

New Member Handbook 2026-2027



LWV Tallahassee
1400 Village Square Blvd., Suite 3, Box 115
Tallahassee, FL 32312-1231

850-309-3005

www.lwvtallahassee.org



Contents

Introduction to the League of Women Voters	4
Purposes and Principles	4
Nonpartisan Policy	5
Nonpartisan Policy Applicable to the Board of Directors, and Certain Committee Chairs	5
Membership	6
LWV of Tallahassee Board of Directors	6
What the League Does	7
Speaking with One Voice for the League	7
Program	7
Study and Action	7
Study, Consensus and Concurrence	7
Engagement Opportunities	8
League Action on Issues	8
Local/State Advocacy	8
Elections & Voting Rights	8
Citizen Information	9
Community and Campus Outreach	9
Meetings and Regularly Scheduled Events	9
Board Meetings	9
Annual Membership Meeting	9
Holiday Brunch	9
Hot Topic Events	9
Communications and Publications	10
Defender of Democracy	10
Appendix One: LWVT Principles	11
Appendix Two: LWVT Officers and Directors	12
Appendix Three: LWVT & State Committees; Local Coalitions	13
Appendix Four: LWVT Program	14
Appendix Five: Local League Positions	16
Charter Government	16
Comprehensive Plan	16
Consolidation	17

Transportation.....	17
Study of Primary Election Styles.....	18

Introduction to the League of Women Voters

Congratulations on your decision to join the League of Women Voters, **100+ Years Strong**. You now belong to one of the nation's most widely recognized, respected and effective citizen organizations in the country. ***The LWV Tallahassee was formed in 1956 and held its 70th Anniversary celebration in 2026.***

When you join the league you become a **member** at all three levels: the local Tallahassee League (LWVT), the League of Women Voters of Florida (LWVFL) and the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS).

In the League, we are not all organizers or speakers. We do not all think alike or support the same political party. Some of us have the time and energy to be active members, while others have little spare time. At different times in our lives we have different assets to offer. But together we have the intelligence, skills, energy, and enough time that, when put together, make up an important, effective, and purposeful grassroots organization.

In short, the League can help you be an interested, informed, and effective citizen and you can help the League. This is your League. The more time and talent you invest, the more you will gain from being a **member**. Be actively engaged and involved regardless your level of physical involvement; there is no shortage of opportunities for planners, thinkers, and doers.

When you are ready to get involved, please fill out [this short interest form](#). We will contact you directly.

Purposes and Principles

Mission: Empowering Voters; Defending Democracy

Vision: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

Values: We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan **political** organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through two very distinct roles: education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund works to encourage the active and informed participation of citizens in government and to increase understanding of major public policy issues. Donations to the Education Fund are tax deductible.

The League adheres to principles or concepts of government. The League Principles serve two functions:

- 1) authorization for adoption of national, state, and local programs; and

2) as a basis for acting at the national, state, and local level.

The Principles are in **Appendix One** of this handbook.

Nonpartisan Policy

Updated November 18, 2020, LWVT Board of Directors

In 1920, The League of Women Voters made a choice: The League would neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate for public office. This decision continues today to ensure that the League's voice is heard above the tumult of party politics. This nonpartisan policy has added strength to the League's positions on issues and has made wide acceptance of League voter service and other educational activities possible.

At the same time, the League is a political organization and encourages **members** to participate fully in the political party of their choice, to run for office, to contribute their time, finances, energy in support of candidates as well as to be active generally in the governmental process. It is an advantage to the League to have politically active **members**. For its active **members**, it can be a personally satisfying experience.

Our nonpartisan policy is the cornerstone of our Voter Service program: candidates appear at our events because they trust our forums will be fair and impartial and they know they will be treated with respect. Candidates give information to the League because they know it will not be used for partisan purposes. This reputation for fairness and independence accounts for the confidence placed in our positions by interested citizens, other organizations, and the media.

While the League urges its **members** to be politically active, certain constraints are necessary in order to maintain our nonpartisan policy, which has always been a major source of strength for the League. For example, **all members** should refrain from displaying League membership (buttons, banners, clothing, etc.) and simultaneously indicating her/his/their political affiliation or candidate preferences or endorsements.

Nonpartisan Policy Applicable to the Board of Directors, and Certain Committee Chairs

The Officers and Directors comprising the Board of Directors (the Board) recognizes that because of close identification with the League, each Board Member has a special responsibility to see that his/her/their activities do not create a partisan impression.

