



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  
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Tallahassee

Volume 20 Number 1

January 2012

**In This Issue**

[Paper Voter Opt Out](#)

[Local Government & Transportation Study](#)

[Special Donations](#)

[Join the League!](#)

**Save the Date!**

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT**  
**February 21-23, 2012**  
**Tues. 5 pm to Thurs. 5 pm**  
\$99 registration

The LWVF Legislative Summit is always fascinating and highly informative --a truly great way to become more involved in supporting the League.

LWVT has budgeted sponsorships to pay registration for a few LWVT members who have never before attended.

If you are interested in attending, please email: [lwvtallahassee@gmail.com](mailto:lwvtallahassee@gmail.com).

**January Events**

5 Thursday 3:00 p.m.  
Health Care Committee  
Theresa Chase  
2299 Trescott Drive

10 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.  
Leon County School Board  
Howell Center

**Hot Topics: Dinner & Districts**

The 2012 legislative session is underway and legislators are focusing on the once in a decade task of redrawing Legislative and Congressional district lines. Past redistricting efforts have resulted in bizarrely shaped districts designed to favor incumbents and political parties.



The League of Women Voters of Florida's lobbyist Ben Wilcox has been following the 2012 process closely and at the League's next Hot Topics dinner he'll explain how the legislature's doing as it attempts to comply with the new anti-gerrymandering requirements of Amendments 5 & 6. He'll also talk about the legislature's progress on other issues of concern to the League including elections and the state budget.

**Take Note:** *Though we have traditionally done Hot Topics at lunchtime, we're holding this meeting at the dinner hour.*

**Date & Time**     **JANUARY 18, 2012** Wednesday evening  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Location**        **Brokaw-McDougall House**  
329 N. Meridian St., Tallahassee 32301

**Meal**     \$20     Caesar Salad with Grilled Chicken or Shrimp  
plus choice of assorted sandwiches and wraps

FOR RESERVATIONS     PLEASE CALL 309-3005  
or     EMAIL [LWVTallahassee@gmail.com](mailto:LWVTallahassee@gmail.com)

please RSVP     by Sunday evening, January 15

*Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled after January 15, those who cancel late should reimburse the League for their meal's cost.*

3955 W. Pensacola  
Street

10 Tuesday 6:30 p.m.  
Environmental Board  
Meeting  
Renaissance Center 1<sup>st</sup>  
floor

11 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.  
City Commission Meeting  
City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

12 Thursday 7:00 p.m.  
Local Government  
Committee  
Ruth O'Donnell  
3509 Trillium Court

16 Martin Luther King  
Day

17 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.  
LWVT Board Meeting  
LWVF Office, Beverly  
Court

18 Wednesday 6:30 p.m.  
Hot Topics Supper  
Brokaw-McDougall  
House  
329 N. Meridian Street

23 Monday 1:00 p.m.  
CRTPA Meeting  
City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

24 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.  
Leon County  
Commission  
County Courthouse 5<sup>th</sup>  
floor

24 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.  
Leon County School  
Board  
Howell Center  
3955 W. Pensacola  
Street

25 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.  
City Commission Meeting  
City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

## President's Message

I wish you all a very Happy New Year!

My hope for the League this new year is **balance**. I hope we will dream big (about what we can do together in League) and that our ambitions will be balanced by our commitment to step up and implement our vision with excellence.

As a musician and one who loves to dance, I reflect a lot on the physical mechanics of balance. Balance requires **flexibility** and **focus**. I think our League excels in flexibility, for example we've readily done many things differently this year in search of what might work better (including holding our Hot Topic at night this month in order to make it easier for our working members to attend). I also believe we strive for focus, but in having great ambitions, we can easily spread ourselves a little thin.

In League, focus comes from carefully planning for our next year's **Program**--a process which begins now and would benefit from your active input. "Program" in League is the set of advocacy positions and actions we commit to take. Formulating a Program starts with members like you forwarding to the board your desires for what the League should do in the coming year(s). The board assesses the collected ideas, including prior studies and positions, then publishes a recommended Program in the Voter newsletter a month before our annual meeting in April 2012, where the membership votes to amend and/or approve the Program.

Program ideas have already been percolating at the national level in anticipation of the upcoming LWVUS meeting this summer: members of the Washington DC League want the LWVUS to focus on reversing the increasing criminalization of our population; a member of our Tallahassee League emailed me to ask if the LWVUS would be supporting a constitutional amendment stating a corporation is not a person and money is not speech. Ideas like this make it to the national League's board when you make them known to your Tallahassee board, who then communicates them to national.

At the local level, we're going to take a deep look at our current Program this January through March. I encourage you to get directly involved in this process. What should our Study and Action Groups (Healthcare, Local Government, Education) and Voter Services be focusing upon? What should be their scope of inquiry and action? As you consider what LWVT should continue, change or start doing, please review our current Program for 2011, which is published starting on page 3 of the [March 2011 Voter archived online...](#)

...then let me and your board know what you're thinking by clicking this link to send us an email: [lwvtallahassee@gmail.com](mailto:lwvtallahassee@gmail.com).

-Rebecca Sager  
President, LWVT



## Welcome, new member!

Carmen Trammell  
~ who joined the LWVT at the Holiday Luncheon ~

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## Opt Out

The Voter newsletter has now made the transition to a beautiful, well-integrated digital format. The electronic version is also more colorful, arrives days before the paper Voter, costs much less, and uses far fewer natural resources to produce.

