



Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!

August 2020
Volume 14 Issue 5



Co-President Notes

Gail Formanack

Bonnie Field and I attended the virtual LWVUS convention held at the end of June. The Zoom platform was used to conduct the business meeting and present various informational caucus sessions. The meeting went remarkably well considering most users are still learning this technology. LWVUS CEO Virginia Case spoke about the League's ongoing work to battle voter suppression. She said the League has filed or joined 75 cases in the past two years to challenge voter suppression laws and practices. In June 2019, the Supreme Court declined to set a standard to rein in partisan gerrymandering. LWVUS launched the People Powered Fair Maps campaign, a multimillion-dollar, nationwide campaign aimed at creating fair, transparent, people-powered redistricting processes to eliminate partisan and racial gerrymandering. It will be critical to keep an eye on this process in Florida after the results of the 2020 census are known. Our local League board members are reaching out to members to learn if they are comfortable using Zoom as a platform for our meetings until we can safely gather again at Manatee Recreation Center. As the virus continues to spread, I hope you are all staying well and plan to exercise your voice at the polls in the August primary election. Many thanks to the VOTE411 team led by Carol Van Noy and Char Griffin for their work in contacting candidates and getting the information entered.



Co-President Notes

Bonnie Field

Observer's Report

The budget was finally completed on June 29th. One billion dollars of the \$93.2 billion budget was eliminated by the Governor due to the revenue losses to the State by the Covid 19 pandemic. The budget line items

comprising the reduction, mainly affected issues concerning health, social, and water issues on a local level.

Governor DeSantis retained the allocations for two of his priority issues. They were also priorities for the League. Florida Forever, (land conservation), kept \$ 100 million, and the Everglades and other water restoration issues kept \$ 625 million dollars.

Report on the National LWV Convention

Outgoing President Chris Carson and Virginia Kase, CEO wrote a summation of the last two years LWVUS activities regarding the "Transformation Roadmap": The League's master plan for the future. This progress report and their continuing strategic goals were confirmed by the LWVUS Convention, committing to diversity, equity, and inclusion - in word and practice. Continue Reading Bonnie's submission by clicking [HERE](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**EQUALITEA 2020 Edition
Wednesday August 26 1 PM**

This year's EqualiTea will be a Zoom presentation...the new normal this year. Carolyn Ingham has a great presentation planned on "The Women's Vote: What took So Long?" More information and an invite to join the Zoom meeting will be out shortly.

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome our new Members. These bring our membership to 108!



**Terry Wohlner
Linda Kero
Sue Bingel
Robert and Anne Berg
Pat Beerhalter
Christine Loken-Kim**

If you are a new member and you are not able to register for ZOOM Lunch with League, it may be because the changes we put on the LWVUS portal have not been updated yet by LWVF.

Email [Karen West](#) She will send a personal request to have your name and email address added to LWVF database.

Hopefully, as the communications person at LWVF catches up on the

many demands on him, this will be less of a problem.



Be a Voter Campaign

Our League is promoting our 30-second “Be a Voter” videos on social media platforms including Facebook and Snapchat. The videos are targeted for female viewers ages 18-32 who reside in our tri-county area. We hope the videos inspire young women to register and then educate themselves on the issues using VOTE411.org before voting. In addition to boosting viewership through advertising, we are collaborating with an interfaith organization in Lake County which plans to have younger members of their organization push the videos out to their network of friends on social media. View the videos on our website or search “Be a Voter” on YouTube to locate the videos.



VOTER SERVICES

Starting July 15, 2020, you will be able to see the candidates who will be on your August 18, 2020 Primary Election Ballot and their responses to League questions. The 2020 Primary Election League of Women Voters online Voters’ Guide will be published on www.Vote411.org, on Wednesday, July 15. From that day forward, you can go to that website, enter your home address, and click on the green ENTER button. On the next page, click the green bar that offers a personalized ballot. You will see all of the races that will be on your Primary Election Ballot. Click on any race and two candidate profiles will appear. If the candidate responded, a photo, with contact information and that candidate’s responses to League questions will be available. If the candidate did not respond, the candidate’s name and the statement: “Candidate has not yet responded” will appear under a silhouette head shot of a person.

In the meantime, www.Vote411.org has all of the information you need to register to vote or to update your registration.



Open Primaries on Ballot in General Election

Among the amendments on the ballot in November will be the issue of open primaries.

The Florida LWV authorized a study which found that Open Primaries provide access to the broadest slate of candidates which would increase voter participation. The following position was approved by the 2017 League Convention: ***Recommend statewide use of an Open Primary system that would allow for the broadest possible voter participation, including No Party Affiliation and Minor Party***

affiliated voters.

