



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. 1

June 2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 18, 2019, 6:00 p.m. Candidate Forum for Metro Council, District 18.** Martin Professional Development Center, 2400 Fairfax Avenue, Nashville, TN 37212, Sponsored by Hillsboro-West End Neighbors, Hillsboro-Belmont Neighbors, Belmont University, and Vanderbilt University.
- June 20, 2019, 6:00 p.m. Mayoral Forum.** Cal Turner Center, Meharry Medical College 1021 21st Ave. North, Nashville 37208. Sponsored by Nashville Pan-Hellenic council, Urban League, NAACP, Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship.
- June 25, 2019, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Televised Mayoral Debate.** McAfee Concert Hall. Belmont Blvd., Nashville 37212. Sponsored by Belmont University, News Channel 5, The Tennessean.
- June 26, 2019, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Mayoral Debate on Education.** First Amendment Center, 1207 18th Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37212. Sponsored by Nashville Public Education Foundation.
- June 27, 2019, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mayoral Forum,** Cathedral of Praise Church of God in Christ. 4300 Clarksville Pike, Nashville, TN 37218. Sponsored by Urban League of Middle Tennessee.
- July 5th and July 10th. Hot Topics takes a Summer Break.**
- July 9th, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Televised Mayoral Debate.** McAfee Concert Hall. Belmont Blvd., Nashville 37212. Sponsored by Belmont University, News Channel 5, The Tennessean.
- July 10, 2019, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Meeting with Metro At-Large Candidates.** Paul Rogers Room, First Floor Ezell Center of Lipscomb University. Sponsored by LWVN and Lipscomb University, College of Leadership of Public Service.
- July 12th to July 27th. Early Voting for Metro General Election.** For information about early voting and election day voting sites, see the Davidson County Election Commission, <https://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx>
- July 14, 2019, 3:00 p.m. Mayoral Forum.** Location To Be Announced. Sponsored by NOAH.
- August 1, 2019, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Metro General Election.** For information about early voting and election day voting sites, see the Davidson County Election Commission, <https://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx>
- August 18, 2019. Elaine Weiss: The Woman's Hour.** Metro Main Library, Auditorium, 7th and Church, Nashville, TN. 37219. Sponsored by the Nashville Public Library Foundation, Nashville Public Library, and Parnassus Books. **Free tickets available on August 4.**
- August 24, 2019, 11:00 to noon. Ceremony at Women's Suffrage Monument.** Suffrage Monument at Centennial Park. Sponsored by Tennessee Woman Suffrage Monument organization.

President's Message



Congratulations to **Debby Gould**, our **Molly Todd** winner this year. She has led the **League of Women Voters of Nashville** to new heights with her creative ideas and hard work. Thank you to **Susan and Rick Mattson** for hosting our annual meeting with delicious food and a wonderful setting in their beautiful new home.

The League is having a busy summer with the upcoming mayoral election on **August 1st**. There will be **new** voting machines and demonstrations held by the Davidson County Election Commission on **Monday, June 17th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Southeast Library, 5260 Hickory Hollow Pike** and **Wednesday, June 19th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Bordeaux Library, 4000 Clarksville Pike**. July 1st is the **last** day to register to vote in the August election. Look for **Vote411 information** starting on **June 24th**.

Bookmarks honoring the passage of the **19th Amendment** will be distributed through the public libraries thanks to Debby.

The **League** will be sponsoring a round table discussion with the **candidates at large** for the Metro Council on **July 10th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at David Lipscomb University's Ezell Center**. The audience will be seated at round tables and the candidates will rotate to each table so participants can ask their questions. The League will provide our **Vote411** questions at each table. Lipscomb will handle the **required** RSVPs. Candidates and attendees will **not** be allowed to wear campaign shirts or buttons, but literature may be placed on tables in the hall.

Voter participation is often low for summer elections. **Early** voting is **Friday, July 12th through Saturday, July 27th**. Please encourage your family and friends to visit **Vote411** and plan to vote.

Barbara Gay



In Memoriam

We are saddened to learn of the passing of **Charlie Cardwell**, who was Davidson County Trustee as well as Metro government's longest-serving employee. For many years, he and his late wife were committed members of the **League of Women Voters**. A public servant, well known for his capability and integrity, he understood the important role that organizations such as **LWV** play in building a climate of civic engagement and promoting transparency in government.

We are also saddened to hear of the passing of **Bob Bogen**, a former board member of **LWVNashville**, former member of the Metro Council, and former Executive director of MNEA. Throughout his life he remained committed to teachers and their needs as well as to lifelong learning.



Candidate Forum for Metro Council at Large By State Advocacy Chair Debby Gould

LWVN and the College of Leadership and Public Service of Lipscomb University are co-sponsoring a forum for candidates running for Council at Large. The event will be open to the general public.

