



The Voter

September/October 2023

President's Remarks



August 18th marked the 103rd anniversary of ratification of the 19th amendment. After a 72-year struggle, women were finally granted the right to vote. The League of Women Voters was founded six months prior by suffragist leader, Carrie Chapman Catt, for the purpose of registering and educating women so they would be prepared to cast an informed ballot.

Educating voters remains a central mission of the League today. Throughout our history, we have remained non-partisan and in our current highly charged political environment, that non-partisan status is more important than ever.

Our voter service and other educational activities are intended to present factual, unbiased, information on important issues so voters can make their own decisions without pressure to vote one way or another.

While we never take positions on candidates or political parties, through our advocacy arm, the League does take positions on issues that impact our communities. Many of those positions go back years and do not change based on the political climate. For example, our stance against gerrymandering goes back decades. Regardless of the political party in office we have held firm. Our public image as a nonpartisan organization is central to our credibility with the community. When representing the League in a public space, I urge all members to be cognizant of words and actions.

With election season upon us, our voter service efforts are front and center. The Voter Service team is looking forward to partnering with **Volusia County Schools Social Studies Department** and the **Volusia County Supervisor of Elections** to offer voter information and registration assemblies at all 10 county high schools. This project had been on hold due to Covid and we are excited to be back with our students again this year.

As a result of recent legislation, Florida Leagues are no longer using paper voter registration forms. We have purchased a new tablet and mobile data plan that will enable us to continue this important work electronically.

We also have a very active **speakers bureau** that offers educational presentations on election readiness and other topics of interest. If you know of a club or organization that is looking for program speakers, please let **Ann Smith know at ahsmith5@bellsouth.net**.

One of our goals this year is to **expand our outreach** to the community and to offer more opportunities for our members to engage with our League. **Membership outreach chair, Bonnie Friedman**, has been busy setting up Local Leaguers meetings for current members to interact and get to know one another. Her team is also setting up meet and greets for potential new members. Look for more information about these exciting opportunities in this edition of The Voter.

There is a lot happening within LWVVC and we hope you become involved anyway that suits your interests.

**In League,
Nicki Junkins, President**

Nonpartisanship Policy

As we focus on next year's elections, it is important for us all keep in mind that The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization.

You can read about this policy in detail [HERE](#).

End of Year Budget Summary 2022-2023



Click [HERE](#) to see our Volusia County League's annual budget summary.



League membership runs from July 1 to June 30. If you haven't already, it is time to renew dues now! Go to [HERE](#) to use your credit card online. Or you can download the PDF version of the [Membership Form](#) to send by mail with a check to **LWVVC, PO Box 9695, Daytona Beach, FL 32120**.

Welcome new members: Carolyn Carbonnell; Marie T. Downey; Kathleen Eichinger; Marvin Friedman;

Nancy Greenfield; Kay Kummerow, and Patti Rausch. Please welcome them to your action teams and get to know them.

For questions, contact Membership Roster Chair Olga Hernandez oah@vyndicar.com

**Put Abortion Access on the Ballot
Sign the Petition - Collect Signatures**



Floridians Protecting Freedom is the committee working to put abortion access on the Florida ballot in 2024. In the first two months of the campaign, 484,305 petitions were collected. Since the launch of the campaign the committee has raised \$5.7 million. **Despite this momentum, there is more work to be done!**

A University of North Florida poll shows 75% of Florida voters oppose Florida's new six-week abortion ban, which is being challenged in court, 22% support it and 3% are undecided. The six-week ban is on hold while the state Supreme Court settles the 15-week abortion ban passed in 2022. The state's high court will hear oral arguments on the 15-week ban on Sept. 8, 2023.

You can help! Go to [HERE](#) to sign the petition.

You can mail it in or drop it off at a petition hub. **Jeanne Tanke** is happy to pick up signed petitions, provide you with blank forms, or answer any questions jeanne622lwvvc@gmail.com

If you are in DeLand, you can drop off petitions at 814 Wisconsin Avenue, DeLand or contact **Nicki Junkins** president@lwvvc.org

If you want to collect petitions yourself, please contact [Nicki Junkins](#) or [Jeanne Tanke](#) to receive the required training.

Membership Outreach Team



Was there ever a more crucial time to join and get active in your League of Women Voters?

