



CALENDAR | NASHVILLE VOTER

The Nashville Voter

Volume 75, No 2-- February 2022

Welcome to this issue of the *LWVN Voter*. You'll notice that the Emma page design allows you to access the LWVN Calendar by pressing a button at the top of the page!

Please note, you can increase your screen size within your personal information manager (i.e., Microsoft Outlook). In the Microsoft Outlook Message Bar at the top of the e-mail page, choose "Other Actions" and then in the dropdown menu choose "Zoom." The Zoom window allows you to increase the file size; try 140% for easier onscreen reading.

Also, please note that if you want to **share/forward** this newsletter to others, you **MUST** click on the **envelope icon** at the upper right side of this emailed version.

League Events (<https://lwvnashville.org/event-calendar/>)

February 16 at 1:00 pm: **League of Women Voters of Williamson County Meeting**. Guest speaker: Cathy Montgomery, County Health Director of the Williamson County Health Department will be speaking about public health issues, including Covid. [Click here to register](#) or select the Visit Our Calendar tab on the Brentwood John P. Holt Library Website.

February 17 at 6:30 pm: **Nashville Organized For Action and Hope (NOAH) Webinar: Prepare for the May 2022 Judicial Elections**. Panelists will prepare you to vote for the primary election and will help demystify the roles of the judicial candidates, who have an enormous impact on criminal justice, mass incarceration and community safety. [Click here to register](#).

March 4 at 12:00 pm CT via Zoom: **Hot Topics: Presidential Rhetoric....Past, Present, and Future. Does what US Presidents say really matter?** Guest Speaker, Vanessa Beasley will

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March 15 Berry Hill Municipal Election. Early voting is from February 23 - March 10. Last day to request an absentee ballot is March 8. [Click here to learn more.](#)

March 16 at 1:00 pm: League of Women Voters of Williamson County Meeting. Guest speakers: The Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Blue Raider Debate Team will debate the question: Should the Electoral College be eliminated from the U.S. Presidential elections? [Click here to register](#) or select the Visit Our Calendar tab on the Brentwood John P. Holt Library Website.

April 2 at 7:00am-2:00pm: Neighbor2Neighbor C4Nashville Conference at the Music City Center. Join your fellow neighbors from throughout Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County and help identify barriers, focus on solutions, and work together to address some of the major problems facing our neighborhoods today: development, dangerous driving, the litter crisis, homelessness in our neighborhoods, and the lack of engaged neighbors. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Metro Nashville Meetings

<https://www.nashville.gov/departments/information-technology-services/cable-television-services/metro-nashville-network/live>



Join me in congratulating the **Voter Services Committee** in conjunction with the **Education Committee** on their recent award of a grant from the **US LWV**! This grant will go towards high school voter outreach. Both committees made goals around reaching out to high school voters, and we applaud all the work they are doing in service of this goal.

The **LWVN** is gearing up for a busy spring and summer! Members of the board are attending the state action meetings and keeping up with what is going on in the **Tennessee General Assembly**. If you would like to attend these meetings, email lwvtenn@gmail.com. In the upcoming weeks, you will probably receive action alerts in your inbox. We encourage you to call your representatives.

My esteemed Co-President, **Madeline Garr**, has been busy contacting Nashville council members about our community outreach goals. On June 18, the **LWVN** will be facilitating a meeting with Councilmember **Clerie Hester** of Bellvue. We will be registering voters

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One date that might be important to some is **March 15, 2022**. That is the **Berry Hill Municipal Election**. Early voting is **February 23 - March 10, 2022**. If you live in or know people who live in **Berry Hill**, please reach out to them to let them know about this election. Municipal elections often have low turnout, but we all know they have many consequences for our day to day lives.

As a former classroom teacher, I'm assigning you homework! Check your address in this [website](#) from the office of the **Tennessee Comptroller** to find out if your representatives have changed after redistricting. Bonus points if you encourage others to check their addresses! Also, if you have not, [visit here](#) to read the **community resource sheets**. Please share these resources with neighbors and your other community groups.

Co-President

Lara Webb

In Memoriam: Please remember [Rachel Means Touchton](#), a long-time member of the League of Women Voters Nashville. She served the Nashville and the Tennessee community as both a valued public servant and a dedicated volunteer.

