



April 2025 Newsletter

APRIL 2025 MEETING: Social Security



SPEAKER: Bernadette Aley
**Misconceptions about Social Security and SSI
(Supplemental Security Income)**

Thursday, April 10 at 2 PM
Hillcrest Room **
Fruitland Park Library
601 W Berckman Street
Fruitland Park

With 34 years of experience serving in various management positions in the Social Security Administration, Ms. Aley brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience. As these programs face grave threats of drastic changes, it is important to know what is true about them.

Please join us!

** 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: Election Integrity



importance of elections, balancing ease of access and prevention of fraud is where tensions arise. As a colleague of mine frequently asked: Where do you want to hurt?

Organizations concerned about widespread fraud advocate for laws that inevitably make voting more difficult. Consequently, groups prioritizing voter access often describe these initiatives as voter suppression.

On March 25, 2025 President Trump signed an executive order citing "The right of American citizens to have their votes properly counted and tabulated, without illegal dilution."

This order requires proof of citizenship, such as a passport or REAL ID (e.g., Florida Driver's License). However, some argue that women who have changed their names due to marriage or divorce may face difficulties if they lack these forms of identification.

Given its vested interest in striking the proper balance, LWVTRI is **hosting a community event on Saturday, April 12 focused on election integrity**. Further details are provided below. I hope you will join us and bring your friends.

* * * COMMUNITY EVENT: Election Integrity * * *

LWVTRI will host a community event on ***Empowering Voters Through Election Reform*** on

**Saturday, April 12
1:00 PM
Seabreeze Recreation Center
2384 Buena Vista Blvd, The Villages**

Wesley Wilcox, Supervisor of Elections in Marion County and a member of The Election Center Board of Directors, an organization to ensure the highest standards for elections across the U.S., will speak about election integrity.

His presentation will be followed by our League's presentation on election reforms intended to increase eligible voter participation through expanded access for all voters and more representative outcomes. Attendees will learn about voter accessibility measures including mail-in voting and automatic voter registration and also about ways to increase representation of the voters through 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](#).

EVENT

for members to learn more about the mission, goals, and work of our Chapter. Our next orientation will follow our monthly meeting on Thursday, April 10, at the Fruitland Park Library.

Both new and continuing members are welcome to join us. Feel free to come to the orientation (which will begin around 3:30) even if you don't make it to the regular meeting.

CONSENSUS MEETINGS ON FEDERAL JUDICIARY

You should have received an email on Tuesday, April 1, inviting you to participate in one of three Zoom discussions regarding principles recommended by an LWVUS study of the Federal Judiciary. If you did not receive the email, you may view it [HERE](#).

There is still time to register for one of the three meetings: Saturday, April 5 at 9:00 AM, Monday, April 7 at 6:00 PM, or Wednesday, April 9 at 1:00 PM. Contact [Char Griffin](#) for more details.

LWVFL ACTION ALERTS



The Florida legislature is currently in session in Tallahassee. LWVFL has paid lobbyists in addition to a team of volunteers who carefully monitor bills affecting the state League's chosen legislative priorities.

Those priorities are Voting Rights and Election Reform, Education, Reproductive Health & Justice, and Gun Violence Prevention. When a bill related to these priorities moves forward in the legislative process, LWVFL may issue a call to action to its members. "Action Alert" will be in the **SUBJECT** line. Please be alert to these email notifications, and if you feel the urge to take action, follow the directions in the email to contact the appropriate members of the legislature.

[< Read More >](#)

*** * * Watch for Annual Meeting Packet * * ***

The annual meeting of LWVTRI will be next month, Thursday, May 8 at 2:00 pm. The packet for this meeting will be emailed to all members on Wednesday, April 9.

BRIEFS

Next year, progress made by the Nominating Committee, continues with renewals during the LWVUS transformation, and the April 12 Community Event on Election Integrity.

[< Read More >](#)

MERGER UPDATES

The Florida Division of Corporations has approved the merger of our 501(c)4 into our 501(c)3. We are now awaiting approval

of our filing to change the name of the surviving organization to *League of Women Voters of The Villages / Tri-County, Florida, Inc.*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Let's Welcome Our Newest Members

Brenda Hiatt Barber

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.

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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