



September 2020  
Volume 74, No. 4

# THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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<http://www.LWVnashville.org>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**September 17, 9:00 a.m. to Noon. The Election Law 101: Process, Updates, and Changes during Covid-19.** Speakers: Sen. Jeff Yarbro, DCEC Commissioner Tricia Herzfeld, Shanna Hughey, CEO of Think TN. Register at: [info@OrganizeTN.com](mailto:info@OrganizeTN.com) Sponsored by Organize Tennessee. CLE Credits. Free.

**September 17, 5:30 p.m. A Constitution Day Conversation with Elaine Weiss.** Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. Register at: [https://vanderbilt.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ixFUMSsLS0K8z8K-SjrTPA](https://vanderbilt.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ixFUMSsLS0K8z8K-SjrTPA) Sponsored by Vanderbilt Women's Center.

**September 18 to October 3, 2020 (Every Saturday). 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Voter Registration at Richland Park Farmer's Market.** 4701 Charlotte Ave, 37209.

**September 18 to October 3, 2020 (Every Saturday). 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Voter Registration at Nashville's Farmer's Market.** 900 Rosa Parks Ave, 37208.

**September 20 to October 4, 2020 (Every Sunday). 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Voter Registration at Bellevue Antique Mall.** 7103 Hwy 70 S, Nashville, TN 37221.

**September 22 to September 29, 2020. (Every Tuesday) 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Voter Registration at East Nashville Farmer's Market.** 511 Woodland Street, Nashville, TN 37206.

**September 24, Noon to 1:00 p.m. Stand Against Racism: Healthcare in a Time of Crisis.** A panel discussion with experts in healthcare leading the fight for the health and well-being of Black people and other people of color amid COVID-19. Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stand-against-racism-healthcare-in-a-time-of-crisis-tickets-118965449863> . Sponsored by the YWCA.

**September 26, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Statewide Briefing on Elections Communications for the LWVTN.** This meeting is open to any LWVTN member who would like updates on LWV elections communications around the state with a special focus on COVID-related issues impacting the election process. Register at [lwvtenn@gmail.com](mailto:lwvtenn@gmail.com)

**October 2, 2020. 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Hot Topics on Zoom!!!! Affordable Housing: A Local Perspective.** Look for an email invitation to register.

**October 5, 2020. Voter Registration Deadline.** Go to [VoteTN.com](https://VoteTN.com) to register or check your registration.

**October 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m. LWVUS: Tech & Communications webinar.** Join free at [https://applauncher.gotowebinar.com/#notStarted/5669161527141224973/en\\_US](https://applauncher.gotowebinar.com/#notStarted/5669161527141224973/en_US)

**October 8, 6-7:30 p.m. Racism and Redistricting: How Unfair Maps Impact Communities of Color.** This is a live event broadcast on **LWVUS's** Facebook Page. Sponsored by **LWV-US**. Free and open to everyone!

**October 14 through October 29, 2020. Early Voting for the State & Federal General (Presidential), School board District 4, Belle Meade, Forrest Hills & Goodlettsville 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>.

**October 24, 2020. Vote Early Day.** Go to <https://voteearlyday.org/> for information about local efforts.

**October 27, 2020.** Deadline to submit your request for an **Absentee Ballot**.

**November 3, 2020. State & Federal General (Presidential), School board District 4, Belle Meade, Forest Hills & Goodlettsville Municipal Elections.** Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>.

## President's Message



Welcome to mid-September!!! The next **48 days** are important ones if we as members of the **League of Women Voters Nashville (LWVNashville)** are to fulfill our most basic mission: **to empower voters and defend democracy, a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.**

Missions, visions, and values are only as vibrant as the actions that accompany them. The members of the **LWVNashville** are now actively involved in educating and registering voters across Nashville by conducting **in-person voter registration** events at Farmers Markets and aiding all those who are eager to get involved wherever they might be.

