



# The Voter

Volume 67 Issue 1 August 2016

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## Florida Gun Laws Saturday, August 20, 2016

Tryon Library, 1200 Langley Ave.  
Coffee 10:30 am - Program 10:45 am

Rally '16 video for August 2 [here](#)  
Florida Senate District 1  
Florida House District 4  
Okaloosa County candidates

Rally '16 video for August 3 [here](#)  
Florida Senate District 1  
Florida House District 4  
Santa Rosa County candidates

Rally '16 video for August 4 [here](#)  
Escambia County candidates

Florida's gun laws are widely considered among the most lax in the United States. The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence has given Florida firearm laws an "F" grade due to the permissiveness of legislation like "Stand Your Ground" and the restrictive nature of our "preemption" laws.

Patti Brigham, First Vice President and Gun Safety Action Committee chair of League of Women Voters of Florida, will present an extensive PowerPoint presentation and conversation on Florida gun laws and how they work in order to help Florida become known as a "Gun Smart State" instead of the "Gun Shine State."

Notes Brigham, "The more we arm ourselves with the facts, the better able we are to bring responsible firearm legislation to Florida."

Patti Brigham grew up in Orlando and attended the University of Central Florida where she earned a B.A. in philosophy and an M.A. in Liberal Studies. After several years at We Care, Inc., a suicide prevention/crisis intervention center, Patti forged a career in radio with responsibilities as a reporter, writer and producer. During this time she was recognized with several awards from media organizations including American Women in Radio and Television and the Associated Press. She also worked as a freelance reporter for the Orlando Weekly, writing about the arts. ◇

## Vote YES on Amendment 4 in August Two Amendments – Two Dates – Two Votes

August: Amendment 4- **GOOD** for Consumers



- ★ Expand affordable solar on residential and commercial properties
- ★ Exempt property tax on solar equipment
- ★ Over 100 endorsements

November: Amendment 1 - **Bad** for Consumers

- Utility funded
- Slow expansion & affordability of solar for consumers and businesses alike
- Creates constitutional barrier to consumers buying electricity from solar companies

2016 Primary Election  
e-Guide for Escambia and  
Santa Rosa Counties  
available [here](#).

Time to renew your  
membership for 2016-2017.  
It's easy. Send your check  
to LWVPBA, P.O. Box  
2023, Pensacola FL 32513  
or use PayPal [here](#).



Haley Richards

## Co Presidents' Message

The Elections of 2016 will be historic events for many reasons. First, this election will be the first in 50 years to take place without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act. Second, after 96 years since women got the right to vote, the first woman presidential candidate has been nominated by a major political party. Third, Florida races for Congress and State Senate will be



Ellen Roston

conducted based on fair districts using maps drawn as part of the League's successful 10-year battle for Redistricting. This list could go on!

The League of Women Voters is needed now more than ever to encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. During the Summer, Charlyle Parrish and the Voter Service Committee have conducted several voter registration events at the Pensacola Pride Festival, July Gallery Night, and Pensacola Young Professionals Networking Night.

A very committed group of Leaguers met weekly to draft questions for WSRE's Rally 2016 that airs August 2nd, 3rd, and 4th featuring Primary Candidates for Local, State, and National races. Other committee members took on the enormous task of publishing the Escambia Santa Rosa County Candidate E-guide which will include candidate answers on public policy questions, biographical information and a photo. The E-Guide will be linked on [www.lwvpba.org](http://www.lwvpba.org) as well as LWV Florida website, [www.bereadytovote.org](http://www.bereadytovote.org). PLEASE READ THIS VOTER FOR ALL ELECTION RELATED INFORMATION!

The newly elected LWV Pensacola Bay Area Board of Directors participated in a Board Retreat and planning session in June where we discussed portfolio assignments, planning for Local program & Hot Topics, Speaker's Bureau formation, LWVUS Convention & LWVF Council highlights, and Membership/Leadership Development ideas. The Board also discussed ideas for addressing the "Directions to the Board" given at the Annual Meeting. I had the honor and privilege to attend the LWVUS National Convention in Washington D.C. as a delegate for LWV Pensacola Bay Area. Click link to watch video recordings of all plenary speakers from convention [here](#). Chris Carson from California was

elected as the new LWVUS President along with several new National Board members.

Delegates approved amendments to Article III, Section 2 of the bylaws pertaining to Types of Membership. *Voting membership is now open to non-citizens and to individuals 16 years of age or older.*

**VOLUNTEER REQUEST:** LWV Pensacola Bay Area is re-forming a **Speaker's Bureau** made up of League volunteers who will conduct community presentations on the November Ballot Amendments. We will host a Speaker's Bureau training session in late August or Early September to review the PowerPoint drafted by LWV Florida, review procedures for presentations, and more. Email Haley Richards to sign up at [presidentlwvpba@gmail.com](mailto:presidentlwvpba@gmail.com).

