



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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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 21, 2021. 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. **A Conversation with Dr. Sekou Franklin, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at MTSU.** He will be speaking about voter suppression and redistricting. Sponsored by the **League of Women Voters of Williamson County.** Register [here](#).

July 22, 2021. 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. **Communities of Interest: Building Blocks for Redistricting with Yuriy Rudensky of the Brennan Center for Justice** sponsored by the **League of Women Voters of Tennessee.** Join [here](#).

August 6, 2021. 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. **August Hot Topic: First Friday with Dr. Alex Jahangir.** Zoom registration coming soon.

August 21, 2021. 11 a.m. **Women's Equality Day Celebration** at the Tennessee Women's Suffrage Monument in Centennial Park hosted by the Tennessee Women's Suffrage Monument Board. Details to follow.

May 7, 2021. 12:00 p.m. **Hot Topic: Redistricting 101.** Presenter: Debby Gould. Look for an email to register and mark your calendar to attend.

President's Message



Welcome to July! July is the beginning of the **LWVNashville** new year. We are welcoming new board members: **Karen Weickert, Mary Claire Dismukes, Jack McFadden, Mary Pat McCauley, Felisha Baquera, Beth Gordon, Alison Haymer, and Rita Bullinger.** To learn more about them and to update you on those board members who are serving on the board once again, be sure to go to the **LWVNashville.org** by clicking [here](#).

This year, I am excited about sharing the position of **LWVNashville** President with **Lara Webb**. **Lara** has been on the board serving as Chair of the Education Committee and this year as Co-Chair of the Communication Committee. She also worked with **Debby Gould** last year on **LWVTN** State Advocacy efforts. You can read more about her by clicking [here](#).

What will July and August bring? Although **Chancellor Perkins** in Davidson County Chancery Court ruled that the referendum vote should not be allowed to go forward on July 21, that ruling is currently being appealed. As a result, we are in a holding pattern to see if there will be a referendum vote in the future. Stay tuned for further information on this issue.

One way to get involved this summer is to explore **two** important efforts that are being offered by the **LWV of Tennessee**. One effort revolves around **People Powered Fair Maps**. The other centers around **Restoration of Voting Rights** for those released from prison. If you are interested, click [here](#) for more information.

Thank you for all you do!

Madeline Garr



Membership Updates By Chair Reba Holmes

With great delight, 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:

Lois Barnes, Katelyn Benhoff, Dawn Bogic, Mona Brittingham, Wendy Buntin, Kitty Calhoon, Anne Carr, Kim Davenport, Fay L Delk, Patricia Dishman, Elaine Harrison, Lisa Headley, Karen Hernan, Elizabeth and Robert R. Holmes, Linda Hood, Cathy Hoot, Gail Markert, Patricia McCauley, Karen Paritee, Suzanne Petrey, Kalen Russell, Nelda Schreiber, Linda J. Sherman, Sandra Shiveley, and Carolyn Sobotka.

Anne Dallas Dudley \$250.00

- [Angela Becker](#)
- [Claudia Bonnyman](#)
- [Lara Webb](#)

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

Annual Membership Drive Continues

Our **annual membership** continues, and many of you have renewed or joined the league for the first time. Outstanding effort and thank you!

You matter and your **involvement** in all we do makes a difference. Our collective voices will make a difference. We are counting on you to serve or continue to serve as an **advocate** to defend and protect our system of **democracy** and its cornerstones. We need more advocates like you; please encourage your family, friends, and co-workers to join the **league**.

Membership allows you to share a year's worth of experiences promoting **democracy**, educating others in the community, supporting **redistricting** reform and ending **gerrymandering**, **registering** new voters, **participating** in the overall political discourse, 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](#).

If you prefer to pay by check, please mail it along with a "[Membership Form](#)". The words "Membership Form" is an active link, if you click on it a form will appear for you to download or print.

Why join the **League of Women Voters**? Below, is what one of our members said:

I wanted to join a non-partisan organization to assist in the development and promotion of civic engagement initiatives in my community.

Member Comments

We want to hear from you! Email your comments regarding why you joined the **League of Women Voters** to lwvnash@gmail.com.



