter Service Report for June/July

By Voter Services Chairs Hazel Thornton and Perry Macdonald

On June 29 we held a voter registration training at the **Green Hills Library**, welcoming **11 League members** for a review of both online and paper forms for voter registration. We also distributed and discussed current handouts and the [GoVoteTN](#) app.

The **Edgehill Park** voter registration event took place **July 14**. The attendance was low and the temperature

was high, but even so we registered or changed addresses for five people. **Catherine Knowles** and **Liz Berger** get a shout out for braving the heat for their first voter registration with us. **Thank you!**

We have several **more** registration events in the works, and we'll send volunteer notices as plans become definite. The same goes for the next voter registration training class.

Early voting has begun for the **August 2 election**, so be sure to nudge your friends and family to the polls. Details for locations and hours can be found here:

<http://www.nashville.gov/election-commission.aspx>



Thank you!

Tony and Madeline Garr want to thank you for the honor you bestowed upon us at the annual meeting at **Cindee Gold's** home June 6, 2018 when we received the **Molly Todd Award**. We are grateful and humbled to be included among those who have done so much to advocate for so many and to have been recognized by a group of people who continually do so. Again, **thank you!!!**



Meet Your 2018-2019 LWVN Board OF Directors

President: 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 also chair of the LWVTN State Action Committee. She likes to read, paint and draw, swim, and ride horses.

First Vice President: Ginna Foster Cannon is someone who loves connecting people, places, and ideas. There is nothing more satisfying than researching and putting together a project, program or partnership that hits the mark and helps people think about an issue a new way and provides actionable next steps. As both a historian and marketer, Ginna believes in the power of compelling stories, preservation and authenticity. In fact, she wrote a whole [dissertation](#) on the subject. She is using these skills as the First Vice President in charge of monthly programming for the League of Women Voters of Nashville.

Ginna recently accepted the position as Director of Cultural Heritage Tourism for Rutherford County. In her free time, she serves as a poll worker in Davidson County and volunteers at voter registration drives at local high schools. She is also a Board member for Tennessee Craft serving on the Community Engagement Committee. She received her PhD in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in December 2017 and continued her research on Tennessee's historic hotels as community landmarks and drivers of economic development as a post-doc Fellow at MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation. Prior to receiving her doctorate, she ran her own PR business in Nashville including the well received monthly program called Evening with an Author and served in various business development roles at McGraw-Hill.

She has a MBA in Marketing and Management from Columbia Business School, an MLAS from Vanderbilt University and a BA from Harvard College. She lives in Nashville with her husband Mark, daughter Lolly and a houseful of affectionate dogs.

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 Masters 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: 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.

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. She 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 & Kieran Bailey (TBA)

Community Connections Co-Chairs: Hasina Mohyuddin is a PhD candidate in the Community Research and Action (CRA) program at Vanderbilt University. Prior to joining the program, she received a BA in Economics from Yale University, and an MBA from Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University. After working in the healthcare industry for several years, she went back to school to complete her doctoral degree. Her dissertation research explores the religious identity development for Muslim American youth in the context of widespread negative stereotypes of Islam and Islamophobia. In addition, Hasina is serving as the Study Coordinator for Professor Carol Nixon on two grants: one evaluating HIV/AIDS education for the Southeast AETC, and the other evaluating the implementation of environmental strategies for alleviating prescription drug abuse programs by community coalitions for the TN Dept. of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Hasina has been married for over 20 years to her husband Shuaib and has three wonderful sons. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Islamic Center of Nashville as well as on the boards of the

League of Women Voters, PENCIL and Nashville OIC.

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 masters 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's professional background is multifaceted having involved educational research and policy, professional development, and program implementation. For 16 years she served as executive director for the Nashville Public Education Foundation. She has also worked in a variety of nonprofit organizations including the Tennessee Environmental Council, Second Harvest Food Bank, PENCIL Foundation, United Ways to Tennessee, as well as the Peabody Research Institute at Vanderbilt University.

Gould 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. She currently serves on the

Steering Committee for the Nashville Coalition for Education on Immigration and the Public Policy Committee of United Ways of Tennessee. She has been a board member of the LWVN for the past ten years and is a member of the LWVTN Action Committee. She is energized by the commitment and passion of fellow League members.

