



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 7

SEPTEMBER 2010

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**08 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.**

Local Government Committee  
Ruth O'Donnell 668-6911

**13 Monday 6:30 p.m.**

LWVT Board Meeting  
LWVF Office, Beverly Court

**14 Tuesday 12:00 p.m.**

Workshop on Health Care Reform  
Leon County Courthouse, 5th floor

**14 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.**

Public Hearing  
Leon County Courthouse, 5th floor

**14 Tuesday 7:00 p.m.**

Lecture Health Reform  
FSU College of Medicine  
1115 W. Call St. Main Auditorium

**15 Wednesday 11:30 a.m.**

Hot Topics Luncheon  
Holiday Inn & Suites  
2725 Graves Road

**15 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.**

Tallahassee City Commission  
City Hall, 2nd floor

**20 Monday 1:00 p.m.**

CRTPA Meeting  
City Hall, 2nd floor

**21 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.**

Leon County Commission  
Leon Court Courthouse, 5th floor

**23 Thursday 3:00 p.m.**

Health Care Committee Meeting  
Theresa Chase 2299 Trescott Drive

**29 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.**

City Commission Meeting  
City Hall, 2nd floor

**29 Wednesday 6:00 p.m.**

Public Hearing on budget  
City Hall, 2nd floor

## HOT TOPICS LUNCHEON

**Wednesday, September 15, 2010**

### REDISTRICTING—WHY IT SHOULD MATTER TO YOU!!!

We are fortunate to have Leon County Supervisor of Elections Ion Sancho as our speaker this month. Mr. Sancho has been our Supervisor since January, 1989 and is responsible for Leon County having the highest voter turnout in the state as well as glitch free elections. Of course, we all are familiar with his reputation as one of the best in his field, and today we are asking him to give us a history of redistricting in Florida and why it is so important to us as voters and citizens of this state. This is a crucial time for redistricting; new voting districts will be drawn in 2012. The League has partnered with FairDistrictsFlorida.org to get redistricting guidelines on the 2010 ballot as amendments to the Florida Constitution. Redistricting reform should be #1 on every voter's agenda.



**Time:** 11:30 a. m. – 1:00 p. m.

**Place:** Holiday Inn and Suites  
2725 Graves Road  
(Just north of I10 on N. Monroe)

**Lunch:** New York Deli Buffet  
Dessert, Iced tea and Coffee.

**Cost:** \$20.00 payable at the door

**Reservations:** Please call the LWVT Voice Mail (309-3005) by Friday, September 11.

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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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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The August 24th primary election brought an end to a frenzied month of political activity. We had two successful Bandwagon nights at WFSU, and two informative candidate forums that we sponsored as a member of Big Bend Environmental Forum. Our online Voter's Guide, Vote411Leon.org, is up and running; there is information about the candidates for local and state offices on the site. Our Voter Service Chairs, Janet Findling and Rebecca Sager have done an outstanding job this voting season. Many thanks to all the League members who came out to help at WFSU and City Hall, and a special thanks to Amy Mann and Ruth O'Donnell who coordinated all the refreshments. Voters were both informed and fed.



Andrew Jubal Smith of the Apalachicola Riverkeeper was our August Hot Topics Speaker. He gave us much needed information about their work in Franklin County; the Riverkeeper group is responsible for coordinating all the volunteer efforts in the aftermath of the BP oil spill. We are all invited to participate in the Franklin County Coastal Cleanup on September 25, 2010. If you would like more information about this activity or others, go to [apalachicolariverkeeper.org](http://apalachicolariverkeeper.org).

Along with our September 15 Hot Topics, there is another date we would encourage you to keep. On September 14, at 7:00 p.m., Dr. Kenneth Brummel Smith will be discussing the new Health Care Reform Bill—what it will and will not do. Our League along with the Capital City PNHP, and the Center for Inquiry are sponsoring the event at the FSU College of Medicine. There is plenty of free parking and just a short walk to the auditorium. I hope you will be there.