Membership Committee

By 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: Susan Briley, Vanessa Coffey, Barbara Devaney, Senator Brenda Gilmore, Ursula King, Patricia Knight, Nancy Morris, Dawn Parker, Ann Roberts, Nicole Wood, and Jennifer Zehnder

Anne Dallas Dudley - Julie Nell

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

We Continue to Grow

Monthly our League Administrator, Tracy Depp reconciles our membership roster. The official league count for February is **242**.

With your help we will continue increasing membership, we need more advocates to

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Membership allows you to share a year's worth of experiences promoting democracy, educating others in the community, participating in political discourse, registering new voters, to name a few. Plus, the annual membership includes membership to the national, state, and local LWV organizations. Details regarding the various support levels may be found on our secure website <https://lwvnashville.org/membership/>

Join the Membership Committee

We are excited to announce that we are establishing a Membership Committee to provide guidance during the annual membership drive and develop other vital programs related to membership. We invite you to join the new committee to serve as a communication lead, recruiting lead, social media lead, etc.

Membership Committee Job Description:

- The committee will provide a strategic vision to increase membership, focusing on effective, comprehensive growth, new member integration, and membership retention.
- Develop a program designed to mentor new members, specifically young adult members
- Increase awareness regarding the League throughout our community by working with other portfolio managers to develop a communication and outreach program
- Develop annual renewal implementation procedures, timeline, communication, and follow-up
- Develop a strategy to recruit potential members across various demographics
Work in partnership with other portfolio managers, e.g., Voter Services, Education, Metro Council, etc.

Meeting Schedule: The initial meeting will be held in March or April 2022 via Zoom. We will meet monthly after the first meeting.

If you are interested in serving on the committee please send an email expressing your interest to lwvnash@gmail.com.

Non Partisan Comment Regarding Voting

"The assault on our freedom to vote will be felt by every American, in every community, in every political party," she said. "And if we stand idly by, our entire nation will pay the price for generations to come." Unknown

We want to hear from you. Share your comments regarding why join the League of Women Voters? Protecting Voting Rights, Fairness in Voting, etc. Email your comments to lwvnash@gmail.com.

Future

By Committee Co-Chairs Karen Wieckert and Carole Kenner

Does what US presidents say really matter?

Throughout US history, there has been some debate about this question, with some feeling that presidents should not speak directly to US citizens at all. Offering a broad historic overview of this discourse and its presumed functions at various stages in our political past, [Vanessa Beasley](#), Associate Professor of Communication Studies and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at Vanderbilt, will share her perspective on that question. Her primary research interests include presidential rhetoric, U.S. political communication, rhetorical criticism and theory.

All history buffs are encouraged to come with questions on presidential rhetoric covering the past 246 years...from Washington forward.

March 4 at 12:00 pm CT via Zoom: **Hot Topics: Presidential Rhetoric....Past, Present, and Future.** Does what US Presidents say really matter? Guest Speaker, Vanessa Beasley will share her perspective on this. [Click here to register.](#)

February Hot Topic

The February Hot Topic was presented by Robin Nobling, Executive Director of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Davidson County and Michael Randolph, a mental health care professional working with Partners in Care. The two gave an excellent presentation on the Partners in Care pilot program launched in June 2021 in Nashville's North and Hermitage precincts, two precincts with a higher volume of mental health-related calls for service.

The presentation was heavily attended and very informative. Shortly after, The Tennessean ran an article describing the program as well:

- <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/davidson/2022/02/07/partners-care-program-mental-health-clinicians-paired-mnmpd-officers-crisis-calls-share-experiences/6656296001/>

Health Care/Public Health Committee

By Committee Co-Chairs Constance Caldwell and Claire Sullivan

One of the goals of the Public Health Committee is to reach out to community agencies which can provide insight into how the functioning of Metro Nashville addresses the health of our community. We have discovered that promoting community health is complex and requires a multifaceted approach. Health is influenced by housing,

as child care and education.

Last Wednesday, the Public Health committee was privileged to have a Zoom session with Ralph Schulz, CEO, Nashville Chamber of Commerce. He explained that the original purpose of the Chamber was the creation of growth in the ten county district that it monitors. Now with the influx of people to the area, it is seeking to manage growth.

