



# THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville  
PO Box 158369, Nashville TN 37215 | 629-777-5650  
<http://www.LWVnashville.org>

February 2021  
Volume 74, No. 9

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 17, at 1:00 p.m. **A Conversation with Charles Sumner, Founder of the Nashville Chapter of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.** Sponsored by the League of Women Voters Williamson County. Click [here](#) to register.

February 22, 2021. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **League of Women Voters State Advocacy Committee.** Look for Zoom invitation or join [here](#).

February 27, 2021. 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. **21 Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge.** Look for an email to register for the Challenge and for a Zoom link.

March 5, 2021. 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. **Hot Topics: The Secret Life of Judges: A Conversation with former Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman.** On ZOOM. Look for an email link to register.

March 7-11, 2021. **Mom's Demand Action Tennessee Virtual Advocacy Week.** Register [here](#) to attend.

March 8, 2021. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **League of Women Voters State Advocacy Committee.** Look for Zoom invitation or join [here](#).

March 17, 2021. at 1:00 p.m. **A Conversation with Mandy Pellegrin from the Sycamore Institute.** Sponsored by the League of Women Voters Williamson County. On ZOOM. Click [here](#) to register.

March 8, 2021. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **League of Women Voters State Advocacy Committee.** Look for Zoom invitation or join [here](#).

March 19-22, 2021. **Tennessee Tree Day 2021.** Sponsored by the TN Environmental Council. Reserve your trees **now** through **March 7** @ [tectn.org/tennesseetreeday2021](http://tectn.org/tennesseetreeday2021)

March 22, 2021. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **League of Women Voters State Advocacy Committee.** Look for Zoom invitation or join [here](#).



## President's Message



Welcome to February. Just around the corner there are hints of spring. Crocuses are coming up as are daffodils' first shoots. Bluebirds are flitting around, preparing to build nests. Of course, we here in Nashville know that hints of spring also herald fierce storms. We are in the midst of a polar vortex storm now and we also remember too well March 3<sup>rd</sup> of last year and then again April 3<sup>rd</sup>. We know the ups and downs of weather here in our city and state. It reflects the ups and downs of life itself, as we all have experienced this past year. Yet, through it all, **League of Women Voters Nashville** has continued the work of **engaging** voters and **protecting** democracy.

If you are **new** to the **League of Women Voters Nashville**, you may not be aware of what we have been doing this past year, so here is a quick snapshot:

- Registered and educated voters for the three elections in 2020
- Placed signs at Metro Public Library pick-up spots to encourage VOTETN registration online
- Used Vote411.org to educate voters about candidates running in local and state elections
- Hosted Hot Topics programs throughout this year, moving from in person to Zoom because of the pandemic
- Celebrated the Commemoration of Votes for Women by co-sponsoring a performance at TPAC and in public schools of "72 Steps", a ballet commissioned to celebrate women's suffrage
- Attended every Davidson County Election Commission Meeting in the past year to provide independent observations and reported these observations to the community
- Advocated for policies promoting responsible and open government as well as for equal access to the ballot box for all Nashvillians

The above is only a taste of what we are up to. Currently, we are conducting conversations with members on how to amplify our work in the next five years. Do you have an idea? Please contact me at [mgarr2@gmail.com](mailto:mgarr2@gmail.com) or Debby Gould at [debbygould@bellsouth.net](mailto:debbygould@bellsouth.net).

Thank you for all you do.

**Madeline Garr**



## **State Advocacy Committee Is Hard at Work** **By State Advocacy Chair Debby Gould**

The State Advocacy Committee has begun its **bi-weekly** meetings and we have a very full agenda of bills that we will be monitoring. It goes without saying that the bountiful list of bills regarding the **redistricting process, elections, and voting machines** is receiving careful scrutiny by our talented team of volunteers.