Health Care Co-Chairs: Rashonda Lewis most recently worked at Vanderbilt University Medical Center as an assistant research professor, where she was involved with a variety of women and children's health projects including the National Children's Study, the Growing Right Onto Wellness clinical trial, and the 2013 Tennessee Women's Health Report Card. From 2007 to 2008, she served as director of Governor Bredesen's Women's Health Initiative.

Lewis has earned a master's of health administration and a juris doctorate. She and her husband are the parents of a daughter and son.

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 Masters of Public Health Degree from the School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master 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.

Metro Government Co Chairs: Dr. Michelle Cummings Steele is the Academic Director and Assistant Professor in the Nelson and Sue Andrews Institute for Civic Leadership for the College of Leadership and Public Service at Lipscomb University. With more than 18 years of experience working with governmental agencies, Dr. Steele served as director of Nashville's Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods for four years during the Purcell administration, is a former case manager for the Mid-Cumberland Community Services Agency, and supervised the customer service team at the Metropolitan Nashville Department of Codes and Building Safety. She has worked with countless local community groups teaching them to develop the capacity within themselves to affect sustainable and collaborative change.

In 2016, Dr. Steele co-facilitated the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County discussions on Race, Equity and Leadership (R. E.A.L. Talks) that brought together over 1100 people from across the city. She has also worked with the YMCA of Middle Tennessee on discussions with community about the future of the Northwest YMCA. Dr Steele is a native Nashvillian and enjoys this work that helps to improve conditions for the "beloved community." She also gives back to her community by serving on the boards of Metropolitan Parks and Recreation, the Adventure Science Center, the Nashville Civic Design Center, Nashville Cable, Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and the League of Women Voters. Dr. Steele has had the privilege to teach students her passion for "leading change" through courses in leadership, community change, public administration, issues and ethics, and organizational skills and development. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, a Master of Science degree in public service management from Cumberland University and a Doctorate of Education in leadership and professional practice from Trevecca Nazarene University. Dr. Steele is married to Larry Steele, Jr. and they have two adorable children, Sheldon and Chellsea.

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 a masters 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: **Hazel Thornton** was an election judge in Cook County, Illinois (Chicago) for eleven years beginning in 1996. She also did grass roots work to promote transparency in Palatine, IL. She joined LWVN in 2011 and immediately accepted the office of Secretary. She began observing the Davidson County Election Commission, and subsequently, the (TN) State Election Committee meetings in conjunction with her position on the LWVTN board. In her years with the League she has volunteered for poll watching, candidate forums and represented the League at Metro meetings. She finds the work to be incredibly satisfying and believes that if we don't have free and fair elections, we don't have anything.

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.

Nashville Voter Editor: 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.

Nominating Committee

The LWVN nominating committee consists of three elected members.

Brenda Gilmore chairs the nominating committee. Gilmore, a former Metro councilwoman from 1999 to 2006, is presently representative for District 54 in the Tennessee General Assembly, where she has served since 2006. 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.



Updates on Metro Government

By Metro Government Co-Chairs Winnie Forrester and Michelle Steele

Relief to Misdemeanor Offenders in Davidson County Jails

Thanks to **Councilman Freddie O'Connell** and **nine** other Councilpersons who sponsored resolution **RS2018-1054** eliminating the \$44 per day jailers' fees for citizens incarcerated in Davidson County jails for misdemeanor crimes. It passed on 7/3/18 in Metro Council and will help elevate some of the financial burden on persons unable to make bail and awaiting trial.

Restriction of Open Records defeated in Metro Council Committee

This past month, the **League of Women Voters Nashville** followed with interest Metro Council resolution #RS2018-1263 sponsored by **Councilmember Davette Blaloc**. It requested the Tennessee General Assembly to introduce and enact legislation to allow for online publication, instead of newspaper publication, when public notices are required. Our President, **Barbara Gay**, emailed all Council members and reminded them the **League of Women Voters** has long been a fierce proponent of open records and open government. She stated "we are **against** any legislation reducing access to public information. Public notices provide important information such as where tax dollars are spent, foreclosures, sale of assets, rezoning of land, and delinquent taxes. Withholding this information from printed newspapers adversely affects elderly residents and low-income citizens who may not have access to the internet."