There are so many ways to help our membership grow and make a difference. **Local Leaguers of West Volusia** had its first meeting on Thursday, August 31st. The participants were looking to meet and bridge with other league members from Deland, Deltona, Debary, Orange City, and Lake Helen.

We are planning to start up Local Leaguers groups in other areas of Volusia County, especially the Margaritaville area and beach communities.

Would you be willing to host a small **Meet & Greet** at your home for our League? You invite the guests and provide a snack and we will do all the rest. It is a great way to introduce your friends and neighbors to the LWVVC, have a good time, and generate more members working together to accomplish our critical goals.

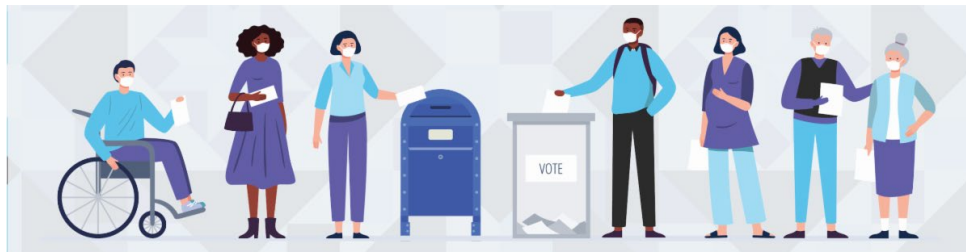
If you want to be a part of our dynamic Membership Outreach Team, participate in our Local Leaguers or host a Meet & Greet please contact me at: bonnietunes@yahoo.com or 407-312-4944

-- **Bonnie Friedman, Chair**



LWVVC west side League members participated in our first Local Leaguers meeting to get to know each other and learn more about opportunities to get involved in the League's work. Future Local Leaguers events are being planned for other parts of our county.

Voter Service Action Team



The Florida League is now performing “voter assistance” rather than “voter registration” in response to the governor’s new regulations and potential penalties imposed on third party voter registration organizations. To offer assistance for self-voter registration, we have purchased a WiFi/5G enabled tablet. It is set up with easy access to lwwvc.org, registrertovoteflorida.gov, volusiaelections.gov, and vote411.org. Participants will be able to use it to check their voter registration and vote by mail status, register to vote, and request a vote by mail ballot.

Our state and local Leagues are focusing on young voters, 18-40. We are looking for opportunities to engage with this demographic.

Over 25 volunteers are assigned to assist the Supervisor of Election office to educate and register students in all ten Volusia County high schools, September 7-26.

We are registered to table at the Port Orange Family Days, Oct 14,15 and the Black Home Schoolers expo, Feb 24, 2024.

Petitions for an amendment to prohibit government interference in abortion decisions continues throughout the state and is reported to be doing well. See article above.

Members can contact me at nusbanh@gmail.com to join teams at any event or to offer new ideas for reaching out to voters.

Nancy Nusbaum - Chair

Natural Resources Action Team



The Natural Resources Team met in July, and among the topics discussed were our choices for Hot Topics. We are planning to coordinate with the Growth Management Team for the 2024 Earth Day/April discussion on beach erosion.

Another topic discussed was native plants. Volusia County has initiated a program called **Regrow the Loop** to replant the iconic 30-mile Scenic Loop with plants focusing on native trees. In addition, one of our members met with Anna

Copeland, the Tree Replacement Trust Coordinator, which is part of the Environmental Management Office. Anna is working on planting native trees around county retention ponds. **This is a prototype program.**

We will be holding a meeting for the community, focusing on the value of native plants, the environmental impacts of invasive species, and how to incorporate native plants into your yard, even with homes in HOA communities. The meeting will be held at the **Ormond Beach Public Library Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 5:30 pm, and our speaker will be Melissa Lammers.**

Reach out to Nancy Vaughn with questions: nancyvaughn411@msn.com

Nancy Vaughn - Chair

New Women's Rights Action Team

In addition to our many fantastic action teams, a new **Women's Rights Action Team** is being formed. The team's goals are:

- Educate ourselves and community members/voters of historical and ongoing lack of gender equality and the resulting consequences.
- Advocate for positive change for women in all areas of society
- Focus on current equality issues affected by county, state, and federal government.
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If you are interested in getting involved in this action team, there will be an introductory **Zoom meeting on Friday, September 14 at 5PM**. To join, please contact team chair,

Alicia Keenon at alicia.keenon@gmail.com and put "Women's Rights" in the subject line.

