



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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October 2018

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 17, 2018, 6:45 p.m. Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook. Premier Screening and Reception. The Belcourt Theater, 2102 Belcourt Ave., Nashville, 37212. Co-Sponsored by ACLU and League of Women Voters of TN.

October 17-November 1, 2018. Early Voting for Federal and State General Election. Find time and locations at <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx>. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>

October 21, 2018, 2:30-4:00 p.m. High Tea and Ballet – LWVN’s Annual Fund Raiser Celebration Tennessee’s Pivotal Role in Securing Women’s Right to Vote with a special “teaser” of a commissioned ballet to tell the story. Nashville Main Library, 615 Church St, Nashville, 37219

November 2, 2018, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Hot Topics: TBA. Goodwill Lifsey Center, 937 Herman Street, Nashville, 37208. *Program starts at Noon. Bring your own lunch.*

November 6, 2018, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Election Day. Federal and State General Election. Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>

November 10, 2018, 2:00 p.m. Premier of the Nashville Ballet on Women’s Suffrage. Harpeth Hall High School Auditorium. 3801 Hobbs road, Nashville, TN 37215.

November 14, 2018, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Hot Topics Evening Encore: TBA. Green Hills Public Library, 3701 Benham Ave, Nashville, 37215.

President’s Message



We owe a special thanks to our Voter Service Chairs, **Hazel Thornton** and **Perry Macdonald**, for their hard work organizing and supervising **many** voter registration events. Thanks to the many wonderful League volunteers, we were able to provide registration at a wide variety of neighborhood events. You will hear more from Hazel as she organizes poll watching for the **November** election. The League has also been invited to provide **poll reporters** to get the final election night tallies for the Associated Press at five Davidson County precincts. This will be a small fundraiser for us as well. Perry will be contacting our great group of volunteers to help.

League members are excited about our **High Tea and Ballet** on **Sunday, October 21st from 2:30 to 4:00** at the downtown public library. There will be a brief preview of the Nashville Ballet's original creation depicting the **Women's Suffrage Movement**. We owe a special thanks to **Debby Gould** and **Cindee Gold** for making this educational, artistic project happen. In addition to the ballet "teaser" we will be serving a full afternoon tea at this child-friendly event. [Please](http://www.lwvnashville.org) RSVP at [lwvnashville.org](http://www.lwvnashville.org) The full ballet will be premiered at **Harpeth Hall Auditorium on Saturday, November 10th, 2 pm**.

The ballot for this midterm election is very long because it includes **six** amendments to the Metro Charter. Five of these are straightforward house-keeping rule changes that are not controversial. We had public educational meetings on the first one that would add a Citizens Oversight Board to our charter. We advise reading the amendments before you go to the polls. Go to www.Vote411.org for more detailed information.

LWV members, please help us improve our **sad** voter turnout by reminding your family, friends, and neighbors to go to the polls. Early voting starts **Wednesday, October 17th** and **Election Day is Tuesday, November 6th**.

Barbara Gay



In Memorium

We were saddened by the death of **Dr. Colleen Conway-Welch**, a long-time member of LWV and a passionate advocate for women in the Nashville community. During her 29 years as **Dean of the Vanderbilt Nursing School** she transformed nursing education and made the Vanderbilt program one of nation's largest nursing schools. As Governor Haslam stated, " ... her passion was promoting women's health, especially reaching out to low income women, launching clinics in Nashville for the uninsured that became national models for a new way to deliver healthcare."



High Tea and Ballet

By Fundraising Co-Chairs Cindee Gold and Debby Gould



There is still time to RSVP,
www.lwvnashville.org

High Tea and Ballet October 21, 2018
2:30 - 4:00 pm
Nashville Main Library



Notes from October Hot Topic: A Referendum to Authorize a Community Oversight

Board

By Voter Editor Madeline Garr

Members of the Nashville community gathered to hear two perspectives on the upcoming Metro Charter Amendment 1 that will be on the November ballot. This amendment creates a **Community Oversight Board (COB)**. The League of Women Voters Nashville does **not** have a position on this Amendment but is committed to providing information to the community as Metro Voters may be unaware that it is on the ballot and may neglect to vote.

The Hot Topic presentation spotlighted **two** perspectives. First to speak was **Jackie Sims**, Spokesperson for **Community Oversight Now**, a coalition of organizations that is supportive of the Community Oversight Board (COB). Ms. Sims began her presentation by explaining that her father was a policeman in Chicago and she also worked in police departments for several years. Having done so, she has seen the good, the bad, and the ugly. Combining that knowledge with the reality of being a mother of two sons, she is not naive about why a **COB** is important in the Nashville community. She is a strong believer of transparency and believes that COB will bring both transparency and accountability to the **Metropolitan Police Department**. She noted that both white and black policemen signed the petition requesting a referendum. The COB would ensure a fair process when complaints about incidents involving policing encounters take place. The COB would only be involved after the police complete their investigation and, if there is a complaint, only after the police department investigates the merits of the complaint. She asks why **not** have a board to provide the community both transparency and accountability. She encourages voters to read the Charter Amendment [here](#).