The resolution was deferred indefinitely by the sponsor after the Metro Council committee for Rules, Confirmations, and Public Elections voted 8-0 against it. The Councilwomen on the committee, **Brenda Haywood, Jacobia Dowell, Karen Johnson, and Mina Johnson** led the discussion and expressed several concerns including eliminating public notices in the free local publications available in the grocery newspaper racks, where they are accessible to everyone.



Lingering Issues Part Two—Infant Mortality

By Health Care Co-Chairs Rashonda Lewis

Infant mortality is an indicator used worldwide to gauge the health of a country's population. It's an important indicator on a state level as well. Over the past decade, the infant mortality rate in Tennessee has improved, declining from 8.7 deaths per 1,000 babies in 2006 to 7.4 in 2016. While this decline is good news, context matters. Tennessee infant mortality has historically ranked **high** compared to other states. In 2006, we ranked 46th among all states, with states ranked from best to worst. In 2016, we moved up to 40th. So while our infant mortality rate has declined and our ranking compared to other states has improved a bit, we still have a long way to go.

Our state opted out of Medicaid expansion of any form, leading to greater numbers of uninsured Tennesseans, far too many rural hospital closings, and ultimately less access to healthcare. Legislative decisions have done **nothing** to improve access to reproductive health services for women. These moves do not align with improved health outcomes for mothers and babies.

Mid-term elections are close. Let's talk to candidates and find out if they are willing to protect the progress we've made in women and children's health.



School Board Elections – What's Happening?

By Education Chair Lara Webb

With early voting underway and Election Day on **August 2**, there are several candidate forums in the school board district races. **Anna Shepherd**, the incumbent, is running unopposed in district 4, so there is no forum. There are **four** seats up for election on the MNPS Board of Education. The nine-person board has offset elections so that not all seats are up for election on the same year. In races with more than 2 candidates, the candidate with the highest vote total is the winner. There does not have to be a majority for a winner to be declared.

Don't forget to check out Vote411.org if you can't make it to one of the upcoming forums!

Upcoming Forums:

School District 2

Thursday, July 26, 6:30-8:30 pm

Judson Baptist Church, 4900 Franklin Pike, Nashville 37220

Hosted by NOAH

School District 6

Tuesday, July 24, 6:30-8:30 pm

Antioch United Methodist Church, 41 Tusculum Road, Antioch 37013

Hosted by NOAH

School District 8

Tuesday, July 17, 6:30-8:30 pm

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville, 1808 Woodmont Boulevard, Nashville 37215

Hosted by NOAH

Thursday, July 19, 6 pm

J.T. Moore Middle School, 4425 Granny White Pike, Nashville 37215

Hosted by Moore PTO



Stay Informed about Upcoming Calendar Events!

For updates regarding upcoming calendar events, go to www.lwvnashville.org. If you haven't taken a look, do so to make sure you mark **your** calendar so you won't miss a thing! Thank you, *Nashville Voter* Editor **Madeline Garr** (mgarr2@gmail.com)



2018-19 LWVN Board of Directors

President **Barbara Gay**

Vice Presidents **Gina Foster Cannon** and **Clare Sullivan**

Secretary **Ethel Detch** • Treasurer **Susan Mattson**

Portfolio Chairs

Communications: **Harriet Vaughn-Wallace** and **Kieran Bailey**

Community Connections **Hasina Mohyuddin** and **Tamanna Qureshi**

Education **Lara Webb**

Environment **Barbara Futter**

Fundraising **Cindee Gold** and **Debby Gould**

Health Care **Constance Caldwell** and **Rashonda Lewis**

Membership **Reba Holmes** and **Tracy Smith**

Metro Government **Michelle Steele** and **Winnie Forrester**

Voter Services **Hazel Thornton** and **Perry Macdonald**

Voter Newsletter Editor **Madeline Garr**

Nominating Committee Chair: **Representative Brenda Gilmore**

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