



February 2025 Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING: Florida Needs a Pro-Voter Agenda



SPEAKER: Sam Coodley
Florida Campaign Manager of *All Voting is Local*

Thursday, February 13 at 2 PM
Hillcrest Room **
Fruitland Park Library
601 W Berckman Street
Fruitland Park

** Not our regular room. Accessible from inside library.
Due to construction, parking in front of library is limited. Overflow parking is available at the **Heritage Community Church**, 509 W Berkman St, Fruitland Park, FL. Follow signs.

As Campaign Manager of *All Voting is Local*, Sam Coodley coordinates the efforts of Florida organizations working to counter threats to voting rights. *The Florida League of Women Voters* is a member of this coalition along with the *ACLU*, *Black Votes Matter*, *Common Cause*, *Florida Rising*, *Hispanic Federation*, and *NAACP* to name a few. Sam will share some of the victories this democracy-centered movement has achieved as well as plans underway to advance fair inclusive rules on voter registration and removing barriers that make it more difficult for people to vote.

Opportunities for individual involvement will be suggested.

CO-PRESIDENT COLUMN: Looks Like 2025 Will Be a Busy Year

I have to admit I was looking forward to a laid-back 2025



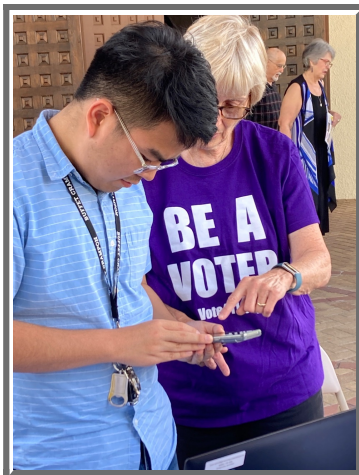
because odd-numbered years rarely feature any federal or state elections. In the tri-county area there are only a few off-year elections at the municipal level. I figured those of us who worked on the 2024 election deserve a little down time, since we covered 117 local candidates, six Florida Amendments, and 30 local ballot initiatives.

Recovery was the plan.

However, 2025 started out with a scramble to host both Democratic and Republican digital forums to cover a special election in Congressional District 6 to replace Representative Michael Waltz. Waltz resigned to become President Trump's National Security Advisor, and the primary was scheduled for January 28. LWVFL contacted us on January 6 to implement the forums to educate voters in Flagler, Lake, Marion, Putnam, St. Johns, and Volusia counties. Four of the five candidates participated, and Leagues across the district posted the recordings on their websites.

[< Read More >](#)

VOTER SERVICES: What Can You Do to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy in 2025?



You can help us inform voters as a Speaker, Assistant, or Scheduler. Carol Van Noy will provide training and mentoring to ensure that it is easy and fun. You would become part of the Speakers Bureau, which is a great opportunity to hone your skills and defend democracy by educating voters, at the same time.

You can also make a difference by being a Voter Registrar, Scheduler, or Postcard Addresser. Once again training and mentoring will be available. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are creating a community of responsible citizens.

[< Learn More >](#)

BOARD BRIEFS

The Board completed the documentation for the merger of the 501c4 and the 501c3 into a 501c3, which will be called The League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Florida. It is now ready to be filed with the Florida Secretary of State and will become effective on that filing date. The Board also approved a budget for the newly formed 501c3 and approved plans for an April 12 Community Event on Election Reform.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Let's give a big thank you to Char Griffin and Gail Formanack for providing voters in Congressional District 6 the ability to watch a candidate forum before casting their ballot. Char spearheaded the planning for the forum and handled all candidate communications. Gail moderated the Republican forum.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Let's Welcome Our Newest Members

Laura Peirce
Denise Sturm

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Could you spare an hour a month to ensure visitors to our website never see the dreaded **404 Page Not Found** error? This takes no

technical skill. Char Griffin will provide a Word document with the links that are on our website. All you have to do click them and let Char know whether or not they all opened. If you want to learn more, email [Char](#).

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.

March 13

Program Planning

Discussion: LWVTRI's program for the next fiscal year

April 10

Social Security: Eligibility & Long Term Viability

Speaker: Bernadette Aley

Retired District Director of Social Security Administration

May 8

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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