



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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

<http://www.LWVnashville.org>

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January 2020

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 18, 2020, 9:00 a.m. The Women's March. Murfreesboro Public Square: Gather, Register, Workshop, and March to the Doors. Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

January 20, 2020, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. State Advocacy Meeting. Tennessee Disability Coalition. 955 Woodland Street, Nashville, TN 37206.

February 3, 2020. Deadline to Register to Vote in the Presidential Preference Primary and County Primary, Berry Hill Municipal Elections.

February 3, 2020, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. State Advocacy Meeting. Tennessee Disability Coalition. 955 Woodland Street, Nashville, TN 37206.

February 7, 2020, 12 Noon. Hot Topics: Nashville Schools: Current Challenges and Opportunities. Amy Frogge and Freda Player-Peters, Representatives on the Metro School Board. Lentz Public Health Center, 2500 Charlotte Ave., Nashville, 37209.

February 12, 2020, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Hot Topics: Nashville Schools: Current Challenges and Opportunities. Amy Frogge and Freda Player-Peters, Representatives on the Metro School Board. Green Hills Library, 3701 Benham Ave., Nashville, 37215.

February 12, 2020. Early Voting for the Presidential Preference Primary and County Primary, Berry Hill Municipal Elections. Howard Office Building, 700 2nd Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37210. Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>

February 13, 2020. WNPT Town Hall: Voting in Tennessee. Free. [RSVP](#).

February 14, 2020. 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters.

February 17, 2020, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. State Advocacy Meeting. Tennessee Disability Coalition. 955 Woodland Street, Nashville, TN 37206.

February 18 to 21st, 2020, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Nashville Ballet Performance of 72 Steps. TPAC. Open to the Public.

February 19, 2020. Early Voting for the Presidential Preference Primary and County Primary, Berry Hill Municipal Elections. All Locations. Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>



LWV Votes at the Tournament of Roses Rose Bowl Parade By Education Chair Lara Webb

This year the **League of Women Voters US** participated in the **Tournament of Roses Rose Bowl Parade** with a float celebrating the **100th** anniversary of the **19th Amendment**. The float included the Statue of Liberty, suffrage banners, and plenty of yellow roses! Riding on the float were **League** president **Chris Carson** and **League CEO Virginia Kase**. Also riding on the float were descendants of **Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ida B. Wells, Susan B. Anthony, and Frederick Douglass**. Walking along with the float were representatives of **LWV chapters**. **Ilissa Gold** represented **LWVN** and **LWVTN**. Her sash recognizes the important role **Tennessee** played in the ratification of the 19th Amendment as the 36th state to ratify.



President's Message



The whole country will be celebrating the **100th anniversary** of the passage of the **19th Amendment** giving women the right to vote in 2020. The celebration was kicked off in the **Rose Bowl Parade** with a float, "**Years of Hope, Years of Courage**," sponsored by the **Susan B. Anthony House** in Rochester, New York. It won the best theme prize in the parade. Direct descendants of **Susan B. Anthony** and other suffragists rode on the float. **Cindee Gold's** daughter, **Ilissa Gold**, wearing a Tennessee banner, marched with the suffragists. Only those states that ratified the Amendment were allowed to wear state sashes. We appreciate **Ilissa** representing our state. Thank you **Cindee** for the surprise cake to celebrate at our board meeting.

The **Nashville League of Women Voters** has some events planned to educate young people about the long, difficult struggle for women to obtain the vote. **Carrie Chapmen Catt** founded the **League of Women Voters** on **February 14, 1920**. The **USLWV** is encouraging all local and state chapters to celebrate the **100th anniversary** on that day. The **Nashville League** is in the process of planning a **voter registration and information drive at the Vanderbilt University library**. Details will be available on our website.

The **Nashville Ballet** will perform "**72 Steps**" for middle school students in the **TN Performing Arts Center** on **February 18, 19, 20, and 21**. There will be seats available for the public.

Senator Brenda Gilmore, our Nominating Committee Chair, has secured the state House of Representatives at our capitol for **Friday, May 15th** to reenact the first meeting of the **League of Women Voters of Nashville**. **J. Frankie Pierce** spoke at this meeting and was the **first woman and African American woman** to speak there. **Mark** your calendars and plan to celebrate with us.

This year is a major election year. The next election will be held on **Tuesday, March 3rd**. We will be voting in the presidential primaries, for the Davidson County Trustee, Assessor of Property, judges in the Chancery Court, Criminal Court, Division IV, and for the Democratic Executive Committee. Note that the **last** day to register to vote is **February 3rd**. Please share this information with your social network, other groups, churches, etc. **Early** voting starts **February 12th** and goes to **February 25th**.

