



The Voter

Volume 67 Issue 3 November 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

November Meeting	1
New Member Social	1
Co presidents' Message	2
Voter Service Report	2
School to Prison	3
Women's Issues - New	4
Holiday Social Invitation	4
Calendar	5
Charter School Report	5
"Used" plastic bags	6
Membership Forum	6

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Officers:

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

Directors:

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

Nominating Committee

Ann Davis, Chair
Carol Pulley Vivian Faircloth
Peter Young Elizabeth King

Contact Us

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

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

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



LWV Florida Open Primary Study Update

November 19, 2015

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

The November program will examine the question: *Can We Improve Florida Primary Election Turnout?* The Florida League of Women Voters is conducting a two-year statewide study of ways to increase voter turnout and possible benefits of replacement of the state's closed primary. The study includes research, relevant interviews, a survey of millennial voters and non voters and analysis of state and Presidential Primary election types. The final report to the Florida State Board of Directors is expected by April 2017.

Ray Hudkins, a member of the State Open Primary Study Committee, will be the speaker. Hudkins completed a 20 year career in the Air Force as a research and development program manager. Following Air Force retirement in 1987 he was a program management consultant with The Analytical Sciences Corporation and Northrup Grumman. In 2010 he founded the Pensacola Coffee Party.

You can assist the study committee by forwarding the survey link below to Florida residents, between the ages of 18 - 34.

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>)

New Member Wine & Cheese

Want to know more about what your League is doing? Wondering where you fit in? Just want to talk with informed individuals? Want to know? Join the League Board for wine, cheese and conversation at Janet deLorge's home at 2928 Sundance Lane, Cantonment, Sunday November 13, 4 - 6 pm.



Haley Richards

Co Presidents' Message



Ellen Roston

As this election season comes to an end, we would like to express a huge debt of gratitude to Charlyle Parrish and the tireless members of the Voter Service committee who spearheaded speaking engagements, registration of voters, question writing for WSRE Rally 2016 and the distribution of 12,000 Voter Guides throughout Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. Stay tuned for a more

detailed account of our impact to educate and get out the vote for Election 2016.

Our Election work is not over as we continue to educate voters about the "wolf in sheep's clothing" on their ballot a.k.a Amendment 1! We are up against a utility funded campaign totaling over \$20 million to maintain their monopoly control on profits from electricity sales and limit customer-owned solar. Amendment 1 would pave the way for barriers that would penalize solar customers and misleads Florida voters by promising rights and protection that Florida citizens already have. Vote NO on Amendment 1.

Share this list of voter resources to encourage active and informed participation in this historic election:

- Facts about Amendment 1 - [here](#)
- Constitutional Amendments - [here](#)
- Supreme Court Justices - [here](#)
- Local Candidate Guide - [here](#)

WSRE Rally '16 for General Election candidates will have already taken place by the time you are read this message. (View the broadcast [here](#)) As you watched the broadcast, you may have noticed that candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives were not featured. The candidates were scheduled to be on Rally 2016; however one candidate failed to meet all of WSRE's criteria and the race was dropped from the lineup. WSRE has scheduled another opportunity for voters to get to know the Congressional Candidates on Conversations with Jeff Weeks on Thursday November 3, 2016 at 7:00 pm on WSRE.

LWV Pensacola Bay Area is excited about the new Women's Issues Committee that has been formed and is chaired by Mary Collins. The committee has been busy planning several activities; make sure you read the article in this edition of the Voter. Contact Mary Collins for more information about joining this committee!

ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS! By now you will have received an invitation to the November 13th "New Member Social" from Cathy Scott, Membership Chair. Ellen and I, along with the Board, are looking forward to meeting you and sharing the many opportunities to get involved with the League.

SAVE THE DATE: League Holiday Party December 11, 2016!