- **Elected Office.** Board Members may not run for nor hold any elective office.
- **Political Party Office.** Board Members shall not serve in any elected position in a political party.
- **Campaign Contributions.** The **President**, **Vice Presidents**, and the **Voter Services**, **Lobby Corps**, and **Local Government Chairs** may not attend fundraising events or make campaign

contributions for candidates. Other Board Members may attend fundraising events and make campaign contributions for candidates at any level.

- **Political Campaigns.** The **President**, **Vice Presidents**, and the **Voter Services, Lobby Corps**, and **Local Government Chairs** shall not chair or administer fundraising or political campaigns, chair a campaign event or work in a significant way in the campaign of a candidate for office at any level. Other Board Members may not undertake such activities for candidates for local office, but may do so for candidates for federal or state office.
- **Social and Other Media.** Board Member shall not indicate her/his/their political affiliation or candidate preferences or endorsements at any level of government in the media, including on social networking sites or other public venues that also prominently identify her/him/they as a member of the League or LWVT Board.
- The **President**, **Vice Presidents** and the **Voter Services, Lobby Corps**, and **Local Government Chairs** may attend free political party events for information only.
- The political activity of a spouse or relative of a Board Member is considered separate and distinct from the activities of the Board Member.

Members shall present questions about specific situations to the Board if this policy does not resolve the question.

Membership

- **Any person** who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League of Women Voters shall be eligible for membership.
- The minimum age for **voting membership** is sixteen.
- Joining automatically makes you a **member** of our local, our state, and national league. You may participate, attend meetings and apply for leadership positions at any level.
- **Associate members** of a League are those who are under 16 years of age; or are voting members of another League.

A **member** of one League is welcome to volunteer with or donate to additional Leagues as an Associate Member, but cannot be reflected as a member of another League in the portal. Associate members are manually tracked.

LWV of Tallahassee Board of Directors

At all levels of the League, Boards of Directors are elected to manage activities. The Tallahassee Board of Directors (the Board) includes five officers: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary; six Directors elected by the members; and up to six Directors appointed by the elected Officers and Directors. A Nominating Committee secures and vets candidates and presents a slate to the Membership at the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is held in late April to elect the Board, set the budget, and approve the program for the coming

year. The current Board of Directors along with terms of office is found in **Appendix Two** of this Handbook.

What the League Does

Speaking with One Voice for the League

Before we begin a discussion of what the League does, it is important for all **members** to be aware that Only the President or his/her/their authorized representative speaks on policy matters in the name of the League. Individual **members** may not put forth League positions in public testimony or publications without authorization. However, **members** are encouraged to speak or write as informed individual citizens.

Program

While the League is an action group it may **take action** only on issues that have been studied and on which the **members** are agreed. This approach to action is responsible for the League's reputation for thorough study, a reputation that is pivotal to our political effectiveness. Every local League decides each year on an action agenda which is called the program and is developed by an *ad hoc* Committee which presents it to the Board for review. The last step in developing the year's program is to present it to **members** at the Annual Meeting for **member** approval. The current Program is in **Appendix Four**.

National and state Leagues also develop programs, but these span several years. You can find the national and state programs online at:

- *National Issues and Positions:* Impact On Issues can be found on the national website (lww.org) under League Management (no PW needed) or may be purchased on Amazon.
- *Florida Study and Action Issues:* [State Program, Study & Action + State Bylaws - League of Women Voters of Florida \(lwwfl.org\)](#) Password: SusanBAnthony

Study and Action

The Tallahassee League has several Study and Action Committees. The committees consider the programs of state and national League in determining the issues they will address locally.

Study, Consensus and Concurrence

Local Leagues often participate in national and state studies or conduct studies of their own to determine a League position on issues. Any **member** may participate in a study; these small groups provide wonderful opportunities for learning, networking, and friendships.

Unlike many other public-interest organizations, the League does not rely on majority votes for decision-making related to study results. Rather, it seeks consensus through **member** discussion of specific key questions. Once consensus is ratified by the Board the decision becomes a League position and can be used to direct action. Current LWVT Local Positions are found in **Appendix Five**.

A League may also act by concurrence. A League’s **membership** or its Board may concur with the recommendations of a task force, a League Committee, decision statements formulated by League Boards, or positions reached by other Leagues.