Our collective reflections through the **LWVTN “21 Day Challenge”** on the values embedded in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are also influencing selection of bills that the **Advocacy Committee** will be most actively lobbying this year. Based on these readings and group **LWVTN** discussions, we understand the urgency to act on bills that:

- **end** solitary confinement of juveniles in detention
- **prohibit** the shackling of pregnant prisoners
- **promote** a robust black history curriculum in grades 5 and 8
- **eliminate** corporal punishment of students

Our next virtual meeting to discuss action strategies with our lobbyist **Stewart Clifton** is **Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 11:30 CST. Please contact [lwvtenn@gmail.com](mailto:lwvtenn@gmail.com) if you have not done so and wish to receive an agenda.



## What is Happening in Williamson County?

By **Linda Sherman**

**March 17<sup>th</sup>**, the **Williamson County LWV** will host guest speaker, **Mandy Pellegrin**, of the **Sycamore Institute**. The Sycamore Institute “*exists to help policymakers, the media, and the public understand complex issues that affect and connect Tennesseans’ health and prosperity,*” through independent, nonpartisan public policy research. The Institute’s website ([www.sycamoreinstitute.org](http://www.sycamoreinstitute.org)) has excellent graphics and information of interest to Tennesseans throughout the state.

Ms. Pellegrin has been a part of the Institute since 2016. A graduate of Lipscomb University and with a Master’s Degree in public policy from Georgetown University, she has since worked in the US Dept. of Health and Human Services with Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama on budget policy issues, including the Affordable Care Act.

Currently, Ms. Pellegrin is lead **developer** for research planning and is responsible for the conducting and curating of research and analysis at The Sycamore Institute. She is a member of Leadership Tennessee and Nashville’s Young Leaders Council and is an adjunct professor of state policy for Lipscomb University’s College of Leadership and Public Service.

Click [here](#) to register. **Everyone** is welcome!



## Summary of February Hot Topic – The State of Music City

By **Co-Vice President Ethel Detch**

What a year this has been! Nashville has been rocked by a devastating tornado, summer marches and demonstrations, and a Christmas Day bomb on historic Second Avenue, all while a global pandemic rages and Metro’s budget is pinched. For the **League’s February “Hot Topic,”** Metro Councilperson-at-Large **Burkley Allen** shared her thoughts about the city’s current challenges and how city officials are working to address each one. Ms. Allen brings several years of

experience to her work, including earlier terms as a councilperson and service on several committees.

The pandemic has affected **many aspects** of Nashville's normal operations. The **hospitality industry**, which produces much of Metro's revenue, **has reeled** as out-of-town tourists stopped visiting the "It" City. **Schools have been closed** for in-person learning for nearly a year. With assistance from a **\$121 million federal grant**, the Metro Government has responded by setting up **assessment centers** to test for the virus, **providing hot spots and laptop computers** for every student to make on-line learning possible, and helping small businesses **through various organizations**. The Metro Government is also **reducing staffing through attrition** to save money, but because the city still must provide essential services such as trash pick-up, and police and fire protection, it's **not** possible to just "close down." The city is **now** coordinating vaccination efforts at the Music City Center. Councilperson Allen noted that Davidson County has somewhat lagged behind other counties in vaccinating its population in part because the disproportionately high numbers of health care workers working at our numerous hospitals take priority over other categories.

Councilperson Allen discussed the **damage** inflicted on Historic Second Avenue by the **Christmas Day bombing**. Although it will likely be at least a year before 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue can get back to normal, proposed plans **will respect** the area's historic integrity but make buildings more adaptable for today's uses. Several charity events are planned to raise funds for the restoration.

Isolated incidents of violence coincident with the protests in the **Summer of 2020** caused damage to many storefronts, as well as **major** damage to the Metro Courthouse. Councilperson Allen noted, however, that those events have led to the naming of a **new** police chief and to **policing reform**. In addition, the events raised awareness of a need to review **all** of Nashville's diversity policies and their implementation. That review has caused some changes in procurement and the way minority and women-owned businesses are treated.

Councilperson Allen explained that addressing some of 2020's unexpected events has been further **complicated** because of some decisions made about raising revenue in years past. Metro had avoided raising property taxes **for several years for various reasons**, but in 2019 the State Comptroller of the Treasury, who oversees the financial health of local governments, notified Metro Nashville, that an **increase** in revenue was needed to have a structurally balanced budget. The Metro Council has responded by raising property taxes, as well as eliminating the capital spending plan to help reduce debt service.

