

*Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!*

**July 2020**  
**Volume 14 Issue 4**

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## Co-President Notes

Your board of directors held its first in-person meeting since March and are working on a plan for the fall. The board will be calling members to determine how comfortable people are with meeting in person and/or the use of technology for virtual meetings. We may need to offer our programs in dual format to meet the needs of those who feel uncomfortable attending events in the fall. The board also took action to appoint **Janis Dorgan** to the vacant **vice president** role. We thank her for volunteering to serve.

Co-president Bonnie Field and I are attending the virtual national convention at the end of June. We will report on important actions in the August newsletter.

This year has been a challenging one in terms of carrying out plans for celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage. Our League-sponsored pre-screening of the PBS documentary *The American Experience: The Vote* had to be rescheduled for March 16, 2021. We were able to conduct a Twitter Town Hall to engage people in answering some key questions on women's suffrage. PBS will air this special on July 6-7. Check the listings for your local PBS station for time. I encourage you to view this timely presentation. Click [here](#) for a 30 second trailer on the upcoming show. There is also an [extended version](#) of the trailer

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## Co-President Notes

As of June 24th, Gov. Desantis has not signed the budget. He has until July 1st to do so. Therefore the following



dollar amounts mentioned may change.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

In 2020 the LWVFL had 3 Legislative Priorities:

1. A good water bill
2. Supporting full funding of Florida Forever
3. Supporting legislation to promote Solar energy and electric vehicles

### **Here is the good news!**

1. \$318.6 million for Everglades restoration and protection, along with \$50 million for FL Springs restoration. Another \$25 million for the St.Johns, Suwanee and Apalachicola Basins. The Clean Waterways bill SB712 is an expansive bill aimed at protecting our FL waterways from pollution.

2. Florida Forever is funded \$100 million for conservation.

1. SB7018 - not only acknowledged the relationship between carbon emissions and climate change. Florida recognizes the need to mitigate its carbon emissions, and it will build charging stations on all its highways & promote replacing fossil fuel vehicles with electric vehicles.

Our District 31, (Lake County), Representative, Jennifer Sullivan, in an effort with Lake County Commissioner, Leslie Campione, successfully had HB 921 signed by the Governor. It means sand miners will not be able to continue obtaining " fish farms" permits to camouflage their sand mining.

## **OBSERVERS REPORT**

The Florida 2020 Legislation had about 3,500 bills filed. Only 194 passed both House & Senate to move on to the Governor for his signature.

4 Representatives share Marion County. Lake has 3, and Sumter has 1 Representative. To see which bills they filed go [check here](#)

Look for the "find my representative if you do not know your district. Go to your Representatives page and click under their photo, "bills sponsored." The list shown will provide their work completed in the 2020 session.

Our Senator D. Baxley, covers all 3 of our counties. K. Stargel has part of Lake county, as does A. Sabatini. R.Bradley has part of Marion, and K.Perry has another piece of Marion. To view all their bills [check here](#)

Find your senator and click on their bills.

In the last column, one can see the disposition of each bill.

Yours in the League

Bonnie Field, Co-President



## Virtual Candidate Forums

The League has issued invitations to participate in three candidate forums prior to the August primary election in the following contested elections. Following guidance from the state League, these forums will be virtual via Zoom and the recordings will be made available on Facebook and our website. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

**July 28, 6:30 pm** - Florida State Representative, District 32 - Democratic race featuring 3 candidates

**July 30, 6:30 pm** - Sumter County Commissioner, Republican race featuring 7 candidates

**August 3, 6:30 pm** Circuit Judge, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Group 22 featuring 2 candidates

Please contact [lwvtriprez@gmail.com](mailto:lwvtriprez@gmail.com) if you would like to submit any questions for the candidates in these races.



## VOTER SERVICES

Starting July 15, 2020, you will be able to see the candidates who will be on your August 18, 2020 Primary Election Ballot and their responses to League questions. The 2020 Primary Election League of Women Voters online Voters' Guide will be published on [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org), on Wednesday, July 15. From that day forward, you can go to that website, enter your home address, and click on the green ENTER button. On the next page, click the green bar that offers a personalized ballot. You will see all of the races that will be on your Primary Election Ballot. Click on any race and two candidate profiles will appear. If the candidate responded, a photo, with contact information and that candidate's responses to League questions will be available. If the candidate did not respond, the

candidate's name and the statement: "Candidate has not yet responded" will appear under a silhouette head shot of a person. In the meantime, [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org) has all of the information you need to register to vote or to update your registration.

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## Amendment 4 Update

LWVFL was delighted at the recent ruling by Appeals Judge Hinkle in which he ruled that former felons granted the right to vote following passage of Amendment 4 to the Florida Constitution should not be required to pay certain financial obligations prior to registering to vote. The Florida League is partnering with The Poor People's Campaign and the ACLU to reach out to these individuals through a phone bank. A script and training has been developed by the League to help volunteers communicate about the restoration of voting rights to these returning citizens. An automated dialing system loaded with contact information will be in use so no volunteer's phone number will be revealed. Phone calls can be made from the comfort of your own home. Please consider helping with this important outreach effort. Contact the state league through the [lwvfl.org](http://lwvfl.org) website to volunteer or you can locally contact Carol Van Noy

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## Speaker's Bureau

With COVID-19 limitations and in lieu of in-person presentations, all previous hosts have been notified of our new virtual Zoom meetings resulting in twelve speaking engagements since May. As a result of presenting our *News: Separating Fact from Fiction* power point at a Friday LWVFL Lunch and Learn, LWVTRI received three presentation requests: LWV Sarasota, LWV Collier County and LWV Palm Beach County! In our continuing effort to expand our reach to communities outside The Villages, Hamilton has recently contacted the following senior communities: Harbor Hills, Del Webb Spruce Creak, Stoncrest and Water Oaks. Please contact Jeannie if you know a group that would be interested in our presentations.

