



Volume 74, No. 2

THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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

<http://www.LWVnashville.org>

July 2020

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 1, 2020. “We Count: First Time Voters” Exhibit. [Frist Art Museum Online Exhibition](#)

July 9 -August 18, 2020. I Ring the Bell. Legacy of the 19th Amendment. Sponsored by the Nashville Public Library. Click [here](#) for more information.

July 15, 2020. 1:00 p.m. League of Women Voters of Williamson County Initial Meeting on Zoom. Guest Speaker: Debby Gould. Registration is available online at the Brentwood John P. Holt Library at the Calendar pulldown menu of brentwoodtn.gov/departments/library.

July 16, 2020. 6:30 p.m. Candidate Forum: Interviews with candidates for the Tennessee Legislature. Sponsored by Nashville Pan-Hellenic Council. [NPHC of Nashville Facebook](#) page.

July 17, 2020. Early Voting for the state and federal primary and Davidson County General Election. All Locations. Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>.

July 18, 2020. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Voter Registration Event. Jefferson Street Sound Museum 2004 Jefferson Street, Nashville, 37208. Email Perry Macdonald macdonald5pa@gmail.com to volunteer.

July 18, 2020. 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT. Citizens’ Climate Lobby Online Training. All Locations. Please register [here](#).

July 23, 2020. 6:30 p.m. Candidate Forum: Interviews with candidates for the US Congress and Senate. Sponsored by Nashville Pan-Hellenic Council. [NPHC of Nashville Facebook](#) page.

August 3, 2020. State and Federal primary and Davidson County General Election. Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>.

August 7, 2020. 12 Noon. Hot Topics on Zoom!!!! The Virus in our Village: Covid-19’s Impact on the Nashville Community. Look for an email invitation to register.

August 13, 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.

August 13, 2020. 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. Program and Reception Celebrating Suffrage. Sponsored by: Nashville Bar Association and Lawyers Association for Women. Hermitage Hotel. 231 6th Avenue North, Nashville, TN, 37219.



Presidents' Message



I am honored and humbled to have been selected to serve as President of the **League of Women Voters of Nashville**. Those preceding me have forged a path whose footsteps I hope to follow as we **all** walk this journey toward **extending** voter registration, **educating** all voters, and **advocating** for transparent and open government. The times are challenging but learning from history, we know that we are up to meeting whatever lies ahead.

I also want to thank **Barbara Gay** for her leadership these last two years as President and for her many years of service to both the **Nashville and State Leagues**. I am grateful she has agreed to stay on the Board in the capacity of Environment Portfolio

Co-chair.

August 6th, when Davidson County will hold both party primaries as well as a General Election, is drawing near. Amid Covid-19, voting in this election and in the national election November 3rd may be complicated and results may be delayed. Currently, **Perry Macdonald** and **Kristin Hightower** are leading a group of dedicated volunteers to register voters both in-person and by other creative means. If you are interested in participating in this important effort, please contact Perry at macdonald5pa@gmail.com.

In addition, absentee voting in Tennessee is available to **anyone** who wishes to do so. However, there are steps involved in **applying** for an absentee ballot, **receiving** one, and then **returning** it by mail. Timing is everything. Aim to mail your ballot on or before **July 20th** to ensure that the Davidson County Election Commission receives it in time. Track the status of your ballot at the Secretary of State's voter lookup: <https://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup/>

Further information regarding absentee ballots is available at www.lwvnashville.org. The **LWVN** has activated our Vote411.org website. Thanks to **Susan Mattson** for her work on this project, it is easy to type in your address and pull up your ballot. You can compare candidates' responses to **League-crafted** questions to understand how each candidate will address issues.

Madeline Garr



2020-2021 LWVNashville Board

Would you like to know more about the **LWVNashville** Leadership Board for the coming year? Take a trip through their lives by visiting the website. Click [here](#) to get to know a little about them. It is worth the read.



As part of our centennial celebrations, the **LWVN** is offering a limited edition, signed, heirloom-quality print of “Nashville Parade for Women’s Suffrage” by acclaimed Tennessee artist **Shirley Martin**.

