



# THE VOTER

March 2021, Vol. 48 No. 3

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area  
Serving the Citizens of Pickens, Oconee and Anderson Counties

## Co-President's Message

With legislatures in action at both the national and the state level, there is much for League members to do. Check, for example, the actions of our Safe, Accessible, and Fair Elections (SAFE) group. I also highly recommend joining the monthly Zoom call with **Lynne Teague**, our lobbyist in Columbia, for the latest in the state legislature.



**Ruth Reed**

However, for this message I want to turn to two different matters that are less critical but key to meeting our more critical mission of “making democracy work,” both of which will improve our ability to communicate our message.

*First:* I am starting work to develop a more comprehensive and streamlined way to communicate League messages and actions to the general public. My request: could you send me any contacts with possible outlets such as Indivisible, NextDoor, other neighborhood groups, newsletters, etc. Ask friends and neighbors how they get information about local events. I think communication will be an ongoing effort.

*Second:* The latest on our name: 25 members have responded to date to my question of whether to change the name “Clemson Area” to something else. Twenty responded yes or qualified yes. Three responded no, one responded wait until Anderson question settled, and one had no preference. This response is almost a third of the membership; I am guessing that anyone with a strong preference has responded. A name change should probably precede a major push in communications and depends in part on the possible formation of a separate Anderson League.

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### THE VOTER

League of Women Voters Clemson Area  
*Serving the Citizens of Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson Counties*  
P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633  
[www.lwvclemsonarea.org](http://www.lwvclemsonarea.org)

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, March 16, 6-7 p.m., Zoomed City Council Candidate Forum:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85142493248>

Tuesday, March 16, 7-8:30, Zoomed March Meeting: Dr. Rhondda Thomas,  
*Call My Name, Clemson: Documenting the Black Experience in Clemson University History*

## Co-President's Message Continued

**Holley Ulbrich** has the support of about fifteen or so women in Anderson to restart the Anderson League; **Christe McCoy** (outgoing SC Co-President) is committed to getting leagues started in areas of the state not presently served. We can invite Anderson County citizens to our meetings and other events—much easier on Zoom than in person—to help them get started. We hope our Pendleton members will stay with us if they wish; we may be able to work out a “double membership” situation (courtesy membership in one of the two Leagues). Given these developments, I think we will see an Anderson League sooner rather than later.

With this development in mind, and the interest among the membership in a name change, I recommend that we propose a name change for vote at the annual meeting in May. The change could be set to take place after the Anderson League is well on its way. Based on the work of the committee that considered a name change (reported in the January *Voter*) finding a new name is problematic. In the ensuing discussions after the *Voter* article, Foothills was met with enthusiasm, the downside being that it is not a geographic location in the sense that Clemson Area is and, further, describes a larger area than just Oconee and Pickens Counties. If Anderson were not a separate league, Anderson/Oconee/Pickens was deemed to be a bit too awkward. However, support seems to be gathering for Oconee/Pickens. LWVOP is unique, unlike LWVCA, which in a Google search brings up Charleston, Columbia, Cincinnati Area Leagues, and probably others. But more importantly it addresses the need to include all residents of both counties, not all of whom consider themselves to be part of the “Clemson Area”. It speaks well of the activities of our League that work has expanded to the other areas of these counties. In the response to the question of name change, one member suggested Issaqueena or other Cherokee word. I really like that suggestion; Oconee meets that criterion. Pickens, of course, does not and opens us up to the “Tillman Hall” criticism; Andrew Pickens was not without his own faults. Also, I’m not sure that Issaqueena meets the preference for a geographic/political name. I’m interested in comments; it would be useful to vet various names before bringing the matter to a vote.

If we could bring a proposal to the Board for the April meeting and to the membership for a vote at the annual meeting in May, we could advance the work of developing communications, but that is merely a goal and not essential. At this point, my sense is that LWV Oconee/Pickens would be the proposed name. But please suggest alternatives if you have good ones that have not already surfaced.

## **Bill H3444, on the Composition and Duties of the State Election Commission (SEC)**

The original version of H.3444 would have improved the composition of the SEC by allowing for the inclusion of political independents; however, the bill has been amended in the House Judiciary Committee to establish a strongly partisan SEC, consisting of nine members only three of which would need to be from the minority party. The bill also significantly expands the power of the SEC to control county election commissions.

The League supports consistency among county election offices with respect to interpreting the requirements of state law. However, this bill is not needed to achieve that. The SEC demonstrated this in 2020 when upon learning of inconsistencies they immediately sent instructions to counties to adhere to their interpretation of the law. Instead, this bill would permit unacceptable partisan control of county commissions, which, after all, exist to allow local decision-making about the on-going administration of election operations.

### **WE OPPOSE THIS BILL BECAUSE**

- 1) Consistent interpretation of state law among county election offices is important but this bill is not necessary to ensure that.** (This was demonstrated in 2020 when the SEC quickly and effectively moved to end such inconsistencies when it learned of them.)
- 2) As amended, bill H.3444 would create an extremely partisan SEC, clearly designed to be responsive to the needs and wishes of a party rather than to the needs of South Carolina's diverse electorate.**
- 3) The very partisan SEC created by H.3444 in its current form does not need and should not have the broad powers over county election offices provided by the bill.**

*From LWVSC*

### **Oconee Food Summit Regroup Assembly 2021**

If you are interested in local food production and distribution along with food insecurity in Oconee County, the upcoming Oconee Food Summit Regroup Assembly will interest you. The free virtual conference will be held from 9 am-12 noon on March 26 and March 27. You can register for either day.