Ms. Sims was followed by **Bill Pridemore**, current Councilman for District 9. **Councilman Pridemore** also has police experience as he is a retired Metro Nashville police officer who worked with Homicide and the District Attorney. His concerns regarding the **COB** are two-fold: fiscal and governance. As written, this is an amendment to the Metro Charter and as such is written “in stone”. In other words, it deals with the current situation but his concern is the future. Any future changes would once again be subject to the process of changing the Charter, a process he describes is like “pulling teeth”. He would rather see an **ordinance** than an amendment to the charter. As it stands now, **Amendment 1** creates a permanent position, requests an annual budget of no less than 1.5 million dollars. This request gives no room for inflation and would require Metro to do a supplemental budget at a time when there is already a freeze on hiring as a result of the current budget shortfall. He is also concerned about the non-specificity of the amendment and the fact that police professionals were not around the table in the creation process of this amendment. Finally, he reminded the audience that **Mayor Briley** has publically stated that if the amendment fails, the mayor will create either an ordinance or an executive order creating a COB for Nashville. An ordinance is livable, breathable, and more adaptable to meet the needs of a changing community, something Councilman Pridemore feels is important.

There were several questions from the audience reflecting concerns about why a COB had not been established in the past, the impact of the COB on the morale and recruitment of police officers, which is already an issue in Nashville, the make-up of the board and the selection process, the actual actions of the board with regard to incidents and policies, and the 1.5 million being requested.



The League of Women Voters of Nashville
Presents

First Friday Hot Topic at Noon

TBA

Participants: To Be Announced

FIRST FRIDAYS HOT TOPICS:

TBA

Friday, November 2, 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.

&

SECOND WEDNESDAY EVENING ENCORE:

TBA

Wednesday, November 14, 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 October

By Voter Services Chairs Hazel Thornton and Perry Macdonald

In addition to registration events, **LWVN** co-sponsored the Nashville **premieres** of two documentary films: "**Dark Money**" with Nashville Public Television on September 12 and "**A Greater Society**" with the Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) on September 16. Completing the season of election-themed documentaries, we will co-sponsor with the ACLU on Wednesday, October 17, "**Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook**" at the Belcourt Theater.

We have appreciated the assistance of **Debby Gould** and **Marian Ott** as observers at the many meetings of the Davidson County Election Commission and the Tennessee State Election Commission.

The **Associated Press** has asked, and the Board has agreed, to provide **five** (5) special precinct "stringers" who will report election results from five designated precincts in Davidson County on mid-term election night. For those who have agreed to take on this very short foray into new journalism, we say: thanks and enjoy being at the finish line of this challenging election cycle.

Early voting begins on **Wednesday, October 17** at **11** locations in Nashville, Goodlettsville, Hermitage, Madison and Antioch. **Any** registered voter who has moved **within** Davidson County since they last voted may go to any early voting location to update their registration and vote. Waiting until election day will require these voters to vote only at their **new** polling place. Remember that **all** first time voters in Tennessee must vote in person unless they were registered in person by a DCEC official. The **deadline** for requesting an absentee ballot is **October 30**.

The ballot is quite **long**, with **six Metro Charter Amendments** in addition to candidates for federal, state, and local offices. We urge everyone to read the sample ballot and consult Vote411.org and other resources in **advance** of the day you vote.

www.Vote411.org is up and running. This valuable resource lets voters **compare** candidates' answers in a side-by-side comparison. The guide lists all candidates who will be on the ballot in Davidson County. For the first time this year, we are also listing Williamson County candidates. If your candidate has not responded, please let them know how much voters value **non-partisan information** like Vote411.



Attention League Members! Get the Word Out!!!

Federal funding for Navigator Assistance has cut the number of assisters in Tennessee drastically. However, **volunteers** have stepped forward to fill some of the gap and appointments **are** available. People seeking help to enroll either in the **Affordable Care Act** or in **TennCare** can contact **844-644-5443** to find local help and make an appointment. Please reach out to those you know or who seek your help. **ACA Open Enrollment** begins **November 1** and ends **December 15**. **TennCare** enrollment is **year-round**.

Thank you!