Another civic event that the League is following is the **Census** coming out this spring. It is very important that **every** person in Davidson County be counted whether he or she is a citizen, naturalized citizen, refugee, legal or illegal immigrant. Our population numbers **will determine** the **amount** of money our community will receive for programs **and** the **number** of representatives we will have in our state legislature and US Congress. Each person **not** counted

will cost Nashville about **\$10,000** over the next ten years. It is **illegal** for any person to be persecuted for information they mark on the Census form. Please share this information with **everyone** you know.

There will be many volunteer opportunities for **League** Members this year. We will be conducting voter registration drives, classroom presentations for high school civics classes, and lobbying state representatives and senators. Our state legislature will begin their session this month. All **League** members will receive a weekly report from our lobbyist, **Stewart Clifton** and his new assistant, **Colleen Gill**. The state **LWV Advocacy Committee** will begin meeting **every other** Monday starting on **January 20th** at the **Disability Coalition on Woodland Street at 11:30 pm**. All members may attend in person or join the meeting through Zoom. You may check the details of all our activities on our website lwnashville.org. A special thanks to **Debby Gould** and **Vanessa Allwardt** for improving and updating our website.

Barbara Gay



In Memoriam

The **League of Women Voters** sends condolences to long time member, **Pat Post** on the death of her husband. **John Frederic Post**, 83, of Nashville, TN died Monday, January 6, 2020, of complications from Alzheimer's disease at St. Thomas West Hospital in Nashville. Dr. Post was an **emeritus professor of philosophy** who taught at Vanderbilt University for more than 25 years before retiring in 2001.

Pat and their sons, **Gavin and David**, were devoted and dedicated to caring for John at home through his long illness. Pat was able to continue her valuable, skilled work on health care reform for the League of Women Voters in addition to her family commitment. We admire her grace and fortitude and appreciate her work.



State Advocacy Update

By State Advocacy Co-Chair Debby Gould and Diane Dilani

One of the great benefits of being a member of **LWVTN** is the opportunity to be a great **citizen-lobbyist**! The LWVTN State Advocacy Committee will begin its regularly scheduled of meetings:

Monday, January 20th, 11:30 am-12:30 pm CST.
Tennessee Disability Coalition
955 Woodland St
Nashville, 37206

You can also access this by computer or dial in by phone. **Join Zoom Meeting by computer** <https://zoom.us/j/337351233> or **call in by phone: 1 646 558 8656, Meeting ID: 337 351 233.**

Our first meeting of 2020 will be largely organizational since legislators are still filing bills for consideration this session.

Our Advocacy Committee meetings will be held **every other Monday at 11:30 CST** as a **Zoom** conference call. We love to see you in person, but if that is not possible, the next best way to participate is to use a computer for a video connection so that we can see your image on the screen. You may also use a phone for an audio connection. **If you wish to receive future agendas along with the conference call code, please respond to lwvnash@gmail.com so that we put you on our notice list.**

Of course, **all LWVTN** members will receive timely emailed “**Action Alerts**” when there is an immediate need for a statewide membership effort to communicate with legislators about a specific bill that we are following.



January Hot Topics: Looking Ahead to the 2020 Legislative Session

By Co-Vice President Ethel Detch

Tennessee’s General Assembly re-convened at the State Capitol in Nashville on Tuesday, January 14th. For January’s “**Hot Topic**,” **Stewart Clifton**, of Clifton Government Relations, who serves as the League’s lobbyist, shared his thoughts about what the new legislative session may bring.

Stewart provided an overview of Tennessee’s General Assembly—the numbers of senators and representatives, how a bill becomes a law, and a “who’s who” of legislative leadership. Tennessee’s House of Representatives has a new Speaker this year, **Cameron Sexton**, who was elected after the previous speaker resigned amid controversy in 2019.

Although the legislature considers bills on many different subjects, the **state’s budget** is actually the only legislation the General Assembly is **required** to pass each year. Last year, the **Governor’s** budget priorities were **Health, Mental Health, Criminal Justice, Rural Economic Development, and K-12 Education**; all will likely be important this year. A new item, though, that will attract legislative attention is **\$732 million in accumulated reserves for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program**. The funds recently attracted attention because the Department of Human Services had **not** spent them to help children and families as intended.

