



The Voter

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Nominating Committee

Ann Davis, *Chair*
Carol Pulley Vivian Faircloth
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Contact Us

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

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Join the League as we celebrate the Holidays

Sunday, December 11, 2016 - 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Riviera Party Room, 615 Bayshore Dr, Pensacola

Hosts are Elizabeth King, Suzanne and Randle
Carpenter. Contact: 937-7769

You and your guests are welcome!

Bring: Finger food and/or wine to share with League
friends.

Directions: Heading West from downtown on
Barancas Avenue, pass St. Thomas More Church and
Turn **Left** on PALEO Street, just past the white
picket fence. Follow Paleo to Bayshore Drive. Turn
LEFT on Bayshore to 615. The **Riviera** is on the right.
Park on the far right or on the roof of the garage.
For additional information or directions call: 937-
7769.



Dr. Brian Williams

Election Survey Results

January 21, 2017

Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave.
Coffee 10:15 am - Program 10:30 am

Dr. Brian Williams, a postdoctoral research
associate at University of West Florida, and
Leaguer Amy Newburn, assistant director of
the UWF Haas Center, will present

information on area election survey results at the
January League meeting. Williams and Newburn
collected primary election data from Aug. 20 to
Sept. 30 at early voting locations and General
Election data from Oct. 24 to Dec. 2 through
randomly selected precinct locations on Election
Day. Telephone post-election surveys were also
conducted from Haas Call Center. The survey was
conducted at the request of the Supervisor of
Elections and the results have been published
recently. The presenters will discuss the findings of
the survey.



Amy Newburn



Haley Richards

Co Presidents' Message

This Co-President's message will be shorter than usual for this edition of the Voter! This doesn't mean that League members have stopped working but are busy making plans for 2017. If you are wondering what to give your friends and family this year, consider giving a gift of civic engagement and citizen empowerment with a membership to the League of Women Voters. Visit our [Facebook](#) page or www.lwvpba.org to give the gift of League membership.



Ellen Roston

Ellen and I are pleased to announce the appointment of Mary Collins, Women Issues Committee Chair, to the Board of Directors. Mary was appointed at the November Board meeting.

Legislative Interviews

Each year local Leagues throughout Florida interview members of their respective Legislative Delegations prior to the opening of the annual legislative session. These interviews are an important way for us to get to know our elected officials and to find common ground on issues with which we agree. The League establishes legislative priorities yearly and formulates questions to assess the position of the individual Legislator. The responses are used by the League's lobbyist, Debbie Harrison Rumberger, and other volunteers as the League attempts to influence legislation. The League focus for the 2017 session will be: *Education, Election Law, Gun Safety, Health Care and Natural Resources*. [See page 5 for more details.]

As members of our local League, you are invited to join in protecting and strengthening our democracy through your participation in these interviews. You do not have to be an expert as the League will provide background materials. For each interview, an experienced Leaguer and a new member will meet the representative in January and then send the information to LWVF. If you want to be part of our grassroots legislative efforts, contact Ellen Roston at ekroston@aol.com or 453-0730 for details and join in our continuing efforts to make our democracy stronger.

Don't forget the annual League Holiday Party on Sunday, December 11, from 2 to 4 pm at Riviera Party Room, 615 Bayshore Drive. We have invited our recently elected officials to join us and look forward to informal conversation with them. Please remember to bring wine and/or finger foods to the event.

Happy Holidays!

Ellen & Haley

Know a Millennial that would like a say in the election process?

Wouldn't it be great if voting were easier? What would it take to make it easier for you: to be able to register on Election Day, or to be able to vote in the primary even if you are not registered with a party affiliation? These are some of the questions asked in this survey as part of the League of Women Voters of Florida's statewide study on the primary election process. We are looking for the opinions of Millennials like you. Click on the link below and share what works best for you. The survey is anonymous and fairly quick to complete. The survey is [here](#).