Councilperson Allen briefly discussed "**Vision Zero**," a transportation plan to help reduce pedestrian deaths in the city. In 2020, **43 Nashvillians** were killed on city streets and thoroughfares.

This **Hot Topics** meeting, as well as others, was recorded and can be watched on the League of Women Voters of Nashville's website at <https://lwvnashville.org/blog/>



## **March Hot Topic: The Secret Life of Judges** **By Co-Vice Carole Kenner**

For our next **Hot Topic** join us Friday, **March 5<sup>th</sup>, at noon**, when retired **Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman** will regale us with observations from her three decades of work in the judicial system. She will explain **why** judges are not umpires and **why** being a judge at home is not a good idea. She will also talk about the **process**, (“the room where it happened” is not necessarily the courtroom) and the **impact** of a judge’s emotions on rulings.

Chancellor Bonnyman received her law degree in 1974 from the **Vanderbilt School of Law** where she was awarded the Order of the Coif. She was a partner with the Nashville firm of Ortale, Kelly, Herbert and Crawford and earlier, a partner at Wadley and Jennings. While in private practice she received the Women’s Equity at Vanderbilt award from the non-profit organization W.E.A.V.E. In 1981, she was a **founding member** of the **Lawyers Association for Women (L.A.W.)** and served as its first president.

In 1989, Claudia was appointed Clerk and Master for the Chancery Court in Nashville. In 2003, Governor Phil Bredesen appointed her to serve as Chancellor (judge). She was elected by popular vote in 2004 and served until she retired from Chancery in 2019.

In 2014, she received the Healing Arts Project, Inc., Community Friend Award. Chancellor Bonnyman is also a fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation and the Tennessee Bar Foundation. Bonnyman is a member of the Nashville Women’s Breakfast Club and the Perfect 36 Society. She was a member of the Mayor David Briley’s Council on the Status of Women and awarded the Martha Craig Daughtrey Award from L.A.W. in 2018.

Chancellor Bonnyman is married to Gordon Bonnyman, Jr., founder of the non-profit **Tennessee Justice Center**, where he continues to serve its many clients.

**March 5, 2021**

**HOT TOPICS  
Continues on ZOOM!**

**The Secret Life of Judges**

**Presenter: Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman**

**Be on the lookout for Zoom registration information  
in your email, Facebook or the League website.  
Register and tune in on Friday, March 5, 2021 at Noon.**



## What Is Happening in the World of Public Health and Healthcare?

By Health Care/Public Health Co-Chairs Clare Sullivan

### COVID-19 Vaccine availability and progress:

As of **February 11**, persons **70 years and older**, **front-line health care workers**, and **people living in long-term care facilities** are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines, and it is **expected** that those 65 and older and those younger but with serious health conditions will soon be able to schedule appointments. Those who do not have a regular health care provider are **eligible to register** for COVID vaccines at the Davidson County Public Health Department website: <https://redcap.health.nashville.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=KYR8KWJHJX>. Davidson County residents may call **615-862-7777** if they do not have access to the internet.

**Vanderbilt University Medical Center** and **Meharry Medical College** have received vaccines and are reaching out to schedule appointments for the communities they serve. **Walgreens** and **Walmart** have also opened up appointments for those who **set up** on-line accounts and have government-issued IDs and health insurance or health pharmacy cards.

As per Metro COVID's website as of this writing, 108,200 doses of vaccine have been administered to Davidson County residents to date—of those vaccinated, 3.6% have completed the two-dose regimen and another 7.8% have received the first vaccination. Public health experts believe that a **minimum of 70%** of a population must be immunized to achieve herd immunity.

**The CDC has issued new guidelines for schools reopening.** These and other guidance revisions can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>.