The **League** will focus on its priorities of **Open Government and Elections**, including revisiting the criminalization of voter registration drives, redistricting, restoration of felon voting rights, increased transparency of legislative subcommittee amendments and a new bill which would require early and absentee votes to be counted more expediently. The **League** also follows other issues such as K-12 Education, Health, and the Environment.

Stewart listed several ways to stay informed about the General Assembly’s activities, such as **monitoring** and **evaluating** legislation, **developing** relationships with legislators, **working** through other organizations, **engaging** in timely communication, and **showing up** in committee meetings. League members are welcome to attend or call in to the **Tennessee League’s Advocacy Committee meetings which will begin on January 20th at the Tennessee Disabilities Coalition offices at 955 Woodland Street, Nashville.**



February Hot Topic:
By Co-Vice President Carole Kenner

For the February **“Hot Topic”** meetings, two **Metro School Board** members will share their perspectives on current challenges and opportunities facing Nashville’s schools. **Amy Frogge**, a seven-year veteran of the school board, presently serves as Vice Chair and represents District 9. She has been a long-time proponent of community schools and whole child education.

Freda Player-Peters is the **Metro School Board’s** newest member. She was elected by the Metro Council in November 2019 to represent District 7. She presently serves as Senior Legislative Advisor in the Office of the Mayor but was formerly Political Director of the Service Employees International Union which represents Metro government and school support employees.

The First Friday Hot Topic meeting will be held on **February 7th at 12:00 Noon** at the Lentz Public Health Center, 2500 Charlotte Avenue. The Encore Hot Topic Meeting will be held on **February 12th** at 6:00 p.m. at the Green Hills Public Library, 3701 Benham Ave. Both meetings are free and open to the public. No reservations are needed.

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

Presents

Nashville Schools: Current Challenges and Opportunities

Nashville School Board Members:
Amy Frogge, Vice Chair and Representatives for District 9
Freda Player Peters, Representative for District 7

First Friday Hot Topics at Lunchtime

Friday, February 7, 2020
Noon to 1:00 pm
Lentz Public Health Center
2500 Charlotte Ave., Nashville, TN 37209

&

Second Wednesday Evening Encore

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

6:00 to 7:00 pm

Green Hills Public Library Community Room

3701 Benham Avenue, Nashville 37215

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

For additional information, contact LWVNash@gmail.com



News from the Mayor

By Metro Government Chair Winnie Forrester

Mayor John Cooper Announces Areas of Focus, Expedited Timeline for FY2021 Budget

Mayor's Office Press Release 1/7/2020

Mayor John Cooper announced **six** distinct areas of focus in his budget planning process for the **2021 fiscal year**. The Mayor's Office also released an expedited timeline that permits the administration to **file a budget with the Metro Council by March 31st**, a month ahead of the normal budgeting schedule, and would seek for the budget to be approved by Metro Council no later than **May 31, 2020** in order to allow for review by the State Comptroller of the Treasury.

Mayor Cooper's budget priorities are as follows:

- **Education:** Address the funding needs with respect to teacher and staff compensation, as well as operational and fiscal efficiency opportunities in MNPS.
- **Public Safety:** Engage on funding needs with respect to first responder and emergency communications recruitment and staffing, and seek to ensure adequate enforcement coverage, community engagement, overall criminal justice system effectiveness, and first responder wellness.
- **Transportation:** Make critical and needed investments to more efficiently connect our residents' homes, schools, and workplaces.
- **Neighborhoods:** Make investments to further livable, walkable neighborhoods, to preserve our region's natural resources, and to ensure foundational community infrastructure such as greenspace, recreation, libraries, public health services, and the planning/zoning services that guide and design them.
- **Affordable Housing:** Sustain and make more effective our approaches to affordable housing, supporting the building, funding, and preserving of housing options.
- **Effective and Sustainable Government:** Beginning with cash management and fiscal strengthening, ensure that Metro Government meets expectations to be an accountable and efficient government.

“I am fully committed to the responsible and effective use of taxpayer dollars to deliver core municipal services,” said Mayor Cooper. *“With one of the strongest growing economies in the country, we will use the next four years to deliver on our commitment to a more effective government for all of Nashville, creating a city that works for everyone.”*

To improve Metro’s stewardship of taxpayer dollars and create further means for investment, the Mayor’s Office will work with all Metro departments to seek cost-containment and efficiencies throughout the budgeting process. Mayor Cooper’s Chief of Operations and Performance, **Kristin Wilson**, will also work with Metro department heads to incorporate actionable metrics to align public expectations of resourcing and delivery. These metrics will be presented along with the proposed **FY21 budget**.