Engagement Opportunities

In addition to Study and Action Committees, there are multiple ways to engage internally and externally to maintain the League as a vibrant voice and force for advocacy. Any **member** may participate in one or more simply by attending meetings. More on this below, but a full list of activities and committees, and coalitions may be found in **Appendix Three** of this Handbook.

When you are ready to get involved, please fill out [this short interest form](#). We will contact you directly.

League Action on Issues

League action takes many forms – lobbying, monitoring meetings, sending digital communications, social networking, neighborhood canvassing, polling citizens, circulating petitions, developing, and publishing documents, forming coalitions and other activities. Actions are based on the League program and are intended to:

- increase public awareness of an issue and
- achieve a resolution of it consistent with League goals.

Local/State Advocacy

Local advocacy, including observing local government and school board, and contacting the Leon County State Delegation is conducted year-round and is guided by the LWVT Board. In addition Tallahassee League **members** are in a unique position to support the LWVFL Legislative Priorities at the Capitol during legislative sessions. The latter is guided by the state league.

Members may be called to assist at School Board or Commission Meetings, the Capitol, or other county locations. Activities may include attending and representing the League’s position at committee hearings, attending press conferences, rallies, and marches.

Elections & Voting Rights

This particularly important area of League activity is often what the community thinks of first when the League is mentioned. Activities take many forms: providing non-partisan education at various community venues on voting topics, sponsoring candidates meetings, debates, and interviews; publishing candidate responses to questionnaires; registering citizens to vote; making voting information available; sponsoring and participating in get-out-the-vote campaigns; and publishing background materials on current public issues and lists of sources of information on these issues.

The Tallahassee League is continuously active educating voters and providing support to the voter registration/updating process. The US League website, **Vote411.org**, is a national candidate information resource. We help populate the online system for use by local voters. We

partner with other groups to present candidate forums, sometimes taking the lead and sometimes handling one component of an event. Election years are exciting and extremely busy for League **members**.

Citizen Information

Written brochures, pamphlets and coordinated activities are designed to raise awareness and provide balanced information on all sides of an issue. This information sharing helps citizens understand public issues and reach their own decisions. They are distinct from the League's action agenda, which may call for work towards a particular resolution of an issue.

Community and Campus Outreach

LWVT engages in the community through direct contact at tabling events and attendance at local gatherings and special events. We utilize electronic forms of messaging, including constant contact and social media, as well as our close relationships with community leaders and other advocate organizations to keep the public informed. You will see some of our coalition partners in Appendix Five. We have a close association with area campuses and provide support to various events through FSU PIRG and PeoplePowerFL. **Member** volunteers offer information about the League and issues supported by the League.

Meetings and Regularly Scheduled Events

Board Meetings

The Tallahassee Board generally meets monthly; although Special Meetings may be called, and summer meetings may be replaced with Strategic Planning or other member outreach activities. The Board is a working Board, and meetings include both business items and information sharing. **Members** are welcome to attend regularly scheduled meetings (Third Wednesday most months 6-8PM via Zoom). Contact miriambarfield@gmail.com to confirm attendance.

Annual Membership Meeting

An annual meeting is held in April to elect Board Officers, a Nominating Committee, and three of six Directors (staggered terms), set the budget, and approve the League Program for the coming year. Any ByLaws changes are also presented and approved. Notice of the meeting is published in *The Voter*.

Holiday Brunch

League **members** look forward to the December Holiday Brunch when we hold our traditional fun'raiser auction and often have an activity, invite a speaker or musician(s) to entertain and inspire.

Hot Topic Events

These events offer important news, developments, and trends with insightful analysis and commentary and may be conducted electronically or in person; many include guest speakers. The venue for in person events may include a luncheon or dinner. Look for announcements on Face Book, Instagram, and in *The Voter*. This is an opportunity to become actively engaged with the League through networking with other **members**, engaging in League business, and hearing

important information and announcements. Hot Topic events are an excellent way to introduce your friends to the League. Details are provided in pre-event announcements, including topic, speaker, location, time, and any fee to attend.

