



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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August 2020

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 1, 2020. **"We Count: First Time Voters" Exhibit.** [Frist Art Museum Online Exhibition](#) and in the Conte Community Arts Gallery.

August 18, 2020. 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Suffrage Re-enactment live-streamed from the State Capitol.** The reenactment, titled "Our Century! Living Tennessee's History of the Ratification," will take place on the floor of the House chamber at the State Capitol on Aug. 18 — the same day and place it did a century ago. It will be livestreamed via the TNWoman100 Facebook and YouTube pages, as well as the Facebook pages of the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Tennessee State Museum, Tennessee State Parks and Tennessee Historical Society. <http://tnwoman100.com/> is the website of The Official Committee of the State of Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial.

August 18, 2020. 10:30 a.m. to Noon. **Dedication of the Suffrage Monument.** Metro Nashville, Sponsored by Tennessee Woman Suffrage Monument Board, Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission. Centennial Park. In addition to the dedication ceremony, women from Highlight Pro Skydiving Team will parachute into Centennial Park carrying banners for the Suffrage Centennial. <https://vodayo.com/womansuffragemonument/>.

August 18, 2020. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Her Flag: A Suffrage Celebration live-streamed from TPAC.** This is a reservation event only. The Zoom link and password for the discussion will be emailed to registrants. Join TPAC for a live look-in via Zoom as artist and activist **Marilyn Artus** sews the final Tennessee stripe of her nationwide *Her Flag* art project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and voting rights for women in the United States. As Artus completes the project in War Memorial Auditorium, TPAC's Kristin Horsley will lead a discussion about the long fight for women's voting rights and where it stands 100 years later. Horsley will be joined by **Debby Gould** (League of Women's Voters of Nashville), **Andrea Blackman** (Special Collections, Nashville Public Library), **Rebecca Price** (Chick History), and Tennessee artist **Higgins Bond** to celebrate the completion and final reveal of Artus' project.

August 18, 2020. 11:30 a.m. -Noon. **Votes for Women: The Legacy of the 19th Amendment. Virtual Grand Opening.** [Tune in](#) to the Nashville Public Library's YouTube Channel.

August 18, 2020. 12:00 to 12:15. **Ring the Bell.** Nashville Public Library. [Tune in](#) to the Nashville Public Library's YouTube Channel.

August 18, 2020. Noon to 1:30 p.m. **"By One Vote: Woman Suffrage in the South" documentary.** RSVP or join the screening at <https://ovee.itvs.org/screenings/jyxmh>. Nashville Public Television (NPT) is partnering with the Tennessee State Museum and Nashville Public Library to host an online screening and discussion. Following the screening, the producer Mary Makley will lead a discussion with Dr.

Carole Bucy, Davidson County Historian and Professor of History at Volunteer State Community College, Dr. Beverly Bond, Assoc. Professor of History at University of Memphis and Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*.

August 18, 2020. 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. 72 Steps. Free Digital performance. Co-hosted by the Nashville Ballet and League of Women Voters of Nashville. This ballet was commissioned by the LWVTN in 2018 to tell the story through dance of the 72-year battle for suffrage from Seneca Falls to Nashville. Click [here](#) to receive a link to livestream the performance.

August 19, 2020. Noon to 1:00 p.m. Why August 18, 1920 Still Matters. Dr. Carole Bucy, Davidson County Historian and Volunteer State College professor. A discussion of what changed in Tennessee, and what did not, as a result of ratification. Her talk will cover some of the lesser-known events of the summer of 1920, as well as some of the lesser-known women and men who were active in the fight for the vote. She will also talk about expectations that were fulfilled, and those that were not. Go to www.tnmuseum.org for a free Webex link on the day of the program.

August 18 to October 5, 2020. (Every Tuesday) 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Voter Registration at East Nashville Farmer's Market. 511 Woodland Street, Nashville, TN 37206

August 19, 2020. 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Tennessee Coalition for Open Government. Presentation by Deborah Fisher. Zoom Event. Please [register](#) and Zoom meeting info will be sent to you prior to the event.