The League will be not only educating the public on this amendment but also advocating for it. Learn more by watching this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqO-9wWoFjI>

Advocates say open primaries would force candidates to appeal to a wider spectrum of voters and will help solve some of the problems with polarization. 42% of registered voters are registered as NPA (no party affiliation) including many millennials. Florida has 3.6 million of these voters. Many elections are decided at the primary level because many some races are uncontested. Open primaries would allow all voters to have a voice in those contests. Please consider educating your family and friends about this important ballot issue.

URGENTLY NEEDED

Want to make a difference? We could use your help.

Although this task takes about an hour a month, it's central to our mission of promoting active participation of citizens in their government .



We need one more person to **check the links** on our website to make sure they are working. This is always important, but as the elections approach it becomes critical. At this time the Supervisors of Elections are updating their county's websites. When they make changes, the links on our website no longer work.

It's easy. It's not time-consuming. It's **vitally important**.

If you want to volunteer, contact [Char Griffin](#)



Speaker's Bureau

Our new normal is Zoom presentations. Here is information on our current presentations. We will have one on the amendments when the fall election gets closer . Meanwhile, check out what is available by clicking [here](#).

Local League on Social Media



**Facebook - League of Women Voters
The Villages Tri County**

Twitter - LWV-TV/Tri

**Snap Chat
League of Women Voters The Villages**



SHIRTS FOR SALE \$10

We have a few remaining Be A Voter Shirts. Contact [Gail](#) if you are interested in reminding people of their civic duty now that the election season is here!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Dues are payable on the **anniversary month** of your joining the League. You will receive an email reminder from **Karen West** (LWVTRImembers@gmail.com) prior to your anniversary date. When you do, please make your check payable to **LWVTRI** and mail it to our **Treasurer, Bernadette Aley, 1106 Monterey Lane, The Villages, Florida 32159**. If you are not sure of your anniversary month, you can contact **Karen West**, LWVTRImembers@gmail.com. Please add Karen's address to your email contact list.

League Website

Our website, LWVTRIFL.org, has a **Members Only** section containing multiple pages:

- the main **Members Only** page has our membership list, minutes from our last Board meeting, an Expense Voucher, our chapter's By-Laws as well as other information
- the **Publications** page is where you can find past newsletters as well as copies of our national and local studies
- the **Voter Guide Archive**
- a **Caught on Camera** page containing candid photos from our events and activities.

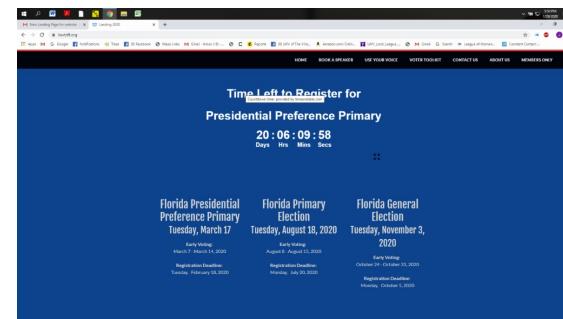
The drop down menu from the Top-Nav allows you to go directly to the page you want to access.

When you select one of these pages, you will be required to provide a password. To gain access to this restricted part of our website, contact our member chair:

Karen West LWVTRImembers@gmail.com

Landing Page

If you haven't been to our website lately, you have missed our new Landing page, lwvtrifl.org, that focuses our visitors on the important information about the upcoming elections.



The page features a countdown clock showing the days, hours, minutes and seconds left to register for the next election. Registration for the Presidential Preference Primary on March 17, has ended. The clock will be updated to alert visitors about registration deadlines for **General Election** on **November 3**. A link to [Vote411](#) is prominently displayed as is the "**Be a Voter**" video targeted to young women to encourage them to vote. The red "**Enter Site**" buttons at the top and bottom of the page take you to our Home page.

Editor Musings The election season is here. Vote 411 is open for the primary season. NOW is the time to make sure your registration is up to date and request a ballot by mail.

If you have a submission for this newsletter, please use the [newsletter email](#). Try to get it to me by the 25th of the month. Thanks!

Yours in the League,
Beth

100 YEARS STRONG

LEAGUE of
WOMEN VOTERS®

LWV

1920 – 2020

100 YEARS STRONG

LEAGUE of
WOMEN VOTERS®

LWV

1920 – 2020

100 YEARS STRONG

LEAGUE of
WOMEN VOTERS®

LWV

1920 – 2020