Communications and Publications

- *The LWV Tallahassee Voter* is a newsletter published the first Monday of every month. Current and back issues are available on our League website under the **Member Resources** drop down menu, or at the following link <https://www.lwvtallahassee.org/the-voter-newsletter>.
- Constant Contact, an email marketing service, is the means by which both the Tallahassee League and our State League send information to **members** who have email addresses. New **members** are added to the address lists.
- Websites - **lwvtallahassee.org** is an excellent source of information about the Tallahassee League. The League of Women Voters of Florida's website is **lwvfl.org** and the LWVUS website is **lwv.org**.
- **Action Alerts** are emails sent by the US or State League asking **members** to contact elected officials about current issues and Florida Legislative and national Congressional votes.
- **Know Your Public Officials**, a list of national, state, and local elected officials, is published by LWVT Voter Services in both online and print format. Print copies are made available at the Leon County Supervisor of Elections Office, and local libraries.
- Our phone number is 850-309-3005. Leave a message. Our mailing address is LWVT, 1400 Village Square Blvd., Suite 3, Box 115 Tallahassee, FL 32312-1231
- Our email address is info@lwvtallahassee.org.
- Our Facebook page is found at www.facebook.com/LWVTallahassee. Please "like" us and feel free to "share" posts.
- Our Instagram account is found at <https://www.instagram.com/lwvtlh>
- Our YouTube channel is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeL5HUh1ZycBpltiVzvOQCw>

Defender of Democracy

Having read this far you are now an informed fellow **Leaguer** – one of thousands nationwide proud to be a defender of Democracy! With every event and activity you will learn more. If you haven't already selected your committee, fill out [this short interest form](#).

Appendix One: LWVT Principles

The League of Women Voters **believes** in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States. The League of Women Voters of the United States **believes** that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.

The League of Women Voters **believes** that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters **believes** that every citizen's right to vote should be protected; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. The League **believes** Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

The League of Women Voters **believes** that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters **believes** that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy, and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters **believes** that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

Last Update: October 21, 2020, LWVT Board of Directors

Appendix Two: LWVT Officers and Directors

The Tallahassee Board of Directors (the Board) comprises five officers: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary; six Directors elected by the members; and up to six Directors appointed by the elected Officers and Directors. One appointed position is reserved for the President of FSU PIRG. Board Officers and a Nominating Committee are elected by the membership to serve one-year terms; Directors may be elected by the membership to staggered two-year terms, or may be appointed by the Elected Board to serve one-year terms. Staggering Director terms assures a level of continuity on the Board between election cycles. The six elected Nominating Committee and Immediate Past President are non-voting resource members to the Board.

I. Officers – 1 Year Term of Office May 1, 2026-April 30, 2027	
Co-President	Miriam Tellechea
Co-President	Dr. Carol Weissert
1 st Vice President	Janet McPherson
2 nd Vice President	Jeanne Lykes
Secretary	Dr. Susan Lunin
Treasurer	Dr. Marianne Arbulu
II. Nominating Committee – 1 Year Term of Office May1, 2026 – April 30, 2027	
Barry Munroe, Director	
Dr. Susan Lunin, Officer	
Isabella Miletic, Director	
Emma Guilarte, Member	
Trish Neely, Member	
Vacant, Member	
III. Elected Directors – 2 Year Term of Office May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2028	
Becky Parsons	
Sabrina Hartley	
Barry Munroe	
IV. Elected Directors – 2 Year Term of Office May 1, 2025-April 20, 2027	
Danielle Irwin	
Brad Ashwell (serving out the remainder of J Lykes term)	
Kris Ellington (serving out the remainder of J McPherson term)	
V. Appointed Directors 1 Year Term of Office May 1, 2026-April 30, 2027	
Isabella Miletic	
Kathy Winn	
Andres Cubillos	
Vacant	
Vacant	
FSU PIRG President Sharon Hopengarten	

Appendix Three: LWVT & State Committees; Local Coalitions

Local Study & Action Committees	
<p>Local Government & Ethics Danielle Irwin, Chair Ernie Paine, Ethics Committee Liaison</p>	<p>Local and State Advocacy Trish Neely, Sabrina Hartley, Brad Ashwell, Carol Weissert</p>
<p>Natural Resources & Clean Energy Becky Parsons, Kris Ellington, Claudia Holland – Co-Chairs</p>	
<p>Elections & Voting Rights *Voter Services Laurie Marshall, Chair *New Citizen Initiative Gloria Colvin, Court Liaison</p>	<p>* VOTE 411 Sally Combs & Laurie Marshall *Election Year Candidate Forums Danielle Irwin *Mission 1313 & Returning Citizens Barry Munroe, Chair</p>
State Action Committees	
<p>National Popular Vote Compact (NPV) Sabrina Hartley, LWVT Liaison</p>	<p>Education State League Action Chair Dr. Jill Lewis-Spector</p>
<p>Public Health Care State League Action Chair Kathy Winn</p>	<p>Gun Safety State League Action Chair Cathy Swerdlow</p>
<p>Reproductive Health & Justice State League Action Chair Stacey Kroto</p>	<p>Lwvfl.org has additional action committees listed</p>
Coalitions We Work With	
<p>Voting Rights & Returning Citizens Big Bend Voting Rights Project Darwin Gamble, Volunteer/Liaison</p>	<p>Voting/Elections Medicaid Expansion Petitions</p>
	
