



TO PROMOTE POLITICAL  
RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH  
INFORMED AND ACTIVE  
PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN  
GOVERNMENT AND TO ACT ON  
SELECTED GOVERNMENT ISSUES

# THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF TALLAHASSEE

[www.lwvtallahassee.org](http://www.lwvtallahassee.org)

850-309-3005

TALLAHASSEE

VOLUME 18–NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2010

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2010

### 02 Tuesday

Local Government Committee  
Ruth O'Donnell 668-6911

### 04 Thursday 11:30 a.m.

County Charter Review Committee  
Leon County Courthouse 5th floor

### 09 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.

Leon County Commission  
Leon County Courthouse 5th floor

### 10 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.

Tallahassee City Commission  
City Hall

### 11 Thursday 11:30 a.m.

County Charter Review Committee  
Leon County Courthouse 5th floor

### 11 Thursday 4:30 p.m.

Blueprint 2000 Citizen Advisory Comm.  
1311 Executive Denter Drive, Suite 109  
Koger Center

### 16 Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

LWVT Board Meeting  
LWVF Office, Beverly Court

### 17 Wednesday 11:30 a.m.

Hot Topics Luncheon  
Ramada Inn & Conference Center

### 18 Thursday 5:30 p.m.

County Charter Review Committee  
Leon County Courthouse 5th floor

### 23 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.

Leon County Commission  
County Courthouse 5th floor

### 24 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.

City Commission Meeting  
City Hall

### 25 Thursday 3:00 p.m.

Health Care Committee Meeting  
Theresa Chase 2302 Trescott Drive

## HOT TOPICS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

## WHAT'S ON YOUR LEGISLATIVE AGENDA???



Tax Internet purchases!! Bring back the intangibles tax!! Get rid of the class size amendment!! Review current tax exemptions!! No concurrency regulations for developers!! Expand early voting sites!! Get rid of the FCAT!!

These are just a few of the issues that our state legislators will have to deal with during the upcoming session. Representative Michelle Rehwinkel-Vasilinda and Representative Alan Williams will be with us to discuss the upcoming legislative session and answer your questions about legislative issues. Make your reservation today; you don't want to miss this Hot Topics.



**Time:** 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Ramada Inn & Conference Center  
2900 N. Monroe Street

**Lunch:** Salad Medley: Fresh Homemade Chicken Salad, Tuna Salad & Egg Salad, Crisp Garden Salad, with choice of dressing, all served with assorted deli breads & wraps, sliced tomato, sliced onions, mayonnaise, and assorted relishes. Dessert: fresh fruits, fudgy brownies. Beverage.

**Cost:** \$17.00 payable at the door  
**Reservations:** Please call the LWVT Voice Mail (309-3005) by Friday, February 12.

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**Since the League has to pay for all meals ordered, cancellations received after the deadline will be billed for the cost of the lunch.**  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Congratulations!! Redistricting has made the ballot. Amendments 5 and 6 will address the redrawing of Legislative and Congressional districts in Florida after the 2010 census. Floridians collected over 1,650,000 petitions supporting redistricting. With voter approval in November, Amendments 5 and 6 will establish constitutional rules that will:

- Prohibit politicians from designing districts to favor themselves or their parties
- Require them to make the districts compact and community based, and
- Make it impossible for legislators to draw districts to diminish the ability of minority voters to elect representatives.

However, now is not the time to relax. Our job as League members is to educate the public on the benefits of redistricting. We will also be called upon to support the work of Fair Districts financially. For more information on how you can help in the effort, go to [www.FairDistrictsFlorida.org](http://www.FairDistrictsFlorida.org).

Would you like to meet League members from around the state? Do you want to see your legislators in action? Do you want to be present when the Governor issues a formal proclamation celebrating the 90th birthday of the League of Women Voters? Well, we have a deal for you. If you register for Legislative Seminar before March 1, you can have all of this and more. In this VOTER, you will find a registration form for the Seminar. Fill it out and send it in, or go on line and register. Your registration covers a reception at the top of the Capitol, breakfast at the Governor's Club, and a Hot Topics dinner at the Paradigm Restaurant. This is a great opportunity for you to learn more about state government, and you don't have to leave town to do it.

We are following new postal regulations when we send out your VOTER and, in doing so, we have learned that two of our long time members are no longer in the area. George Knight and former Tallahassee League President Bob Kromhout are in poor health and are now living near relatives in other states. They were stalwart members of our League for many years, and they will be missed.