The Chamber has (and is) looking at factors such as affordable housing, health care access, educational opportunities, transportation, state policy, and other factors that affect businesses and services coming to the area.

Because of its wide reach, the Chamber is interested in talking to any community group and to share its findings and implications for the future. You may contact Emily Boylan, Vice-President of Administration, (615) 743-3012, should you desire to learn more of its functioning.

Education Committee

By Committee Co-Chairs Jami Oakley and Mary Claire Dismukes

It's been a busy month for the Education Committee. With the Governor's Education Funding proposal announced and multiple bills in the legislature, we're doing our best to keep up:

Jami Oakley (LWV Nashville Education Co-Chair), Lance McCold (LWV Knoxville Education Chair) and members of the Tennessee Public Education Coalition and Pastors for Tennessee Children wrote an Op-Ed in the Tennessean ahead of the State of the State Address to raise awareness entitled "[Education funding reform without more new money to Tennessee schools is flawed](#)".

We're still waiting on clarification from the new funding formula regarding fiscal capacity calculations—as that has the ability to impact Nashville. As several local and statewide public school advocacy and public policy groups have stated, we need to discuss how much counties will need to contribute and the predictability of that calculation on an annual basis.

[Nashville Public Education Foundation](#) recently said that these conversations are "critical for local districts to understand their portion of a state funding increase. Absent those calculations, any state investment is arbitrary," and have posted a resource [here](#).

The Governor announced a new partnership with Hillsdale College "formalizing a partnership with Hillsdale to expand their approach to civics education and K-12 education." The Hillsdale partnership is not well received on both sides of the aisle. There

The League does not have a position on charter schools at this time, but members of the State Committee are researching the fiscal and student success impact of charters and drafting one currently. If you'd like to participate in this process or another aspect of the education committee's work, please reach out to Jami at jami.m.oakley@gmail.com.

Bills to watch:

- HB1648 / SB2597
Rep. Griffey / Sen. Hensley
Authorizes an LEA or public charter school to deny enrollment to students who are unlawfully present in the U.S., eliminates state funding for specified students, and requires LEAs and charter schools who enroll specified students to bear sole financial responsibility
- HB1944 / SB1944
Rep. Cepicky / Sen. Hensley
Prohibits an LEA or public school from making obscene materials or materials harmful to minors available to students in school libraries controlled by an LEA or public school
- HB0982 / SB1384
Rep. Gillespie / Sen. Kyle
Requires LEAs to implement an adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) program; creates a process to refer students who have experience four or more ACEs to appropriate mental and behavioral health providers.
- HB0800 / SB1216
Rep. Griffey / Sen. Niceley
Prohibits LEAs and public charter schools from adopting or using textbooks or materials that promote, normalize, support, or address lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, or transgender issues or lifestyles.
- HB2833 / SB2168
Rep. White / Sen. Stevens
This bill would allow charter schools to apply directly to the State Charter Commission in certain situations. The bill would also allow state colleges to apply directly to the Charter Commission for conversion of a local public school to a charter school. The bill would also make more school properties available to charter schools for lease at no cost or purchase for \$1 — even if there is unpaid debt on the property.

We're also watching caption bills where budget details for the new funding formula, which is being called Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA), will appear.

The Education and Voter Services Committees will be attending a Social-Emotional

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register to vote and hosting a speaking session in collaboration with local activist LeLann Evans, whose impactful presentations emphasize the importance of being a part of the civic process to youth. Read more about him [here](#).

Environment Committee

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

[The Southern Environmental Law Center](#) is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan environmental legal advocacy organization rooted in and focused on the South. As lawyers, policy and issue experts, and community advocates and partners, they take on the toughest challenges to protect our air, water, land, wildlife, and the people who live here. And they win.

Transforming our region away from fossil fuel to clean energy, righting environmental injustice, stopping pollution, and protecting nature – When we solve these issues here, we lead the way for others.

That’s why we say, Solutions start in the South. To learn more go to <https://www.southernenvironment.org/about-us/>

The [TN Environmental Council](#) is sponsoring TN Tree Day on March 19, 2022. This is America’s largest community tree planting event. The League’s Environmental Committee is hoping to engage our members in this family-friendly activity that plans to involve over 10,00 volunteers in planting 75,000 trees throughout the state.