<p>Voter ID Assistance VoteRiders Laurie Marshall Liaison</p>	<p>Clean Energy Tally 100 Coalition Steve Urse, Meta Calder, Liaisons</p>
	
<p>Voting Rights All Power to All Voters Coalition via: Brad Ashwell & Ricardo Negron-Almodovar</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>
	
<p>Student Outreach People Power for Florida Andres Cubillos, Liaison</p>	
	

For additional information or to reach any of the Committee Chairs, email info@lwvtallahassee.org, or call and leave a voicemail message 850-309-3005. Be specific who or what you are trying to reach.

Appendix Four: LWVT Program

The League of Women Voters is an organization that is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and when conducting all activities necessary for carrying out the priorities and programs adopted below. The League of Women Voters of Tallahassee (LWVT) adopted the following 2026-27 program at its Annual Meeting.

Local priorities

- Provide voter education and voter services
- Promote and support an open local government and school board that are responsive to the community and environment
- Educate and advocate for League positions with local agencies, associations, coalitions, and public officials, including the Leon County state delegation in furtherance of League mission, vision, values, and this program.

Voter Services

Build relationships and collaborate with community groups and organizations to educate the public about voting procedures and rights for current, recently naturalized citizens, elections & election reform initiatives, and LVW positions on policy issues. Delivery methods include social media postings, distribution of printed materials, organizing in-person workshops and presentations, attending naturalization ceremonies, conducting neighborhood canvassing, attendance at various public events, and updating Vote411 content (local elections).

In tandem with LWVFL, monitor, analyze, and incorporate election law changes into LWVT processes. Support Leon and surrounding Counties' Supervisors of Elections to advance free and fair elections and increase voter turnout in communities with historically low voter turnouts. Support citizen initiative petitions approved by the LWVFL.

Support LWVUS scouting initiative through partnership with Girl Scouts Gateway Council and its Democracy Badge Program.

Ethical Government

Support and monitor the work of the Tallahassee Independent Ethics Board. Hold public officials to high ethical standards.

Local Government

Engage with local elected and appointed officials and staff in order to be informed of issues related to our local League programs. Learn and share information relevant to our members by monitoring Tallahassee City Commission, Leon County Commission, and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency agendas and minutes to be alerted to evolving issues.

Track city and county land use and zoning planning criteria to determine the impact on quality of life in Leon County. During election years, sponsor the local government candidate forums, and educate the public on local government issues on the ballot.

Natural Resources and Clean Energy

Actively support and amplify initiatives that aim to protect the environment and promote long-term sustainability. Work with Tally100 and local government to support a transition to clean energy.

Support Keep Tallahassee Beautiful through the Adopt-a-Street project, Clean Sweep, and shoreline cleanups. Engage with local agencies and educate League members and the broader community on reducing waste through our campaign sign recycling project and recycling center tours.

Provide election year support for the Big Bend Environmental Forum to educate voters on candidates' approaches to clean energy and preservation of our natural resources. Work with our district school system as we continue efforts to employ sustainable practices. Propose, promote and support sustainable practices in hosting League events and communicating with members.

Appendix Five: Local League Positions

The National and State Leagues develop positions on issues of importance through concurrence or consensus. These positions can be found on the respective internet sites under League Management.

Occasionally there are issues of local importance that our league studies. Positions are determined through the consensus of the members. Once a position is determined, it stands unless modified or deleted through the same process.

Charter Government

July 2000, LWVT supports charter governments in Leon County. We support charter review committees that review charters periodically and that have the power to propose amendments to the charter for direct placement on the ballot at the next general election. We believe all amendments to the charter should be accomplished by a simple majority vote. We support “an achievable percentage” of registered voters to bring about citizen petition; we oppose requiring 10% of registered voters from each district for citizen initiatives. We support establishing oversight of constitutional officers. We oppose allowing county ordinances to supersede city ordinances.