News from League of Women Voters Williamson County

By Linda Sherman

Dr. Sekou Franklin will be the guest of **LWVWC** on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 1:00. He will speak about voter suppression and redistricting. Registration will be available through the Brentwood Library. Click [here](#) to register.

Dr. Franklin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). He is the author of *After the Rebellion: Black Youth, Social Movement Activism, and the Post Civil-Rights Generation* (NYU Press, 2014) and edited *The State of Blacks in Middle Tennessee*. He also has a forthcoming book co-authored with **Ray Block** titled *Losing Power: African-Americans and Racial Polarization in Tennessee Politics* (University of Georgia Press, 2020).

Dr. Franklin earned a Ph.D. from Howard University in 2001, a MA from San Francisco State University in 1996 and a BS from Santa Clara University in 1996. His areas of study are American Politics and Government, African-American Politics, Racial/Ethnic Politics, American and Comparative Social Movements/Citizen Participation and Urban Politics.

Dr. Franklin's current teaching career at MTSU began in August of 2003. He has taught at Williams College and at the University of Illinois. He held a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Illinois in the African-American Studies and Research Program in 2001-2002. We look forward to learning more from **Dr. Franklin** about redistricting and voter suppression in July.



August Hot Topic: First Friday with Dr. Alex Jahangir

By Co-Vice President Carole Kenner

Dr. Alex Jahangir will be the **August Hot Topic speaker on August 6 at 12PM**. He is an orthopedic trauma surgeon and director of the Division of Orthopedic Trauma at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. You might be most familiar with him in his role as Chair of the **Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville** and chair of the **Metropolitan Nashville Coronavirus Taskforce**. In this capacity, **Dr. Jahangir** led the response to the Covid-19 pandemic for Nashville including the development and implementation of policies that have mitigated the spread of the virus in Nashville, increased access to testing and vaccination for all in our community, established a robust public health infrastructure, and served as a principal source of information to the public regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. He will address the healthcare environment in Nashville and what he believes the future of healthcare in our community might hold. His commitment to our community is clearly evidenced by all he has done this year. He is looking forward to any questions you have.

At the age of six, **Dr. Jahangir** and his family immigrated to Nashville. A product of our public schools, he graduated from Martin Luther King Magnet High School. He received his B.S. from George Washington University, M.D. from the University of Tennessee, and his Master of

Management in Healthcare from the Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management.

If you are not going to be able to attend via ZOOM but have questions, please send them to carolekenner@gmail.com by 10 AM on Aug. 6th.

In the future, our **First Friday** programs will be held in the **Community Meeting Room at the West Precinct Police Station** on Charlotte Ave. Information about accessing the program virtually and in-person details will be sent out before the **September Hot Topic**. We hope you join us virtually or in person!



Health Committee

By Committee Co-Chairs Claire Sullivan and Constance Caldwell

At its ZOOM biweekly meeting on Wednesday, July 14, the **Health Care/Public Health Committee** was joined by **Mr. Bobby Watts**, Chief Executive Officer, National Health Care for the Homeless Council. He has been appointed to the Presidential COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force. Nashville is one of the communities that has made significant progress in its work with this population.

The pandemic has again revealed the disparities in social determinants which are adversely affecting these citizens: health care, transportation, employment, housing, etc. He commended the **Metro Public Health Department** for its outreach efforts and coordination with county agencies in providing COVID vaccinations to hard to reach homeless populations and for providing housing at the **Fairgrounds** for those persons who had the virus or had been exposed to someone who had. Health care workers continue to seek out people who have not received the vaccine. Because many in this population are so mobile, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is the vaccine of choice since it only requires one injection. Clients, however, are given a choice of vaccines.

One issue that is usually not thought of has to do with the treatment of a covid infection in the homeless population. **Rest** is an important element of therapy. For those who are overcoming this malady and who sleep in shelters and have to be up and out in the morning, this is not feasible. Efforts are being made to provide guidance to the shelters to provide flexibility in this policy.