### Health coverage opportunities:

Important for anyone still **without** adequate health coverage during the pandemic, the **Biden Administration** has reopened **Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment** for a three-month period starting **February 15 through May 15**. During this extended Open Enrollment, **anyone** who does **not** have health insurance can get assistance on **Healthcare.gov Marketplace** ([www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)) to find a plan that will start the first day of the month following enrollment. **Subsidies** are available for persons earning **over** 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) up to 400% of the FPL. Unemployment benefits count as income.

For families with children younger than 19, TennCare and Cover Kids are also available. Many local agencies provide ACA and TennCare Enrollment Assistance, including **Family and Children's Services** (615-495-4672; <http://www.fcsnashville.org/>) and the **Tennessee Health Care Campaign** (844-644-5443, [tnhealthcarecampaign.org](http://tnhealthcarecampaign.org)). Also, the Tennessee Justice Center (<https://www.tnjustice.org/>) works with agencies and families on complicated TennCare cases and appeals. **Help spread the word!!!!**

### Fate of the Tennessee Amended Block Grant (TennCare III):

The **LWVTN** and **LWVUS** recently signed on to a state advocates' letter to **CMS** expressing grave concerns about the new **TennCare III** waiver, as the proposed block grant is known. This waiver was approved by the Trump Administration's Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services [CMS] Director, as she was walking out the door. The waiver was then hastily endorsed by the

Tennessee General Assembly in a **special session** without benefit of full hearings on the impact of the changes that CMS had made to Tennessee's original Block Grant waiver request.

Now described as an Aggregate Cap approach to financing, the **flexibilities** TennCare sought have been broadened **but** the baseline for per enrollee per month allocation to the state has been **lessened**, leaving **little** opportunity for any major savings that could be recouped from the proposition.

The Biden Administration on **February 12** announced they were seeking to rescind 10 Medicaid Work Requirement waivers that the Trump CMS had also approved, but which have been blocked by courts pending hearings scheduled for the Supreme Court in March. It is hoped that the new administration will **also** review and reconsider the terms of the **TennCare III** waiver as well.

Ironically, some state legislators are waking up to the realization that the new TennCare III waiver **cannot** be a realistic vehicle for expansion to new populations of Tennesseans who are not currently eligible for TennCare. As a result, some advocates are working to revisit the original Medicaid expansion option offered to low-income adults without minor children by the Affordable Care Act. The original terms of expansion were that the federal government would provide 100% of the cost of state Medicaid coverage of adults earning under 100% of the federal poverty level for three years, followed by a gradual reduction of the federal share to 90% of costs. **Currently**, there is a bill moving through Congress that would instead offer **non-expansion states** an extra **5% federal coverage** for all Medicaid [TennCare] enrollees and maintain 90% of the costs for the expansion population. Prior to COVID, the baseline federal contribution to TennCare had been approximately 65% of costs, with the state contributing 35%. If this Biden proposal passes, that ratio would change to 70% federal and 30% state.

### **State legislation aimed at reducing the role of health departments in responding to health emergencies in Metropolitan counties:**

Legislation has been filed in the Tennessee General Assembly that would transfer authority for establishing and implementing public health policies during a health emergency, including an epidemic such as COVID-19, from health departments to elected officials (county mayors or school boards). The **LWVTN Advocacy Committee** will be watching these bills, specifically, [HB0007](#) and [SB0015](#). As currently drafted, these bills would **shift** the authority to establish and implement county-wide health policies during an epidemic or other health emergency from public health officials to **county mayors**, giving the latter “exclusive authority” to do so “under advisement from the county health director or county health officer, or both, as necessary.” If enacted, this bill would effectively **pre-empt metropolitan public health departments’ long-standing authority** under Tennessee law to handle health-related emergencies, including epidemics, *without prior approval from lawmakers or the courts*. Only the six Tennessee counties with locally-controlled health boards—**Shelby, Davidson, Knox, Hamilton, Sullivan, and Madison**—would be affected by this statutory change.

[HB0225](#) (Vaughn) and [SB0103](#) (Kelsey) would give **local boards of education and governing bodies of public charter schools** the “sole authority” to open or close schools during a public health emergency such as the COVID-19 pandemic. If enacted, this bill would **supersede** the authority of state and local public health departments to take actions they determine warranted to protect the public health during an epidemic (cf., Sycamore Institute, 2020).



