



November 2024 Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING: Home Rule



Speaker: Joe Elliott, Wildwood City Commissioner

Thursday, November 14 at 2 PM

Fruitland Park Library
601 W Berckman Street
Fruitland Park

What does Home Rule for local government mean?

How does Home Rule work?

What are the limits of Home Rule?

[Joe Elliott](#) can answer these important questions having been recognized by the **Florida League of Cities** with a 2024 *Home Rule Hero* award for his work and advocacy efforts during the Florida Legislature's 2024 session. One of five non-partisan City Commissioners serving the city of Wildwood, he believes that we all have the responsibility to be involved in, and work towards, the betterment of all the citizens. He has served in many capacities, including as a member of the Florida League of Cities, on the Transportation Policy Committee and the Advocacy Committee, a member of the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and a Committeeman for Precinct 129.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT: Holiday Luncheon



Thursday, December 12 at 11:30 am

The Bistro at Grand Oaks Resort

3000 Marion County Road

Weirsdale, FL

Beverly Steele of the community of Royal will be our speaker

Choose from [six menu options](#). Reserve at the November meeting or send your menu choice with a \$25 check make out to **LWVTRI** no later than Monday, December 2nd to

Kathy Hansen
2106 Sansores Street
Lady Lake, FL 32159

*** * * IMPORTANT: Changes Impacting You * * ***

When LWVUS launches the new membership system in late January or early February 2025, you will receive an email to log into their portal, but you will not be asked to renew your membership at this time. This will be your opportunity to verify that your information is correct. Once you access the portal, you will be able to update your own information, including contact information.

Going forward you will receive your annual renewal notice from LWVUS. It will contain a link to the national platform. (This link also will be available on our local League website.) The new system will offer the option to sign up to auto-renew your membership annually.

Under the new system, there will be only two membership categories: **Member** and **Lifetime Member**. **Household** and **Student** memberships will be discontinued.

Eliminating these two categories does not mean your dues need increase because the new system will feature a “pay what you can” dues structure with a recommended \$75 standard payment and a minimum of \$20. This contrasts with the \$62 fixed rate that individual members pay now.

NEW MEETING & EVENTS DIRECTOR: Kathy Hansen



scheduling conflicts. Kathy Hansen, who served on the Board previously, graciously agreed to assume the duties until elections at our next Annual Meeting.

Kathy assumed her new responsibilities with her typical enthusiasm and competence. We are in good hands.

Please thank Kathy for her willingness to serve our League once again.

COMING SOON: Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition



VOICES & VOTES: DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA

Leesburg Public Library
100 E. Main Street
Leesburg, FL

November 16 through January 11

Gather a group of friends and see this Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition: [Museum on Main Street: on Democracy in America.](#)

< [Learn More](#) >

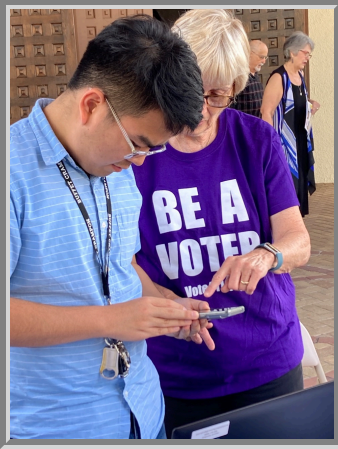
CO-PRESIDENT COLUMN: Making Democracy Work



Our League has been promoting The Case for Focus since October 2022, when we presented our letter to the LWVFL Board explaining why we believe the League's advocacy on non-core issues has limited our ability to reach all voters. We urged them to explore limiting their program to voter empowerment issues.

Imagine our surprise when we discovered this is not a new idea. In 2016, the LWVUS launched the League-wide campaign for [Making Democracy Work](#). It appears to be a well-kept secret. At least LWVTRI and LWVFL were not aware of it.

VOTER SERVICES: Keeping Voters Informed



Our members have been working hard to empower voters during this important election period.

Our League published **Vote411**, gave 27 **presentations** on the Amendments, distributed 6,850 **printed voter guides**, and educated 87 students at **voter registration** events at Beacon College.

< [Read More](#) >

BOARD BRIEFS

The Board reviewed plans for the December 12, 2024 HolidayParty and for November to May monthly meetings.

The Board spent most of the meeting discussing and acting on the LWVUS Consultant's recommended edits of our 501(c)3 Bylaws.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

This fall 24 members educated members of 27 organizations about the Florida amendments, published the general voter guide in Vote411 covering 31 races and 30 ballot initiatives,

delivered 3,500 printer voter guides to libraries and recreation centers, worked two voter registration events, and hosted a Candidate Meet & Greet. A truly high level of involvement in support of our mission of making democracy work.

Please continue reading to see the members who worked on these projects and remember to thank them for their service to our community.

< [Read More](#) >

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Gary & Linda Greene
Sharon McGinnis

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.

December 12
11:30 AM **

Holiday Luncheon at Grand Oaks Bistro **

Speaker: Beverly Steele
Royal, FL Historian
Founder of Royal's Young Performing Artists

January 9

Canvassing Board

Speaker: Honorable Paul Militello
Sumter County Court

February 13

Protecting Voting Rights in Florida

Speaker: Same Coodley
Campaign Manager of *All Voting is Local*

March 13

Program Planning

Discussion: LWVTRI's program for the next fiscal year

April 10

Social Security: Eligibility & Long Term Viability

Speaker: Bernadette Aley
Retired District Director of Social Security Administration

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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