



LOCAL PROGRAM FOR 2023 – 2024

Communications Committee continues to expand the LWV of Alachua County reach into the larger community via the website and social media. Communications will continue to coordinate with the Standing Committees, Hot Topics, LWWFL and LWWUS, and our partner organizations to alert and educate members and citizens in Alachua County of events and opportunities for advocacy and action. Communications will continue to produce the monthly calendar and The Voter newsletter with input from league members.

Education Committee will research and focus on equity in public schools locally and statewide. The pandemic has caused learning losses for many students but particularly those who live in low socio-economic households. We will research and look at data from districts across the state and nation as to how equity is being addressed. This may include the usage of ESSER funds, tutoring, after school enrichment, extension of the school day, early childhood education, parent involvement and community engagement. Additionally, in light of the recent vote by the ACPS Board to rezone all schools, we will follow the process, focusing on equity.

Local Issues Committee is on pause pending new leadership.

Natural Resources Committee will undertake an aggressive, non-partisan program of advocacy and education in support of clean, adequate, accessible water; clean air; healthy soil; and preservation of land for conservation, agriculture and parks.

Specific Areas of Emphasis

1. Urge an end to GRU's natural gas rebate program and expansion of direct gas sales infrastructure.
2. Support an integrated, comprehensive governmental approach to climate adaptation and mitigation led by the City of Gainesville's new Climate officer.
3. Urge both the City of Gainesville and Alachua County to commit to all the conditions of the Race To Zero with special emphasis on setting measurable goals for the transition to renewable energy, timelines for reaching each goal, the actions to be taken in pursuit of each, and the creation of a transparent, readily accessible, regularly up-dated, publicly available dashboard that displays these goals, actions,

and progress toward them, support all just rooftop, distributed and utility-scale solar projects in Gainesville and Alachua County.

4. Collaborate with other local leagues and environmental groups in opposing state and local regulations, bills, and policies that are bad for the environment, including those that violate the principles of home rule.
5. Support all city and county activities and proposals that are consistent with the City's 2019 Declaration of a Climate Emergency, a Declaration incidentally that was accepted in a Mayoral ceremony by Local Issues Chair Jeffrey Shapiro on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Alachua County.
6. Propose an EV policy for city and advocate for such a policy's adoption by city government.
7. Support GRU's status as a municipal utility.

Successfully accomplishing the above will require:

1. Increasing League member involvement in NR activities,
2. Expanding and intensifying collaborative efforts with local and state environmental groups.
3. Extending education and advocacy beyond forums to include written and in-person activities including letter writing, tabling, demonstrating, and attending critical city and county meetings and citizen advisory committees.
5. Monitoring the activities of the 2023-24 state legislature.
6. Completing study and action reports for activities not included in this program as directed by the League Board.

Oak Hammock Committee will continue to expand membership at the OH facility and provide presentations by pertinent speakers. Several will pertain to the upcoming 2024 election. All talks are open to all LWVAC members. We will provide a forum for candidates running for office in 2024 for the residents of Oak Hammock.

Social and Criminal Justice Committee will continue working to increase deflection of adults and children from the criminal justice system and will advocate for 1) establishment of a comprehensive civil system of care to provide assessments and wrap-around services; 2) reduction of reliance on money bail, especially for indigents; 3) equitable restoration of suspended driver's licenses; 4) improving the adult and juvenile criminal justice system; and 5) increased coordination among county, municipalities and related entities. Social Events and Hot Topics Committees will organize or assist in organizing meetings and events, including opportunities to network and to explore and discuss current topics.

Voter Services Committee will:

1. Hold monthly meetings, now scheduled for first Wednesday each month at 6:30pm

2. Continue tabling and other efforts to register voters for the next elections and remind voters who do mail-in ballots to renew for each election
3. Take into account important dates:
 - a. February 19, 2024: Registration deadline for August primary election
 - b. August 20, 2024: Primary election
 - c. October 7, 2024: Registration deadline for November general election
 - d. November 5, 2024: General election
4. Prepare for the General Election
 - a. Continue Vote 411 efforts (input all updates)
 - b. Re-request Vote by Mail (law may change so that this cannot be done by phone)
 - c. Supervised voting: for assisted living, nursing home residents. Administrator must submit written request to SOE. We can get the word out. SOE cannot make the first contact
 - d. Ascertain the need for more Voter Guides
 - e. Social media campaigns: a) video clips of how Vote 411 was useful?; b) work with Bob Graham Center to engage potential young voters
 - f. Candidate Forums
 - g. More frequently scheduled voter registration events
 - a. Colleges? Student unions?
 - b. Libraries
 - c. Farmers' markets
5. Lead the effort on returning citizen postcards (Kathy Kidder has taken the lead)