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February 2026 Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING: Program Planning



Program Planning for FY 2026-27

Thursday, February 12 at 2 PM

Hillcrest Room **

Fruitland Park Library
604 W Berckman Street
Fruitland Park

The program planning meeting is the opportunity for members to review the [existing program](#) and brainstorm ways to be more effective in our actions next fiscal year.

After an overview of the planning process, small groups will discuss potential modifications to the current program. Each group will present their suggestions to the entire group, which will decide on recommendations for the Board. The Board will propose a new program at the Annual Meeting on May 8th.

Find a more detailed explanation of the Program Planning process [here](#).

** 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.*

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Immediately following the February 12th meeting, we will hold an orientation for new members beginning between 3 and 3:30 PM.

The orientation is open to new members as well as established members and nonmembers from the community who would like to learn more about the mission and activities of the League and our chapter. Because much of the orientation will reference content on the League's website -

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Please share this information with friends who might be interested in what we do.

For additional information, please contact Tina Getz, Membership Chair, at (719) 331-6212 or tinagetz27@gmail.com.

SPECIAL ZOOM MEETING: National Popular Voter Interstate Compact



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW AND PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
ZOOM MEETING ON

Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 7pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84364605306?
pwd=7XpavZBtLeClqa8ZVCQShSE0TcZru7.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84364605306?pwd=7XpavZBtLeClqa8ZVCQShSE0TcZru7.1)

Meeting ID: 843 6460 5306

Passcode: 094518

Why is a National Popular Vote for the President Needed?

What are the shortcomings of the present system and how would the National Popular Vote correct them?

Anne Copenhaver and Leslie Feinberg, members of the steering committee for Floridians for the National Popular Vote, will explain and answer our questions.

This is an experiment to see whether having online meetings would satisfy an unmet need for members who are unable to attend our Thursday afternoon meetings. [Feedback](#) is welcome.

CO-PRESIDENT COLUMN: The Case for Focus



For the first time in more than twenty years, the Florida League of Women Voters (LWVFL) is concentrating its lobbying resources exclusively on voter empowerment initiatives. Since 2000, in addition to its core priorities, the Florida League has supported a range of causes, including solar energy, reproductive rights, teacher compensation, gun safety, and same-sex adoptions. This year's renewed focus is largely attributable to the recommendations of our local Tri-County / The Villages chapter.

Tina Getz and I, along with 99 other League members, participated in Lobby Days in Tallahassee on January 20–21. LWVFL provided thorough preparation for our discussions with legislators,

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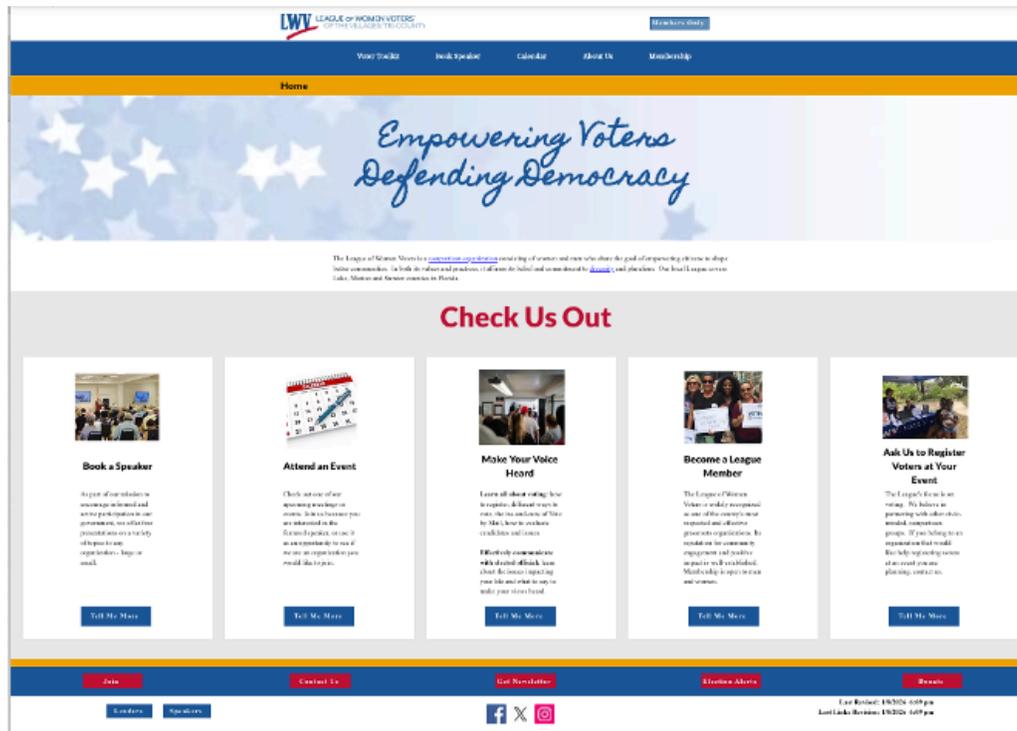
Limiting advocacy to two points was so unusual that the chair of LWVFL's Reproductive Health & Justice Committee asked if she could advocate on that committee's issues as well. She was discouraged using the rationale outlined in the [letter](#) our League sent to the LWVFL Board in 2022.

Members of LWVTRI can take pride in being among the first to highlight the importance of strategic focus. Following our initial letter to the Florida Board, this messaging has been conveyed at the 2023 LWVFL Convention, a 2024 LWVFL Lunch & Learn, and the 2025 LWVFL Convention. In addition, we consulted with the Boards of [six local leagues](#) who contacted us as they considered this approach after hearing our arguments.

During Lobby Days, numerous Leagues informed Tina and me that their adoption of focus in their local Program stemmed directly from The Villages / Tri-County's leadership in this area.

If you want to understand our focus on voter empowerment, watch this [22-minute video](#) of the 2024 LWVFL Lunch & Learn. The principles presented in the video will shape our 2025–26 Program, which we'll discuss at February's general meeting.

NEW WEBSITE HAS LAUNCHED



When you visit the LWV The Village / Tri-County's website (lwvtrifl.org), you may notice a new design, some exciting new features, and a [new password](#) for the **Members Only** page. If you have questions or comments, please contact webmaster@lwvtrifl.org.

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BOARD BRIEFS

At the January Board meeting, the Board discussed plans to educate the community about current election security measures,

discussed budget considerations for the next fiscal year, and heard about the positive experience Char and Tina had at Lobby Days at the state Capitol.

[< Read More >](#)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Let's Welcome Our Newest Member

Theresa Elliott

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.

March 12

Open Primaries

Speaker: from *Open Primaries*

April 9

Write-In Loophole

Speaker: Carol Van Noy

April 14

Tuesday at 7 pm
Zoom

ZOOM PRESENTATION: Write-In Loophole

Speaker: Carol Van Noy

This Zoom presentation is an experiment to see whether members who cannot make our Thursday afternoon, in-person meetings would be interested in meeting by Zoom in the evening on a different day of the week.

May 14

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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