'Homelessness' has a negative connotation for most people and this attitude needs to be changed. Communication continues to be a problem for some with mistrust being an underlying factor. This has limited the acceptance of care including vaccinations. Continued efforts need to be made to encourage caregivers to build rapport with clients by showing interest in other aspects of the individual's lives.

One action he suggested which could be taken by **League** chapters is ensuring that any candidate running for local office makes a statement for the record on his/her stand on homelessness and affordable housing. This is in the purview of the **LWVNashville**.

The **LWVNashville Public Health Committee** also took initiative to work with the **LWVTN** to draft a response to the recent decision of the state Department of Health to dismiss **Dr. Michelle Fiscus**, Director of Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Immunization Program. We are thankful that the **Metro Public Health Department** still has the ability to make public health policy independent of the **State Health Department**, which has also, inexplicably, decided to halt ALL vaccine outreach to children and adolescents in the 90 counties in the state that do not have independent health departments. Memphis Shelby County has already announced that they will continue and accelerate COVID vaccine outreach and assure that all school age children who need required immunizations will have access to these before schools open in August. We expect the **Nashville/Davidson Board of Health** to do the same and will be monitoring their decision. Unfortunately, we also expect to see legislation introduced into the General Assembly next session to further weaken the authority of local metropolitan boards of health.



Education Legislation and Issues

By Education Co-Chairs Jami Oakley and Mary Claire Dismukes

We're in the planning stages of forming a small **Education Committee** to help our co-chairs to navigate all of the different aspects of the education world that the **League** touches- from reaching out to students and teachers with civic engagement ideas to registering high schoolers to vote to keeping up with education legislation and the outreach surrounding that. If you are interested, please email jami.m.oakley@gmail.com for more details.

NOAH (Nashville Organized for Action and Hope) is planning a large event for August 15, from 1:00pm-3:30pm, "**A Day of Power and Prayer for Our Children**," to address funding for public education. The event will take place here in Nashville, as well as with their sister organizations in Memphis (**MICHAH**) and Chattanooga (**CALEB**), and will be both live and virtual. They are looking to gain participation and involvement from as many public education stakeholders as possible with a goal to increase state funding for counselors, social workers, nurses, and other resources to nurture the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of all our students. Interested in attending the event? [Click here for the Save the Date](#).



Environment Committee

By Environment Co-Chair Barbara Gay

The **Tennessee Environmental Council** provides a wealth of information on protecting our environment as well as volunteer opportunities. Currently, they are asking us to take the July plastic free challenge. This [link](#) describes the dangers of plastic to our health, wildlife, and our environment. They give the following list of things each of us can do to stop using plastic:

Here are some of the biggest single-use plastic offenders and the eco-friendly alternatives. Consider choosing some ideas from the list.

- Plastic bottled water: It's mostly just filtered tap water anyway. Get a reusable metal or glass bottle and bottle your own tap water. You'll save money in the long run, and you'll be consuming fewer microplastics.
- Plastic grocery shopping bags: We bet that you already have at least one reusable bag in your possession. To remember to use it, just put it by your front door and then on the front seat of your car on the way to the store. After you unload your groceries, put it back by your front door. If it's always in sight, you WILL remember to repeat the cycle and use it.
- Plastic storage baggies: Use reusable containers instead, please
- Plastic wrap: Use Bee's Wrap or your reusable containers.
- Bottled soap and body wash: Choose a bar of soap instead or start refilling your liquid soap at local stores like [The Good Fill](#), [Sage Refill Market](#), or [KnoxFill](#).
- Pre-cut fruits & veggies wrapped in plastic: Buy fruits & veggies whole and cut them yourself. This is typically less expensive than buying pre-cut.
- Plastic straws: Carry your own reusable straw or opt for no straw.
- Cotton swabs: Make sure to choose paper or bamboo sticks, not plastic.
- Plastic utensils from take-out or delivery: Specify that you don't need these when placing your order.
- Plastic toothbrushes: Use a bamboo one instead.
- Plastic disposable razors: Use a metal razor with a changeable head.
- Plastic-based sponges: Use a plant-based natural loofah instead.
- Chewing gum that contains plastic: Gross! Look for one of [these brands](#) instead.

When we work together, we can make a difference!



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 2021-2022
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