I hope you have been viewing "Unnatural Causes" on WFSU-TV. The Tallahassee League has joined with HEAT (health equity alliance of Tallahassee), WFSU, UF, Leon County, and other groups in viewing and discussing this documentary series over the past month. The films explore socio-economic and racial inequities in health in the United States. Each viewing is followed by a panel discussion and questions and answers from the audience. For more information, contact Board member and Health Committee chair Theresa Chase.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

### AMENDMENT FOUR

**Ballot Summary:** Establishes that before a local government may adopt a new comprehensive land use plan, or amend a comprehensive land use plan, the proposed plan or amendment shall be subject to vote of the electors of the local government by referendum, following preparation by the local planning agency, consideration by the governing body and notice. Provides definitions.



On Friday 15 January at 1:30pm, members of the Tallahassee League of Women Voters Noreen Chase, Linda Davis, Ruth O'Donnell, Barbara Sterling, and Stuart Baker met with Fred Goodnow of the Leon County/Tallahassee Planning Department to view a slide presentation concerning the proposed Amendment Four to the Florida Constitution.

Mr. Goodnow informed us that in Tallahassee-Leon County in the past three years 106 amendments were submitted, 61 were adopted, and there were 8 objections from FDCA.

The purpose of the Amendment, sponsored by Florida Hometown Democracy, Inc. (<http://www.FloridaHometownDemocracy.com>) is to curb excessive and inappropriate development. The contention is that in many cases the local officials, whose responsibility it is to approve changes in comprehensive land use plans are overly influenced by large campaign contributions from developers and thus approve changes that are inappropriate or environmentally destructive.

Opponents raise several objections. One is that the language of the Amendment is vague and could result in voters having to pass judgment on minor changes, often of a highly technical nature, making it difficult for voters to fully understand the issues. Another is that it would require many special elections at considerable cost to taxpayers.

The supporters of the Amendment deny these charges, claiming that minor and technical changes are not covered, and that developers proposing changes to be made before the general elections would be required to pay for the cost of the election. Which side is correct depends, to a large extent, on the interpretation of the actual language of the Amendment, which is likely to be determined through litigation.

Stuart E. Baker

## HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

### HEALTH CARE REFORM AND SOCIAL POLICY

The Board of LWVT has approved the League to sponsor and partner with the local Unnatural Causes initiative. To understand the stated goals of this educational endeavor, which are to influence health and social policies, several health care committee members have attended local community viewings of *Unnatural Causes...is inequality making us sick?*, a four-hour documentary series exploring socio-economic and racial inequities in health. A kick-off event at WFSU on January 8 was followed by four Sunday afternoon community gatherings for viewing the seven episodes of the documentary, with discussion afterwards led by local speakers in the health professions. Some of the thought provoking topics, all supported by significant research, were:

- connections of health to wealth and race
- the race gap in birth outcomes
- diabetes among Native Americans in Arizona
- living environments that harm or enhance general health condition
- chronic stress
- differences in the effects of job loss on the health of residents in the US and Sweden.

According to HEAT (The Health Equity Alliance of Tallahassee), one of several partners who hosted the community screenings, the intent of the screenings is to serve as part of a larger initiative where leading public health, policy and community-based organizations will work together to organize and advocate for policies that promote well-being for everyone. The LWVT is investigating avenues to promote the understanding of these health policy issues through this series. For an in depth look at the series, go to: [www.unnatural-causes.org](http://www.unnatural-causes.org).

We continue to encourage members to closely follow the national Health Care Reform legislation and Take Action through our web site:

[www.lwvtallahassee.org](http://www.lwvtallahassee.org).

If you are interested in joining the efforts of the LWVT health committee, please contact Theresa Chase at [chasetheresav@yahoo.com](mailto:chasetheresav@yahoo.com)

## Summary of January Hot Topics

League member, Dr. Elizabeth McAuliffe, shared her knowledge about poll workers with us at the January Hot Topics. Elizabeth earned her Ph.D in Public Administration at FSU and wrote her dissertation on the motivation of poll workers in Leon County.

Why do people work at the polls? Some of the reasons determined by her research are:

- They have confidence in the Supervisor of Elections Office
- They feel the work they do at the polls is important
- They want to make a difference in society
- Meaningful public service and volunteering are important to them

In Leon County the “typical” pollworker is 67-73 years old, female, white, retired, worked in the public sector and is usually a registered Democrat. Some other interesting facts: she has a bachelor’s degree or higher, an annual household income of 20,000-\$60,000, has worked previous elections, and has lived in Florida more than 20 years.