In addition to these efforts, we are trying to communicate to voters across the city how to connect to [GoVoteTN.com](https://GoVoteTN.com) either to **register** to vote or to **check** their registration in case they have moved. These communications include our website ([lwvnashville.org](https://lwvnashville.org)), our Facebook page, our Twitter account, and our Instagram page. Please use any or all of these platforms to establish a **League of Women Voters** identity by liking, commenting, and sharing among your friends. These can be

powerful tools to communicate our **non-partisan** message that voting is essential and that **full** participation is necessary to ensure a strong democracy. Let every voice be heard and counted.

Also, if you are a reader and are picking up a book through the **Nashville Public Library** system, you will see signs with the **QR code** to connect a voter or potential voter to the [GoVoteTn.com](https://www.govotetn.com) website. Since the libraries are closed because of the pandemic, **LWVNashville** has coordinated placement of these signs in order to encourage library patrons to check or begin their registration. In addition, in **mid-October**, billboards directing voters to [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) will once again be visible in the city encouraging voters to use this platform to help them understand their choices and the ballot.

Finally, registering to vote is **NOT** enough. Registered voters **MUST** vote to be heard. If each of us reaches out to family and friend networks, we ourselves will participate in the “**getting out the vote**” efforts that could move Tennessee from near bottom (49) voter turnout to a higher number. Each of us can be a messenger to our family and friends to ensure that they are registered and planning to vote absentee, early, or on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Setting** a calendar deadline to mail in the absentee ballot, vote early, or show up on Election Day is an important tool to increase voter turnout. Ask your networks to reach out to **their** friends and families as well. Word of mouth is an effective way of communicating our message. In the words of **Margaret Mead**:

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

**Madeline Garr**



## **Social Media and the League of Women Voters Nashville**

These days, social media is a major way that people connect with one another. The **LWVNashville** is active on three social media platforms: **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **Twitter**. The more members and others **visit** these sites, **like** what they see, and, most importantly, **share**, the more visible the League will be and the more widely our mission will be communicated. However, for many of us, using social media is still a challenge. For you, below are some links to help you navigate these platforms and sharpen your skills:

### **Instagram: lwvnashville**

<https://help.instagram.com/customer/portal/articles/95806-examples-of-how-brands-are-using-instagram>

### **Twitter: @NashvilleLwv**

Complete Beginners Guide to Twitter 2020

<https://youtu.be/Ltxj-s0w1XI>

<https://youtu.be/BwKwOyb62xs>

### **Facebook: League of Women Voters Nashville @LWVNashville**

<https://www.wikihow.com/Use-Facebook>

If after looking at these informational sites, you still would like some instruction, email [lwvnashville@gmail.com](mailto:lwvnashville@gmail.com).

Have fun!



## Volunteers Needed!!!

The **LWVNashville** Board has set goals for the coming year. Last month, these goals were published in the **August Voter** for all to see. This month, we are asking our membership to help us accomplish these goals. If you are interested in volunteering, we urge you to connect with Portfolio goals that reflect your passion or interest. Email [lwvnashville@gmail.com](mailto:lwvnashville@gmail.com) to get in touch with the Portfolio chairperson/s and find ways that you can serve. Thank you so much!!!



### Communications Update for September

By Communications Chair Lara Webb

#### Call for Photos

Are you volunteering at one of the **voter registration booths**? Have you seen one of our Vote 411 signs or Vote 411 billboards? Have you been talking to neighbors about voting? If so, snap some photos and post them on social media using the hashtag **#lwvnashville**, or email them to me at [lwebbteacher@gmail.com](mailto:lwebbteacher@gmail.com). Let's capture how the **LWVNashville** is working to get out the vote!

#### Weekly Election Updates

As Election Day approaches, you might be wondering what you can do to help get out the vote. Each week, we will send out an EMMA email with a few simple suggestions to help you use your platform, whether it's your neighborhood group, social media, or your coworkers. Email [lwvnash@gmail.org](mailto:lwvnash@gmail.org) if you do not receive these updates.

