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April 2026 Newsletter

APRIL 2026 MEETING: Write-In Loophole



SPEAKER: Carol Van Noy
Former Executive Director
Seattle Ethics and Election Commission

Thursday, April 9 at 2 PM
Hillcrest Room **
Fruitland Park Library
604 W Berckman Street
Fruitland Park

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

The Write-In Loophole is used to circumvent the Universal Primary Amendment that was passed in 1998 by 64% of Florida voters. As a result, millions of Florida voters are disenfranchised. Learn how political parties use write-in candidates to close elections and the simple change to the Florida Constitution that could ensure every voter's rights are protected.

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.

This presentation will also be available via Zoom on **Tuesday, April 14, at 7pm**

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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. The deadline for submissions is Saturday, April 11.

Available positions are:

- Co-President (2-year term)
- Vice President of Voter Services (1-year term)
- Secretary (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 volunteering for one of these important positions.

CO-PRESIDENT COLUMN: Florida SAVE Act Making It Harder to Vote



Before the regular session of the Florida Legislature ended, lawmakers approved the **Florida SAVE Act**. This measure resembles stalled federal legislation requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote, but Florida's version also will remove student IDs and retirement center IDs as valid identification when voting.

Dropping these two forms of identification may cause problems for both young and elderly citizens.

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**MID-DECADE
REDISTRICTING**

Make a Difference. Use Your Voice.

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While there are unfounded rumors speculating mid-decade redistricting will not take place, we need to continue reaching out to state legislators in the Florida House and Florida Senate and urge them to say NO to mid-decade redistricting.

Make your voice heard. [Contact information](#) for your elected officials and [sample messages](#) are available to assist you.

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NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Immediately following the April 9 meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Villages/Tri-County, we will hold an orientation for new members.

The orientation is open to new members as well as established members and nonmembers from the community who would like to learn more about the mission and activities of the League and our chapter.

For additional information, please contact Tina Getz, Membership Director, at (719) 331-6212 or tinagetz27@gmail.com.

ELECTION SAFEGUARDS

Election Safeguards to Ensure Only Citizens Vote

In February, 2026, our members Deirdre Burke, Jane Hepting, and Lynn Miller interviewed their Supervisors of Elections on election security.

The full content of the three interviews can be found on the **Vote** page of our website under [Election Integrity](#). Following is a recap of what the Supervisors had to say about the process for ensuring that only citizens can register to vote.

[< Read More >](#)

BOARD BRIEFS

At its March meeting, the Board discussed contacting the Daily Sun to ask them to report on current election security, learned more about the LWVFL Council this summer in Orlando focusing on learning experiences, and approved the 2026-27 proposed Program and Budget.

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.

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MAKING IT HAPPEN

Many thanks to Deirdre Burke, Jane Hepting, and Lynn Miller for interviewing their respective Supervisors of Elections on election security.

Deirdre Burke interviewed Bill Keen of Lake County, Lynn Miller interviewed Wesley Wilcox of Marion County, and Jane Hepting interviewed Alan Hays of Lake County.

Each interviewer said the Supervisors of Election were very appreciative of the opportunity to provide the public with the facts that make voting safe and secure in Florida. The results are available on the **Vote** page of our website under [Election Integrity](#).

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Let's Welcome Our Newest Members

Judy Bonn

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.

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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