



THE VOTER

October 2022, Vol. 49 No. 7

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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October is the month our LWVOP focuses on voting and elections. Leaguers are registering voters at two county high schools, the tech schools in Easley and Seneca, Clemson University, and community events. We partnered with the NAACP in this endeavor with a prize awarded to the high school with the most newly registered voters.



Linda Gahan

Our three candidate forums focus on educating the public on the candidates running in different county and city races and how these candidates stand on the issues. A question-and-answer period allow voters to learn why candidates are running and what they plan to do if elected. In addition, the league maintains a website, VOTE411.org, with additional information on candidates. This involves submitting questions to all candidates and recording their answers on the website. Candidates who do not respond get recorded as such. These varied activities support our "Make Democracy Work" Program.

Our October General Meeting on October 18 concerns recycling. On August 1 the City of Clemson suspended its pick-up recycling program for lack of markets, problems of contamination and the need of a new truck. Residents were encouraged to take their recyclables to Kite Hill at Clemson University, the Pickens County recycling centers, or the brush site near the CATBUS location. Word has it that Pickens County government plans to purchase a bailer for bundling the plastics to make these recyclables more marketable. Meanwhile Clemson University continues to have a successful recycling program while Oconee County may have a better plan for its county residents. Why the disparity? Come learn the facts.

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THE VOTER

League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties
 P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29631
<https://my.lwv.org/south-carolina/oconee-pickens-counties>

OFFICERS:

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 Holley Ubrich, Vice-President
 Ellie Taylor, Secretary
 Elaine Laiewski, Treasurer

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 Carolyn Bishop-McLeod
 Sandy Land
 Janet Marsh
 Sarah McNeill
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Policy Advisor	Janie Shipley
Voter Reg	Cheryl Lee
Vote411	Alice Flower
Web Master	Allison Ranson
Web Master	Carol Asalon
NAACP Liaison	Sheila Crawford

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 7	Last day to register to vote in person at county administrative offices
October 9	Last day to register to vote online
October 6	Candidate Forum for Pickens County Council District 1, Clemson City Council Chambers, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
October 12	Candidate Forum for Clemson City Council, Clemson City Council Chambers, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
October 18	Program on “What’s Happened to Recycling?”, OLLI, 7 p.m.
October 25	LWVOP Board Meeting, Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
November 8	Election Day, 7:00 am – 7:00 p.m.
November 15	Program on “The Teacher Shortage”, OLLI , 7 p.m.
December 13	Holiday Party
<i>OLLI Building</i>	<i>578 Issaqueena Trail, 100 Thomas Green Clemson Boulevard, Clemson (864-633-5242)</i>

VOTE411 Candidate Information

VOTE411 Candidate Information will be available on VOTE411.org after September 19. This is a good website to find out how candidates running in various county, city and school board races respond to questions on various issues.

Voter Registration Activities Leading Up to the November Election

The League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens County has contacted all the high school students in our counties and given them the opportunity to register to vote. LWVOP teamed up with the NAACP in a competition among the high schools to see which school could register the most voters. A prize was provided by the Greenville League of Women Voters to the winner. We have also been to the Oconee and Pickens Technical Colleges to register voters. We are scheduled to register the CU football players which has been successful in the past. This is a yearlong process as many seniors are not old enough to register so we will need your help in the spring. A big thank you for those who helped this fall! Join us next spring as we push forward to increase our voter registration activities.

Submitted by Cheryl Lee

LWVOP OCTOBER PROGRAM – RECYCLING CHALLENGES

For more than a decade, communities have adopted recycling programs with the intent to reduce landfill use and demonstrate environmental awareness. Over time, this has become integrated across most communities, enabling people to "recycle" items such as paper, glass, aluminum, and plastic. But is that what really happens? The City of Clemson has halted curbside recycling after learning that Pickens County only recycles 8% of what it picks up. Most goes into the landfill. Halting curbside pick-up for now enables the city to save money but leave the door open to re-start the program when the market for recycling emerges. The goal of this program is to explore the market for our trash, what gets recycled, what we need to do better (no, don't put newspaper in plastic bags!), and how we can truly reduce, re-use, and recycle for maximum impact.

