



September 2026 Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETING

Calling all LWVTRI members to attend our first fall meeting.



Decisions 2026: Constitutional Amendments on Ballot **SPEAKER: Jill Davie**

Thursday, September 10 at 2 PM

Palm Villa Room
Fruitland Park Library
604 W Berckman Street
Fruitland Park

*** Space is limited ***

Doors Open to Members: 1:30 PM

Doors Open to Public: 1:45 PM

Three Constitutional Amendments will appear on Florida's November ballot. All three measures involve budgets: one at the state level and two at the local level. The impact of passing an amendment can be more complex than it first appears. Char Griffin will explain how each of the three proposed amendments, if approved, could affect your daily life for years to come.

NOTE: Parking in front of the library is limited. Overflow parking is available at the **Heritage Community Church**, 509 W Berckman St, Fruitland Park, FL. Follow signs.

CO-PRESIDENT COLUMN: Civic Holidays

Civic Holidays are non-partisan days of action that celebrate and strengthen our country's democracy! Each holiday accounts for a different phase of democratic participation. Together they celebrate the entire voting experience!



celebrated in 2012 by Matt Singer from a non-partisan organization now called *Alliance for Youth Organizing*. He found that over six million Americans had missed the 2008 election because they failed to register or missed deadlines. His organization was joined by the *League of Women Voters* and other non-partisan groups such as *Voto Latino*, *HeadCount*, *Rock the Vote* and *Nonprofit VOTE*.



Voter Services has scheduled events in Lake and Marion counties on September 15 for National Voter Registration Day and are working with colleges to schedule voter education for students.

- **National Voter Education Week, October 5th – 9th**

Note that our October meeting will be held during National Voter Education Week.
More to come in the next newsletter

- **Election Hero Day on Tuesday, October 20th**

The Board has come up with a plan to recognize our local Supervisors of Elections, their staff members and poll workers on Election Hero Day. All attendees at the September meeting are invited to participate.

- **Vote Early Day on Tuesday, October 27th**

Be proactive. As you interface with family, friends, other club members and fellow volunteers encourage everyone to vote. Remind them about 411 and discuss the proposed amendments with them. There is a complete PowerPoint presentation on the 3 amendments on our website and Char Griffin will be doing an in person presentation on the amendments at our September meeting.

Sandy Christian

Bernadette Aley

LWV Member Orientation, October 8, 2026

An Orientation for new members as well as others interested in learning about The League for Women's Voters of The Villages / Tri-County Florida will be held immediately following the October 8th meeting.

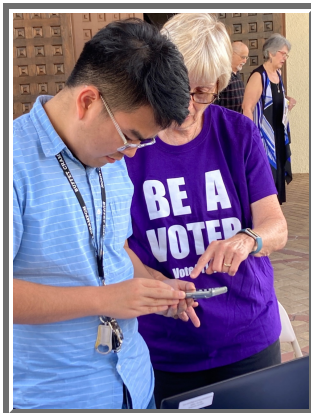
Those interested in learning more about the League might also be interested in attending our meeting beginning at 2pm with a

Save
the
Date!

overcoming ID barriers to voting.

The orientation will be held at the Fruitland Park Library (604 West Berckman St) beginning between 3 and 3:30 PM. Please share this information with friends who might be interested in what we do. For additional information, please contact Tina Getz, Membership Director, at 719-331- 6212 or tinagetz27@gmail.com.

VOTER SERVICES: Engaging and Educating Voters, Promoting Safe and Open Elections



What we're doing

In July our League held Candidate Meet and Greets in Lake and Sumter Counties and partnered for a Candidate Forum in Marion County. We collected candidate information and published VOTE 411 for the local elections and ordered Voter Guides which will be distributed to organizations in the three counties. Several members have been trained to be Poll monitors to help ensure there is no interference in local elections.

In Marion County, voter education continued through the summer and over 100 packets of voting information were distributed.

Speakers Bureau has been extremely busy with 18 presentations given or scheduled and new requests coming each week, mainly for our Decisions 2026, our presentation on the amendments on the November ballot. Additional speakers and assistants have been trained.

We need your support

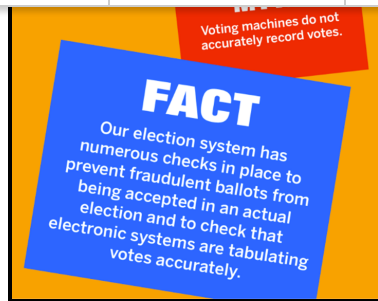
Voter registration and education events are planned before the November election. Volunteers are urgently needed to sit at voter education tables at colleges and other places in the community and to distribute information at additional locations. We are also looking for members to serve on a voter registration committee to plan outreach. There will be an opportunity to train and serve as a poll monitor for the upcoming election.

These volunteer opportunities are a great way to help register and educate voters and get to know other league members.

To volunteer contact Vickie Southworth at 352-661-5648, southworth_family@hotmail.com.

Election Safeguards for Voting Machines

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



is a recap of what the Supervisors had to say about election security and voting machines.

To begin, all three Supervisors clearly stated that the voting machines **CANNOT** be hacked because they are not connected to the internet.

Lake County Supervisor of Elections Alan Hays said that the voting machines do have a secure, one-way [non-internet] transmission with the county voting system.

Before election day, machines are checked for accuracy. Supervisor Hays said, "We do a pre-election L&A (logic and accuracy) testing that includes several diagnostics as well as a pre-marked test deck to verify the machine is properly reading." Sumter County Supervisor of Elections Bill Keen added that on any day not more than 25 days prior to the first day of early voting, machines throughout the county are publicly tested to make sure that they are accurately picking up all valid votes and counting them perfectly.

[< Read More >](#)

BOARD BRIEFS

At its August meeting the Board reviewed outcomes from the recent LWFVFL Council and discussed expanding voter education outreach within the tricounty area beyond The Villages as well as efforts to contact League members who have become inactive.

The minutes are available on the [Members Only](#) webpage which is password protected. If you are a member and have forgotten the password, contact the [webmaster](#).

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Many thanks to **Deidre Burke** and new member **Sue Hillman** for performing the financial review of the LWFVTRI Treasurer's records July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Congratulations to **Jane Hepting** for organizing and conducting a well-attended Candidate Meet and Greet for Lake County.

Hats off to **Audrietta Izlar** and **Bert Perkins** for partnering with community organizations to hold the Legislative Debrief and Marion County Candidate Forum as well as providing voter education at several locations this summer.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Let's Welcome Our Newest Members

Suzanne Banner

Rebecca Johnston-Carvin
Mary Jane Klocke
Luke Lewicki
Gerald Loomer
Mari Minks
Ellen Velie

OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Genai Witter, Florida Director of Vote Riders will speak to us.

Learn about the scope of their work and how they help people get the identification they need to vote in the wake of the Florida Save Act. New member orientation following the presentation.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Meeting details can be found on the [Calendar](#) page of our website.

October 8

VoteRiders

Speaker: Genai Witter

November 11

TBA

December 10

Mary McLeod Bethune

Speaker: Lisa French

January 14

LWVFL Lobby Corp

Speaker: Trish Neely

February 11

Program Planning for FY 2027-278

April 8

Implementation of Florida's SAVE Act

Speaker: TBA

May 13

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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