Mark your calendars to attend the first League Program meeting of the year on Saturday, August 20, 2016 featuring LWVF 1st Vice President & Gun Safety Committee Chair, Patti Brigham, discussing the issue of Gun Safety in Florida.

In League,  
*Ellen & Haley*

**Have you checked out our  
Facebook page lately?  
See it [here!](#) Our website [here!](#)**

## Welcome New Members!

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Betty Brannon     | Diane Kratochvil |
| Carol T. Britton  | Penny Rice       |
| Elyse Bernstein   | Kimberly Teasley |
| Nannette R. Grimm |                  |

**Welcome Back! Betsy Bowers**

### Member News:

- Miriam Birdwhistell moved to Georgia
- Beverly Matulik moved to Lafayette, LA

**Condolences** to the families of League members, Frances Yeo and former member, Virginia "Ginny" Deagan .

*Member contact information is contained in the Membership Roster only. If you have not received the July roster, contact Cathy Scott at [basketbabe@mcjsi.com](mailto:basketbabe@mcjsi.com).*

# Calendar



## August

- 15 **Tuesday**, 10:00 am Azalea Trace, **International Relations**, Great Decisions discussion. For information contact Gene Feicht, 479-3352, or Don Freeman, 477-6626.
- 20 **Saturday**, 10:30 am **General League Meeting**, Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave. “*Florida Gun Laws*”, LWVF 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president Patti Brigham.
- 26 **Friday**, *Women's Equality Day*
- 30 **Tuesday**, *Primary Election*, Don't forget to send in your Mail-in ballot or go to the polls to VOTE.

## September

- 13 **Tuesday**, 5:30 pm **Board Meeting** at the Downtown Library on Spring Street in the Conference Room. Members are always welcome.
- 16 **Friday**, *Constitution Day*
- 17 **Saturday**, 10:30 am **General League Meeting**, Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave. “*Escambia and Santa Rosa Supervisors of Elections.*”
- 20 **Tuesday**, 10:00 am Azalea Trace, **International Relations**, Great Decisions discussion. For details, contact Gene Feicht, 479-3352 or Don Freeman, 477-6626.
- 23 **Friday**, *Naturalization Ceremony*
- 27 **Tuesday**, *National Voter Registration Day*

**More Candidate Information for Election 2016.**

LWVF Voter Guide to US Senate Candidates: [Click here.](#)

Guide to Florida Amendments: [click here.](#)

*The Votes in Your Court* - Judicial Merit Retention (including judicial biographies) [Click here.](#)

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## YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

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### Officers:

Haley Richards and Ellen Roston, *Co Presidents*  
 Charlyle Parrish, *1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.*  
 Vivian Faircloth, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.*  
 Amy Newburn, *Treasurer*  
 Janet deLorge, *Secretary*

### Directors:

Ray Hudkins - *Open Primaries Study*  
 Elizabeth King - *Program*  
 Shirley Lewis-Brown - *Social Policy*  
 Cathy Scott, *Membership*  
 Paula Montgomery, *Education*  
 Billie Vallianos

### Off-Board

Gene Feicht, *International Relations*  
*Naturalizations*

### Nominating Committee

Ann Davis, *Chair*  
 Carol Pulley  
 Peter Young

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## Contact Us

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[www.lwvpba.org](http://www.lwvpba.org)  
 LWVPBA [facebook page](#)  
 lwvpba at gmail.com  
 Phone: (850) 937-7769

[www.TheFloridaVoter.org](http://www.TheFloridaVoter.org)  
 LWVF [facebook page](#)

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
 LWVUS [Facebook page](#)



The League of Women Voters of Florida, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Join the League of Women Voters Today!

It's easy! Just send your check to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ♦ P.O. Box 2023, Pensacola, FL 32513

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ New Mbr? Yes/No

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Other ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Add Family Member(s): \_\_\_\_\_

DUES: \$55.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Mbrs @ \$27.50 \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

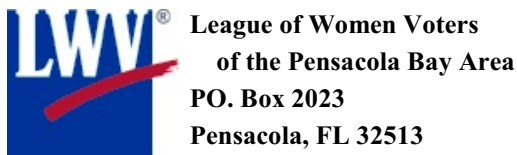
Dues are \$27.50 for a student enrolled in a certificate or degree program.

I'm renewing my membership.

I am interested in the following areas (Circle all interests)

Education	Natural Resources	Social Policy	Speaker's Bureau
Voter Service	Growth Management	Website	Observer Corps
Membership	Legislative Action	Hospitality	Naturalization
Newsletter	Voter Registration	Publicity	Social Media

Membership dues and gifts to the League of Women Voters are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes. (Tax deductible contributions require a separate check written to the LWV Florida Education Fund and should be sent to our local treasurer.)



**August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting:  
Florida Gun Laws**