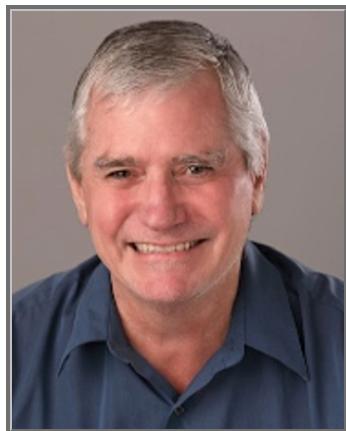




January 2026 Newsletter

JANUARY MEETING: Senate Bill 180's Impact on Local Government



**SPEAKER: James Homich
Mount Dora Mayor**

Thursday, January 8 at 2 PM
Palm Villa Room
Fruitland Park Library
604 W Berkman Street
Fruitland Park

State Senate Bill 180 which became law in 2025 and is now in effect in Florida, has been a point of controversy for local governments. The bill was meant to help with post-disaster recovery but some counties and municipalities are concerned that it makes recovery more difficult. Mayor Homich will explain the concerns and how the bill might be amended or changed to address those concerns.

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: Stop Partisan Gerrymandering



Partisan gerrymandering is illegal in Florida. Despite what other states (Texas, California, Louisiana, etc.) may do, Florida has an explicit prohibition in its constitution on partisan map making, and Florida legislators have all sworn an oath to support and defend both the U.S. and Florida Constitutions.

However, Governor DeSantis has asked the Florida Legislature to redraw the current maps to create more congressional districts

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Republicans already hold a disproportionate share of seats: although only 41% of Florida voters are registered Republicans, they comprise 71% of the state's congressional representatives.

This suggests a technique known as "[cracking and packing](#)" was used to establish the current districts and could be employed again to create non-competitive districts that ignore population demographics and local government boundaries.

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IN MEMORIUM



Gail Formanack

LWVTRI mourns the loss of our past president, Gail Formanack, after her long battle with cancer.

Gail's impact on our League was immeasurable. She led with integrity as president, and as a friend, she showed us how to embrace life with grace and dignity.

League members are invited to a [Celebration of Life](#) on Sunday, January 11.

BOARD BRIEFS

At the December Board meeting, the Board discussed attending Lobby Days at the State Capitol in January to advocate with legislators for voter protections and against mid-cycle redistricting, decided to recommend that members make donations directly to our League rather than through the LWVUS Membership Portal, and learned about new LWVFL initiatives.

[< Read More >](#)

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.

February 10

Tuesday at 7 pm
Zoom

ZOOM PRESENTATION: National Popular Vote Interstate

Contract

Speaker: Anne Coppenhaver and Leslie Feinberg, members of the steering committee for from *National Popular Vote*

February 12

Program Planning

Discussion: LWVTRI's program for the next fiscal year

March 12

Open Primaries

Speaker: from *Open Primaries*

April 9

Write-In Loophole

Speaker: Carol Van Noy

This presentation will be repeated in an evening presentation on Zoom on Tuesday, April 14

April 14

Tuesday at 7 pm
Zoom

ZOOM PRESENTATION: Write-In Loophole

Speaker: Carol Van Noy

May 14

Annual Meeting

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