



## THE VOTER Fall 2019

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### ***President's Column – Marian Ott***

#### **Litigation on Voter Registration Drive Regulation >>> See BREAKING NEWS Pg. 5 <<<**

#### LWV OF TENNESSEE CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON ALL THINGS ELECTIONS

At our Fall Workshop we celebrated the **preliminary injunction issued in LWV of Tennessee et al v Hargett et al**. The preliminary injunction means that the new state law which subjects voter registration drives to civil and criminal penalties cannot go into effect until after the court rules on the lawsuit. This means **leagues across the state can continue the important work of registering voters** without threat of penalties.

In granting the preliminary injunction, the judge stated:

***If the state is concerned about incomplete voter registration forms, it can devote resources to identifying them quickly and working with voters to complete them. If it is concerned that processing a large number of registration applications is too costly and difficult, it can make registration simpler. And if, after that, Tennessee is still concerned about the cost, then, as understandable as that concern may be, bearing the cost is what the Constitution requires. Having an active and engaged electorate can cost money; not having one can cost more.***

#### **People Powered Fair Maps**

LWV of Tennessee is participating in a LWVUS led 50-state effort to advocate for transparent and equitable redistricting that respects the rights of voters to choose their elected officials rather than elected officials choosing their voters. (See the complete LWVUS position on redistricting in Impact on Issues).

In Tennessee the league is advocating for a transparent redistricting process. Transparency means public hearings across the state before the maps are drawn, the redistricting committee meetings open to the public and at least a 30-day public comment period on draft maps. Leagues in Tennessee will also join the efforts to promote the passage of HR4 which modernizes the Voting Rights Act to provide tools to combat racial gerrymandering.

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**LWVTN Board:****President:**  
Marian Ott**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President:**  
**Action**  
Debra Gould**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:**  
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Kathryn King**Local League Liaison–**  
Rynn Dupes**Voter Newsletter –**  
Peg Watkins**Director –**  
Lisa Bilbrey Hyder**Appointed Directors:****VOTE411 –**  
Jo Singer**Voter Service/Debates**  
– Katrina Gay**Director –**  
Barbara Gay  
Mary Ann Reeves***President's Column – Marian Ott****(Continued from page 1)***Voting Restoration**

League of Women Voters of Tennessee is working with other groups to simplify the process for citizens re-entering civic life after incarceration to have their voting eligibility restored. In addition to having a very cumbersome paperwork process, Tennessee also ties voting eligibility to full repayment of all fines, fees and child support. While financial obligations should be met, voting eligibility should not be tied to one's ability to pay.

**Join Us**

There is so much going on in leagues across the state. I encourage you to participate as you are able. Please respond to action alerts from LWV of Tennessee. If you are interested in more active participation with state advocacy efforts—contact me, at [President@lwvtn.org](mailto:President@lwvtn.org)— LWV of Tennessee is always looking for more advocates!

To all league members across Tennessee: Thank you for the privilege as serving as President.

Marian Ott (she/her)  
President



## LWVTN is growing! – by Kathryn King

Welcome our new League-At-Large LWV Northeast Tennessee (LWVNETN) in Johnson City with members from surrounding counties.

On the road again...

LWVTN lobbyist, Stewart Clifton, are Knoxville bound on Saturday, Nov. 23 to provide a state update to our eastern contingent. The League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County will host the session at 11:30 a.m. EST at the Public Works Center at 3131 Morris Ave, Knoxville.

All East Tennessee League members are invited to attend, and a snack lunch will be served.

For more information, contact Linda Maccabe ([llmac@mac.com](mailto:llmac@mac.com) or 505.238.1462).

## ***News from the League of Women Voters Nashville – Barbara Gay / President***

### **Finishing the Fall Registration...What's Next?**

**By Voter Services Co-Chairs Perry Macdonald and Kristin Hightower**

Buoyed by the energies of some newly trained volunteers, we responded to **every** request for **LWVN** Voter Services participation at events throughout September and early October. These included **two local YMCAs, Nashville State Community College, the Good Neighbor Festival**, and a return invitation from the **PMBC for its Community Day** serving the Edgehill community.