In October, these same groups will be sponsoring a Book Club Discussion on T.R. Reid's book, "The Healing of America." Get a copy of the book, and start reading.

Do you have a Vote411Leon.org yard sign yet? We want to advertise our Voter's Guide around the county and need as many League members as possible to put up a yard sign. We will collect them after the election, and reuse them in the next election cycle. Email me at [marilynnwills@msn.com](mailto:marilynnwills@msn.com), and I will deliver your sign.

And, don't forget the Downtown Market; there are many new people in town who need to be registered to vote, and many of them are strolling through the market on Saturday morning. Voters also need information about redistricting, the new health plan, and the amendments. This is a busy time for the League; it is our responsibility to inform as many members of the electorate as possible. That's why we are League members. Email Peggy Ramsey at [ramsey020@comcast.net](mailto:ramsey020@comcast.net) and sign up for a Saturday,

We will be answering phones during the WFSU-TV fall fund drive on October 22, 2010. If you would like to volunteer for a two hour session, please email me at [marilynnwills@msn.com](mailto:marilynnwills@msn.com).

## HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

**You are invited to participate in following upcoming events:**

**Tuesday, September 14, 2010, 7:00 p.m.:**

*Health Reform 2010: The GOOD, the BAD, and the UGLY* presented by Dr. Ken Brummel-Smith, Chairman, Geriatrics Department, FSU College of Medicine, to be held at the **FSU College of Medicine Main Auditorium**, 1115 W. Call Street, Tallahassee. Sponsored by the Capital City Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program, the Tallahassee League of Women Voters, and Center for Inquiry of Tallahassee. Please spread the word! Your presence and questions are eagerly anticipated.

**Wednesday, October 13, 2010, 6:00 pm:**

Open book discussion of *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper and Fairer Health Care* by T.R. Reid (Penguin Press, 2009) to be held at the **Leon County Public Library**, 200 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee. You are encouraged to read the book and participate in the discussion of this interesting first-person description of the world's health care systems. This event is sponsored by the Capital City Chapter - PNHP, Tallahassee League of Women Voters and Center for Inquiry of Tallahassee.



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**SUIT OVER STATE'S EDUCATION FUNDING MAY MOVE AHEAD TO TRIAL**

Article by Christopher Curry  
chris.curry@gvillesun.com

from *The Gainesville Sun*, August 27, 2010

A lawsuit challenging state government's public education funding and policies as unconstitutional may move ahead to trial, a circuit judge in Leon County ruled Thursday.

Plaintiffs including the Alachua County-based political action committee Citizens for Strong Schools and Orange County's Fund Education Now, argue that the Legislature and the Florida Board of Education have violated a constitutional requirement to make the provision of a "high quality system of free public education" the "paramount duty" of the state.

That language was added to the Florida Constitution in a 1998 referendum approved by 71% of the voters.

The lawsuit challenges the state's reliance on standardized testing, specifically the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, in evaluating students and schools. It also highlights the gradual shift in the burden of funding public education from state government to local school districts and the reduction in per-pupil funding.

In the 2000-01 school year, state government provided 62% of the funding. That dropped to 44% by the 2009-10 school year. Funding per pupil, meanwhile went from \$8,567 in 2006-07 school year to \$6,873 in 2009-10. Poor student performance on the Grade 10 FCAT for reading, the state's low graduate rate compared with most other states in the country and low teacher pay were also highlighted in the legal challenge.

State government sought to have the suit dismissed, arguing that the plaintiffs had no legal standing to bring a suit, that the judicial branch lacked the authority to determine if the state had met the constitutional requirement and that the Legislature had immunity.

In denying the state's motion, Circuit Judge Jackie L. Fulford wrote that the state's argument was "ultimately" that the "Legislature has absolute discretion to implement any system, checked only by the ballot box.

"This conclusion renders the citizens' vote to create a new education article as meaningless and this provision a nullity," Fulford wrote of the state's defence.

Quoting a Florida Supreme Court decision in a 2006 case, Jenkins wrote that the constitutional language on which the lawsuit is based was put in place exactly "to provide standards by which to measure the adequacy of the public education provided by the state."