August 22 to October 5, 2020 (Every Saturday). 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Voter Registration at Richland Park Farmer's Market. 4701 Charlotte Ave, 37209

August 23, 2020. Women's Adventure Film Tour. Hosted by Patagonia Nashville. The tickets cost \$10, with \$5 going to the tour and \$5 going to the LWVN. Patagonia stores are partnering with local league chapters to support our work with the upcoming election. Stayed tuned to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for more details, and tell your friends!

September 2, 2020. Mark your Calendars for Zoom Event discussing Absentee Voting and USPS Mail delivery. Time to be determined. **Look for email to register for Zoom.**

September 11, 2020. 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Hot Topics on Zoom!!!! Radnor to the River and West Meade Elementary Recycling Program. Look for an email invitation to register.

President's Message



On **August 7, 1920**, Tennessee **Governor Albert Roberts** formally called for a special session of the General Assembly to meet in Nashville at noon on **August 9, 1920** to consider the **ratification** of the 19th Amendment, which would give women the right to vote. On **August 13, 1920**, The Tennessee Senate voted in favor of ratification. Next, it was up to the Tennessee House, and after more days of tension, discussion, jockeying back and forth, acrimony, and general confusion, on **August 18th, 1920** the Tennessee House ratified the 19th amendment by **one** vote. On **August 26, 1920**, the US Secretary of State added the 19th Amendment to the Constitution by proclamation.

Now, **100 years later**, and in the midst of a pandemic, Tennessee and others states around the nation have found creative ways to celebrate this vote. On **August 18th**, the Nashville Ballet will present **72 Steps** as a free digital performance. This ballet was originally commissioned by the **LWV of Nashville** and their **Perfect 36 Supporters** in **2018**. **72 Steps** explores themes of basic human rights, civic responsibility, and the ongoing battle for a more equitable society through the lens of the suffrage movement. This free access is being sponsored by the generous support of the **League of Women Voters of Nashville**.

Also, the Nashville Public Library is hosting their virtual grand opening of **Votes for Women: The Legacy of the 19th Amendment** on **August 18th**. This event will begin at **11:30** and culminate at noon when bells will ring all over Nashville to celebrate the anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by the Tennessee General Assembly. The League is asking **all** members to find a bell and at noon on **August 18th**, go outside and ring it.

In the midst of this 100-year anniversary and all the celebrations, we remember **Congressman John R. Lewis**, who died July 17. Congressman Lewis shed blood and was willing to give his life to gain voting and civil rights for **all** citizens in this country. He never gave up and never gave in. His gift of self for the last 60 years is a model for all of us as we, as individuals and members of the League, **follow** in his footsteps to **register** and **educate** voters, **restore** voting rights, **work** for a fair and equitable society, and **further** the vision of *"liberty and justice for all."*

With the examples of the brave women and men who came before us, the **League of Women Voters Nashville** Board has identified portfolio goals for the coming year. To achieve these goals, we need **you** as members to help us turn **vision** into **action**. Please check out the goals of each Portfolio below to identify where and how you can help, and contact the Portfolio chair at lwvnash@gmail.com to volunteer. **Thank you so much!**

Madeline Garr



In Memoriam

We are saddened by the news that **Dr. Kent Weeks** has passed away. He was a remarkable man who fully lived his values. Nashville is especially indebted to him for chairing the first elected board for Metro Public Schools. He was later honored for his work in obtaining a settlement of the decades-long

desegregation litigation. Over a long career he combined his passion for the intersection of law and higher education. For 25 years he taught at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University and also served for 20 years as general counsel to the Africa University of Zimbabwe. He and his wife **Karen Weeks**, throughout their long careers, understood the bedrock values of public education and its importance for creation of a free and viable society.



Portfolio Goals for 2020-2021

Williamson County:

- Diversify **by age**: reach out to groups with younger members (Williamson County Young Democrats, Williamson County Young Republicans); **by ethnicity**: reach out to the African American Heritage Society of Williamson County, Hard Bargains Association and WORTH (Heritage Preservation in Franklin, Working on Restoring the Hood in Franklin), and the TN Latin American Chamber of Commerce; **by political affiliation**: reach out to Lynn Heady of Braver Angels (a grassroots movement uniting blue and red Americans to depolarize America).
- **Increase** social media presence to reach a wider audience through Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

Hot Topics:

- Offer 11 months of Hot Topic programs addressing a variety of topics/issues coinciding with our strategic focus/goals or issues relevant to the membership.
- Recruit well-vetted speakers of professional or educational backgrounds.
- Recruit volunteer members to summarize Hot Topic programs for publication in the Voter.
- Place monthly notices in the Voter asking members for Hot Topic suggestions.
- Explore ways to make Hot Topic presentations available through YouTube or on the website.