## Education Legislation and Issues

By Education Chair Jami Oakley

**Governor Bill Lee** presented his proposed budget this month as being “**record breaking**” for its potential investment in education. Nationally, Tennessee is **fifth** from the bottom in education funding and has recently received **mostly failing** grades in the annual national school funding report put out by the **Education Law Center**. Check out how Tennessee is “Making the Grade” [here](#). Currently, Davidson County is involved in a years-old lawsuit set to go to trial in October that would declare the state’s funding for our district **inadequate** and, therefore, **unconstitutional**. We will keep tabs on that as it develops.

Given the heightened focus on education and its essential status during the pandemic, the state started this year’s legislative session in January with a **special session** on education. Three bills were passed over the course of four days:

- ["Learning Loss Remediation"](#) This bill focuses on ensuring that students can “**catch up**” on classroom time and skills that may have suffered during the pandemic, and ultimately will result in a series of summer and after school camps for the next two years. The bill has also **strengthened** restrictions on passing students from the third grade if they do not score high enough on state-approved and mandated tests. There was pushback on these restrictions, and amendments were added to allow third graders to pass on to the next grade after participating in extra-effort summer or after-school programs.
- ["Tennessee Literacy Success Act"](#) This bill puts into place a new statewide effort to boost Tennessee’s consistently **lagging literacy** numbers, especially in the lower grades. The opt-in initiative, [Reading 360](#), is rooted in phonics and will offer programs to **train** teachers on reading instruction, **provide** resources and mentoring networks to school districts, and **support** families in a variety of ways.
- ["Accountability"](#) This bill states that, though end-of-year testing will take place for the 2020/21 school year, **neither** teachers **nor** students will be held accountable for the results. It received some pushback when part of the “hold harmless” criteria included a mandate that 80% of a district’s students had to take the test **in-person** for it not to be counted against them, which could prove difficult due to the ongoing pandemic and potential school closings. Districts can now apply for a **waiver** in the case that the 80% in-person testing criteria cannot be met.

Many more education-related bills are in progress, including two below that have received attention this month – one dealing with transgendered athletes in public schools and another that would essentially allow the governor to **demand** that a school district open during a public health emergency.

- **Governor Lee supports [HB0003](#)**, which requires that a student's gender for purposes of participation in a public middle school or high school interscholastic athletic activity or event be determined by the student's sex at the time of the student's birth, as indicated on the student's original birth certificate. **Lt. Gov. McNally’s** remarks indicated the bill **may**



be put on hold as it is understood to be an issue that needs to be handled sensitively, and it has not actually been a significant issue in Tennessee public schools.

- **SB0103** would give the **Governor** the authority to open or close schools during a public health emergency. It specifies that local boards of education have the sole authority to open or close a school to in-person learning and instruction during a public health emergency. It also states that **if the Governor issues an executive order with statewide applicability** requiring schools to be open for in-person learning and instruction, then the executive order **supersedes** the authority of the local boards. This bill has been recommended for passage and is widely seen as a way to force open the last remaining school district (Shelby County) during the pandemic.

There are also **legislative efforts** underway to increase the number of school nurses, school counselors and social workers provided for in the state budget, as well as to secure recurring funds for teacher raises. We'll update you on these matters as things progress.

**Finally** – some “old business” resurfacing: The Tennessee Supreme Court has [agreed to hear](#) the state's appeal regarding school vouchers, which was passed into law in 2019, then declared unconstitutional in 2020 with that decision upheld several times last year by other courts. Reminder – the proposed voucher law (essentially allowing families to use public funds to pay for private school) **only** applies to Nashville and Memphis school districts, and this is one of the arguments for its **unconstitutionality**.



## Environmental News

By Environment Co-Chair Russanne Buchi-Fotre

### Reserve your tree now for Tennessee Tree Day 2021 (brought to us by the TN Environmental Council)

Join thousands of other TN residents who will collectively pick up and plant **more than 50,000** native tree-seedlings in **all 95 TN counties** the weekend of **March 19**. The trees are yours to plant on your own property and will enhance our environment and communities for generations to come. Reserve your trees **now through March 7** @ [tectn.org/tennesseetreeday2021](https://tectn.org/tennesseetreeday2021).