Voting in the middle of a pandemic can be confusing. We can all do our part to help more people feel confident about how to vote!



### Summary of September Hot Topic—Strengthening Conservation in Nashville

By Environment Co-Chair Barbara Gay

**Noah Charney**, Executive Director of **Radnor2River**, showed photos of a local forest and explained how important it is to protect these areas. Radnor2River works to improve conservation and development in Nashville by creating a world-class park design that connects our parks, keeps our forests healthy, and preserves wildlife. A proposed **seven-mile trail** would connect **Radnor Lake to Bell's Bend** and eventually **Beaman Park**. Radnor2River is coordinating with other environmental agencies to create a conservation network.

It is important for the public, developers, and the planning commission to understand ecology of the forest, water, and wildlife. Tulip poplars grow well in sunlight and thrive in the canopy. Bird droppings seed beech trees in the understory and the trees grow well in shaded areas. The beeches will take over the forest in about **200 years**. When a tree falls it creates a pool and a mound, structures that support frogs, salamanders, beetles, and other wildlife. Deep interior forests have this **balanced** ecology, while edge forests are degraded because of invasive species that do not support

the local bugs and other wildlife. Chickadees are dying because honeysuckle foreign to this region does not support their usual insect diet.

When developers and planning commissions understand the whole system, they can better configure subdivision growth and save interior forests and wildlife. Radnor2River is working with Metro's Planning Department and reaching out to the public and other environmental groups. They have established an **iNaturalist Forest Project** asking volunteers to map invasive species. Their goals are to improve policy, organization, and education. Visit <https://radnor2river.org> for more information.

**Karen McIntyre**, the librarian at Westmeade Elementary School, leads an effort to teach children **conservation, ecology**, and how to **live sustainably**. This project began ten years ago when the school planted a garden. Many students did not know where food comes from, and teachers discovered that gardening is a great way to teach science. Children were also eager to eat what they grew. Working in the garden has been calming and healing for children who have difficulty controlling their behavior.

Karen also observed how much food was being **wasted** in the cafeteria. Americans generally waste **40%** of our food. This waste goes into landfills and creates more methane adding to climate change. In response, Westmeade started the **Food Waste Warrior Project**. They created a table at school for leftover edible food and drinks, took this food to the Rescue Mission, and learned to make compost with remaining food scraps.

Karen has been successful in raising money and support for these projects from corporations like the **Kroger Zero Hunger, Zero Waste Program**. **Home Depot** donated a refrigerator to hold the food before being taken to the Rescue Mission. She has recruited volunteers to help and now hopes to expand her program to **all** Metro Nashville Public Schools. She plans to raise private funds to support recycling, reusing, and composting.

Karen also described her own learning journey about gardening. Many gardeners plant flowers for their beauty without knowledge of their origin. Karen discovered that **native** plants are necessary to support specific species. These native plants are not always the most beautiful but are an important part of the life cycle and ecology.

Westmeade School has a Young Naturalist Program and takes students on field trips to parks. They discover the satisfaction of being in nature and learning about it. In the future, Karen hopes to create a **Sustainable Community Advisory Committee**, establish a **Children's Bill of Rights**, expand food rescue, and support composting and sustainability. For more information go to <https://www.westmeade.net/>.

A recording of this program is available on the **LWVNashville** website at: <https://lwvnashville.org/blog/>.



## October Hot Topic Preview

By Co-Vice President Carole Kenner

We often hear various terms applied to **housing**, but what is “affordable housing”, “workforce housing” and low-income housing? What **income** levels translate to area median income? What is

the **median** wage of Davidson county workers and how is that information used to calculate housing cost burden?

While there are programs in Nashville's "toolbox" to provide housing affordable to low- and moderate-income families, they fall far short of meeting the housing needs of our city. Approximately half of the housing in Davidson County is rental, and the housing cost (including utilities) for many is **more than 50%** of the family income.