Membership:

- Invite members of Our Place (contact Carolyn Naifeh) and Empowered Ladies (contact April Meridith) to review the LWV Nashville website for information on Hot Topics and 411.org info. Continue to engage Carolyn's and April's groups every 2 months with friendly email.
- Contact Student Veteran Associations at Belmont, Trevecca, Lipscomb, TSU, and Vanderbilt to inform them about Hot Topics programs and 411.org info and increase their interest in the League.
- Contact department chairs of above colleges to engage students majoring in government, public affairs, or public administration to access League resources or become members or volunteers.
- Set up an Amazon Community LWV Nashville within Amazon's workforce infrastructure (contact Michael Hernan) to focus on 5,000 Nashville employees at Center for Operational Excellence.
- Reintroduce the community and community organizations to the League by attending their meetings and inviting them to ours.

Voter Services:

- Twitter: Continue to advertise and promote events and voter registration events and other League activities in order to connect with people, develop strategy and engage support.
- Twitter: Become educated in use of Twitter by attending a National Voter Registration webinar on August 18.
- Continue to identify and work with volunteers to offer safe voter registration/education through in-person opportunities.
- Respond to new volunteers within 24 hours to recruit and conduct job training on-site at events.

- Explore the possibility setting up a voter Hot Line in September through November 3 to be answered from volunteers' homes.

Fund Raising:

- Stimulate sales of remaining prints depicting Nashville's first parade for woman's suffrage using social media and Board involvement.

Education:

- Monitor issues related to education as the pandemic plays out.
- Create resources for teachers of supplemental materials based on the topics of suffrage, voting, voter education and government.
- Create a library section for teachers and others on the League website with reference articles.
- Increase the League's presence and activities on Instagram.

Metro Government:

- Recruit additional members to assist with Metro Government monitoring. In addition to bi-monthly Metro Council meetings, there are 14 Council committees that meet prior to every Council meeting. Identify newly proposed resolutions and bills that fall under LWVN's priority issues and concerns and follow them as they move through the Council.
- Promote more active engagement between our LWVN members and Metro Council members. Develop close relationships with the Vice-Mayor and Councilmembers and lobby for our priority issues.
- Utilize Action Alerts to draw member attention to issues coming before the Metro Council, School Board, or Planning Dept relevant to LWVN priorities. Create a list of our membership by council districts.

Health:

- Monitor whether Nashville General Hospital and other safety net programs have resources needed to meet health care needs of uninsured Davidson County residents by attending or following minutes of meetings held by the Hospital Authority of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County [meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 4:30].
- Work with Dr. Caldwell, Director of Public Health, to broaden focus of our League Health Care committee. Monitor progress of the Metro Nashville Public Health Department in improving social determinants of health in Davidson County by attending or following minutes of meetings of the Metro Nashville Board of Health [meets the 2nd Thursday of month at 4:00 pm].
- Coordinate efforts of LWVNNashville and other voting rights organizations in Nashville with efforts of health care organizations to enroll uninsured persons in TennCare or the Affordable Care Act. Make sure that all newly insured individuals and those in the coverage gap are registered to vote and that all new voters have access to health care.
- Continue efforts to inform LWVNNashville members of upcoming legislation at local, state and federal levels that impacts health and health care policy through monthly contributions to the Voter.
- Recruit additional members to our League's Health Care Committee to share these responsibilities and develop new programs and objectives.

Community Connections:

- Connect young voters in immigrant populations to issues surrounding the importance of voting and the impact voting has on their lives

- Create webinars for presentation to small groups of immigrant communities on *How Government Works*.

