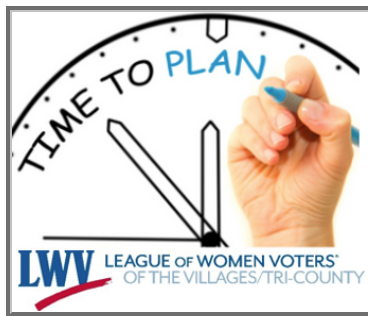




March 2025 Newsletter

MARCH 2025 MEETING: Program Planning



Thursday, March 13th at 2 PM

Hillcrest Room **
Fruitland Park Library
601 W Berckman Street
Fruitland Park

The program planning meeting is the opportunity for members to review the existing program and brainstorm ways to be more effective in our actions next fiscal year.

After an overview of the planning process, small groups will discuss potential modifications to the current program. Each group will present their suggestions to the entire group, which will decide on recommendations for the Board. The Board will propose a new program at the Annual Meeting on May 8th.

Members can find a more detailed explanation of Program Planning on LWVTRI's [Useful Information](#) page. Find the *2024-2025 Adopted Program for the LWVTRI* [here](#).

** Not our regular room. Accessible from inside library.

Due to construction, parking in front of the library is limited. Overflow parking is available at the **Heritage Community Church**, 509 W Berkman St, Fruitland Park, FL. Follow signs.

CO-PRESIDENT COLUMN: Now Is the Time



members, approving programs, and budgeting. They are crucial to achieving our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

The League is fairly unique in being both non-partisan and member-run. Unlike other organizations, such as AARP or ACLU, we do not rely on paid staff. This member-driven approach amplifies our voice with elected officials but demands more than just donations from our members . . . although donations are appreciated too.

In March, we'll start the program planning process, similar to strategic planning in business. More member participation will help us set a meaningful direction for the tri-county area. Please join us and share your ideas.

And as we look for new leadership, please consider running for office. Without someone being willing to serve, no organization can exist. Why not you?

< [Read More](#) >

*** NOMINATING COMMITTEE FORMED ***

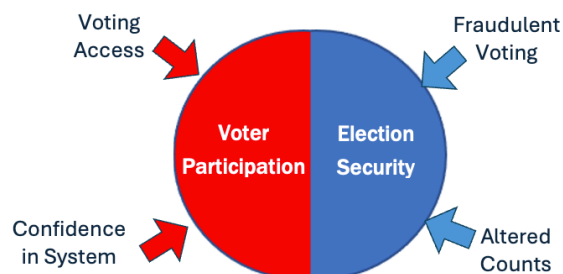
It is now time to recruit new Board members. If you are interested in learning more about how the League functions and are willing to make a commitment in time and energy to help our League accomplish its mission, please call or email one of the members of our nominating committee: Dee Melvin, Dee Remy or Carol Van Noy.

If the Committee members do not receive enough volunteers, they may be calling you. Please consider saying "Yes." They can answer any questions about time commitment and duties. If you are elected, rest assured that the returning and former Board members will help you.

Finally, if you know of anyone you think the Committee should call, please let them know by phone or email:

Dee Melvin, 321-446-4483, deemelvin1@gmail.com
Dee Remy, 715-499-2121, dndemy@gmail.com
Carol Van Noy, 352-446-1660, denny.carol@gmail.com

COMMUNITY EVENT: Empowering Voters through Election Reform



Saturday, April 12th at 1 PM
Seabreeze Recreation Center
2384 Buena Vista Blvd
The Villages, FL

Board of Directors (an organization to ensure the highest standards for elections across the U.S.) will speak about election integrity as that is still on the minds of many voters.

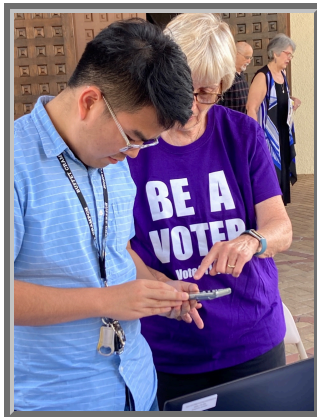
After his presentation, we will discuss measures for increasing voter participation, facilitating access, and producing outcomes that better reflect voters' preferences. These measures include mail-in voting, automatic voter registration, closing the write-in loophole, national popular vote, and ranked choice voting.

Community members are invited to attend this free event, and attendance is not limited to Villages residents.

Please spread the word through [emails](#) and social media and invite people you know to attend.

If you'd like to help at the event or for more information, contact [Gail Formanack](#).

VOTER SERVICES: **Vote-by-Mail**



Do you Vote-by-Mail? If so, do you know if your Vote-by-Mail ballot request must be renewed?

If you are a Florida Vote-by-Mail voter, you must renew your request for a Vote-by-Mail ballot every two years. Every Florida Vote-by-Mail voter's Vote-by-Mail ballot request expired on December 31, 2024.

Perhaps you think you can wait till 2026, when the Governor's position and Congressional races will be on the ballot. But, that is risky, because there might be something on the ballot in 2025, for

example Ocala City Elections, or the Special Election in Congressional Districts 1 and 6. Plus, you may get very busy and forget to renew your request in 2026. So, we urge all Florida Vote-by-Mail voters to call your Supervisor of Elections* and renew your request for a Vote-by-Mail ballot.

[< Read More >](#)

BOARD BRIEFS

At the February Board Meeting the Board discussed advertising at the Women's Day program on March 7, status of the new LWVUS

membership payment system, the LWVFL Convention in June, the April 12 Community Event, and setting up a Nominating Committee to fill leadership vacancies for the 2025-2026 year.

[< Read More >](#)

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Kudos to Carol Van Noy whose work will allow LWVTRI to better serve the voters in the tri-county area.

First, she secured not one, but two, grants from LWVUS for a total of \$2,000. The first grant targets young voters; the second allows our League to help returning citizens navigate the roadblocks to voting erected by the Florida legislature.

Writing the grants was only part of her efforts. She also attended LWVUS training, developed an action plan, found LWVTRI volunteers to do the work, and in the case of young voters, found partner organizations that work with the youth in our community.

Thank you, Carol! Your efforts are making a huge difference!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Let's Welcome Our Newest Members

Linda Hunt-Stone
Valerie Rocco

MERGER UPDATES

The Florida Division of Corporations received our paperwork on January 31st. As on 3/5/2025 they were processing documents received on January 24th. Hopefully, the merger will be finalized before the next newsletter.

FUTURE MEETINGS

General meetings are held in the Fruitland Park Library on the 2nd Thursday of the months between September and May, except for the Holiday Luncheon in December.

Meeting details can be found on the [Calendar](#) page of our website.

April 10

Social Security: Eligibility & Long Term Viability

Speaker: Bernadette Aley

Retired District Director of Social Security Administration

Business Meeting: The only business meeting of the year will include elections of officers, approval of budget, and adoption of program.

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