Education Action Team



The Education Action Team met on Aug. 21, and welcomed Carolyn Carbonell as a new member. The team members reported on their research into various Volusia private schools. They used web sites, internet searches, site drive-bys, and phone calls to collect information about their selected schools. The reports serve as an information base as we monitor the impact of the new voucher laws on enrollment for public school, home school, and private school, as well as finances.

There will be an official 20-day student count for Volusia in September. Step Up for Students will release official numbers in September, as well. Stay tuned for updates on this topic.

Several members of the Ed Team are participating in registering high school students. Thank you all.

The Ed Team reviewed the LWVFL legislative priorities platform on education and recommends that the state should focus only on having mandatory curriculum for students supported by tax funds. We also recommend that those students take and report a standard assessment as educationally appropriate. Charter schools are no longer as relevant because funds are directed to private and home schools.

We discussed several topics for future consideration, including school climate and safety, participation on School Advisory Committees, and presenting a general meeting for members later in the year. This will be considered when we meet next time.

Next Meeting: Sept. 25, 3:00 pm at Volusia United Educators. For information:

patddrargo@aol.com

Pat Drago - Chair

Growth Management Action Team

Based on last year's activities, research, and education to date, the GMAT will continue to focus on resiliency and sustainability issues this year, paying particular attention to the beach, flooding, and affordable housing initiatives.

Monies from the federal, state, county, and municipal governments have been and will continue to be dedicated to these issues, either in the form of studies, plans, or capital improvements. Team members have paid particular attention to Volusia County, New Smyrna Beach, and Daytona Beach.

City of New Smyrna Beach's flooding study was presented with the engineers, giving the city high marks for its development regulations and flooding controls noting that flooding was due to the high tides, and unusually high volume of rain coinciding simultaneously.

Daytona Beach is in the early process of working with the Army Corps of Engineers on a \$3 million flooding study of the midtown area.

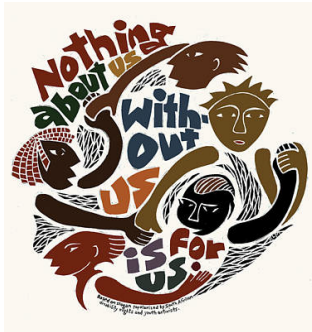


Volusia County is in the process of receiving comments to its [Volusia Disaster Recovery Plan Transform386](#). The GMAT intends to follow this effort as it accounts for a \$328,910,000 federal community block grant to the county.

If you would like to be involved with the GMAT, please contact saraleemorrissey@gmail.com

Chair - Saralee Morrissey

Social Justice Action Team



At the July meeting, the group talked about ideas, recommendations, concerns, and questions to form the future of this team. The following points emerged:

- Collaborate with like-minded organizations (e.g., NAACP, ACLU, etc.) on social justice issues, including coordinating activities, joint meetings, events, publicizing events, publications, etc.
- Concern about the broad nature of the topic of social justice arose. The League has teams covering diverse interests, such as the environment, public education, voter services, and election integrity. Social justice issues are inherent to these topics. Where

prudent, our team will collaborate with other League teams.

- Deficiencies in the new African American history standards were discussed. We will inform ourselves and discuss this topic further.

We stay abreast of current information through:

- News articles, essays, and opinion pieces about current social justice issues in Florida
- Announcements of state or local league presentations, programs, and webinars
- Announcements of activities being hosted by like-minded organizations

Join us! Email garbercns@aol.com.

Kitty Garber - Chair

Observer Corps Reports



We need more Observers! Please consider becoming an Observer at one of our municipal or county meetings in Volusia County. You might wish to share this responsibility with another LWVVC member. The function of the Observer Corps is to attend and observe these meetings, and submit short reports for The Voter. Meetings are usually held twice a month. When there is a controversial topic, a large turnout can produce a longer meeting. That, of course, is when such meetings are exciting to observe!

If you think you might wish to become an Observer, or share the responsibility with another Observer and learn what this responsibility entails, please **contact Susan Bayley at susancbayley@gmail.com**.

[Click here for a list of municipalities in Volusia County where Observers are needed](#). Observers don't have to live in the town where we need an Observer. If you have

questions about one of these vacancies, please go to its web site to learn more about the town, its services and governance.