As important as the number of registrations can be, equally important is our role as a nonpartisan, encouraging presence in venues throughout Nashville. Wherever we set up a table and display a **"Register to Vote Here"** sign, we are a visual public service announcement. We demonstrate by our hours of service that our commitment to the informed engagement of **every** person in this country is the goal of our work.

In this quieter time before the calendar turns to 2020, we are planning for more training and reaching out to hear from both active members as well as from those who have expressed interest but have not yet been involved. With Davidson County's first election in **March**, we expect a significant number of registration events in the early months of 2020.

We also expect to be challenged by questions and concerns that have kept our citizens away from the polls. What can we do...and how do we prepare? It's our belief we need to broaden our scope and commitment beyond registration...and contribute to the crucial efforts to **Get Out the Vote.**

Our thanks, as always, to all who gave hours of your time so the work may go forward.

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***Empowering Voters \* Defending Democracy******News from Knoxville/Knox County League – Tiffany Foster / President***

*Second Vice President Linda Maccabe received the Community Service Award from the Volunteer Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America with members Kathryn King and Casey Self.*

The League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County was recently honored with a Community Service Award from the Volunteer Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. The award recognizes those entities who use the principles of public relations to serve the community.

The League was recognized for expanding its reach through digital media, including live-streaming issues and candidates forums increasing their audience sometimes by as much as tenfold. The group's partnerships with other community organizations, such as Delta Sigma Theta, Centro Hispano and the Knoxville Area Urban League Young Professionals were also acknowledged as crucial to the organization's strategy and success.

By Kathryn King

***News From Memphis / Shelby County League – Carol Straughn / President***

Our League is still on the move with voter registration. Volunteers are ready to register citizens at libraries, community centers, high schools, and at the Naturalization Ceremonies on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> at the Benjamin Hooks Library held at 10:30 and 1pm. We also have a naturalization ceremony scheduled at the Federal Bldg. downtown on Dec. 12 at 10am.

Our Soapbox Dinner committee has been working hard planning our next big event slated for Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> celebrating our centennial anniversary. Our dinner, this past March, was a huge success in community relations and engagement. In February we will have 12 tables with interesting and challenging topics and celebrity facilitators at each table. Plan to attend and join in on our celebration of the League and also our cities 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It's going to be a blast!



LWV M/SC members Peg Watkins, Sherry Hewlett, and President Carol Straughn at the LWVTN Fall Conference with Senator Brenda Gilmore.

***BREAKING NEWS on the LAWSUIT ..... Marian Ott LWVTN President***

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> - The judge has set the trial date for 2/9/2021 --- this means that the preliminary injunction barring implementation of the voter registration drive regulation as well as the disclosure requirements in communications about voter registration and elections will remain in effect for the 2020 election season!!!

This is very good news for our efforts. Please continue to register voters and with all your Get Out The Vote efforts. Remember to keep track of the numbers!

As always, please contact me if you have any questions.

Marian Ott (she/her)  
President

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***News from the Hendersonville League –  
Shelly Ames & Norma Dam / Co-Presidents*****NOVEMBER 14, 2019 (LAUNCH) NASHVILLE SITES WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE WALKING TOUR**

Want to walk in the footsteps of the women and men involved in the passage of the 19th Amendment in the summer of 1920? This free self-guided, mobile-friendly walking tour follows the journey of important places and people connected to the fight for suffrage in downtown Nashville. The tour begins at Union Station, where suffragists and Antis stepped off the train and pinned on either a yellow rose (for ratification) or red rose (against ratification). The tour ends at the State Capitol and is just over one mile in total distance. You can read or listen to narrative and there are also images and navigation features. Be advised that tours are best taken with headphones. In addition to Woman's Suffrage, there are 22 thematic tours on Nashville Sites. Visit [www.nashvillemhcf.org](http://www.nashvillemhcf.org)

**NOVEMBER 21, 2019 BY ONE VOTE: WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN THE SOUTH** NPT's original documentary includes interviews with dozens of experts including nationally recognized Southern suffrage expert Marjorie Spruill and Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour*. Airing November 21, 2019, at 8pm/c on Nashville Public Television. Visit [www.wnpt.org](http://www.wnpt.org).



***News from the Action Chair – Debby Gould 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President***

As we prepare for a slew of local, state and federal elections in 2020, local LWV chapters are looking for the most effective community engagement approaches.