In a press release Thursday, Mark McGriff, chairman of Citizens for Strong Schools, praised the decision.

"I'm very glad that we'll have our day in court," McGriff said.

The state has not fulfilled the wishes of Florida's voters when it comes to supporting public education, and it should be held accountable."

There 'is no timetable for when the case will go to trial. The lawsuit seeks to require the state to formulate a "remedial plan" to comply with the constitutional requirement.



*HEALTH CARE REFORM  
2010*

*The GOOD, the BAD, and the  
UGLY*

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 7:00 P.M.  
FSU COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
1115 W. CALL STREET**

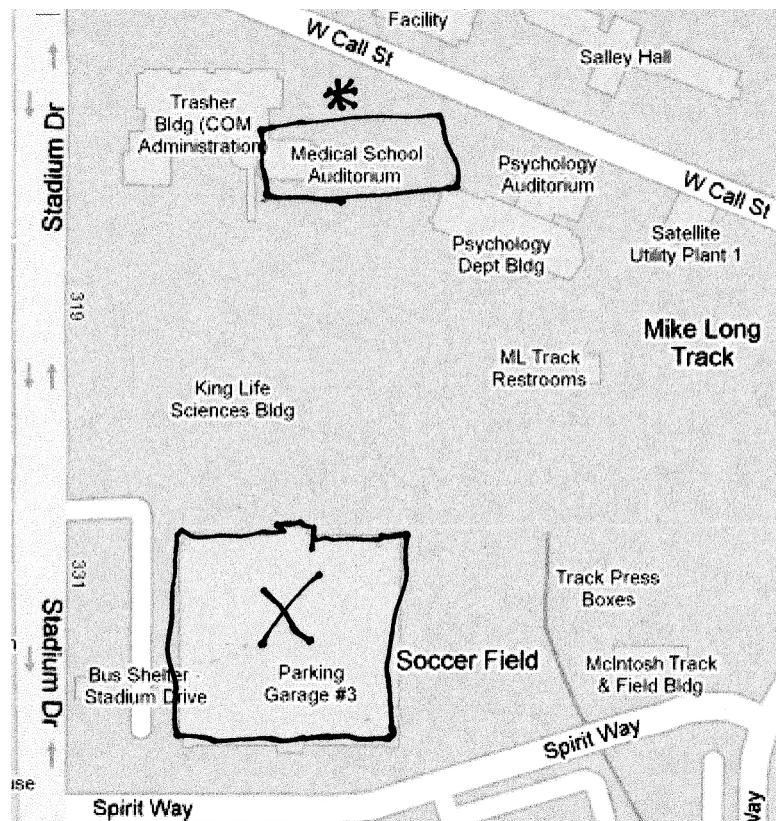
Presentation and discussion of the implications of the health care reform bill, what the law will and will not do.

Kenneth Brummel-Smith, M.D., Chair, Department of Geriatrics, FSU College of Medicine

Park at the X, Parking Garage #3.

Presentation will be in the Medical School Auditorium--Marked on the map with \*.

SPONSORED BY: Capital City Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program, League of Women Voters of Tallahassee and Center for Inquiry Tallahassee



## **BANDWAGON 2010 & CANDIDATES ENVIRONMENTAL FORUMS**

This article should have been in the last VOTER, but I was in TMH and then at home flat on my bed with a fractured spine. But our League members came through. Ruth O'Donnell took the lead at organizing volunteers to bring the refreshments for the two nights of Bandwagon 2010 at the WFSU studio and Amy Mann did the same for the two Candidates Environmental Forums at City Hall. Rebecca Sager typed some documents for me since the awful brace I have to wear for three months makes sitting at my computer very painful. She also went to Tom Brown Park on July 4th to collect needed information from the candidates while I was hospitalized. The following people assisted by contributing food, working in the WFSU kitchen, lobby (signing in candidates and their sign carriers), or studio, and at the candidates forum helping with the food or League exhibit or assisting with the questions: Theresa Chase, Linda Davis, Ruth Findling, Natholyn Harris, Mimi Jones, Amy Mann, Dot Mann, Ruth O'Donnell, Barbara Rollins, Rachel Sutz Pienta, Rebecca Sager, Dot Skofronick, Gaynell Waldo, Marilyn Wills, Kathy Winn, and Gale Workman. For those of you who worked two, three, or four evenings, an extra thanks.