Environment:

- Educate committee members and others about environmental groups currently active in this area.
- Spotlight an environmental group each month in a Voter article and recruit volunteer members to adopt that group to follow via Zoom or by other means to keep Environment Directors informed about that group.
- Monitor local and state environmental proposals and regulations and keep membership and public informed.



Own this beautiful keepsake of the Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment from the League of Women Voters of Nashville. A limited edition of signed heirloom quality prints of Shirley Martin's "Nashville Parade for Woman's Suffrage" on sale now. \$50, shipping included.

<https://lwvnashville.org/celebrate/>



Summary of August Hot Topic–The Virus in Our Village: COVID-19's Impact on the Nashville Community

By Co-Vice President Ethel Detch

Dr. Michael Caldwell, Director and Chief Medical Officer of the Metro Department of Public Health, and **Dr. Joseph Webb**, Chief Executive Officer of Nashville General Hospital at Meharry, each offered unique perspectives about the battle to contain the pandemic in Davidson County, as well as insight as to what they expect to happen in the future. Both men and their organizations are on the frontlines of fighting this horrible disease.

Dr. Caldwell opened with an overview of data for Davidson County, noting that as of August 7th, Nashville had seen **22,000 Covid cases with 200 deaths**. He noted that most deaths have been people **over age 65** and **disproportionately** African American. However, since the mask mandate was imposed on June 29th, the number of active cases **has started** to decline. The Metro Health Department has created a website at <https://www.asafenashville.org/> that provides up-to-date information about the virus and its impact on Music City. Dr. Caldwell, who has been spotted on Lower Broadway handing out masks to the tourists and encouraging compliance with the mask mandate, emphasized that **everyone** should **always** behave as if they have the virus and act accordingly by **avoiding** close contact with people, especially indoors and where alcohol is involved, **wearing** masks, and **washing** hands frequently.

Dr. Webb, who oversees operations at Nashville General Hospital, discussed various social determinants of health, including **economic** and **social** conditions, education, **access** to adequate food and housing, and **transportation**. People of color are **less** likely to have adequate access to all of these basic needs, making them more vulnerable to disease generally, including infection with Covid-19 virus. Many Nashvillians are **not** “health literate” and consequently have higher rates of underlying conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Babies born in minority communities also tend to be at higher risk. Because Nashville General’s purpose is to treat people **without** means for other health services, his facility has been particularly hard hit by the virus. Of the patients that Nashville General treats, **40-45% are without health insurance**.

Both speakers described various **vaccine trials** underway in Nashville, including one at Meharry specifically targeting minorities. **Volunteers** for vaccine testing are encouraged, as an effective vaccine will only be established through research. As for antibody tests, Dr. Caldwell indicated they are still evolving.



September 11, 2020

HOT TOPICS

Continues on ZOOM!

Radnor to the River with Noah Charney

And

Westmeade Elementary Recycling Program with Karen McIntyre

On Friday, September 11th at 12:00 Noon, please join.

**Be on the lookout for Zoom registration information
in your email.**

Register and tune in on Friday, September 11th at Noon.





Voter Services Update

Voter Services Co-Chair Perry MacDonald and Kristin Hightower

***The Eye of the Storm:** Literally, a place of **calm** in the center of a hurricane, tornado or cyclone. Figuratively, a temporary peaceful time amidst more trouble and strife yet to come. (definition from Free Dictionary)*

After traveling through the turbulence of Covid precautions and uncertainties attendant to the August primary election, it is wonderful to imagine ourselves, along with a growing number of volunteers and supporters, briefly resting in a calm space. Yet soon, we must inexorably travel into new storms and darker uncertainties ahead in the fall.

We are grateful for this time of calm—this '**Eye of the Storm.**' For us it is a time of reassessment and for strategic and situational planning. Clearly, we see renewed energy and determination on the part of our membership and the community. Just as clearly, there is much work to be done.

Using all **recommended** Covid precautions, we are now established at **two** local farmers' markets: Richland Park on Saturday mornings and East Nashville on Tuesday afternoons. There, we interact with multi-generational citizens who have a variety of questions and concerns. We assist with registration applications, distribute flyers relevant to early and mail-in voting and voting rights restoration, and explain what is available on Vote411.org and [GoVoteTN](https://GoVoteTN.org), which keeps us busy! In September, we expect to be at the downtown farmers' market and plan to be **at all locations every week** until early October.