In 2002, Leon County became a charter county; LWVT supported the amendment. We support a non-partisan election of the Supervisory of Elections, city, and county commissioners.

We support fair and equitable representation.

We support the removal of non-judicial functions from the Clerk of the Circuit Court position. In 2010, both the city and the county appointed charter review committees; LWVT was represented on both committees.

Comprehensive Plan

In 1960-1961, LWVT supports measures in the Tallahassee Comprehensive Plan leading to long range City and County planning.

February 1964, LWVT advocates continued attention be paid to community planning with support of measures that will provide the best long range comprehensive planning for the community.

1979, LWVT commits to actively participating in the Comprehensive Plan decision making process and commits to encouraging citizen input.

We support full implementation of the official comprehensive land use plan.

Consolidation

October 1971, LWVT reaches consensus in support of the consolidation charter. (Charter failed)

April 1973, LWVT supports the new Charter for Consolidation including changes made by the Charter Commission. They include: (1) addition of a Department of Planning (2) procedural change in the recall of elective officials, by increasing the percentage of qualified officials electors who must sign a petition from 10% to 20% (3) accountability for county officials (all officials would be required by the commission to submit “uniform estimates or budgets for the operation of their offices...”) and, (4) taxation rate: “The commission shall provide and maintain a fair and just differential between the tax levy in city and county”. (Charter failed)

September 1991, LWVT supports the concept of consolidation if it provides for efficient and accountable government, including support for citizen initiative, referendum, and recall. Under consolidation, we support: a reduction of duplication of services; an appointed, qualified administrator with clearly defined lines of authority and responsibility and the power to appoint and fire department heads; coordinated countywide law enforcement; adequate and equitable revenue sources with tax in proportion to service provided. (Charter failed)

LWVT has supported consolidation of city and county governments since 1968. However, public support has never reached the threshold needed to adopt the consolidation measures on the ballot. While the two governments have never merged, there has been some functional consolidation in the areas of storm water, growth management, planning, parks and recreation, animal control, fire departments, and a joint dispatch center for emergency services. LWVT continues to support functional consolidation that provides for efficient and accountable government, that reduces duplication of services, and improves coordination of law enforcement countywide.

Transportation

July 1994, the LWVT supports a transportation system that protects the environment and neighborhoods and gives incentives for multi-person transit. To this end, LWVT supports parking limitations, dedicated high occupancy vehicle lanes, Transportation Demand Management strategies such as flextime, telecommuting and ride sharing. The LWVT agrees that consideration should be given to a light rail system.

The LWVT supports the establishment of a countywide bicycle and pedestrian system of bike lanes, bike paths and sidewalks to facilitate motor-free transportation. The LWVT supports the creation of a balanced transportation system that emphasizes protection of the environment and underscores the need for alternatives to single occupancy vehicles. Emphasis is placed on accommodating people who cannot or choose not to drive an automobile.

April 2012, the LWVT supports a safer environment for pedestrians and bikers on Tennessee Street. The League supports a reduction in the number of lanes for cars to four, with turn lanes,

where the remaining two lanes are designated as bus lanes also available to bicycle traffic that separate pedestrians from fast-moving automobile traffic. The League supports “Moving Tallahassee: Cars Optional,” the creation of an eighteen-square-mile area in the heart of Tallahassee dedicated to creating a safe environment for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users.

February 2024, the LWVT supported a county commission Monroe Makeover petition to urge the use of Blueprint matching funds to secure a federal improvement grant which would be used to create a safer environment for pedestrians cyclists, and transit users on Monroe Street.

Study of Primary Election Styles

In the spring of 2017, the League of Women Voters of Florida asked all the local leagues in Florida to conduct a study of the different types of primary elections and determine which one each respective League preferred. Different styles of primaries were considered by LWVT members, through presentations led by members Margaret Booth and Linda Howard. The content included how the different styles worked, and the advantages and disadvantages of each style. The Runoff election was deemed superior due to the benefit of time saved, resulting in money saved. An additional advantage identified over other styles was the election of a candidate that most every voter could support. LWVT reached consensus and reported the determination to the League of Women Voters of Florida.

Last Update 3/2025