Our October speakers, both involved in moving Nashville forward towards more affordable housing, **will address** some of these issues. **Kay Bowers**, who recently retired as the director of the non-profit, **New Level Community Development Corporation**, is a founding member of **Tennessee Affordable Housing Coalition** and has a long history working for affordable housing and with community development groups.

**Michael Kenner**, president of **MiKen Development**, works on the grassroots level with neighborhoods and Metro agencies to develop housing stock. He has been involved in writing policy and legislation to help slow socioeconomic gentrification and was recently awarded the Excellence in Development Award by the Urban Land Institute.



**October 2, 2020**

**HOT TOPICS**

**Affordable Housing...A Local Perspective**

**Continues on ZOOM!**

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

**Register and tune in on Friday, October 3rd at Noon.**



**Stories from the Field of Voter Advocacy**  
**Voter Services Chair Perry MacDonald**

Last week at the **East Nashville Farmers' Market**, a young woman approached our tables with a decidedly playful expression in her eyes. (That's all you have to go on these days, right?) "It's my birthday in two days," she began. "It will be a drive-through party and everyone's gift to me will be their voter registration: filled out and ready to mail in. If they're already registered, they can show me their cards." In short order, we packed up the **League's** 'birthday gift' to her: a stack of



registration applications, [LWVNashville](#) brochures, a handful of [Vote411.org](#) cards and, of course, the party favors: stickers announcing *"I Registered to Vote Today!"*

There are many rewards associated with voter advocacy work that we are doing these days. The registrations, the inquiries, the **'thanks for being here'** callouts. But few are richer than the clear evidence that we are witness to...and a resource for...the coming of age of a new generation of citizen activists. **Young** Americans who are wearing their civic responsibilities openly and proudly.

Somewhat more quietly, but no less significantly, a former teacher's aide at an **East Nashville** middle school called to enlist our assistance in setting up a voter registration/education table for the teachers, staff, and parents of her former students. Judging from the website profile of this school, I believe she's exactly right in her hunch that these families are among the **least** represented in this representative democracy of ours. She has set out to change that. With the endorsement of the school principal and the 'community achieves' staff person, and with logistical assistance from the [LWVNashville](#) and a bit of luck, she just may do exactly that. I can't wait to meet her in person and help her get that campaign going.

We live amidst a daily barrage of statistics, calculations and predictions, many quite dire. How important it is to be reminded that the work we do, contributing what we can to an informed and engaged citizen community, is often accomplished *one person at a time*. **"Each One, Teach One"** is an African proverb that became embedded in this country's history during the time when those who were enslaved were also denied an education. May we keep its quiet wisdom and challenge as a watchword, always.



## **Covid-19 Long-Term Consequences**

**By Health Care/Public Health Co-Chair Constance Caldwell**

Since this virus has appeared, our medical professionals have learned a lot about how to treat its acute state and lessen its ravages on the body. Despite that progress, there are still things we don't know about the Covid-19 coronavirus or what long-term effects it may have.

It was first described as a respiratory disease, but we now know that it can affect **any** of the body's systems. We need to stay aware of persons referred to as **"long haulers"**, who have recovered from the infection but continue to suffer its consequences. Symptoms have been documented in the US, the UK, and Italy in patients generally between the ages of **20-45 years**. Symptoms are still incapacitating individuals up to four/six months **after** the acute infection has been cleared.

Some of the sequelae reported are shortness of breath, increased heart rates, irreversible heart damage, persistent fatigue, prolonged loss of taste and smell, joint and muscle pain, gastric distress, memory loss, brain fog, glaucoma, and short-term memory loss.

Many individuals have experienced extreme frustrations when they cannot get answers from their providers as to **'why'** or **'how long'** symptoms will remain. This population may need to be captured for study in order to anticipate future care needs and develop strategies to off-set these consequences.