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## Local League on Social Media

We are increasing our presence in the Social



Check us out! Here is where to find us on the various platforms.

**Facebook - League of Women Voters  
The Villages Tri County**

**Twitter - LWV-TV/Tri**

**Snap Chat  
League of Women Voters The Villages**

**Instagram - Lwvtriprez**

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## Lunch and Learn

Ready for a break during your "busy" week? Check out the Lunch and Learn with the State League. I have heard so many positive comments about the past topics like Winning the Vote, Juneteenth, and the upcoming election to name a few. Check out the mailings from State for details on the next event, The Florida Voter has information on how to listen to the previous events. Don't get the Florida Voter? Check with Membership Chair [Karen](#) to make sure that you are on the state mailing list.



## Voting Stories

As we celebrate the centennial of the 19th Amendment, we would like to share stories of early voters in your family. Please submit your stories to share [here](#) and they may turn up in a future editions.

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are now at 105 total members with 95 primary, 10 family members and 5 affiliate members. Many newcomers join because of a League friend.

Dues are payable on the **anniversary month** of your joining the



League. You will receive an email reminder from **Karen West** ([LWVTRImembers@gmail.com](mailto:LWVTRImembers@gmail.com)) prior to your anniversary date. When you do, please make your check payable to **LWVTRI** and mail it to our **Treasurer, Bernadette Aley, 1106 Monterey Lane, The Villages, Florida 32159**. If you are not sure of your anniversary month, you can contact **Karen West, [LWVTRImembers@gmail.com](mailto:LWVTRImembers@gmail.com)**. Please add Karen's address to your email contact list.

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MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

The good news is that the National Woman's History Project has extended the centennial celebration into the year 2021 because of the current pandemic. We look forward to a future full of our celebrations.

First Week of July - PBS Special American Experience on The Vote. Premiers on July 6. Check Local Listings to see when you can watch it!

### **CANDIDATE FORUMS**

**July 28, 6:30 pm - Florida State Representative, District 32 -Democratic race featuring 3 candidates**

**July 30, 6:30 pm - Sumter County Commissioner, Republican race featuring 7 candidates**

**August 3, 6:30 pm Circuit Judge, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Group 22 featuring 2 candidates**

**August 26 - EqualiTea. We have moved this event to a virtual event. Carolyn Ingham will still be our speaker, but you can get your cup of tea and enjoy from the comfort of your home. More details as the date gets closer. And we plan to meet in person in 2021.**

# League Website

Our website, **LWVTRIFL.org**, has a **Members Only** section containing multiple pages:

- the main **Members Only** page has our membership list, minutes from our last Board meeting, an Expense Voucher, our chapter's By-Laws as well as other information
- the **Publications** page is where you can find past newsletters as well as copies of our national and local studies
- the **Voter Guide Archive**
- a **Caught on Camera** page containing candid photos from our events and activities.

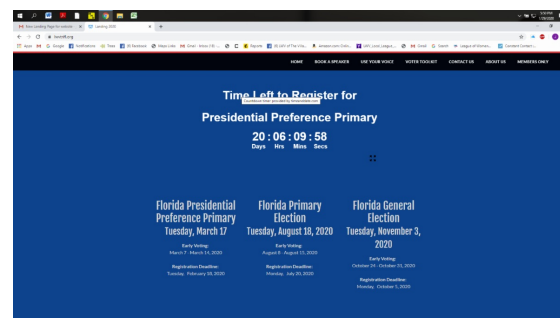
The drop down menu from the Top-Nav allows you to go directly to the page you want to access.

When you select one of these pages, you will be required to provide a password. To gain access to this restricted part of our website, contact our member chair:

Karen West [LWVTRImembers@gmail.com](mailto:LWVTRImembers@gmail.com)

## Landing Page

If you haven't been to our website lately, you have missed our new Landing page, [lwvtrifl.org](http://lwvtrifl.org), that focuses our visitors on the important information about the upcoming elections.



The page features a countdown clock showing the days, hours, minutes and seconds left to register for the next election. Registration for the Presidential Preference Primary on March 17, has ended. The clock will be updated to alert visitors about registration deadlines for the **Primary Election on August 18**, and the **General Election on November 3**. A link to [Vote411](http://Vote411) is prominently displayed as

is the "**Be a Voter**" video targeted to young women to encourage them to vote. The red "**Enter Site**" buttons at the top and bottom of the page take you to our Home page.

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**Editor Musings** The election season is here. Vote 411 will open for the primary season. NOW is the time to make sure your registration is up to date and request a ballot by mail.

If you have a submission for this newsletter, please use the [newsletter email](#). Try to get it to me by the 25th of the month. Thanks!

Yours in the League,  
Beth

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