The painting depicts the historic women’s parade from the state capitol to Centennial Park to promote the cause of women’s suffrage. The original painting is the property of the **Tennessee State Museum**.

- Limited to 100 signed and numbered 28" x 34" heirloom quality prints
- Epson Ultra-Smooth Fine Art Paper — 15-mils thick, 250 gsm, 100% cotton, hot press, acid-free paper
- Ultra-chrome Inks — projected to be color-stable for 100+ years. Archive Scan—highest quality digital scan

To order, please visit www.lwvnashville.org/celebrate



June 2020 Financial Report

By Treasurer Susan Mattson

The **League of Women Voters of Nashville** ended its fiscal year **2019-20** in good financial position. As of June 30, 2020, the **LWVN** accounts totaled close to \$56,000. **FY 2019-20** income was \$30,000 (99% of budgeted) and expenses were \$22,200 (59% of budgeted). **LWVN** had a net income of \$7,604. **Membership dues for 2020-21** are coming in strong. We are in a good position to continue and expand our programs and services in 2020-21.



Summary of July Hot Topic – Facing Challenges and Changes in the 2020 Election Cycle

On Friday, July 10, 2020, **Jeff Roberts**, Administrator of Elections for Davidson County, was the guest at the Hot Topics on Zoom. **Debby Gould** introduced and moderated the event and a total of 57+ interested people attended on the Zoom platform.

Roberts began stressing that all polling sites at all 160 locations will be open on **August 6th**, and all sites will be following guidance protocols pertaining to Covid-19. The sites will be cleaned and sanitized. **All** poll workers and officials will be masked and wearing protective equipment. Social distance will be in place. Entrance into the polling site will be controlled to eliminate any potential for overcrowding. Voters will be using voting sticks for touchless voting and will be expected to wear masks. If a voter doesn't have a mask, one will be offered.

Because of the need to maximize space in polling sites to protect voters and workers, there will be **fewer** poll workers per site. So far, there have been **250 applications** to become a poll worker since June, so Roberts believes that Davidson County will have enough capacity to cover all **160 sites** on Election Day.

Early voting begins July 17th and, on that day **all** 11 sites will be open. Early voting sites will also follow the same protocols listed above.

At both early voting polling sites and Election Day polling sites, lines outside the site may **appear** to be long. However, because of the six-foot distance to be maintained between voters in line, it is important to recognize that these lines will be moving quickly.

On the critical issue of **absentee voting**, Mr. Roberts shared a great deal of important information. Essentially, because of Chancellor Lyle's court ruling, **anyone** is eligible to vote absentee. Roberts and the Davidson County Election Commission are trying to get this information out to the public and will continue to do so. He also asks that the public and the media help with this communication in print, social media, and on air.

So far, the Davidson County Election Commission has received **21,000 requests** for absentee ballots. At this time in the August 2016 election, it had received only 1700 requests. The Election Commission is anticipating **50%** of the voting public will vote absentee in the August election. As a result, it has hired more people to handle the volume and purchased a \$50,000 scanner to count votes.

It is important to know that at **7 a.m.** on Election Day, the **sealed** boxes of absentee ballots will be opened and handled in the presence of both Democrat and Republican representatives to ensure that all is fair and just. Given the length of time needed to count absentee and provisional ballots, election results may be delayed.

There were many questions regarding security of the ballot, the issue of signature verification, and provisional ballots. For more information, please click [here](#).



August 7, 2020 HOT TOPICS

Returns on ZOOM!

The Virus in Our Village: Covid-19's Impact on the Nashville Community

On **Friday, August 7th at 12:00 Noon**, please join **Dr. Michael Caldwell**, M.D., Director and Chief Medical Officer of the Metro Public Health Department, and **Dr. Joseph Webb**, Chief Executive Officer of Nashville General Hospital at Meharry, as they share their perspectives on the Covid-19 Pandemic's impact on the City of Nashville. Although the entire city has been challenged, some communities have been affected more than others. What have we learned? What does the future hold?

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

Register and Tune in on Friday, August 7th at Noon.



Voter Services Update

Voter Services Co-Chair Perry MacDonald

Tennessee promising. Must stay indefinitely.