Own this beautiful keepsake of the Centennial Celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment from **LWVNashville**. A limited edition of signed heirloom quality prints of Shirley Martin's "Nashville Parade for Woman's Suffrage" is on sale now. \$50, shipping included.  
<https://lwnashville.org/celebrate/>



## News from Williamson County

By Linda Sherman

**The League of Women Voters of Williamson County** invited **Chad Gray**, Williamson County Election Commission Administrator, spoke at our meeting **Sept. 16 at 1:00 p.m.**

Mr. Gray, a former history teacher and employee of the Tennessee State Library Archive, has worked with the Williamson County Election Commission (WCEC) as Deputy Administrator since 2000. He was appointed WCEC Administrator in 2015. We appreciate his availability during the busy weeks approaching November 3rd.



## State Advocacy Update

By State Advocacy Co-Chair Debby Gould

It is highly **unusual** for courts to tinker with election laws before major elections, but the 2020 election season is different in so many ways! A federal court ruled this month that Tennessee **must** make an immediate change to absentee voting laws that require all first-time voters to vote in person.

**Judge Richardson's** decision will **allow** first-time voters who meet the eligibility criteria laid out by the state to vote absentee the first time. This would include students who have moved out of their



county for college, individuals with underlying conditions that increase their vulnerability to COVID, and individuals aged 60 or older. The entire eligibility list along with answer to some of the many frequently asked questions about absentee voting can be found at [www.lwvnashville.org](http://www.lwvnashville.org).

Last night I assisted in an **online event** for young/inexperienced voters. Across the country, this age group responded in surveys that they did **not** vote either because they did not like any of the candidates or they thought their vote didn't make a difference. Now is the time to think of how you can motivate young/inexperienced voters to be active voters this year.



## September Updates on goals and membership

By Membership Co-Chairs Reba Holmes and Karen Hernan

This year's goals of the **membership portfolio** are to identify **potential** members among college students who are veterans, traditional college students, and persons with disabilities who connect through empowerment support groups or housing programs. A potential group of interested persons may also be among the Amazon workforce being hired for Nashville's headquarters.

To retain our current members, we are conducting a post card campaign and encouraging networking to invite League members to serve on a committee, complete a task assignment, or become involved in one of the "portfolios": **healthcare/public health, education, Metro Nashville government, voter services, environment, community connections, and fundraising.**

It is with great delight that we announce the names of new and returning members who recently joined LWVNashville. We are privileged to welcome the following individuals: **Jan Bossing, Ann P. Duncan, Kim Fisher, Meggan Grear, Emma Harton, Tanner Holmes, Sara Melamed, Sabina Mohyuddin, Julie Sistrunk, Mary Beth Stamps, and Susan Tolmie.**

- Susan B. Anthony – **Karen B. Davis**
- Anne Dallas Dudley - **Frances M. Edwards**

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

### **Membership Enrollment**

**As of September 10, 2020**, we have 214 active members. We are grateful for your exceptional interest and commitment.

As a **nonpartisan** group, we need to mobilize 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. Help us safeguard and defend our democracy by inviting your family,

friends, and co-workers to join the League. Please share the link defining various support levels: <https://lwvnashville.org/membership/> .

### **Social Media Hashtag (#) Tags**

We hope you will use our two social media hashtags, #nashvillevotes and #votenashville, and find them relevant during this voting season and beyond. Using them, you can find **LWVNashville**-related posts around voting events, themes, voter registration, and poll watching and working.

### **Comments from members as to why they joined the League**

*Anything I have done with the **League** has been worthwhile and effective. My motivation to get involved comes from my grandparents' examples, as they registered voters and worked the polls. They also drilled into me the importance of participating, and the fact that government represents a world of people and getting everyone to vote.*



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**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents: **Ethel Detch and Carole Kenner**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: **Open**

Secretary: **Elise Lamar**

Treasurer **Susan Mattson**

#### **Portfolio Chairs**

Communications: **Lara Webb**

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

Education: **Open**

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

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

Health Care/Public Health: **Constance Caldwell and Clare Sullivan (on temporary leave)**

Membership: **Reba Holmes and Karen Hernan**

Metro Government: **Winnie Forrester**

Voter Services: **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**