(<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FDTBVNL>)

Electoral College Revisited

Background:

A League study of the presidential electoral process culminated in a 1970 position supporting direct election of the President by popular vote as essential to representative government.. The League believes strongly that the Electoral College should be abolished and not merely "reformed".

The 2010 convention adopted a concurrence to support the *National Popular Vote* compact as another of methods of selecting the President until such time as the Electoral College is abolished.

The position currently states:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the President until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.

The **National Popular Vote** plan is a state statute in the form of an interstate compact. It creates an agreement among states to award all of their electoral votes collectively to the presidential candidate who wins the national popular vote.

It has been enacted into law in 11 states with 165 electoral votes (CA, DC, HI, IL, MA, MD, NJ, NY, RI, VT, WA). It will take effect when enacted by states with 105 additional electoral votes.

Have you renewed your membership for 2016-2017.

It's easy!

Send your check to LWVPBA, P.O. Box 2023,
Pensacola FL 32513 or use PayPal [here](#).

NOVEMBER LEAGUE MEETING

Elizabeth King, 920-246-0904

Ray Hudkins, a member of our local Board, presented informative and thought provoking information on primary voting in Florida at the November monthly meeting. His presentation was entitled "Can We Improve Florida Primary Election Turnout?"



Ray Hudkins & Ellen Roston at Q&A.

Ray is also a participant in the LWVF study of open primaries. This topic was adopted by the State League in 2015 and is examining turnout in Congressional and statewide legislative contests as well as the presidential primary preference election.

Florida's primary turnout in 2016 was 17.6%, which lags that of many states. Because

many districts are non competitive, many individuals who win the general elections often initially had support of a small percentage of registered voters.

Studies show that turnout is lower in general when closed primaries are used (those where one registers by party and can vote only in that party's primary). Currently this system automatically excludes 24% of Florida registered voters who are identified as non party affiliates (NPA's).

Scholars have reported there are additional reasons people do not participate in primaries, such as not liking the candidates, lack of convenience, feeling that one's vote does not count, or lack of information about the candidates. The latter feeling is often the case on the lower ballot races. Many of these reasons also apply to general elections.

When voting is easier turnout is usually higher. Various states provide alternative primary systems different from Florida.

- Oregon, Washington, and Colorado provide voting by mail exclusively. Election Day registration usually increases turnout.
- Non Partisan Primary is sometimes known as a 'blanket primary' in which all candidates are on the same ballot. This allows voters the option of choosing candidates from both parties during the Primary.
- Partially Closed Primary may allow NPA's to vote in the Primary.

- Top Two Candidates Primary lists all candidates, regardless of party, on one ballot. The two candidates with the most votes compete in the general election. Both of these individuals may be from the same political party. Washington and California use this system.
- Instant Election ballot lists all candidates with their respective party affiliation. The voter ranks the candidates. If no candidate receives a majority of first place votes then the votes will be redistributed via computer until someone gets a majority. Usually the winning candidate is more centrist. This system is less costly since people only go to polls once for that office.

Millennials are individuals who are between eighteen and thirty four years of age and make up the largest potential bloc of voters in Florida. They were asked to participate in a self-selected survey and, although the survey does not constitute a representative sample, the responses are instructive. Millennials are more interested in candidates and issues than political parties. Most of those responding (70%) supported same day registration and a majority said they would vote if the process was more open.

Preliminary observations from the study:

- 1--Increasing turnout ...solutions are multidimensional
- 2--Political Parties are opposed to open primaries.
- 3--Closed primaries hinder turnout.
- 4--Every Voting System has flaws.

This introductory presentation will provide the background for a meeting early next year when our members will be asked to consider consensus questions to determine the League's position on whether or not the state should change its Primary Election System.

**Condolences to the family of
League member, Jane Seligman,
on her recent death.**

International Relations 2017

Great Decision topics selected for the new year are: *The Future of Europe, Trade and Politics, Conflict in the South China Sea, Saudi Arabia in Transition, U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum, Latin America's Political Pendulum, Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan and Nuclear Security.*

Workbooks can be ordered now at a cost of \$25. Contact Henry Trimble at hlt3 @ att.net. Meetings are at Azalea Trace auditorium on the third Tuesday of the month.