*Address Hermitage
Hotel, Suite 309*

This was the night telegram sent by **Carrie Chapman Catt** (aka the Chief) by way of the hotel switchboard at the Hermitage to the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) headquarters in New York. A powerful and prophetic three sentence message...to her colleagues then and for us now.

It seems fitting **in so many** ways that, as we cautiously begin to personally register, assist, and educate voters, we launch these efforts just a few miles from the Hermitage Hotel. On **Saturday, July 18** we will join an outdoor event at the **Jefferson Street Sound Museum** from 11 am to 2 pm. In addition to assisting with paper applications for voter registration, we will be distributing information about **early** and **absentee** (mail-in) voting. As we know, these are all critical components of this complex and challenging voting season. Voters need **non-partisan** and **factual** guidance today as much as in any time in our history.

We will be providing these same services at the **Richland Park Farmer's Market** on **Saturdays from 9 am to 12 pm** and the **East Nashville Farmers' Market** on **Tuesdays from 3:30 to 6:30 pm**. Two of our experienced

registration volunteers, **Amy Kurland** and **Maureen Organ**, have tentatively scheduled **Saturdays** in September at the downtown **Farmers' Market on Rosa Parks Boulevard**. In all these undertakings, we are mindful of our responsibility to ourselves as well as the community with respect to **public health constraints** that govern us all. We trust that the event organizers who have invited our participation are equally committed to the safeguarding of everyone's health.

How pleased we are to be welcoming **12 new members** who have joined the League and stepped right up to becoming voter services **volunteers**! Whether participating in these events or providing logistical support from 'behind the lines' as so many others are doing, please know how much your service is appreciated.

Our Twitter Analytics for June

Tweets: 166	Pinned Tweet (directing viewers to voter information):
Engagements: 1100	Engagements: 42
Impressions (views): 20327	Impressions: 2225



The Impact of Covid-19 and the Economic Crash

By Health Care Co-Chair Clare Sullivan

The COVID-19 Pandemic and Resulting Economic Crash Have Caused the Greatest Health Insurance Losses in American History. That is the title of a new report released this week by Families USA, a national healthcare advocacy organization. That report can be accessed at https://www.familiesusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/COV-254_Coverage-Loss_Report_7-14-20.pdf.

The report estimates that, as a result of layoffs related to Covid-19, **another 122,000** working-age Tennesseans have been added to the ranks of the uninsured, bringing the **total** number of **uninsured adults** in our state to **751,000**, or 19% of those aged 19-64. This also now moves our state into the **top ten** states in the nation for the number of uninsured non-elderly adults. The report underscores the **connection** between lack of health coverage and lack of care for underlying health conditions, delay in seeking attention for acute illnesses, and increased risk of complications or death from Covid infection.

There is legislation pending in Congress that can help address the growing gaps in health care coverage and access. The **Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act** or **HEROES Act** was passed by the House of Representatives **in May**. **Majority Leader McConnell** is being pressured to finally bring it before the Senate **the week of July 20** when that body reconvenes. This legislation would do the following to address health care access:

- **increase** the federal contribution to states' Medicaid programs in exchange for agreement not to reduce current benefit levels;
- **open up** a special enrollment period on the ACA exchange so that uninsured do not need to wait until November to sign up for coverage;
- **give** states a new Medicaid option, with full federal funding for COVID-19 treatment for uninsured residents;
- **provide** additional stimulus investments.

The House of Representatives also passed legislation on **June 29** to **enhance** the **Affordable Care Act** to make coverage more affordable for all Americans lacking access to employer sponsored insurance. It is doubtful that this legislation will be brought before the Senate until the Supreme Court hears the case brought by Texas and

17 other state attorneys general (**including Tennessee**) this Fall. The Court's decision is not expected until **December** at the earliest. However, in November voters will have a chance to weigh in, as the bill **includes** many aspects of what is believed will be a large part of the Democratic health care platform. The bill would in brief:

- **Increase** the generosity of advanced premium tax credits available to low income households and reduce cost-sharing burden for households below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL);
- **Extend** additional tax credits to households earning more than 400% of the FPL;
- **Provide** additional risk reinsurance payments to insurers, which would lower premiums for everyone
- **Enable** negotiation over drug prices to lower costs of care;
- **Provide** three years of 100% federal funding to incentivize states like Tennessee which have not yet expanded TennCare (Medicaid) to childless low-income adults;
- **Remove** a 'glitch' in the original ACA to enable more families to enroll in Marketplace plans, even when a family member is offered employer-based insurance;
- **Provide** funding to support enrollment assistance and encourage enrollment.