Join us in this effort by Googling ‘TN Tree Day’ to explore your selections of trees (canopy, flowering and understories) & the 112 pick-up sites and to place your order. This is a wonderful opportunity to replant lost trees for development, repair degrading streams and increase habitat for wildlife and pollinators at your home or anywhere you can get permission to plant a tree.

If you would like the chance to be more directly involved in the planting and distribution of the trees, please contact Russanne at 615.715.1936.

Metro Council Meeting

By Committee Co-Chairs Pat McCauley and Karen Hernan

Pat McCauley and Karen Hernan viewed the Metro Council Meeting livestream on January 18 and February 1. Here’s an overview of what happened:

Metro Council meetings on 1/18/22 and 2/01/22 passed a six month pilot of License Plate Readers (LPR) for Metro Nashville Police Department (MNPD). Many surrounding

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areas and Belle Meade already have them. There was controversy regarding whether the bill was poorly written. (Ayes 20 Nos 14 Ab 1)

Passed on third and final reading was the redistricting plan for council districts and revising the school districts for Metro Nashville. Councilmembers applauded.

A resolution requesting the Tennessee General Assembly to reject the redistricting plan that splits Davidson County into 3 Congressional Districts was passed. (Ayes 31 Nos 2 (Swope and Hall) Ab 3 (Pulley, Hancock, Druffel)).

A resolution to allow MNPD to contract with a company for Taser equipment was passed after some controversy linking MNPD training and the incident on I65 where 9 police shot a mentally ill citizen. People in the gallery clapped and had to be told to be quiet.

Community Outreach

By Committee Co-Chairs Sabina Mohyuddin and Kate Benhoff

The Community Outreach Committee would like to gather resources from other LWV members such as partner organizations and individuals with whom you've contacted. This directory can help each committee connect with local partners and find internal resources amongst LWV members and make our work as efficient and collaborative as possible.

Action Item: Please visit the spreadsheet below and include as much info as you have for any current connections? Please include yourself, if you are able to serve as a resource on a topic (registration, restoration, redistricting, etc.). We are seeking members who can be virtual or in-person speakers, as well.

[Click here for the spreadsheet](#)

Williamson County Update

By Committee Chair Linda Sherman

Should the Electoral College be eliminated from the U.S. Presidential elections? Would it be advantageous or disadvantageous to rely solely on the Popular Vote?

The Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Blue Raider debate team will offer a unique opportunity to consider these questions at the LWVWC March 16 meeting. Debating live on Zoom will be team members Steven Barhorst, captain; Haley Bobo, Joey Mego, and Hannah Rowland under the direction of debate coach, Dr. Pat Richey.

March 16 at 1:00 pm: League of Women Voters of Williamson County Meeting. Guest

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debate the question: Should the Electoral College be eliminated from the U.S. Presidential elections? [Click here to register](#) or select the Visit Our Calendar tab on the Brentwood John P. Holt Library Website.

Communications Committee

By Committee Co-Chairs Ophelia Doe and Jack McFadden

The Communications Committee has spent this month using it's social media platforms to help educate the public on important issues impacting Nashville and Tennessee. Please be sure to like, follow, and share our content to help increase the League's visibility in Nashville.

- YouTube: [LWVNashville](#)
- Instagram: [LWVNashville](#)
- Twitter: [NashvilleLWV](#)
- Facebook: [League of Women Voters Nashville](#)

We are looking for content creators and designers! If you or anyone you know is interested in helping with our social media presence, please email: contact@lwvnashville.org!

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

Thank you!

Stay Informed about Upcoming Calendar Events!

If you get the **electronic** version of the Voter, we want you to know that the upcoming calendar events are available on our wonderful, new website - www.lwvnashville.org. On The calendar scrolls on the events of the current and upcoming events thanks to **Tracy Depp**, who keeps the calendar current. If you haven't taken a look, do so to make sure you mark your calendar so you won't miss a thing!

ATTENTION: *The Nashville Voter* is a digital publication. If you have received this copy of the *Voter* in the mail, it means the League of Women Voters of Nashville does not have an e-mail address for you. Please help us by sending your e-mail address to LWVNBash@gmail.com.

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ATTENTION: Please show your support by following us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#). Let us know what you think and send us feedback!

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