For proposed budget modifications, the Mayor Cooper’s administration will seek to prioritize investment in the key areas mentioned above. While resource constraints will be a factor in next year’s budget, the Mayor’s Office has requested to hear from **all** Metro departments regarding their overall needs to address the increasing demand for services throughout Davidson County in effective ways. If not funded in the upcoming budget cycle, departments’ requests will provide critical information for the administration’s long-term planning efforts.

Mayor Cooper's Four-Year Commitment Tracker

Following the release of his First 100 Day Report, **Mayor John Cooper** published his administration’s **Commitment Tracker**, which lists **50** promises made by Mayor Cooper during the **2019 mayoral campaign**. Following through on the 50 commitments will be Mayor Cooper’s focus over the next four years.

“I intend for this commitment tracker to be a transparent resource for residents as well as an accountability mechanism for my team. Tracking my administration’s progress on these fifty commitments will help keep us focused on core priorities over the next four years. I campaigned with a 47-page policy platform, and I want to be clear that I intend to follow through on the commitments I made. I’m encouraged by the progress we’ve made in the first 100 days, and I recognize the important work ahead to make Nashville a city that works for everyone.” -**Mayor John Cooper**

[Click here for the Commitment Tracker](#)



What will be the Effect of the New Food Stamp Policy?

By Health Care Co-Chair Constance L. Caldwell

Effective **April 1, 2020**, many recipients of the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**, (also known as the **Food Stamp Program**), will see changes in their benefit requirements. At least **32** states and the **District of Columbia** are in a race to address a President Trump administration policy change that will keep nearly **700,000** of their **poorest** residents from accessing **SNAP**. The new policy would **limit** states from waiving work requirements in

areas of high unemployment for people who are between the ages of 18 through 49, childless and not disabled.

Advocates for a review of the policy state that the affected population could very well **include** persons who have **mental or physical limitations**, those who are **homeless, veterans**, and **those** who may have received drug treatment. It is estimated that **millions** of Americans will be affected including **500,000 children** who have been **eligible** for free school lunch programs because of the family's eligibility.

Tennessee is a little better off as far as numbers are concerned. It is estimated that approximately **2500** persons will be affected by this change. It is felt that the new policy will **contribute** to food insecurity and **increased** poverty with Texas experiencing the most harm. The results of this new policy need to be carefully watched as many of those being harmed are already living below the poverty level and are subject to the effects of the multifaceted forces currently affecting their sustainability.



January Voter Services Update

By Voter Services Co-Chairs Kristin Hightower and Perry MacDonald

A new year ...a new decade...a renewed commitment

It is hard to imagine a more momentous year than **2020** promises to be. As we celebrate the magnificent achievement of our suffrage rights and the **100th anniversary** of our organizational founding...we enthusiastically address the **reality** of a cultural and legal environment that **threatens** the **exercise** of those rights. It is surely incumbent on all of us to **speak** candidly, **engage** forthrightly, and **support** every person in the opportunities afforded those of us who live in these United States.

We are deeply heartened by the number of people who have reached out to us about getting involved not only in voter services, but also **get-out-the-vote efforts, census participation, and redistricting**. Citizenship is on many people's minds...and needs to be on everyone's!

Accordingly, we have scheduled a training session for volunteers who are interested in helping folks register; it will be **Thursday, January 23** at the **Green Hills Library, 4:30 to 6:00**. In the following week, we expect to be out at **Nashville State Community College** for two evenings, registering students and staff.

REMEMBER the deadline for registering in time for the Presidential Preference voting (on March 3) is February 3. Paper forms must be postmarked or hand delivered to the appropriate county election commission **by that date**; additionally, **on-line registration must be completed and accepted by February 3**. For more information about registering to vote online:

Davidson County

<https://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission/Register-to-Vote.aspx>

State of Tennessee

<https://ovr.govote.tn.gov/>

Davidson County Elections Schedule for 2020

- **Presidential Preference Primary & County Primary Election**
 - **Tuesday, March 3, 2020**
 - **Early Voting:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 -Tuesday, February 25, 2020
- **State Primary Senate and School Board Election**
 - **Tuesday, August 6, 2020**
 - **Early Voting:** Friday, July 17, 2020 - Saturday, August 1, 2020
- **Presidential Election**
 - **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**
 - **Early Voting:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 – Thursday, October 29, 2020

For information about early voting and Election Day voting sites, see the Davidson County Election Commission, <https://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx>

Voter Services will support **Education Chair Lara Webb** as she and **Debby Gould** implement and offer a presentation on active civic participation to teachers in Davidson County secondary schools. Davidson County Election Commission tentatively identified three high school candidates: Hillsboro, Pearl Cohn and Cane Ridge for this program presentation.