The Republican proposal to replace the ACA, which the Trump administration has argued should be struck down in full, has not yet been revealed.

We encourage all readers of the Voter to do the following:

- **Write**, email, and/or call Senators Lamar Alexander and Marsha Blackburn this weekend or early next week to urge them to support the HEROES Act;
- **Continue** to write, email, and/or call your state representatives and Governor Lee asking their position on expanding coverage to low-income adults not now eligible for TennCare because they do not have children under 19;
- **Interact** with congressional candidates to understand their position on enhancing the ACA to make coverage available on the marketplace more affordable for more Americans;
- **Consider** the future of healthcare in our state and nation when you cast your ballot in August and in November.

Also, if you or someone you know is interested in volunteering to help fellow Tennesseans enroll in TennCare or **Affordable Care Act** coverage, please contact Clare Sullivan at clare.d.sullivan@gmail.com, and put enrollment volunteering in the subject line to learn more about training and volunteer options.



Metro Nashville Public Schools - Update

By Education Chair Lara Webb

The question for many families right now is **what will happen** next school year. **MNPS** has decided to begin school as scheduled on **August 4** utilizing virtual learning, due to the increased community spread of COVID-19. The hope is to return to **in-person learning** in some capacity this fall. At that time, families will have the option to remain virtual or choose the in-person option.

For more details about what next year will look like, check out <https://www.mnps.org/backtoschool>. This will be a school year unlike any before, and leadership at the district and individual schools are working hard to meet the needs of students.

On the ballot for the **August 6 election** are several school board seats. If you live in school board districts 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9, you will be electing school board representatives for your area. Many candidates are participating in online events. You can find out more information about those meetings from the candidates' websites and social media accounts. Check out vote411.org to see where your candidates stand on the issues.

School Board Candidates:

District 1

- Barry Barlow
- Tiffany Degrafinreid
- Sharon Gentry
- Robert Taylor

District 3

- Brian Hubert
- Emily Masters

District 5

- Christiane Buggs

District 7

- Freda Player-Peters

District 9

- Russelle Ann Bradbury
- Abigail Tylor



News from Williamson County

By Linda Sherman

The **Williamson County** chapter of the **League of Women Voters** will hold its first meeting via Zoom, on Wednesday, July 15, at 1 p.m. Registration is available online at the Brentwood John P. Holt Library at the Calendar pulldown menu of brentwoodtn.gov/departments/library. Guest speaker, **Debby Gould** will give a brief history of **LWV** and will be highlighting the organization's current programs and non-partisan voter services/activities, including plans to celebrate the 2020 centennial anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment.

Many thanks to the help from **Nashville's League of Women Voters** in launching our new chapter.



State Advocacy Update - July

By State Advocacy Co-Chair Debby Gould

Although the Legislative Session finally came to a crashing conclusion in the wee hours of **June 19**, advocacy activities for LWVTN did not end there. Earlier this month **LWVTN** sent a letter to members of the Tennessee Capitol Commission urging the **removal** of the Nathan Bedford Forrest bust from its place of honor in the capitol rotunda. We are pleased that the Commission **voted 7-2** to move the bust to the Tennessee State Museum but deeply disappointed that the two dissenting voices were individuals representing the Tennessee Senate and House, respectively.

Additionally, **LWVTN** filed an amicus brief for the appeal that will be heard in the Tennessee Supreme Court this summer regarding the **expansion** of absentee ballot access to voters during the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic. We share the firm conviction with our collaborative partnering organizations that personal safety and health should **not** be jeopardized in order to participate in an election.