We commend again the thoughtful planning, thorough preparation, and consistent performance of the **Davidson County Election Commission** and its staff and poll workers for the August primary. Working with new database software that had populated the poll books, **DCEC** had Hot Line staffers who took **284 calls** in the first hours of Election Day, sorting out inevitable glitches. As a result of recruitment and training that began in May, new staff had been added to every facet of the election process, including **58 new polling officers**. In case you are wondering what Commissioners do on Election Day, in Davidson County they show up at **7:00 in the morning**, are put to work on an absentee ballot counting team, and work the same long hours as everyone else. **For November:** the DCEC is planning for even more staff, and will be installing new equipment for printing of absentee ballots 'on request' and using additional Covid kits to process voters who decline to wear a mask. DCEC is also finalizing plans for **two additional** polling places.

Because of the dedication of these public service professionals...for the postal workers who delivered over 40 absentee ballots with no postage on them whatsoever...and for new and seasoned **LWVN** members who are giving so much time and value to this work, we are, even in the midst of the storm, hopeful.

From our resident Twitter statistician:

Our Twitter Analytics for July
Twitter call name: @NashvilleLwv

Tweets: 302
Impressions (Views): 51,658
Engagements: 1,732

Pinned Tweets:
Impressions (Views): 2,806
Engagements: 54

Very lively month on Twitter because of the August 6 election.



Health Portfolio Update for August
By Health Co-Chair Clare Sullivan

The upcoming national and state elections will have vastly different consequences for health care access over the **next decade**. The **Health Portfolio committee** is seeking **LWV members to join** our efforts to educate the public about how health care policy is made at the local, state, and federal level and how policy changes will impact us.

We also want to do all we can to assure that our local health care safety net providers have the resources needed to provide quality and equitable care and protect our public health and safety. The objectives of the Health Portfolio team for the coming year are to monitor the proceedings and recommendations of the Hospital Authority and Board of Health, to advocate for resources needed to eliminate health disparities in our city and to achieve affordable health care coverage for all in our state and nation.

NOTE: The Tennessee Health Care Campaign, a LWVTN partner, is seeking volunteers to help with Affordable Care Act enrollment this November 1 through December 15. A variety of volunteer roles are available—from setting up appointments with assisters on the 844-644-5443 Insure All TN hotline to helping virtually enroll uninsured in TennCare or Affordable Care Act plans. Training sessions will begin next month. Please contact clare.d.sullivan@gmail.com or call 615-419-1430 if interested—put "volunteer for enrollment" in subject line.



Interested in the Environment?

By Environment Co-Chairs Barbara Gay and Russanne Buchi-Fotre

It is exciting to learn how **many** environmental groups are active in Davidson County. They work on different aspects of the environment, from climate change to recycling. We **need** help from League members to meet our **goal** of becoming more informed by following an organization's activities and meetings. Currently, many meetings are held on Zoom because of the pandemic. If you would like to **volunteer** to learn more about a group and keep the League informed of their activities, please **contact** Barbara Gay, barbara.b.gay@gmail.com or **call** 615-496-8813 or Russanne Buchi-Fotre, russanne@comcast.net or **call** 615-715-1936.

Our September Hot Topic speakers will address **Radnor2River** and the **Westmeade Elementary Recycling Program**.

We will highlight a **different** organization each month in the Voter. This month, we introduce you to **Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light**. **Stewart Clifton**, the League lobbyist, is on their Steering Committee. Their Mission Statement is:

Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light (TIPL) responds to climate change through upholding the sacredness of all life, protection of vulnerable communities, and caring for the Earth. We witness our spiritual values by reducing our carbon emissions within our daily lives, releasing the spiritual power of our faith communities, and by advocating for effective climate protection policies.

Climate change threatens humanity with severe environmental, social and moral consequences. We are called to practice what we know through our faith—to sustain life and to show compassion. What we do will make all the difference in the world.

Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light has held prayer climate vigils in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Johnson City, Jonesborough, Nashville, Maryville, and Crossville, and faith groups in other communities are planning their TIPL prayer climate vigils. We see this as an opportunity for people of faith to advocate for effective climate protection policies that will uphold the sacredness of life and protect the most vulnerable populations.

For more information go to their website at tennipl.org.



News from Williamson County

By Linda Sherman

With help from [League of Women Voters Nashville](#), a July 19th Zoom meeting launched the Williamson County League of Women Voters chapter. Guest [Debby Gould](#) gave a brief history of the League and outlined basic guidelines and rules of practice, noting the primary significance of political party neutrality and the “one voice” necessarily represented by all members of [LWV](#).

The Williamson County League of Women Voters meets next on **August 19 at 1:00 p.m.** Registration with John P. Holt Brentwood Library programs is required for attendance. Deborah Fisher will speak to us about her current non-profit organization and its work.

Since 2013, Deborah Fisher has been executive director of Tennessee Coalition for Open Government, a non-profit specializing in the state’s open records laws. She is also director of the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies at Middle Tennessee State University. Ms. Fisher spent 25 years as a journalist, both as a reporter and a top editor. She worked 10 years at *The Tennessean* and 15 years in Texas, where she began her journalism career at Baylor University.

We look forward to learning about TCOG from Ms. Fisher and welcome any interested persons to attend. [REGISTER HERE!](#)



State Advocacy Update

By State Advocacy Co-Chair Debby Gould

The challenges during the COVID pandemic have been **magnified** by a number of issues that will impact voters planning to vote with absentee ballots for the presidential election.

The **first** challenge is the newest criteria for who is **eligible** to apply for an absentee ballot. In early August, the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled that universal “concerns about COVID” was **too broad** a category for access to absentee ballots. **Stay tuned** for further clarification from the courts this month that will define the category of “sick or ill” in our current environment. Of course, voters who are **60 or older can continue to vote absentee**. We will be publicizing all this information **widely** once it is confirmed and clarified, since we believe that absentee ballots are an important option for voters.

If this were not confusing enough for the public to understand, there have been new highly publicized concerns raised by the Postmaster General warning **46 states** that the US postal service may have difficulty handling the high volume of mail-in ballots in a timely manner. There is a great deal of evidence that the mail delivery system has slowed down because of management decisions made by the current Postmaster General. **Celina Stewart**, Senior Director of Advocacy and Litigation of the national LWV, called out this slowdown as a “**voter-suppression tactic.**”

Making sure that all voters have the ability to safely and securely cast their votes is **core** to our organization’s mission. We will be looking to our members in the coming months to be effective **messengers** to help voters navigate this changing election environment and will continue to look for more permanent legislative and judicial avenues to create more long-lasting solutions. **Stay tuned** for a virtual program announcement in which we will tackle your questions and look for effective community outreach ideas from you.





August Membership News

By Membership Co-Chairs Reba Holmes

It is with great delight that we announce the names of new and returning members who joined the Nashville League of Women Voters. It is our privilege to welcome these individuals to the organization: **Burkley Allen, Lois Barnes, Danna Bennett, Claudia Bonnyman, Amanda Brown, Kay Hancock Clarkson, Karen Connolly, Trudy Day, Barbara Devaney, Brenda Gilmore, Elizabeth Gordon, Wanda Bruce Graham, Donna Gruverman, Sharone K. Hall, Linda Halperin, Linda Hood, William Howell, Monica Jones, Sally R. Kanaday, Mary McLennan, Tamanna Qureshi, Ann Roberts, Cheryl Sachan, Sally Smallwood, Kay and Keith Simmons, Jeanne F. Ballinger, MD, and Irwin Venick**, and Lauren and Steve Walsh.

- **Susan B. Anthony – Claudia Bonnyman**
- **Anne Dallas Dudley – Delta Davis**

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

Annual Membership Drive Update

Since the July newsletter, we added **36 additional members** to the roster. As of August 12, 2020, we have **198 active members**. Outstanding effort and thank you!

While the official membership drive has concluded, please help us protect and defend our democracy by inviting your family, friends, and co-workers to join the **League**. As a **nonpartisan** group, we need an abundant number of activists to promote a **safe and fair** election process, **fight** voter suppression, **expand** access, and **help dispel untruths** through educating citizens. Please share the link to the various support levels, <https://lwvnashville.org/membership/>.