In League,
Ellen and Haley

Thanks to the following members for their work in writing questions for the e-Guide and Rally '16, registering new voters, speaking to various groups to explain the impact of the ballot amendments and distributing information for the voters.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Dave Aronson | Betsy Bowers |
| Carol Britton | Janet deLorge |
| Vivian Faircloth | Mary Gutierrez |
| Rosemary Hays-Thomas | Haley Richards |
| Ray Hudkins | Elizabeth King |
| Shirley Lewis-Brown | Susan Lightfoot |
| Jo Matthews | Paula Montgomery |
| Charlyle Parrish | Julie Patton |
| Ellen Roston | Pamela Schwartz |
| Carol Scott | Cathy Scott |
| Betty Vickers | Fay Walker |
| Courtney Winstead | Bessie Vallianos |

Voter Service Report

The General Election is only days away. For those who have not voted and need information about the issues and candidates please refer to www.lwvpba.org or www.bereadytovote.org

The unofficial voter turnout can be found at:
Escambia - EscambiaVotes.com and
Santa Rosa - VotesSantaRosa.com

You can also check these sites to make sure that your Vote-By Mail ballot has been received.

In addition to these two web pages related to your Florida ballot you might like <http://www.866ourvote.org/>. This is an interesting web page to increase your knowledge about elections in general. The League has partnered with this group.

Don't forget our next Voter Services committee meeting. We will begin to update the 2017-19 *Guide to Elected Officials*. We need your help to complete this project in early 2017. We will meet at the Downtown Library on Monday, November 14, 4:00-5:45 pm.

Sources of Election Information

Voting Rights:

[866 Our Vote](#) - The national, nonpartisan *Election Protection* coalition was formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process. Made up of more than 100 local, state and national partners, *Election Protection* works year-round to advance and defend the right to vote.

Campaign Financing:

[Open Secrets](#) - is a research group tracing money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy.

[Center for Public Integrity](#) - resources for tracking money behind 2016

Polling:

[FiveThirtyEight](#) - Editor in Chief Nate Silver's website has become the Gold Standard of how to interpret, weight and combine polls to maximize accuracy

[Real Clear Politics](#) - polling and news aggregator with a somewhat conservative slant. Easy to follow polling information and betting odds.

Fact Checking:

[Fact Check](#) - a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania [Flack Check](#) sister site for the lighter side of spin.

[PolitiFact](#) - a project of the Tampa Bay Times and its partner news organizations to help you find the truth in American politics. The St. Petersburg Times was changed to the Tampa Bay Times in 2012.

[Face the Facts USA](#) - a project of the George Washington University's Center for Innovative Media at GW School of Media and Public Affairs.

School to Prison Pipeline

Charlotte Crane, 477-1542

Prison is no place for a child

"You don't handcuff a 6-year-old," says an attorney in the justice system. But we do.

In the view of a Southern Poverty Law Center counsel: "Prison is no place for a child."

And a teenager who's been there summarizes his experience: "I look on juvenile prison as a Third World country."

Some 120 concerned Northwest Floridians saw a shocking film and heard startling facts about how our Justice system's mass incarceration of juveniles as adults is ruining lives, damaging society and costing taxpayers millions, as the League of Women Voters Pensacola Bay Area and co-sponsors presented "School-to-prison

pipeline V." The program, part of an ongoing discussion series, was presented Oct. 26 during National Youth Justice Action Month.

The presentation was relevant and painfully so: Escambia County School District (ECSD) has one of the highest in-school arrest rates in the nation, according to research shared by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a co-sponsor. ECSD could be called "the worst of the worst": It arrests children more frequently than nearly 90% of Florida school districts, and Florida overall has the highest number of student arrests in the country.

Students often are being arrested in school for childish misbehavior, which in roughly 70% of cases could be better addressed with alternatives like civil citation, says SPLC. Black students are arrested at much higher rates than white students; while only 35% of ECSD student population, they are 77% of students arrested in school.

"America Divided: the Class Divided"

The program, held at the J. Earle Bowden Building, included screening of "America Divided: the Class Divide," an episode of a five-part series, this one focusing on school-to-prison data from St. Petersburg, FL., an area however with fewer such statistics than Escambia County. Among program participants was Dr. Amir Whitaker, a civil rights attorney, who contributed to the film.

Speakers during the panel discussion included Keyontay Humphries, ACLU of Florida regional organizer. Panel members pointed to the need to reduce categorization and arrests of children for disorderly conduct; to reduce the number of children tried as adults, and to increase treatment of misbehavior within the school system, rather than in court. According to Whitaker, among reasons for increase of student arrests is that neighborhood schools are today becoming segregated schools - separate and unequal schools, the same ones outlawed years ago by the Supreme Court - and these schools often result in staffing by unqualified teachers and in inequitable allocation of county school system funds.