For those who are new, Bandwagon 2010 is cosponsored by the League and WFSU, is televised on Comcast Cable 2 (4FSU) live and the two shows are replayed nine times each, plus being available at any time on WFSU's website. All local candidates on the primary election ballot were invited. On Monday, August 2, Leon County candidates plus candidates for U.S. Congress, Florida Senate, and Florida House presented. Candidates from Wakulla and Gadsden Counties plus the five running for Circuit Judge presented on August 3. Each candidate was allowed to have a maximum of 15 supporters holding 15 campaign signs. Each candidate is given three minutes to speak after a 20-25 second introduction by the moderators. When the three minutes are up, the candidate's microphone is turned off and the Barbershop quartet starts singing if the candidate had not ended his or her speech on time. Bandwagon reminds many people of

an old-fashioned political rally in a park.

Because fewer runoffs will take place in November, WFSU has decided to have Bandwagon 2010 on one evening rather than two. Please mark Monday, October 4, on your calendar. Again we will need League members to fill the volunteer responsibilities described above. If you want to assist with the food, you need to be at the WFSU studio by 5:30 P.M. The other volunteers' check-in time is 6:00 P.M. If you cannot help that evening but want to contribute in some way, food would be appreciated. If someone who has a large refrigerator and/or freezer would be willing to serve as the collector of food, I will tell you where you need to take your creation. If you do not want to volunteer because you don't want to miss seeing the show, that cannot be your excuse! In the lobby, kitchen, and downstairs lobby where we serve refreshments, televisions will be on playing Bandwagon live. You also will receive a list of the replay times.

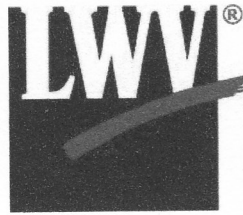
The Candidates Environmental Forum was cosponsored by the Big Bend Environmental Forum (a coalition of groups concerned with environmental and historical preservation issues) and the League. The candidates are asked questions written by a BBEPF committee and the audience. On Thursday, August 5, city and county commission candidates were questioned; on August 12, candidates for Florida House and Senate and U.S. Congress were "tested." From 5:45 until 6:30 P.M., voters could have some of our great refreshments, look at the various exhibits of member organizations (including the League) and visit with the candidates. The actual forum was 6:30 until 9:00. On Thursday, October 7, a similar forum will take place with the candidates on the November ballot invited. Again we will need food and help setting up the food tables and the League table. I may be in charge of contacting the candidates, so I may need assistance with that task. Any assistance you can give us regarding getting a large crowd there would be appreciated. In the past, this event has had the largest audience of all of the many forums. A big crowd sends a message to the candidates that environment is a vital issue to many. Hope to hear from many of you.

Janet Findling, Voter Services Co-chair

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*Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better.*

Richard Hooker



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

**90 Years of Women Voting: Now for our Next Battle!**

Today we celebrate the generations of women and men who won a social revolution without ever firing a shot. It is the 90th anniversary of when women got the right to vote in our democratic nation.

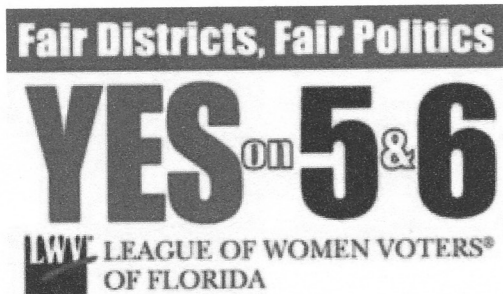
*But we're not hanging up our banners yet...there is another battle that needs to be waged...*

Now we have a new battle for good, fair government in Florida...and I'm asking for your help. We have two months. Two months to persuade more than 60% of Florida voters to SAY YES to FairDistricts Amendments 5 and 6. Will you help?