Natural Resources Committee Reports

Carolyn Kolb, 939-8653



The Natural Resources Committee met on November 28 at the Gulf Breeze Library to continue making plans for the on-going campaign to abolish single-use plastic bags. As we continue to educate ourselves, we will begin to educate the public. Committee members will be undertaking the difficult task of attempting to change behavior, that is, we will attempt to get local people to change the way we do things.

The seemingly innocent plastic bags from grocery and drug stores create myriad problems in the environment, clogging storm drains and damaging equipment in landfills. It is estimated 100,000 marine animals and up to a million sea birds have ingested plastic from marine debris or been tangled in plastic and die each year.

Plastic bags are petroleum products. Some figures on plastic bag use indicate that Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags a year and that is the equivalent to 12 million barrels of oil. Surely our "advanced" society in the 21st Century can reduce those figures.

Our plans include a series on Eco-minutes on WUWF Radio. We will share ways each of us can make changes in our daily activities.. Begin with reusable shopping bags. These are inexpensive and can be purchased at all grocery stores. Once you use them, you'll never go back to those thin single use plastic bags!

Welcome New Members!

Kristy McDaniel Baia Mandy Bricker
Deanna Creal Julie Goldberg
Marilyn Wells

Members' contact information is contained in the *Membership Roster*. If you have not received the latest one. Contact Cathy Scott, basketbabe at mchsi.com or 396-5727.

Calendar

Consider a gift of membership



December

- 8 **Thursday**, 4:00 pm, **Women's Issues Committee** - Mary Collins, 1126 E. La Rua Street, Pensacola, for information contact Mary at marycollins48 @ att.net or 346-5520.
- 11 **Sunday**, 2:00 - 4:00 pm **Holiday Social**, Riviera Party Room 615 Bayshore Dr. Pensacola, Contact 937-7769

January 2017

- 14 **Saturday**, 2:30 pm, **Education Committee** meeting at Paula Montgomery's 641 Connell Dr., 438-8891.
- 17 **Tuesday**, 10:00 am Azalea Trace, **International Relations**, Great Decisions discussion. For details, contact Don Freeman, 477-6626.
- 17 **Tuesday**, 11:00 am, **Natural Relations Committee** meeting at Gulf Breeze Library. Contact Carolyn Kolb, 939-8653 or c.kinfla @ gmail.com.
- 21 **Saturday**, 10:30 am **General League Meeting**, Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave. " *Election Survey Results*" Brian Williams and Amy Newburn of the Haas Center.
- 30 **Monday**, 5:30 pm J. Earle Bowden Building, 120 Church Street, Pensacola; **RESILIENCE** presentation. For information, contact Paula Montgomery, 438-8891 or montpns @ aol.com.

Want to be a League Leader?

January 27 - 29, 2017

Registration \$99

Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, Florida

At the request of League members, the LWV Florida is having a [training and networking program](#) for all League members on: Election Debriefing, Media Training, Public Speaking, What's a Hot Topic, Today's Technology, Fundraising, Social Media, Networking with our State Action Group on our Key Issues and more.

The training retreat will provide you with tangible examples and messaging tools you need for improving your current methods and/or providing you with information you didn't know you needed! Some of the LWV's brightest minds and most innovative leaders will kickoff our Powerful Leaders Demanding Action effort and we want you to plan on attending! For more information contact Haley Richards at presidentlwpba@gmail.com.

2017 Legislative Priorities

(Complete document [here](#))

1. Education

- a. Restore district authorization to levy 2.0 mills for capital outlay....
- b. Increase operational funding to pre-2008 levels....
- c. Revise the sole focus of the state accountability system from test scores to reflect districts' progress in raising student achievement, meet the needs
- d. Improve fiscal and operational oversight of charter schools by increasing transparency....
- e. Eliminate the growth of corporate-tax credit scholarships....