Program co-sponsors included The Coffee party, University of West Florida Social Work Department, the Escambia Youth Justice Coalition, ACLU and SPLC.

[*Editorial comments:* Thanks to James Scaminaci III, the videos of the *School to Prison Pipeline Series* are available at cjsstreetreport.blogspot.com, [here](#).

Read the TampaBay.com Pulitzer winning series upon which the movie *America Divided: The Class Divide* was based [here](#).

Help fix the system and put Florida's kids back on track. Join *no place for a child* campaign [here](#).]

Welcome New Members!

Kelly Creel

Members' contact information is contained in the Membership Roster only. If you wish to receive the latest list, contact Cathy Scott at basketbabe@mchsi.com.

WOMEN'S ISSUES COMMITTEE

Mary Collins, marycollins48 at att.net
Committee Chair

The mission of the committee is to eliminate discrimination against women in the United States by disseminating information in our area and working with the LWVF to advocate for changes in Florida Law that place restrictions on women's rights. *The committee has chosen five critical areas of concern to women: passage of the ERA, promotion and pay equity, reproductive choice, violence against women and paid family leave.* These are serious problems that women are coping with in our State and across the country.

We have obtained a copy of the excellent documentary film "**Equal Means Equal**," which effectively covers the major areas of concern. The Committee intends to show this film followed by a panel discussion in local, public forums.

Committee will show "Equal Means Equal"

The Committee will begin by showing the film to our local league members in 2017. Committee members will act as our own expert panel. Each member is being assigned one of the five subject areas to "drill down" and understand in detail. Since there are more members than subjects some may team-up. Each subject expert will be a panel member at a showing of the documentary. We are also creating a "**fact sheet**" to cover the important points on each subject.

Mary Collins has registered to participate in the *LWVF Reproductive Health and Justice Committee*. The mission is to unite to affirm and advocate for equal and safe access to the full range of reproductive health care - from abortion to birth control to evidence-based sex education. The committee is led by Amy Weintraub, and had its first conference call on October 10, 2016. Our Florida League President, Pam Goodman, joined the call to endorse the agenda and encourage members to participate.

The LWVF has joined with over 50 other organizations that make up the new state-wide reproductive rights coalition -- *Floridians for Reproductive Freedom*. The LWVUS has long held positions in favor of the ERA and Reproductive Freedom.

Amy Weintraub represents the LWVF on the coalition and will report to this Committee the activities of the coalition every month. All League members are welcome to join in this effort.

The conference calls of the Reproductive Health and Justice Committee was taped. The next call is Monday, November 14th at 12:00 .

The *Women's Issues* committee meets bi-weekly on alternate Thursdays from 4-6 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2016. We would welcome your involvement in this new group. Questions? Contact Mary at 346-5520 or marycollins48 at att.net

LWVF brings a virtual HOT TOPICS to you! Tune in and learn.

Our first community webinar hot topic will be health care reform.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has rocked the health care world. The US pays more per person for health care and ranks about 23rd in life expectancy. ACA changes access to care, quality and cost dramatically. With these constant changes it is often hard to stay informed; thus we have gathered experts to help you do just that. The League of Women Voters invites you to a series of webinars on current health care issues, some that may even be affecting you without your knowledge.

Mark your calendar, log in and learn. Bring your questions. LWVF webinars are for you, your friends, your skeptics. Join us for these lively webinars. Presenters: Dr. Julie Kessel and Dr. Nancy Rudner

Tuesday November 15, 5:30 pm- *How does health care reform affect me?*

Tuesday November 29, 5:30 PM -*Why do we have disparities in care?*

Please join this meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. [here](#). You can also dial in using your phone. +1 (646) 749-3122 Access Code: 430-839-677 Or Survey Monkey [here](#)



Join the League as we celebrate the Holidays

When: Sunday, December 11

Time: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Where: Riviera Party Room

615 Bayshore Dr, Pensacola, FL

Hosts: Elizabeth King, Suzanne and Randle Carpenter

Contact: 937-7769

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

You and your guests are welcome!

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.