Candidate Forum for Metro Council at Large
Wednesday, July 10, 2019
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Paul Rogers Room, First Floor
Ezell Center of Lipscomb University

Each of the participating candidates will make a very brief opening statement. This will be followed by an opportunity to meet with roundtables of audience members in a “speed dating” format. We anticipate an energetic and animated evening of conversation that will give the audience a chance to learn more about the candidates and their views concerning the priorities for Metro Council in the coming years.

In order to create a non-partisan event, we are asking audience members to leave t-shirts, banners and other candidate paraphernalia at home. Space will be limited. Look for an email in the coming week with further RSVP information and be sure to invite your friends.



Notes from June Hot Topics: Ranked Choice Voting
By Voter Editor Madeline Garr

Members of the **League of Women Voters Nashville** and the Nashville Community gathered to learn about the issue of **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)** from **Aaron Fowles**, Program Director of the non-profit organization **Ranked Choice Tennessee**. Aaron began the presentation with some pertinent information regarding the **2016 Mayoral election** where only 1/3 of the voters who had voted in the General Election voted in the subsequent run-off election. According to the studies of run-off elections, there is a **drop-off** of participation, particularly in communities of color. The cost of run-off elections also **limits** the number of early voting sites that are available to the voting public, leading to the inability of voters to vote in a run-off election. Ranked Choice Voting would save the municipalities a great deal of money and would guarantee a majority turnout without having to have a run-off election. This method of voting has been approved for use in **future** municipal elections in two Southern states, Tennessee and Florida, and is **already** used by Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina for overseas and military voters.

In order to help the audience understand how Ranked Choice Voting works, Aaron conducted a group activity around several scenarios. Using color-coded cards and several scenarios, the audience participated in the activities necessary to determine which candidate received the **50% +1 majority** to win the “elections”. In addition, a video is available to explain the concept. Click [here](#) to view it and explore the website. If you are also interested in receiving a newsletter with ongoing information, please click [here](#).



Hot Topics Will Take a Break in July!!!
Look forward to information on the August Hot Topic
in the July 2019 Voter!!!



Update on Exciting Environment News Affecting Nashville and Middle Tennessee By Environment Chair Barbara Futter

Very Exciting Environment News here in Nashville from guest writer **Paul Slentz**, Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light

The three Renewable Energy/Zero Carbon bills (see details below) that we have been working so hard for passed on **third** reading at Nashville Metro Council June 4 meeting with **zero** "no" votes!!!

This is really a big deal. The fight against climate change is going to require action at **all** levels of society (individual choices, corporate choices, institutional choices, and government policies).

The Metro Council, with the incredible leadership of Council Member **Freddie O'Connell** (including having lots of conversations with the Mayor's Office, Metro General Services, and his fellow Council members) and with a groundswell of **grassroots** support (that's you, including having around 80 of our people present for the crucial second reading vote), demonstrated that it is willing to do its part in that fight.

These historic ordinances move Metro operations to very close to zero carbon emissions over the next couple of decades with clear benchmarks for getting there along the way. Here are the three bills that are now law:

- [*BL 2019-1598](#) will require that **all** motor vehicles owned by the metropolitan government be zero-emission vehicles by the year **2050**. By 2030 50% of the vehicles will be low or zero emissions.
- [*BL 2019-1599](#) will retrofit a number of Metro-owned buildings and lower their energy usage.
- [*BL 2019-1600](#) establishes a renewable energy **standard** for the Metro government; and commits energy usage by Metro to be 100% carbon-free by 2040. By 2030 it would commit Metro energy usage to be 80% carbon-free.

What you can do now: If you haven't already done so, please send a note of thanks to your Council at Large Member for supporting these bills. Also email Vice Mayor Jim Shulman and our Council at Large members.

Good news on a Settlement on the TVA Gallatin Fossil Plant Coal Ash Leak By Environment Chair Barbara Futter

There is great news about the settlement of the lawsuit against TVA for their terrible coal ash pollution disaster at the Gallatin Fossil Plant.

Here's what the lawyers say:

“The settlement resolves our lawsuit against TVA which alleged that coal ash is polluting the Cumberland River and Old Hickory Lake from the Gallatin Plant, although TVA is **not admitting liability** related to these allegations.”

This case has been going on for nearly five years. **In November 2014**, on behalf of the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN) and Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA) the **Southern Environmental Law Center** sent TVA a 60-day notice letter, which is required prior to bringing a lawsuit under the **Clean Water Act**. The letter alleged that TVA has been violating environmental protection laws for decades. This letter prompted the State of Tennessee, in **January 2015**, to sue TVA for violations of state environmental laws. **SELC** intervened in the case on behalf of TCWN and TSRA.