Ways You Can Impact Environmental Legislation and Household Bills By Environment Chair Barbara Futter

Happy New Year to all! Here's some information to help you get more involved.

The **General Assembly** started on January 14 so there's nothing to report on yet. **However**, there are issues at Metro Council that need our attention, support, and contact with your council representative.

Financing Nashville's Green New Deal: The **Metro Council approved Nashville's Green New Deal** in June 2019. Now that funding must be approved. Please contact your council representative and encourage his/her support.

1) The plans involve:

- Transitioning Metro Government to using 100% renewable energy;
- Start building and encouraging the construction of **net zero** energy buildings;
- Replace most of Metro's vehicle fleet with electric vehicles and have charging stations at all Metro buildings.

- 2) **Anti-Idling Ordinance:** Councilmember **Tonya Hancock** proposed a bill to make it a Metro ordinance to fine drivers **\$50** for idling their cars for more than **3 minutes**. This ordinance would help clean up the air, make people healthier, and reduce fuel waste. Many times, **Uber/Lyft** drivers keep their cars idling as they wait for passengers. Parents picking up their kids from school idle their cars as they wait for their own kids. The proposed ordinance **exempts** Emergency Vehicles, vehicles stopped at lights, and school buses when the temperature is 40 degrees or lower or higher than 75 degrees.

Councilmember Hancock says this proposed ordinance will reduce CO2 emissions 30% by 2030. The bill has already passed first reading and will have its 2nd and 3rd readings in February. Look up for **Bill BL2020-114** on www.nashville.gov

Nashville SOCKET's 2020 Ways to Save Energy in 2020. SOCKET-is Nashville's Sustainability Outlet; socket.nashville.gov)

- **Turn out the lights when you leave a room**

Make use of natural light

Leave the lights off when not needed. Enjoy less light.

- **Replace inefficient light bulbs**

Choose LED bulbs. They are efficient, long-lasting, and affordable

- **Unplug unused electronics**

Unplug your electronics like smartphones and laptops once they are charged.

Unplug your adapters too – adapters that are plugged into outlets use energy even if they're not charging.

- **Put your computer to sleep**

When taking a short break from the computer, place your computer on “sleep” mode by clicking on the “sleep” option. For longer stretches and overnight, shutting down eliminates energy draw entirely.

You can also turn off your monitor screen and select the “Power Saver” option on a PC by selecting the Control Panel, then Hardware and Sound, then Power Options.

- **Use a light touch with the thermostat**

HVAC units consume the most energy of any system in both the home and office.

- **Use fans and natural ventilation at home**

When the weather is temperate, turn off your HVAC, open the windows, and use fans to stay comfortable.

- **Just say no to small appliances**

Small appliances such as space heaters, mini-fridges, or personal desktop printers use outsized amounts of energy. They can also be a fire hazard.

- **Turn your thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer when you leave for the day**

Even just a few degrees' adjustment can make a big difference. Or buy a programmable thermostat that automatically adjusts or can be timed for your schedule.

- **Set your water heater to 120 degrees.**

Some water heater thermostats come preset to 140 degrees. Make sure your water heater is set to 120 degrees.

- **Do your laundry with cold water. You save energy and your clothes get clean.**

90% of the energy consumed by a washing machine goes toward water heating. ([Energy Star](#))

- **Be mindful of energy use when cooking.**

A six-inch pan on an eight-inch burner will waste more than 40 percent of the stove's energy.

Use pots the same size as your burners. Use lids when possible so you can cook at a lower temperature.

Most vegetables, casseroles, and meats do not need a preheated oven. Just turn on the oven, add your food, and bake it a little longer than the recipe time.

- **Put the shades down.**

This helps hold in the cool when it's hot, and vice versa.

- **Get a home energy audit and look for financial incentives to make energy efficiency improvements to your home.**

Various organizations in Nashville offer incentives and other education resources to help make a home energy audit or retrofits more feasible.

Enjoy looking at your monthly bill after you use these new ways to save energy!

For more information go to socket.nashville.gov or go to Facebook and look for Socket, Unplug Nashville



Be A Census Taker!!!

Currently, Davidson County needs more people to help with the 2020 Census. Please spread the word! A person can earn extra income and receive training. Apply online. 2020census.gov/jobs or call 1-855-JOB-2020.



2019-2020 LWVN Board of Directors

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