ANALYSIS: CHARTER SCHOOL USA REAL ESTATE BUSINESS PRACTICES

Patricia Hall, LWVF Education Committee Chair
education@hclwv.org



Calendar

Florida now educates more than 230,000 students at more than 650 publicly funded charter schools. While many of these schools are providing good educational opportunities, we have found the fundamental structure of the for-profit management companies, specifically Charter Schools USA (CSUSA), must be questioned.

The following outline summarizes a very detailed report given the LWVF Board this past summer. You may read the full report [here](#).

1. CSUSA forms a school then recruits people to serve on a non-profit school board. This board then hires CSUSA as the for-profit management company.
2. CSUSA has six non-profit school boards that operate 49 schools in 12 urban counties in Florida. Additionally, CSUSA operates 17 schools in 6 other states.
3. The six governing school boards are run by CSUSA; they are not independent as required by Florida law.
4. Inter related affiliated businesses include Red Apple Development, Ryan Construction Company, the Florida Charter Education Foundation and Connex (curriculum software). Furthermore, we found over 300 limited liability companies initiated by CSUSA.
5. Facilities financing incorporates all aspects of land acquisition, site clearing, construction, bond financing and multimillion dollar lease fees. CSUSA charges the Hillsborough County School district at one of their four schools more than \$30/square foot, significantly higher than downtown Tampa skyscrapers!
6. Tracking expenditures of taxpayer monies is impossible due to for-profit business practices which are not transparent.
7. Long term lease agreements, after flipping from Ryan Construction to Red Apple Development, are charged out 40 years, and charge rent and interest amounts on top of the lease payments. Most CSUSA lease fees in Hillsborough County take 25% of all taxpayer dollars designated for educating children.
8. Another 13% to 15% is charged by CSUSA for management fees; hence 40% of public money is not spent instructing children.
9. Evidence exists of real estate “flipping” by CSUSA in Hillsborough County to inflate the cost of the real estate so that the rent due from the charter schools is inflated.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Patricia Hall.

November

- 8 **Tuesday**, 7 am - 7 pm - **Election Day**.
- 10 **Thursday**, 4:00 pm, **Women’s Issues Committee** - Mary Collins, 1126 E. La Rua Street, Pensacola, for information contact Mary at 346-5520 or marycollins48@att.net
- 13 **Sunday**, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, **New member Wine & Cheese**, Janet deLorge’s, 2928 Sundance Lane, Cantonment, 607-9170
- 14 **Monday**, 4:00 - 5:45 pm **Voter Service** meeting at the Downtown Library on Spring Street. Evaluate voter service activities and plan updated Guide to Elected Officials. Contact Charlyle Parrish, ccparrishs@usa.net or 932-0854.
- 15 **Tuesday**, 10:00 am Azalea Trace, **International Relations**, Great Decisions discussion. "Climate Change," with *Fay Walker*. For details, contact Don Freeman, 477-6626.
- 19 **Saturday**, 10:30 am **General League Meeting**, Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave. “Florida Open Primary Study Update”, Ray Hudkins.

December

- 5 **Tuesday**, 5:30 pm **Board Meeting** at the Downtown Library on Spring Street in the Conference Room. Members are always welcome.
- 11 **Sunday**, 2:00 - 4:00 pm **Holiday Social**, Riviera Party Room 615 Bayshore Dr. Pensacola, Contact 937-7769

January 2017

- 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.

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](#).

Where do used plastic bags go?

Carolyn Kolb, Natural Resources Committee

Did you know 5 trillion plastic bags are manufactured globally each year? Fifty billion are trashed. Only 1% are recycled. Single use plastic bags are an oil product and twelve million barrels of oil are used in the U.S. to produce these bags. Plastic bags kill over 100,000 marine animals each year. These are a few of the reasons some cities, counties, states, and

countries have banned the use of single use plastic bags.

The Natural Resources Committee is studying and exploring how we might reduce or even ban the use of single use plastic bags in our communities. It is proving to be an invigorating and passionate endeavor but it is going to be a long journey with many facets and we need all the help we can get. Please call Carolyn Kolb 939-8653 or email c.kkinfla at gmail.com to sign on or to get more information.

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**

Open Primary Study Results
Nov. 19 10:30 am