July Membership News By Membership Co-Chairs Reba Holmes

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 these individuals to the organization: **Suzanne Allen, Vanessa Bryan, Constance Caldwell, Anne Carr, Susan Cheatham, Stewart Clifton, Patricia Dishman, Karen Edwards, Cheryl Gray, Karen A. Hernan, Lisa Headley, Reba Holmes, Cathy Hoot, Carrie S. Hudson, Trinita Jennings, Carole Kenner, Catherine Knowles, Gail Markert, Miriam F. McFadden, Lisa and Mark Mingrone, Linda Cataldo Modica, Suzanne Van Zandt Petrey, Joan Sands, Joseph and Judy Shank, Linda J. Sherman, Sally Smallwood, Carolyn Sobotka, Clare Sullivan, Pamela Talley, Irene Temple, Tish Womack, Phyllis Williams, and Leslie Young.**

- **Anne Dallas Dudley – Penny Frere**
- **Anne Dallas Dudley – Joan Shayne**

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

Annual Membership Drive

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We had much success with the annual membership drive during the past couple of months. Now, we have approximately **162 active members** on the roster. Outstanding effort!

Please help us to **continue** growing our membership. With the Covid-19 pandemic, we need all hands-on deck to **continue promoting** a safe and fair election process, **fight** against voter suppression, and **help** dispel untruths through educating citizens.

Please encourage your family, friends, and co-workers to join the League. Click the link <https://lwvnashville.org/membership/> to view the various support levels.

Social Media Hashtag (#) Tags

Recently, 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 LWN posts around voting events and themes.

Comments from members as to why they joined the League

I joined because I love politics. I enjoy the League because their priorities are aligned with mine.



News from Metro Government

By Metro Government Chair – Winnie Forrester

Metro Nashville and Policing Reform

George Floyd's murder and the call for deep systemic reforms have permeated every level of our society, not only in the United States, but across the world. In early June, along with 454 other organizations, the **National League of Women Voters** signed on to the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' letter concerning federal policing priorities. The Leadership Conference is a coalition of more than 220 national organizations promoting and protecting civil and human rights in the United States. A copy of the letter can be found [HERE](#).

As the Nashville chapter of the League, we pay close attention to **Metro Nashville's record on human rights**. In mid-June, Mayor Cooper announced that Metro's Police Chief, Steve Anderson, will step down after his replacement is determined by a national search. Numerous Councilmembers and community advocates had called for his resignation over the years, believing that he was an obstacle to meaningful reform. Advocates are hoping for a fresh face and not a promotion from within the police department.

At another marathon Metro Council meeting on **July 7**, the Council attempted to address **systemic racism** by introducing **five bills relating to reform of policing practices**. There are **three** readings held at separate Council meetings before a bill is officially passed. Typically, the first reading is a formality, and there is little discussion before the vote. The second reading includes a **public hearing** where comments from the public are heard. The third and last reading determines whether the bill will pass, and the 21 votes needed for passage can change dramatically from the previous meetings. The five bills are listed below:

BILLS ON FIRST READING:

[**Bill BL2020-329**](#) which would **prohibit the use of chemical weapons, including tear gas**, by law enforcement.

[**Bill BL2020-330**](#) gives **citizens the right to ask an officer if their body camera is recording**.

[**Bill BL2020-331**](#) would require that "every Metropolitan police officer who has any engagement with the public shall receive **implicit bias training** at least once per year using curriculum developed by the **Metropolitan Human Relations Commission**."

BILLS ON SECOND READING:

[**Bill BL2020-322**](#) prohibits the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department from hiring police officers from other law enforcement agencies who were **previously fired or are under investigation for malfeasance or use of force**.

[**Bill BL2020-323**](#) had 18 councilmembers co-sponsor it. It requires **de-escalation tactics** such as verbal

warnings or advisements before resorting to force, **intervention by other officers** that may be present when another officer uses force when not reasonably necessary and **prohibits chokeholds**. Officers should also **report any use of force against civilians** when any civilian is injured, complains of injury in the presence of officers, or complains of pain continuing beyond the use of physical 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): Chair **Senator Brenda Gilmore**

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