The newly refreshed [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org) has enhanced user access features and is a great way for the public to get non-partisan information about the candidates. We encourage all local leagues to use and promote it this year. Once again, LWVTN will pay the annual usage fee for local chapters that are committed to using it.

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One of the frustrations voiced during our November conference was the surprisingly frequent dilemma of one candidate simply being a “no show” for a forum or other event. Based on this group discussion, the LWVTN board will draft guidelines for local leagues to use in those situations when one or more candidates refuses to participate in a public forum. We also heard from leagues that have avoided the issue by hosting candidate “meet and greets” or “speed dating” styled events.

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The State Advocacy Committee will begin meeting bi-weekly in January 2020 when the state legislature reconvenes to review relevant bills and discuss the most effective ways that we can activate our statewide membership to communicate with legislators about key issues. Our priority areas will be:

- Elections and the voting process
- Open and transparent government
- Public education
- Healthcare Reform
- Environment
- Judicial Selection
- Responsible Budget

You will be receiving more information next month about how you can be an active committee participant whether you live in Nashville or attend our meetings virtually. I am always amazed at the capacity of our collective voices to move public policy. I hope I can count on you to be one of them.

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**First Call: LWV 54th National Convention |  
League of Women Voters**

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/first-call-lwv-54th-national-convention>



### **News from the Oak Ridge League – Harriett McCurdy / President**

I take pen to paper to share some information that is only tangential to the mission of the LWVOR. We all know that you need a picture ID to board an airplane, and a current driver's license is the ID used, but times are changing.

The Real ID is a different license. The Real ID Act of 2005 set new security standards for a Federal ID. As of October 1, 2020, this form of ID or a valid passport will be required to board a domestic flight or to enter a Federal Building or military base. Because I serve on the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) and must show my driver's license to enter areas in Oak Ridge where clean-up operations are underway, I decided to not wait to apply for the Real ID. On a Friday morning I gathered the five pieces of original documents that are required and drove to Clinton. Oops! The office in Clinton does not issue this ID. I was directed to the Oak Ridge Driver Services Center at 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, which is the building just east of Tractor Supply. I went to a desk where I was asked to present my documents. Luckily, I had five items that were acceptable, and I was given a number and told to wait. There were about a dozen people ahead of me. [Note: Monday and Friday are not good days to go. Once I was called in, my documents were copied; my photo was snapped; and I paid for a duplicate TN license. I left with a paper copy of this new ID. About a week later the new driver's license with a star on it arrived. Job done. This new ID is issued by TN Department of Safety and Homeland Security. *I strongly encourage you to go to their web site to view a detailed list of required documents before you attempt to apply for the Real ID.* While I waited on that Friday, I saw numerous people sent away because they brought photocopies or tried to use one document to serve as two proofs of Tennessee residency. Recent news stories have reported that TSA is concerned that on the October 1, 2020 date many travelers will not be able to board domestic flights.

I shared my small adventure to encourage you to be proactive and not wait until the last minute to get your Real ID.

Harriett McCurdy - [mccurdy46@hotmail.com](mailto:mccurdy46@hotmail.com)

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**UP-COMING Oak Ridge League events / LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE –**

- **Nov. 19:** Tony Jordan: Retired CIA Senior Intelligence Service Officer. Mr. Jordan is a retired career officer for the CIA with extensive experience in the Middle East and South Asia.  
*Topic:* TBD (a prospectus and title will be submitted)

**Background:** Since Sept 11, 2001, the Intelligence Community in the U.S. has undergone tremendous changes in organization structure including the creation, in 2004, of the Officer of Director of National Intelligence which under the current President is a Cabinet-level post. This director reports to and serves at the pleasure of the President to provide independent assessment. Since 2016, the DNI position has been a revolving door and each DNI becoming more and more partisan to the President of the United States.

In addition, the Intelligence Community has undergone, and is continuing to undergo, public and extreme criticism by the President. *In this presentation, we will learn about the IC and its current focus, its recent changes, its morale, and its future.*

**Relevance:** The LWVUS does not have a position specifically addressing intelligence collection. However, the League does have extensive positions on *promoting peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.*

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**Be Prepared for 2020 Census!**

**Background on U.S. Census Bureau’s recent state data sharing agreement | League of Women Voters**

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/talking-points-templates/background-us-census-bureaus-recent-state-data-sharing>