It is with great delight that we announce and welcome our **new** and **returning** members that have joined the **Nashville League of Women Voters**. It is our privilege to welcome these individuals to the organization: [Pamela Atkins](#), [Susan Cheatham](#), [Kathleen Clemmons](#), [Gayle Adkins Gordon](#), [Craig and Anne Heflinger](#), [Kyra Knight](#), [Nancy McFadden](#), [Linda Pearce](#), [Freda Player](#), [Karen Wieckert](#)

Anne Dallas Dudley Member: [Adele Simons](#)

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

Invite Your Friends to Join Anytime

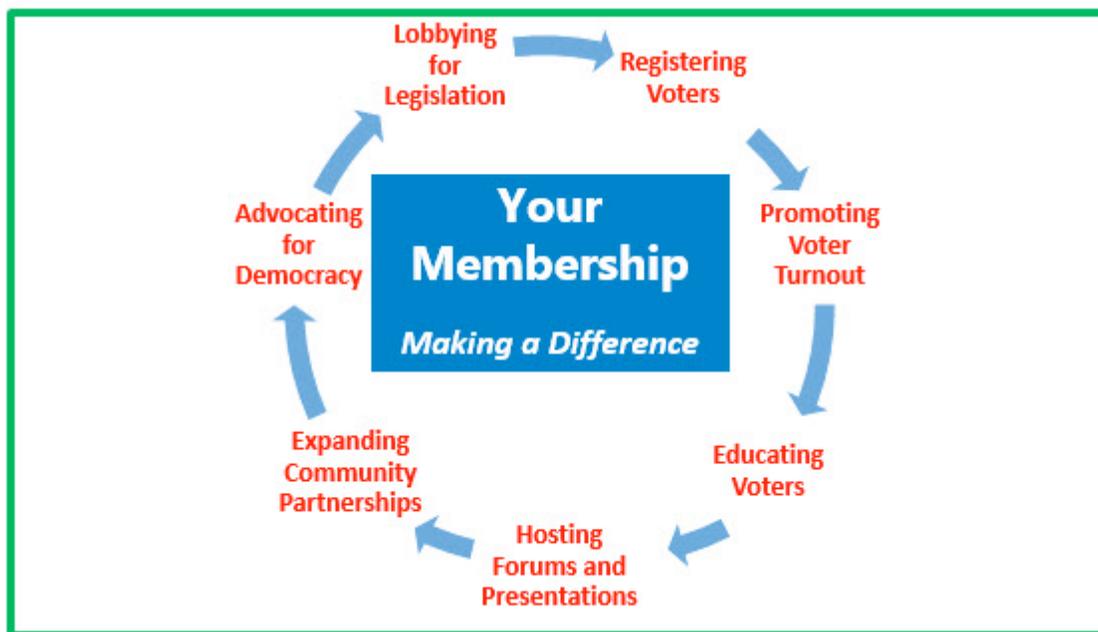
We encourage you to invite your family members, friends and colleagues. Details regarding the various support levels may be found on our website [<http://lwvnashville.org/join/>](http://lwvnashville.org/join/).

Comments from members as to why they joined the League

"To show people that their vote makes a difference. Some recent races come to mind, the Alabama U.S. Senate race and Georgia primary elections for governor and congress. Regardless of the party affiliation, clearly the turnout had a huge impact." – Name withheld

"I want to reduce Voter suppression." – Anonymous

Joining the League of Women Voters is the perfect way to get involved in the democratic process.



A Healthier Tennessee

By Health Care Co-Chair Constance Caldwell

Our continued struggle for a Healthier Tennessee

In the last two months, your Health Care team has attempted to give you an idea of **Tennessee's status** relative to its ranking in providing **appropriate** and **sufficient** health care to its citizens. As previously reported, Tennessee ranks **43rd** in the nation as you look at women's and children's health, maternal mortality, and teen suicide. In addition, statistics show that in some areas, public health concerns have worsened. In the fight against opioid addiction, the state ranks **39th** in the nation for drug deaths. Chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes and obesity **remain** major health issues.

"America's Health Rankings: Health of Women and Children Report"

(<https://www.americashealthrankings.org/learn/reports/2018-health-of-women-and-children-report>)

As **concerned** tax-paying citizens, we should all be looking for solutions since poor health costs us **billions** of dollars. We should be championing '**accessibility**' and '**prevention**'.

We can **start** when we go into the **voting booth**. Please know your candidates and what they stand for. The campaign ads are reported to be the most expensive in Tennessee history but what does that matter if constituents are not **cared for** and **elected** officials **are not held accountable**?

Open enrollment for ACA (Affordable Care Act) begins on **November 1, 2018**. With the loss of funding for administering this program, we need to be attentive to how many participants sign up. The **extension** of TennCare (or a similar program) is a necessity in order that additional Tennesseans are eligible for health care. We have an **obligation** to produce a better picture of Tennessee health.

Early voting begins **Wednesday, October 17** and ends on **November 1**. Let your vote count.



Please let us know if there is a death in your family so that the membership may be aware of your loss.

Thank you!



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