



From The League of Women Voters
of The Villages/Tri-County...

Disinformation: SPOT IT. STOP IT.

Submitted By Janis Dorgan, League of Women Voters

Daniel Patrick Moynihan's quote, "You are entitled to your own opinion, you are not entitled to your own facts" reminds us to be more thoughtful and aware of truth, since our opinions are informed by facts. This simple advice has become so complicated and difficult to follow today that we can be easily discouraged. In this partisan environment, encompassing so much more than politics, it is possible to just give up.

With social media serving up anything their algorithms determine a user wants to hear, we now have an echo chamber that reinforces false narratives. For the media companies, fake news is a profitable business and federal laws generally provide immunity for online computer services with respect to content published by third party users. Add to this the increasingly sophisticated AI technologies that can produce deep fake videos and audio, many people throw up their hands because they do not know what to believe. Indeed finding truth today to help formulate our opinions has become a daunting task.

The League of Women Voters

The Villages/Tri-County

presents an open forum:

Disinformation: SPOT IT. STOP IT.

Saturday, October 21, 2-4 pm

**Keynote Speaker: Alan Hays, Lake
County Supervisor of Elections**

United Church of Christ

12514 CR 101, Oxford

Hays has been dealing with the aftermath of voter distrust of the election process since allegations of voter fraud were made after the 2020 election. He was instrumental in the letter that All 67 Florida SOEs signed to reassure voters of the integrity of Florida Elections on Oct 25, 2021. He is the perfect person to speak to the dangers that disinformation creates within a democracy.

The second part of the program will present techniques

for spotting false information. Audience members will have the opportunity to work in groups or alone, on their phones or tablets, to apply these skills to real-world examples of information being passed around the internet. These sessions will better equip us to spot disinformation and stop its spread.

The privilege of democracy is based on active participation by "the people". While we may often feel powerless, voters who form opinions on well researched facts become very powerful, one vote at a time. ■

Join us for this community event. For more information visit: www.lwvtrifl.org.



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