Why should we care about who works at the polls? Dr. McAuliffe’s conclusions:

- Pollworkers are central to a working U.S. democracy
- The pollworker population is aging, and elections offices have difficulty staffing polls
- Understanding the motivation of pollworkers is critical for recruiting and retaining them

Special from Marilyn Wills, President  
LWVT

During the 2008 elections, a group of Tallahassee League members served as pollworkers during the primary and general elections. We also attended classes on pollworking. Most of us worked in one precinct, and it was our goal to “adopt a precinct” and be responsible for all of the election day activities in that precinct. We donated our “pay” to the League and used it to pay for the four billboards around town that advertised VOTE411.org, the LWVUS web site and our own Voters’ Guide on the local website.

It was a small precinct, and one of the things I noticed was how many of the voters on my lists had voted early. While the early voting sites had long lines,

*cont’d p. 5, HOT TOPICS*

## Summary of Board Meeting

January 17, 2010

Members not current with 2010 dues will be made inactive as of Jan. 31. LWVT annual dues may be raised soon due to an increase in the per member payment to LWVFlorida.

The Health Committee is partnering with the Health Equity Alliance of Tallahassee and WFSU to sponsor education activities around the documentary “Unnatural Causes”. The Board voted to donate \$250 toward the work of this group.

The Local Government committee met with the Leon County/Tallahassee Planning Department to view a presentation on proposed Amendment 4, Hometown Democracy.

Voter Service will develop a program of voter education with candidate forums at the Downtown Marketplace during the summer. The Transportation Study is on hold for the moment.

All are encouraged to attend the Legislative Seminar in March. The cost this year is only \$99, if registered by March 1. Nominations are being accepted at this time for the LWVT Executive Board. If interested in serving, contact any current Board member.

### NEW MEMBER FOR FEBRUARY

Sanford Safron  
3235 Robinhood Rd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32312  
385 -5762  
safron@chem.fsu.edu

### BE SOMEBODY-HELP STILL WANTED

- **Committed Membership Chair**
- **Members for Education Committee**
- **Downtown Market**
- **Watchers for public meetings of interest to the League**



Spread the joy of being an active member. The more persons we have working the less each individual will have to do.



*The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.*

Thomas Jefferson

## HOT TOPICS

the polls on election day did not. According to the Secretary of State Browning, early voting is the reason for Florida having such a smooth election in 2008.

It was a great experience, and I look forward to being a pollworker in August, 2010. I received a card from the Office of the Supervisor of Elections just last week, asking if I would like to work the polls. I quickly filled it out and mailed it back to the office. It is not too early to offer your services as a pollworker for the up-coming elections. The phone number to call is 606-8683.



Ed, Note: Please put it on your calendar to send your experiences as a poll worker to [mlbaker@fsu.edu](mailto:mlbaker@fsu.edu) for the Special March Edition on working at the polls. We want to get the membership interested in working the polls—we need the money. (I am serious about the the funny stuff.)



### Working the polls

#### Training



#### Doing your civic duty



## EDUCATION

House Bill 105 Civic Education, designated the “Sandra Day O’Connor Civics Education Act” is a bill of interest to the League. It is sponsored by Reps. McBurney, Hudson and Kelley and co-sponsored by Adkins, Gurgin, Carrell, Kriseman, Plakon, Jenuart and Zapata.

It provides that beginning with students in grade 6 promotion from middle school (grades 6, 7, 8) requires successful completion of a one semester civics course. This course must cover the roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments, the structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and the meaning and significance of historic documents, such as the Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States.

This bill has been filed, and referred to the PreK-12 Policy Council where it passed 13-0.

LWVT President, Marilyn Wills spoke in favor of the bill at the meeting of the Pre-K-12 Council meeting.

“The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens. We believe that voting is a learned behavior. During the 2006 session, we worked to get civics education included in the middle school requirements. However, there was no requirement that students be assessed in this area. Senator McBurney’s bill does just that, and we support him in this effort. We hope that you will also support this bill.”

The committee passed the bill, and it is now in the House Education Policy Council. There is a companion bill in the Senate – SB1096.

For more details and to read the bill in full, please go to:

[www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov), click on Bills at the top of the page and enter 105 in the Bill Number box.