### **CALL TO ACTION:**

1. Today, please call or email 5 or 6 friends and urge them, in the spirit of our suffragette ancestors, to vote YES on FairDistricts Amendments 5 & 6 this November.

2. Call 850 224-2545 to order our Fair Districts Sticker for \$1  
As Susan B. Anthony said: "**Failure is not an option!**"



3. If you haven't already seen the movie "Iron Jawed Angels," consider renting it this weekend for an inspiring look back in time.

## **VOTER SERVICES-YARD SIGNS**

Voter Services has developed a multifaceted plan to advertise our online Voters' Guide. Some of you may have seen/heard the public service spots on TV and public radio.

Another aspect of the campaign is yard signs, some of which you may have seen around town. We have more to distribute and would love some volunteers willing to put a sign in their yard. You may have several to put in friends' yards!

If you are willing to do this, please call me at 386-7589 and I will bring you as many signs as you want!  
Thanks for your assistance in helping to educate voters!

## BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

OCTOBER 13, 2010, 6 PM

LEON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

200 WEST PARK AVENUE, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301

***THE HEALING OF AMERICA: A GLOBAL QUEST FOR BETTER, CHEAPER, AND FAIRER HEALTH CARE, BY T.R. REID.***

You are encouraged to read the book and participate in the discussion. Please come and discuss this interesting first-person description of the world's health care systems.

**Sponsored by the Capital City Chapter – PNHP, League of Women Voters of Tallahassee, and Center for Inquiry of Tallahassee**

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

## DOWNTOWN MARKET

August Saturdays at the Market were very fruitful, thanks to Marilynn Wills (twice!), Fran Campbell, Christy Crotty, and Betty Kozumplik. Weather in September should be a bit more comfortable....

Please take a look at the Saturday dates and let me know if you have time to do one or more!

September 4

September 11

September 18

September 25

Voter registration and distribution of the Vote-411leon.org flyers are the main activities at this time. It is also a good chance to talk about the work of the League. A woman approached the table this morning and said, “I want membership information. I work for the Legislature, but when I retire next year I am joining you!” A nice testimony to what we do!

If you have never volunteered for the Market, a veteran will work with you the first time, so don't be nervous! You may reply to this email, or call me. Thank you very much.

Peggy Ramsey  
386-7589

Few things are as immutable as the addiction of political groups to the ideas that have once won them office.

John Kenneth Gailbraith

## BE SOMEBODY-HELP STILL WANTED

- MEMBERS FOR EDUCATION COMMITTEE
- DOWNTOWN MARKET
- WATCHERS FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO THE LEAGUE

To volunteer, contact

Marilynn Wills President: marilynnwills@msn.

com

Rebecca Sager, Vice President: rsager@music.org

Peggy Ramsey, Secretary/Treasurer: ramsey020@



## SPECIAL PLEADING

The Education Committee is just getting started, really, and would like to have more members. We monitor the School Board meetings, keep a cutting file of articles from available newspapers about what is going on in the schools in Leon Count, the State of Florida and the U. S.

The members keep track of trends and happenings by monitoring web sites with information about what is going on in the world of education and educational research.

We read and share books about education and we meet when we can to discuss these books and other issues affecting our schools.

We worked on monitoring SB 6 during the last legislative session. It will probably be back this year. We plan to study this bill carefully as it may return in the 2011 legislative session.

If any of these activities interest you, please call or e-mail me.

M. L. Baker

Education Committee Chair

mlbaker@fsu.edu:893-5013

or

Marilynn Wills President: marilynnwills@msn.com

Peggy Ramsey, Secretary/Treasurer: ramsey020@



We class schools you see, Leading School, First-Rate School, Good School, and School.

Evelyn Waugh

That is in England. In Florida it's A, B, C, D, F.





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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE  
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 (please, print legibly)

\$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.)