Guests for the October program will be **Allison Gantte**, Assistant City Administrator for Clemson; The Kite Hill staff, including **Director Dave VanDeventer**, will attend to discuss collaborating with the city and other possible recycling markets where the City can participate. We are waiting on confirmation of attendance from Oconee and Pickens County representatives. The goals of our panel are to discuss the current recycling market, how to reduce and reuse materials, and where we can all be more involved to recycle what we can.

Submitted by Catherine Watt

The Ballot Box was NOT Stuffed - Here's the Proof

If the number of voters equals the number of ballots, the ballot box was not stuffed. The ballot box counts the number of ballots it reads and prints the number of ballots immediately after the polls are closed at the end of the election. (If there is doubt the number of ballots in the ballot box can be verified by a hand count.

We also have a reliable count of the number of voters. The sign-in sheets are special; each having exactly 50 lines. Each voter is carefully instructed to sign on the line below the previous voter before being handed a blank ballot. When a sheet has 50 sign-ins, it is moved to the bottom of the stack and replaced by a fresh sheet. Immediately after the polls close, the number of voters is computed by multiplying the number of full sheets by 50 and adding in the number of signatures on the current sign-in sheet. The clerk prints two copies of the precinct voting results and posts one copy on a precinct door. The other copy is turned in to the county elections office, along with other documentation and equipment. Precinct results will also be posted at scvotes.gov.

When, as expected, the number of voters is the same as the number of ballots cast, we can trust that the ballot box was not stuffed. Since the comparison of number of voters to number of ballots cast happens at every polling place in every county, we have a very secure election. If anybody tried to stuff a ballot box, the problem would be detected immediately.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

Reproductive Rights Group Update We Won This Round!

In the previous *Voter* we reported on public education and advocacy in Oconee and Pickens Counties by the LWVOP Reproductive Rights Group (Group) to prevent the South Carolina Legislature from passing a more restrictive ban on abortion in South Carolina.

During August and September, the Group continued these efforts, asking Members of our respective county legislative delegations to vote no to more restrictive abortion bans like H.5399 passed by the full House in August, then amended and passed by the Senate in September. When the amended bill returned to the House on September 27, all our Oconee and Pickens County Representatives joined most of the House members in a nonconcurrence vote, requiring the bill to go to a House/Senate Conference to resolve the differences between the Chambers. The pervasive view as of early October is that there will be no conference this year and that the process will begin again in the next legislative session. So, in a way we might say we won this round, even though our legislators weren't voting no to protect reproductive rights. So, abortion continues to be legal in South Carolina up to 20 weeks; the restrictive Fetal Heartbeat Act is currently blocked by the SC Supreme Court, which will hear oral arguments on October 19. That decision will affect what happens next year in the legislature.

In October the Group will review our many actions and lessons learned, to guide us the next time we need to educate the public and advocate for reproductive health and rights. South Carolina women, girls and families are counting on us. If readers are not members of the Group but have comments to share, or want to get involved next time, contact **Sandy Land**- sandyl@pa.net or 717 491 7483.

Submitted by Sandy Land

Ways to Pay Membership Dues

Thank you to the 38 new and former members who paid their membership dues by September 30. We still need the support of 56 of our FY21-22 members for FY22-23. Dues are \$60, \$30 for each additional household member, or \$10 for a student membership.

- Bring your dues to the October meeting.
- Mail a check to: LWVOP PO Box 802 Clemson, SC 29633.
- Click on the JOIN button at the top of our website home page. There is a \$2 fee.
- Use the Bill Pay section of your bank or credit card.
- Email lwvop1@gmail.com to make other arrangements.

2022 Candidate Forums in Preparation for November 8 Election

Oconee County School Board Trustees for Districts 1 and 3

WHERE: Gignilliat Center at 621 N. Townville St. in Seneca in the South
Conference Room
WHEN: Monday October 3, 2022, 7:00-8:30PM
SPONSORED BY: League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties
CANDIDATES are:
District 1: **Dean Bare, Amanda Holder, and Keri Unsworth**
District 3: **John Fallon, Jeremy Hobbs, Riley Johnson Jr., and Sandra Grant Sloan**

Pickens County Council Candidate Forum for District One

WHERE: Clemson City Council Chambers
WHEN: Thursday, October 6 6:30-8:00 PM
SPONSORED BY: League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties
CANDIDATES: **C. Claiborne Linvill (D) and Brad White (R)**