# LWV® From National

## CITIZENS UNITED DECISION SETS OFF REVOLUTION IN CAMPAIGN FINANCE

### Supreme Court Erred, Decision Undermines Basic Pillar of American Democracy

Washington, DC –The following is a statement by Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters on the Supreme Court’s decision in Citizens United v. FEC. The League filed an amicus brief in this case:

“The Supreme Court has made a tragic mistake. Their decision announced today in Citizens United v. FEC is constitutionally irresponsible and will surely bring about an anti-democratic revolution in how we finance elections in this country. Today, basic pillars of American democracy have been undermined – that elections should not be corrupted by vast corporate wealth and that the voters should be at the center of our democratic system.

“Justice Stevens had it right when he said, in his dissent, ‘The Court’s ruling threatens to undermine the integrity of elected institutions across the Nation. The path it has taken to reach its outcome will, I fear, do damage to this institution.’

“In creating a new constitutional right for corporations to spend unlimited amounts of their shareholder’s money to determine the outcome in candidate elections, the Court has unleashed into our

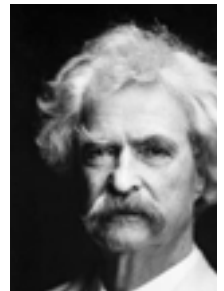
elections tremendous sums of money from for-profit corporations that cannot possibly be matched in quantity by contributions from ordinary citizens. The only possible outcome of this is that big money and special interests will have an even tighter grip on our democracy.

“Congress and the President enacted campaign finance laws over a series of decades for a reason – to protect our democracy from the perverse influence of big money in our elections. In making this decision, the Court has ignored the best interests of the American public and our representative form of government.”

Press Release by Mary G. Wilson, President, League of Women Voters US

Link for amicus brief: [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Campaign\\_Finance\\_Reform&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=14014](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Campaign_Finance_Reform&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=14014)

It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence to practice neither of them.



Mark Twain

## First Call to Convention 2010 From LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson

**WHAT:** The LWVUS 49th National Convention

**WHEN:** June 11-15, 2010

Friday, June 11	Pre-Convention Training	2-5 pm
Saturday, June 12	Briefings	10 am-Noon
	Call to order Convention starts	1 p. m.
Sunday, June 13	All Day	
Monday, June 14	All Day	
Tuesday, June 15	Adjourn	Noon

**WHERE:** Atlanta Marriott Marquis  
265 Peachtree Center Ave, Atlanta Georgia



**REGISTRATION FORM**

**2010 LWVF LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR  
March 22-24, 2010 Hilton Garden Inn Tallahassee Central  
1330 Blairstone Rd, Tallahassee Florida, Tallahassee, FL 32301**

**Complete this form and return it with your check to:  
LWVF, 540 Beverly Court, Tallahassee, FL 32301**

**Or**

**For online Registration & Easy Payment by PayPal go to: [www.lwvfla.org](http://www.lwvfla.org)**

League of Women Voters of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Portfolio \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ First time at Seminar? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE**

**\$99.00**

**Registration Deadline March 1, 2010**

A \$25 Cancellation fee will be charged if cancellation is not received by March 18

Registration fee is for member participants and includes all seminar materials, participation at all seminar activities including reception/dinners on March 22 and 23, breakfast on March 23, 2010 and all seminar events.

**Invited guests, spouses, friends and any League member not attending the full seminar may attend the following receptions/dinners and breakfast only**

Monday, March 22 Reception - Cost per guest	\$45.00 Amount Enclosed _____
Tuesday, March 23 Dinner - Cost per guest	\$45.00 Amount Enclosed _____
Tuesday, March 23 Breakfast - Cost per guest	\$30.00 Amount Enclosed _____

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS ARE TO BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH THE HILTON GARDEN IN, TALLAHASSEE CENTRAL AT 1-850-893-8300, by March 1, 2010. Ask for in-house reservations and tell them you are making reservations with the League of Women Voters Group. Room rate is \$132.05 + tax (single or double).**



Non-Profit Orgn.  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 149  
Tallahassee FL

League of Women Voters of Tallahassee  
P. O. Box 10216  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-2216

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(please, print legibly)

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\$100 Susan B. Anthony Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$75 Household Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$50 Individual Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 Student Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$5 for the LWVF Lobby Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Gift to the LWVUS Education Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (tax deductible)

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to LWV of Tallahassee.

Mail to: LWVT, P.O. Box 10216, Tallahassee, FL 32302

You may also renew/join online at [www.lwvtallahassee.org](http://www.lwvtallahassee.org). (There is a \$2.00 charge for using PayPal.)