If you would like to opt out of the traditional paper Voter (the one that arrives by regular mail), then please send an email to [lwtallahassee@gmail.com](mailto:lwtallahassee@gmail.com) with "Opt Out" in the subject line.

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## Local Government: Transportation Study

Local Government continues to work on the state League Transportation Study. At our November meeting, we analyzed the notes taken at an interview with Harry Reid, Director of the Capitol Region Transportation Planning Agency. Mr. Reid has also spoken at a League Hot Topics earlier this year. The Agency, or CRTPA, is the Capitol Region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and responsible for coordinating transportation planning. It was involved in planning for the W. Tennessee Street pilot project we are studying, as well as in many other recent and planned road changes.

CRTPA is also responsible for several important transportation-related documents, among them the FY 2012 - 2016 Transportation Improvement Program and the FY 2012 - 2017 CRTPA Transportation Priority Project List. Links to these and other documents are available at [http://www.crtpa.org/Documents\\_Projects.html](http://www.crtpa.org/Documents_Projects.html).

Ruth O'Donnell and Marilyn Wills met in December with officials involved in the Moving Tallahassee Plan and the W. Tennessee Street pilot project: Meghan Doherty, Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department, Gabriel Menendez and Steve Shafer, City of Tallahassee Public Works, Sam Scheib, STARMETRO, and Jack Kostrzewa, CRTPA. We were provided with a lot of written information and the group was most helpful in answering our questions. Among the things we learned was the proposed timeline for the W. Tennessee Street pilot project from December forward:

- December 2011: Hold four community meetings in different areas of the Mobility District to present plans for Moving Tallahassee: Cars Optional, including the W. Tennessee Street pilot project and gather community input (Ruth O'Donnell, Jan Rubino, Rebecca Sager, and Marilyn Wills each attended a meeting)
- January 2012: General community meeting, January 12, City Hall (will be announced in the newspaper and on the City web site)
- February: Present Mobility District plans, including the W. Tennessee Street pilot project, to the City commission for approval
- May 2012: Begin restriping of the section of W. Tennessee Street that will be used for the pilot
- August 2012: Begin collecting data for the pilot project; one year of data will be collected, analyzed and used to determine whether the changes should be made permanent when the Florida Department of Transportation resurfaces W. Tennessee Street in 2014

The next steps for the Transportation Study will be to write a research report that will be sent to the Florida LWV coordinator of the study and shared with Tallahassee League members. Meetings with City Commissioners to support the W. Tennessee Street pilot project are also being considered. We hope to do our consensus meetings in March 2012.

The Local Government Study and Action meets again on January 12 at Ruth O'Donnell's home, 3509 Trillium Ct.

***Y'all come and learn more about Moving Tallahassee and the pilot project!***

## A Big Thank You, to Tallahassee League

12-7-11

Linda,

Thank you so much for participating with us on America Recycles Day. I hope you had a successful day and were able to talk to many people. I hope you can join us again next year.

~Carole

a. k. a.

Rhonda Renee Recycles

A big thank you sent to Linda Davis from "Rhonda Renee Recycles" for LWVT's participation in America Recycles Day.

We thought you'd like to see it.



## Education Consensus a Great Learning Experience for LWVT

Many thanks to our 'fearless four' members of the Education Study and Action Group who diligently prepared the presentations at the Consensus Meeting: Shirley Ellis, Cynthia Gardner- Williams, Margie Thomas, and Elmira Delores Valdez. Many thanks go also to Marilyn Wills, who ably led the consensus discussion, and to M.L. Baker, who launched the comprehensive study last summer by the Education Committee and without whose leadership LWVT would not have participated in the national study.

Margie Thomas, with Marilyn Wills' assistance, compiled the results from typed notes and audio recordings of the consensus meetings made by Christy Crotty and myself. Our local results have been sent to the LWVUS and we look forward to hearing the results of the national consensus before the

summer.

Twenty local members joined the conversation, including two very new members. In addition to those mentioned above, in no particular order, were:

Janet Findling, Peggy Ramsey, Laura Cook, Barney Cook, Carlos Boueres,  
Theresa Chase, Martha Stewart, Sue Gross, Pat Ramsey, Linda Davis,  
Stuart Baker, Kathy Winn, Jason Flom

It was a bit grueling for some of us who worked at both sessions, perhaps also for those who only attended one of the two sessions, but at the end of the day,

*it was very gratifying to have had the opportunity to sit down together,  
facts before us,  
and discuss how we would change the world.*

-Rebecca Sager

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

(Please Print Legibly)

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please Circle Annual Membership Level

(May 1, 2011 - April 30, 2012)

\$100.00 Susan B. Anthony membership \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 90.00 Household membership \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 60.00 Individual membership \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 30.00 Student membership \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$5.00 for LWVF Lobby Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Additional gift to LWVUS Education Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle any topics  
that interest you:

Voter Services

Local Government

Fundraising

Health Care

Lobby Corps

Sustainability/Natural Resources

Publicity

Membership

Hot Topics

Education

Hospitality/Events

Please make all checks payable to LWV of Tallahassee. Mail to LWVT, P. O. Box10216, Tallahassee, FL 32302-2216. You may also renew/join at [www.lwvtallahassee.org](http://www.lwvtallahassee.org). There is a \$2.00 charge for using PayPal.