Under the settlement agreement:

- TVA **must** excavate the majority of the coal ash it stores in the leaking manmade, unlined pits at Gallatin (approximately 12 million cubic yards of ash). This ash will be removed and either recycled or placed into a permitted landfill.
- TVA **must** comply with an administrative order at a second, smaller storage facility on-site, which contains about 2 million cubic yards of coal ash. TVA will have **five years** to develop a plan and demonstrate it can correct groundwater pollution. TDEC will then select a remedy.
- For both Gallatin sites, TVA will have to remediate groundwater contamination.
- The agreements do **not** alter TVA's obligation to comply with federal laws, including the **National Environmental Policy Act** (for example, an environmental impact statement will still be completed in 2019-20 related to the ash pits' closure) or the Coal Ash Rule.

As you see in the settlement documents, the agreements provide the **framework** to achieve a cleanup at Gallatin, but many of the specifics will be established through a series of plans developed over time. These plans must each be approved. Because **TSRA** and **TCWN** are intervenors, they will get copies of the draft plans in order to make comments and raise questions, which adds an unprecedented measure of public oversight and transparency throughout the cleanup process. We are optimistic that this access can be leveraged to better ensure that the right steps are taken, such as protecting workers, addressing legacy contamination, and avoiding open dumping and future non-compliance.

According to the settlement, the **public** will be invited to provide **feedback** on the specifics of TVA's plan to correct on-site contamination at Gallatin from both storage facilities. The settlement agreement itself is also available for public comment for the next 30 days.

Engage with us to hold **TVA** accountable. The environmental community in Tennessee has a lot to be proud of with this settlement, and we hope you'll join us in recognizing this as a major milestone, even though it's not the end of the story.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

- Amanda Garcia, Southern Environmental Law Center
- Gary Weatherford, Daniel Boone, Donnie Safer and Sally Barr, Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association
- Kathy Hawes, Tennessee Clean Water Network



Availability of Health Care in Rural Tennessee

By Health Care Co-Chair Constance Caldwell

Availability of health care, the quality of education, affordable housing, job opportunities and social networking opportunities are the main things people moving to Tennessee (especially Nashville) look for when contemplating a change of residence. Those of us here in Middle Tennessee tend to be surrounded with hospitals and physician offices (including specialty services) so availability of services tends not to be a problem.

Did you know, **however**, that **twenty (20) counties** in Tennessee do **not** have hospitals? Of those twenty, **seventeen (17) do not** have available emergency care services. **Thirteen** of these facilities have closed **since 2010**. These counties without a hospital also tend to have lower ratios of primary care and mental health providers.

What are the implications of these findings? We have talked in the past of '**major drivers of health**', which are a complex combination of factors that have to be looked at in depth. These include the kind of conditions which are prevalent in a community, the demographics of the community, the economic status of the community, transportation access, and the availability of any alternatives. Even some of our counties with hospitals have weaknesses in these areas. Lost time, lost productivity, premature loss of life and increased personal disabilities can be major results of diminished access to health.

We need to keep abreast of these factors, encouraging our legislators to think in terms of providing the appropriate health opportunities for all Tennesseans. This may call for creative thinking but that again is **why** they were elected.

Contributing Source: Sycamore Institute



June 2019 Membership Update

By Membership Co-Chairs Reba Holmes and Tracy Smith



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 this individual to the organization: **Allison Stewart** and **Kevin Warner**.

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

Annual Membership Drive

It is **that time of year** again! We are in the middle of our annual membership drive and are excited about the coming year: **Celebration of 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.

Everyone is welcome! **Annual** dues are **\$65** per year for individuals and **\$100** per household, which includes membership to the **national, state, and local LWV** organization. We appreciate your past membership and hope that we can count on you again this year. Additional details regarding the various support levels may be found here <http://lwvnashville.org/join/>. You may pay online or send us a check.

Comments from members as to why they joined the League

“I love advocacy and getting the community more involved in civic engagement. Yes, there are lots of opportunities for engagement and I love the educational sessions.”

“The mission of the nonpartisan organization is to encourage informed and active participation of citizens in government, to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. Hot Topics over the past year helped me make decisions regarding critical areas, such as, the proposed referendum for the creation of the Community Oversight Board and Criminal Justice Reform in Tennessee.”

“With the League, wheels of are always in motion. I can always depend on activity and information regarding the latest political issues.”



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



2019-2020 LWVN Board of Directors

President: **Barbara Gay and Madeline Garr**

1st Vice President: **Ethel Detch and Carole Kenner**

2nd Vice President: **Clare Sullivan**

Secretary: **Open**

Treasurer **Susan Mattson**

Portfolio Chairs

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

Community Connections: **Sabina Mohyuddin and Tamanna Qureshi**

Education: **Lara Webb**

Environment: **Barbara Futter**

Fundraising: **Cindee Gold** and **Debby Gould**
Health Care: **Constance Caldwell** and **Clare Sullivan**
Membership: **Reba Holmes** and **Tracy Smith**
Metro Government: **Winnie Forrester (Off Board)**
Voter Services: **Kristin Hightower** and **Perry Macdonald**
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**