Mayor John Cooper also recently announced that his administration has signed the **Global Covenant of Mayors** as a precursor to participating in the C40 Cities Climate Leadership group, a coalition of 94 leading cities around the world focused on tackling climate change and driving urban action that reduces greenhouse gas emission. Mayor Cooper also introduced multiple local initiatives underway by his administration to address climate change and sustainability in Nashville and Davidson County. Mayor Cooper's initial climate change and sustainability initiatives include:

- A solar power array installation atop the Historic Metro Courthouse to be included in the next Capital Improvements Budget, which would expand Metro's renewable energy portfolio
- Creation of an Energy Savings Program to support energy efficiency efforts in Metro's general government facilities

- LEED certifications achieved for the Sheriff's Office Downtown Campus, Metro Police Department Headquarters and Family Safety Center
- Establishment of a Sustainability Advisory Board to review active proposals as they are being implemented through legislation
- Introduction of legislation with Metro Council members to strengthen tree protections under the Metro Code

For more information go to: <https://www.nashville.gov/Government/Boards-and-Committees/Committee-Information/ID/137/Sustainability-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

The Metro Council approved a transportation plan in December of 2020. For details go to: <https://www.nashville.gov/Portals/0/SiteContent/MayorsOffice/docs/Transportation/Metro-Nashville-Transportation-Plan-2020.pdf>

**League member Pat Post** attended webinars on February 2, 3, and 4 conducted by the **Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)** on efforts to reduce carbon emissions in the US and worldwide in order to reach **net-zero** carbon emissions by 2050. Here are **links** to the sources cited by webinar presenters, many of whom were co-authors of these reports:

#### Net-Zero America

study: [https://environmenthalfcenury.princeton.edu/sites/g/files/toruqf331/files/2020-12/Princeton\\_NZA\\_Interim\\_Report\\_15\\_Dec\\_2020\\_FINAL.pdf](https://environmenthalfcenury.princeton.edu/sites/g/files/toruqf331/files/2020-12/Princeton_NZA_Interim_Report_15_Dec_2020_FINAL.pdf)

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine study on Accelerating Decarbonization of the U.S. Energy System: <https://www.nap.edu/resource/25932/interactive/>



## News from Metro Government

By Metro Government Chair Winnie Forrester

### ITEMS OF INTEREST

On 2/2/2021, in the interest of public safety, Metro Council passed **BL2021-594** on the third reading. It **lowers the speed limit from 30 to 25 miles per hour** on streets designated local on the Major and Collector Street Plan within the Urban Services District.

On 2/5/21 **Mayor Cooper** announced his massive \$520 million **Capital Spending Plan**, which must be approved by Metro Council. It includes \$191 million for school projects and much needed maintenance and repairs, including a **new Hillwood high school**, a **middle school in Cane Ridge**, and an **expansion of Cane Ridge High School**. The next biggest investment was **\$121 million** for county-wide transportation needs, including **traffic management, sidewalks, and bike lanes**.

On that note, this month attorney **Jim Roberts** attempted once again to **collect** signatures for a petition to **revert the city's property tax rate** to the rate prior to the 34% increase Metro Council approved last year. The **Tennessee Lookout** has an in-depth article about the financial backers and all the details.

## METRO BUDGET 101 SERIES

Councilmembers Kyonzte Toombs (Chair) and Delishia Porterfield (Vice-Chair) of the Metro Budget and Finance Committee will be hosting a virtual Metro Budget 101 Series over the next few months. All sessions, beginning at 6 p.m., will provide transparency and education for the general public concerning Metro Nashville Davidson County's revenues, finances, and the budget process. Previous meeting session topics were **Property Taxes, Sales Taxes, City/State Revenue, Metro Nashville Public Schools, Metro Public Works and Metro Parks**. All are recorded and [posted here](#) for later view.