Social Media Hashtag (#) Tags

A reminder that we created **two** social media hashtags: **#nashvillevotes** and **#votenashville**. We hope you will find these useful and relevant during this voting season and beyond. Using them you can find the **LWVN** and Nashville-related posts around voting events and themes.

Comments from members as to why they joined the League

How joyous it is the first time you register a voter whether they are 18, 25, 30, or 40. You register them to vote, and they are ready to go. There is a certain joy and empowerment that never gets old. This is why I am in the league.



News from Metro Government

MAYOR COOPER ASKS FOR COMMUNITY INPUT ON NEW POLICE CHIEF SELECTION

On July 28th, 2020, Mayor John Cooper announced a roadmap for selecting Metro Nashville's new Chief of Police. The process Mayor Cooper has created is designed to engage residents and neighborhoods from across our community to identify the qualities needed in our next Chief of Police. [Read full news release](#)

The **League of Women Voters Nashville** is encouraging **all** members to participate in the [survey](#) link to the **HUB Nashville consumer service portal** to share your opinion about the traits and qualities you would like to see in our new Chief of Police.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AUGUST 4, 2020 METRO COUNCIL MEETING

Resolution [RS2020-478](#) Metro Council voted to approve distribution of \$10 million in CARES Act funds to provide mortgage, rent, and utility relief for Davidson County residents affected by COVID-19. The United Way of Greater Nashville will administer the grants based on applications to its partner nonprofit organizations.

Resolution [RS2020-459](#) also passed for \$1,244,000 to go to various non-profit organizations providing services related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- \$275,000 to the YWCA for shelter and domestic violence support services for those impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- \$250,000 to In Full Motion, Inc., for mentoring, tutoring, ACT preparation, and afterschool and summer programs for at-risk youth impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- \$200,000 to Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle TN to provide for food distribution to benefit those impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- \$169,000 to the Legal Aid Society of Middle TN & the Cumberlands for legal services and court advocacy for those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- \$125,000 to FiftyForward to provide meals, financial, and community support for older adults impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in Davidson County.
- \$100,000 to the Sexual Assault Center to provide professional care services to sexual assault victim-survivors impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- \$50,000 to Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) to ensure immigrant communities in Nashville have access to resources needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- \$50,000 to Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors to enhance public safety and trust between immigrant communities and local government to ensure access to resources needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- \$25,000 to the Safety Net Consortium of Middle Tennessee to better facilitate healthcare coordination for low-income Nashvillians impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Lobbyist Bill - Second Substitute Bill [BL2020-147](#) was approved on the 3rd reading with a vote of 33-6. Many thanks to **Councilwoman Kathleen Murphy** for sponsoring this bill and working

tirelessly for months to win approval from the Council. LWVN supported this much needed ethics and open government update to Metro's Lobbyist Code dating back to 1991.

Policing Reform - Bill BL2020-322 Councilmember Sharon Hurt's legislation was approved prohibiting the hiring of a police officer who was previously fired or under investigation by another law enforcement agency for malfeasance or use of force.



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



LWVN 2020-2021

Board of Directors

President: **Madeline Garr**

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

2nd Vice President: **Open**

Secretary: **Elise Lamar**

Treasurer **Susan Mattson**

Portfolio Chairs

Communications: **Open**

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

Education: **Lara Webb**

Environment: **Barbara Gay and Russanne Buchi-Fotre**

Fundraising: **Debby Gould and Anne Marie Farmer**

Health Care: **Constance Caldwell and Clare Sullivan**

Membership: **Reba Holmes and Karen Hernan**

Metro Government: **Winnie Forrester**

Voter Services: **Kristin Hightower and Perry Macdonald**

Voter Newsletter Editor: **Madeline Garr and Elise Lamar**

Williamson County Representative: **June Bond**

Nominating Committee Chair (2020): **Senator Brenda Gilmore**

Nominating Committee Members: **Betsy Walkup, Diane Dilanni, Cindee Gold, Constance Caldwell, and Carole Kenner**

