LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE VILLAGES/TRI-COUNTY

March 2026 Newsletter

MARCH 2026 MEETING: Open Primaries

SPEAKER: John Marvin
Florida Open Primaries

Thursday, March 12 at 2 PM
Hillcrest Room **
Fruitland Park Library
604 W Berckman Street
Fruitland Park

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

There are currently 3.8 million non-affiliated voters in Florida. They represent over 27% of the electorate and are currently barred from voting in primary elections.

John Marvin is a member of the Leader's Table of Open Primaries. His talk will focus on the voting rights of independent voters in the US, and particularly in Florida. He will share data regarding independent voters as well as the voting rights status of primary elections by state. He will also discuss recent developments regarding primary elections in Florida.

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.

* * * Nominations Are Open * * *

Nominations are now being accepted for positions on the LWVTRI Board. The slate of candidates will be presented for election at the Annual Meeting on May 14.

Available positions are:

- Co-President (2-year term)

- Director of Communications (2-year term)
- Director of Membership (2-year term)

Duties are defined in the Job Description section on the Members Only page of the website. (If you don't have the password for this section, email the webmaster.) Current officers are also available to answer any question you may have.

Members are encouraged to submit nominations, including self-nominations, for any of these roles to any member of the Nominating Committee:

- Carolyn Pasquale
- Kathy Hansen
- Linda Hunt-Stone

LWVTRI provides valuable service to Lake, Marion, and Sumter counties. Strong leadership is essential to sustaining our impact. Please consider volunterring for one of these important positions.

CO-PRESIDENT COLUMN: The Antidote to Political Stress

Psychologists often note that "political stress" stems from a lack of agency—the feeling that things are happening *to* us rather than *with* our consent. This leads to burnout and a desire to disengage. However, research into civic engagement suggests a powerful antidote: **Active Participation.** When we transition from passive consumers of news to active participants in the process, our perspective shifts. Taking a concrete, positive action—like responding to the League of Women Voters Action Alerts—doesn't just help the cause; it helps *you*.

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SAVE THE DATE: Write-In Loophole

SPEAKER: Carol Van Noy
Write-In Loophole

Tuesday, April 14 at 7 PM
Zoom

Thursday afternoon in-person meetings would be interested in an evening meeting on a different day of the week on Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please register to get your personal link to the meeting.

REGISTER

HOW TO KNOW ELECTION RESULTS ARE ACCURATE

Almost daily we hear something about upcoming elections. Social media, the news media, politicians, and government and private sectors express concerns about threats to our election integrity. How can we know our election results will be accurate?

Our Board asked three of our League chapter members to request interviews with their respective Supervisor of Elections to learn from the source about voting integrity for our local area. Alan Hays of Lake County, Bill Keen of Sumter County, and Wesley Wilcox of Marion County welcomed the opportunity and spoke openly with our members Jane Hepting, Deirdre Burke, and Lynn Miller about the strengths and challenges of our local election system and process.

Our interviewers found the Supervisors approachable and responsive to their questions and comments.

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* * * International Women's Day Celebration * * *

The *Sisters of Synergy*, a LWVTRI partner organization, is hosting their 3rd annual International Women's Day Celebration. The 2026 event will feature speakers from various countries who will discuss equity issues experienced by women and girls.

Saturday, March 7 from 3 PM to 5 PM
Laurel Manor Recreation Center
1985 Laurel Manor Dr, The Villages

The general public is welcome. You do not need to be a Villages resident to attend. Audience members are encouraged to wear purple to celebrate the day.

WEBSITE

to participate.

You missed your chance for the drawing, but there is still time to discover all the useful information on lwvtrifl.org and learn how to quickly navigate to what you need.

The members who participated last month all said it was "really fun" and a great way to "get people around the site." So why not take a break, have a little fun, and check out what the new website has offer?

JOIN THE HUNT

BOARD BRIEFS

This month the Board discussed progress with the special program to educate voters about election security and with the Nominating Committee, worked on the program and budget for next year, and learned about the LWVFL Council which will be held in Orlando July 11-12.

Board reports are on the Members Only page of the website, which is password protected. Members may request the password by emailing webmaster@lwvtrifl.org.

HELP NEEDED

Our website is often our face to the world, so we need to keep it looking professional.

We have a lot of links to information on the websites of other organizations (e.g., Supervisor of Elections, LWV of Florida, state of Florida government, etc.) If they update their websites, the links on our website will return an Error Message. This frustrates our users.

Therefore, we have Link Testers who spend about one hour a month checking the links and letting the webmaster know if any are broken. We give you a document with all the links. You click and let us know if one no longer opens.

Could you spare an hour each month? Send an email to webmaster@lwvtrifl.org to learn more.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Many thanks to Barbara Fieldman and Dee Melvin for reviewing the financial records from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 of both the LWVTRI 501(c)4 (now closed) and the 501(c)3. Their report is posted in the Treasurer Reports section on the Members Only page of the website.

NEWS

Judith Gorenflo
Kathie T. Greene
Deborah Keyes
Karan Kirby
Elena Perrello
Nancy M. Washborn

FUTURE MEETINGS

General meetings are held in the Fruitland Park Library on the 2nd Thursday of the months between September and May.

Meeting details can be found on the Calendar page of our website.

April 9

Write-In Loophole
Speaker: Carol Van Noy

April 14
Tuesday at 7 pm
Zoom

ZOOM PRESENTATION: Write-In Loophole
Speaker: Carol Van Noy

This Zoom presentation is an experiment to see whether members who cannot make our Thursday afternoon, in-person meetings would be interested in meeting by Zoom in the evening on a different day of the week.

May 14

Annual Meeting
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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