



September 2025 Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2025 MEETING

Who Votes, Who Doesn't, and Why It Matters



SPEAKER: Char Griffin

An exploration of the social, political, and structural factors that influence who shows up at the polls.

Thursday, September 11 at 2 PM

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

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.

In 2024, less than 64% of eligible U. S. voters cast a ballot. Since turnout is historically much lower in off-year elections, only 45% to 50% of Florida citizens are likely to vote in 2026. Can LWVTRI increase participation rates? At September's meeting we will examine why so many people don't vote and then brainstorm actions we can take to change this dismal forecast.

CO-PRESIDENT COLUMN: A New Year Begins

September marks the start of another chapter in LWVTRI's ongoing commitment to serving the central Florida community.

I hope you are as excited as I am for a year of learning, fellowship, and the satisfaction derived from making a difference. Together, we will pursue new opportunities to expand our own knowledge, build meaningful connections, and have a positive impact in the region we call home.

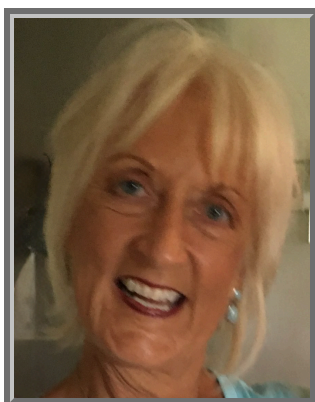


We encourage **you** to mark the second Thursday of each month on your calendar and become a regular participant at our meetings. Even better, **invite a friend** to join you. The more our citizens know about their government, the stronger it will become.

We also invite you to work on at least one of our projects during the 2026 elections. There is a great deal of satisfaction in knowing you made a difference in your community. To learn more about these opportunities, contact [Char Griffin](#).

< [Read More](#) >

APPOINTED COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR: Jill Davie



It is with the greatest pleasure that the Board announces the appointment of Jill Davie as the interim Communications Director, a Board position she will hold until the next election in May 2026. Jill joined the League three years ago and quickly started making contributions. Shortly after joining, she took on the responsibility of being one of the link testers, helping to keep our website running smoothly and free from the dreaded "page not found" errors. In addition to this essential work, Jill has served as a Speaker Bureau assistant and will soon be stepping into the role of speaker.

In addition to her volunteer work with the League, Jill is active with daily dog walking, water aerobics, bone builders, golf, Mahjong and book club.

Jill, a native of Michigan, had a career in higher education. For the last 15 years before her retirement, she served as the cooperative education manager at Kettering University. Although Jill has no children of her own she has three stepchildren along with five grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Please join us in thanking Jill for her willingness to serve on the Board of Directors.

BOARD BRIEFS

At the August meeting, the Board reviewed plans for upcoming meetings and the Holiday Luncheon, discussed ideas to increase

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SPEAKERS & ASSISTANTS NEEDED

LWVTRI's Speaker Bureau is central to our mission of educating the community. It also is an important source of new members and funding. Being part of the Speaker Bureau team is fun and fulfilling!

All presentations have been created by the League. Training and support is provided. Detailed descriptions for the responsibilities of the [speaker](#) and [assistant](#) are on the LWVTRI website. To learn more or volunteer, please contact Speakers Bureau Chair, [Paulette Mapson](#).

SAVE THE DATE New Member Orientation in October

Immediately following the October 9th meeting of the League for Women's Voters of The Villages / Tri-County Florida we will hold an orientation for new members. 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.

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 Chair, at 719-331-6212 or tinagetz27@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Let's Welcome Our Newest Members

Beverly Payne
Alice Scott

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.

Speaker: Erin Munz, *Sumter County Clerk of Courts*

November 13

What is Article V & Why Should You Care about It?

Speaker: Amy Keith, Director of *Common Cause Florida*

December 11

11:30 AM **

Holiday Luncheon at Coconut Cove Rec Center **

Speaker: *Dave Harrold, Patriot Service Dogs*

January 8

State Preemption: New Legislation Restricting Local Ordinances (Tentative)

February 12

Program Planning

Discussion: LWVTRI's program for the next fiscal year

March 12

To Be Determined *

April 9

To Be Determined *

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.

* *Florida's Write-In Loophole and Open Primaries* are the topics being considered for March & April.

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