Clemson City Council Candidate Forum

WHERE: Clemson City Council Chambers
WHEN: Wednesday, October 12 6:30-8:00 PM
SPONSORED BY: League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties
CANDIDATES: **Lillian Boatwright, John Fulmer, Adam Jones, Alesia Smith, and Margaret Thompson**

LWVOP Welcomes New Members

Fourteen women and men have joined the League in the last four months. In the past, the Membership Team has enjoyed visiting with each new member and publishing their bio and photo in the *Voter*. Summer schedules and the sheer increase in numbers has made these visits difficult to schedule. We will try to catch up! As always, we will introduce new members at our monthly meetings at OLLI. Joining LWVOP since June 2022 are **John Batson, Bill Blask, Cynthia Blair, Deborah Cantrell, Patricia Carpenter, Nancy Johnston, Ellie Lawrence, Claiborne Linvill, Cathy Littleton, Rita Moore, Martha Murtiashaw, Candice Osborne, Margaret Pridgen, and Frank Sullivan**. An Orientation for new members is scheduled at OLLI Tuesday, October 11 at 4 p.m. **Janie Shipley** will lead the orientation.

VOTE 411 REPORT

We continue to see slow progress in the percentage of candidates who respond to our Vote411 questionnaire. In the upcoming November 8th election, we covered 25 races with 44 candidates. Of those, 27 have responded and posted their answers. To date, the candidates have received a phone call, two emails, and a postcard requesting their participation.

At this point, we need pressure from voters to get the remaining 17 candidates to respond. You can help with this effort. Please go to www.Vote411.org and enter your address to see your ballot. Reach out to candidates who have not yet responded and let them know that you are interested in reading their views. For advice on this effort, check <https://www.vote411.org/candidate-contact>. Candidates will participate if they think it is worth their while to do so.

Some of the remaining candidates are unopposed. However, Fire District Commission – Keowee Fire Protection, Pickens County School Board – District 7, and Watershed Conservation District – Georges Creek have opposition and candidates who have not responded.

I would like to thank **Buzzy Adams, Ken Marsh, Carol Kozma, and Eleanor Hare** for their help with phoning the candidates and helping to create the candidate question. And a huge “thank you” goes to **Eleanor Hare** for her advice a gentle reminder that have kept me on track. A special thank you goes to all of you who have distributed the Vote411 flyer to neighbors, friends, and any other place you can think of.

Vote411 is a tremendous resource to voters but only if they know it is there and only if the candidates participate.

Submitted by Alice Flower

We NEED YOU to Complete the LWVOP Membership Survey

The survey was emailed 9.7 and 9.17 by **Linda Gahan**.
If you need help in completing, or prefer a hard copy,
contact **Janet Marsh** 864.710.0557.

Thank you to those who have completed it!!

Bringing in the New League Year with Women's Equality Day

LWVOP held its first program August 23 at OLLI in Clemson following a summer break. The theme, Women's Equality Day, is an annual event celebrating women's movement forward over the decades. This year, members were asked to vote for "Woman of the Decade." Each famous woman, represented by a LWV member, had 3 minutes to tell the audience why she should be voted "Woman of the Decade."

Tied for first place were **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, represented by **Carol Asalon** and **Stacy Abrams**, represented by **Sarah McNeill**. Others participating were:

Cassidy Hutchinson, represented by **Holley Ulbrich**
Gretchen Whitmer, represented by **Cheryl Lee**
Liz Cheney, represented by **Carolyn Bishop McLeod**
Greta Thunberg, represented by **Allison Ranson**



*Clemson City Council
1st and 3rd Monday, 6:30 pm*

*Pickens County School Board
4th Monday, 7:00 pm*

*Seneca City Council
2nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm*

*Oconee County School Board
3rd Monday, 6:00 pm*

*Pickens County Council
1st Monday, 6:30 pm*

*Oconee County Council
1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm*

Contribution Form

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area LWVCA, P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Phone (opt) _____

I wish my contribution to remain anonymous.

I wish my contribution to be tax deductible where allowed by law. My check is made out to the "League of Women Voters Ed Fund" which is a 501(c)(3) organization.

I wish to support the League's action priorities. My check is made out to the "League of Wom-en Voters" and is not tax-deductible.

Visit our website at www.lwvclemsonarea.org and contact us at lwvclemson@gmail.com.