2. Election Law

- a. Support the automatic restoration of voting rights for former felony offenders, including support for a constitutional amendment to achieve same.
- b. Support legislation to reduce from 29 days to 19 days... books closed...
- c. Support legislation to restrict the ability of an elector to file as a write-in candidate....
- d. Monitor and support the progress of online voter registration, and join... Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).
- e. Support legislation necessary for Florida to join ...other states that are members of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC),...
- f. Ensure the adoption by Florida of the National Voter Registration Act ("Motor-Voter" law)....

3. Gun Safety

- a. Support proposals that would expand background checks in Florida.

- b. Support proposals for statewide ban on semi-automatic assault weapons and large capacity magazines.
- c. Oppose ... firearms on Florida's public college and university campuses.
- d. Oppose ... concealed weapons permits to carry openly firearms in public places.
- e. Oppose proposals... to carry concealed weapons without a permit.
- f. Oppose expanding current "Stand Your Ground" law.
- e. Oppose ... Florida School Boards or School Superintendents to designate ...concealed firearms, on school grounds at K-12 schools.

4. Health Care

- a. Correct the Florida KidCare program's coverage
- b. Develop legislation to accept 2017 Medicaid expansion dollars for Florida, ... or develop a comprehensive plan to provide health insurance for working Floridians... .
- c. Amend Florida's Public Health statute, Chapter 390, to remove the provision providing that a physician must delay at least 24 hours before terminating, with a pregnant woman's voluntary and informed written consent, her pregnancy.

5. Natural Resources

- a. Support sustainable energy solutions for Florida, including adoption of renewable energy standards and legislation promoting the expansion of solar energy.
- b. Support efforts to improve water quality of both surface water and aquifers,.. including prohibiting "fracking" statewide.
- c. Support full funding of the Florida Forever .. implementation of the Water and Land Legacy Conservation Amendment (Amendment 1) adopted in 2014.

Dear League Member:

Interesting and interested people...Doing interesting work and Having interesting dialogue...

Does this sound like a group that might interest you?

An experience to remember: demanding, rewarding, challenging, satisfying...join the LWVPBA Board of Directors to be part of a dynamic, fun group of people.

You will be able to:

- share your League successes with other Leagues,
- build your leadership skills,
- learn to use your skills to make things happen for the League and for your community,
- help to set the direction for the LWVPBA,
- expand your commitment to the League,
- raise your visibility.



If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, please contact Ann Davis, Nominating Committee Chair at [danddavis @ cox.net](mailto:danddavis@cox.net)

School to Prison Pipeline VII

Paula Montgomery, Education Portfolio
 Shirley Lewis-Brown, Social Policy Portfolio

The League of Women Voters and the National Association of Social Workers presented the film *PAPER TIGERS* December 2015. That documentary showed the remarkable positive results for troubled and troubling high school students in Walla Walla, Washington, when they attended a community school which based its approach to handling the students on Trauma Informed Care. Resilience is the follow up documentary. The League is again teaming up with the NASW to present *RESILIENCE* January 30,

2017, 5:30 pm at the J. Earle Bowden Building, 120 Church Street, Pensacola.

RESILIENCE is the exceptional follow-up to Tugg Edu's *PAPER TIGERS*. This feature documentary explores the science of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), a study introduced in *PAPER TIGERS*, in a clear and accessible way. Leading experts featured in the film agree that ACEs can alter brain development and heighten the lifelong risks of heart disease, cancer, substance abuse, and depression. *RESILIENCE* highlights the breakthrough programs that are already helping children heal from previous trauma.

For more information contact Paula Montgomery 850 438 8891 or montpns@aol.com.

The League of Women Voters, 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 or PayPal [here](#).

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.)



League of Women Voters
of the Pensacola Bay Area
PO. Box 2023
Pensacola, FL 32513