This series of sessions is providing helpful information, and we hope you will participate. Questions from the public may be submitted to [kyonzte.toombs@nashville.gov](mailto:kyonzte.toombs@nashville.gov) by 5 p.m. on the day before the session. All questions must be on-topic.

### Community Panel Discussions

February 18, 2021 - How the Budget Process works ([Join February 18 meeting](#))

February 25, 2021 - Participatory Budget ([Join February 25 meeting](#))

Councilmember At-Large Zulfat Suara

Members of the public may also watch these meetings live online at [stream.nashville.gov](http://stream.nashville.gov), and Metro Nashville and Davidson County residents can view Metro Nashville Network on Comcast channel 3, AT&T U-verse channel 99, Google Fiber channel 3, and streaming on the Metro Nashville Network Roku channel.

## OPENINGS ON METRO BOARD AND COMMISSIONS

Metro has over **75 boards and commissions** that use expert citizens on a volunteer basis to make recommendations and rulings on everything from beer permits to zoning requests. The Mayor's office appoints members of these boards with final approval by the Metro Council. Registered voters in Davidson County interested in serving on a board can **submit a resume** to their district council member to be relayed to the Mayor's office for consideration. For a full list of boards and commissions, see the [Metro.gov website](#).



### February Membership Update By Membership Co-Chair Reba Holmes

With great delight, we announce and welcome new and returning members who have joined the **League of Women Voters Nashville**. It is our privilege to welcome these individuals to the organization: Ana Escobar and Karen Stachowski.

We are grateful to these members and to all our members who support the **League's** activities, programs, and underwriting.

**We Continue to Grow!!!**

**League Treasurer Susan Mattson** and **League Administrator Tracy Depp** recently completed the membership roster's reconciliation. The official membership count for January 2021, is **255 members**. See details in the table below.

The **85 new members** represent a **50% increase** in **2020!** And a **36% increase** from **2019**.

Membership Type	Count
Life Time	6
Primary	245
Student	4

Many thanks to **Susan** and **Tracy** for finalizing reconciliation of the membership list.

**Invite others to join you.**

Yes, we are hopeful. In the January 2020 Voter our **League President Madeline Garr** shared this powerful statement:

*“Hope because I know that people like you have worked for years to build this country by protecting the vulnerable among us, registering people to vote, and advocating for open and transparent government and will not be deterred from continuing these efforts to protect our democracy in this time of crisis. As the **League of Women Voters** has done for over the last 100 years, we will continue to ensure that **all** have a voice, that **each** vote is counted, and that **our** democracy stands.”*

While our membership has grown, we need more advocates to **defend** and **protect** our system of democracy and its cornerstones. Membership allows you to share a year’s worth of experiences **promoting** democracy, **educating** others in the community, **participating** in political discourse, and **registering** new voters, just to name a few. Plus, the annual membership **includes** membership to the national, state, and local LWV organizations. Details regarding various support levels may be found on our website [<http://lwnashville.org/join/>](http://lwnashville.org/join/).

**Comments from members as to what most excites them about the League of Women Voters.**

*I appreciate the opportunity to be involved with an organization that focuses on the importance of the election process within our country. I’ve always considered the right to vote a foundation of our democracy and decision not to be taken lightly. -- June Bond*



*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 and Ophelia Doe**  
Community Connections: **Sabina Mohyuddin and Tamanna Qureshi**  
Education: **Jami Oakley**  
Environment: **Barbara Gay and Russanne Buchi-Fotre**  
Fundraising: **Debby Gould and Anne Marie Farmer**  
Health Care/Public Health: **Constance Caldwell and Clare Sullivan**  
Membership: **Reba Holmes and Karen Hernan**  
Metro Government: **Winnie Forrester**  
State Advocacy: **Debby Gould**  
Voter Services: **Perry Macdonald**  
*Voter* Newsletter Editor: **Madeline Garr and Elise Lamar**  
Williamson County Representative: **June Bond**  
Nominating Committee Chair (2020): **Senator Brenda Gilmore**

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Nominating Committee Members: **Betsy Walkup, Constance Caldwell, Hasina Mohyuddin,  
June Bond, and Brenda Wynn**