Ormond Beach Commission Meeting
Tuesday, August 15, 2023 -- Submitted by Susan Bayley

Angry and upset citizens appeared for this meeting to protest the proposed fuel terminal being planned close to Rte.1, off Hull Road, near the Ormond Beach Sports Complex and the Bear Creek retirement community. Many of them (27) spoke for three-minutes each to protest the location of the fuel terminal. Traffic problems, fuel accidents, environmental concerns, and property values dominated the complaints and fears of residents. Mayor Partington stated that this matter is a Volusia County one, although he and all commissioners plan to send strong letters of disapproval and concerns to the county council as well as to state elected officials and the governor. There is an August 30th deadline for submission of the letter to the county. It seems commissioners were taken by surprise about this proposed fuel terminal, and residents' protests.

School Board of Volusia County
July 25, August 8 and 22, 2023 - Submitted by Ann Harrell

The Volusia County School Board met in regular session on the dates listed above with Chairman Jamie Haynes presiding. Members: Ms. Jamie Haynes, Chairman, District 1; Mrs. Anita Burnette, Vice Chairman, District 2; Mr. Ruben Colón, District 5; Mr. Carl Persis, District 4; and Mrs. Jessie Thompson, District 3. Also present: Dr. Carmen J. Balgobin, Superintendent..

During the recent School Board meetings, the Student Code of Conduct policies were updated including changes to **policies regarding cell phones, wireless devices, dress code, restrooms/lockers, and vapes/vaping.**

Pursuant to House Bill 309 - Cell phones/Wireless Devices. A student may not use a wireless communications device during instructional time, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. This includes cellphones, smartwatches, tablets, and earbuds.

Pursuant to 1006.07(d) Florida Statutes and Volusia County Schools Dress Code Policy 208, any student who violates the provision of the dress code policy that prohibits a student from wearing clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or that disrupts the orderly learning environment is subject to disciplinary action. School Board Policy 217.

Pursuant to House Bill 1521: Safety in Private Spaces Act, such as restrooms/locker rooms, students must use bathrooms and changing facilities based on their biological sex at birth or use a unisex restroom.

Vapes/Vaping: Vapes, e cigarettes, nicotine, tobacco, and all drug products are prohibited on all school campuses and at all school functions which includes school transportation.

Student Code of Conduct in School Board Policy 208 outlines the disciplinary actions for students who violate the provisions of the Code of Conduct.

HOT TOPICS and Events



September
Two Supreme Court Decisions
2023

Speaker: Clay Meek

Clay Meek is a member of our League's board and his law firm specializes in the area of workers' compensation and select civil litigation and criminal matters

The Future of Affirmative Action looks at **Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College**, which is a landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in which the court held that race-based affirmative action programs in college admissions processes violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

And **Moore v. Harper**, which is a North Carolina congressional gerrymandering case. North Carolina's legislative leaders appealed a ruling from the North Carolina Supreme Court striking down the state's congressional map as an extreme partisan gerrymander. On June 27, 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a historic 6-3 decision in Moore v. Harper, rejecting the attempted gerrymandering by North Carolina.

When: Thursday, September 21, 2023, 5:30PM

Where: Port Orange Library, 1005 City Center Cir, Port Orange

Optional dinner at Houligan's, 1396 Dunlawton Ave., Port Orange

RSVP: by September 19 to Jeanne Tanke at: jeanne622lwvvc@gmail.com

October The Florida Yard

Speaker: Melissa Lammers

Melissa Lammers, a member of our League and our Natural Resources Action Team. She is an avid Florida native plant gardener, or really, habitat manager of her yard. She will share the crucial reasons to "go native," in your garden, and will provide information to help the audience get started on their own real native Florida Yard adventure.

When: October 10, Tuesday, 5:30 -6:30 PM

Where: Ormond Beach Library, 30 S Beach St, Ormond Beach

Optional dinner at Thai Erawan, 219 E Granada Blvd, Ormond Beach.

RSVP: by October 8 to Jeanne Tanke at: jeanne622lwvvc@gmail.com

[For a full list of events and meetings click HERE to download and print.](#)

Watch for the Constant Contact in your inbox or check out webpage www.lwvvc.org for more information.