The first sessions will feature updates including OCONEE FOOD FRONTLINE REPORT concerning several local food issues. Panelists will speak from local food pantries, markets, schools, farms, and other local food distribution sites. The impact of COVID-19 on food production and food insecurity will be reviewed. Presentations will be followed by group strategic planning.

To reserve your spot email [oconeefoodsummit@gmail.com](mailto:oconeefoodsummit@gmail.com).

## LWVSC Position on Affordable Housing

At the program planning meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area held Saturday, January 30, it was agreed that affordable housing be recommended for inclusion in state League policies and priorities for 2021-2023.

We suggest the following language:

***LWVSC supports policies that provide access to safe and affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households throughout the state.***

We suggest this policy priority be inserted in the LWVSC Policies in Brief, under Health and Human Services, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence starting with “Important public services .... education, health care, ***affordable housing***, protection of child rights and the criminal justice system.”

Narrative:

### 1. Rental Housing:

SC has consistently experienced large population migration into the state over the past several years and was the 6<sup>th</sup> fastest growing state in the US in 2019-2020\* This is part of a larger national trend of families moving south and west. Population growth, and the increasing cost of new construction, have been factors in creating housing shortages in some regions of the state, and place upward pressure on the costs of rental housing. Safe and decent housing should be available to all, including those most cost-burdened by rising rents. This includes lower income households on limited incomes and working families in low wage jobs. In some parts of the state, even households comprised of entry level skilled and/or professional workers cannot afford to rent in the communities they serve. Policies should be in place to maintain existing affordable rents and create new affordable units as housing stock increases.

### 2. Homeownership:

The purchase of a first home is an important step in building wealth and economic security. Policies should be in place in communities with very high housing costs that provide opportunity for moderate income households to purchase a home.

Background:

*The 2018-2020 LWVUS public policy position supported “equality of opportunity in housing” and policies “to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family.”*

\* Article entitled “People Moving from Other States Made SC 6<sup>th</sup>-Fastest-Growing as US Births Rates Slow,” by Emily Williams, Post and Courier news article, updated Sept 14, 2020.

## LWVSC Redistricting Workgroup Progress

### Resources:

LWVUS has developed a People Powered Fair Maps website, which is a good introduction to the project.

- You will see a document that is our redistricting criteria and a document outlining our Redistricting Advisory Committee, both of those have helpful verbiage for articles, letters to the editor, and website updates.  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rzwTvKjBgR147ksaT3v9bZHPdApawNJ0?usp=sharing>.
- Check the LWVSC redistricting page on the website.
- The event that LWVUS did on redistricting and racial justice a couple of months ago is [here](#).
- Look at the redistricting blog.

There will be a national Day of Action on redistricting reform on April 29, 2021.

*Excerpted from Shayna Howell*

VP of Communications, LWV Charleston Area, Co-Chair, Redistricting Workgroup, LWVSC

### **March 23 Clemson City Council**

**Read about the candidates at**

**[www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)**

**Election Information You Need**

### **Program for March 16 meeting**

*Call My Name, Clemson: Documenting the Black Experience in Clemson University History*

**Dr. Rhondda Robinson Thomas**, Calhoun Lemon Professor of Literature, Clemson University

The talk explores how the *Call My Name* project is documenting and sharing the stories of people of African descent from the antebellum period through the present in Clemson University history by using the call-and-response tradition. In so doing, Clemson students and faculty are working collaboratively to recover stories that help complete the university's complex history and reveal its indebtedness to Black laborers for its existence and success.

## Pyrolysis Bill 3753 under Consideration

Plastics are organic polymers. (Organic in the sense used here means they contain Carbon.) A polymer is a compound consisting of long-chain molecules, each molecule made up of identical repeating units, or mers (hence poly-mer), connected together. Commercial plastics most often comprise linear chains, although some branching may be present. The type of polymer is determined by the composition of the repeat unit. Polyethylene has the simplest repeat unit, that being a Carbon atom and two Hydrogen atoms. The mer is represented as  $-CH_2-$  and the polymer as  $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$  and so on. The composition of the other common commercial polymers is more complex, and not necessary to discuss for our purposes here. Suffice it to say that the complexity of some plastics is what causes them to be hazardous to the environment. In addition to the polymer itself there are many additives in commercial products, used to enhance processibility, protect from UV degradation, and more. The additives themselves may not be environmentally innocuous.

As one example: One of the most problematic polymers for the environment, but also one of the most inexpensive and widely used, is polyvinyl chloride (PVC). PVC is used in a large range of applications, but it has a significant negative environmental impact when it breaks down. PVC releases phthalate plasticizers and chlorine-containing hydrocarbons, during its environmental degradation in landfills or during thermal treatment. Thermal degradation products also include hydrochloric acid, tar, and a benzene-containing liquid fraction.

Pyrolysis (gasification is similar) is the process of thermally degrading the long chain polymer molecules in plastic waste into smaller, less complex molecules through heat and pressure. The process requires intense heat of a relatively short duration in an atmosphere containing a limited amount of oxygen so as to prevent combustion. The three major products that are produced during pyrolysis are oils, gases, and char all of which can be valuable commodities. Note that this is not the same thing as incineration of the plastic. The products of that are also noxious.

The amount of post-use plastic waste is becoming a large and growing problem, and pyrolysis is an option for recycling this waste. At issue here is not the exclusion of pyrolysis as a tool to help with dealing with plastic waste. However, the bills presently being considered in SC removes DHEC oversight from the process, occasioned by relabeling. The SUMMARY of the House (and Senate) Bill states:

TO AMEND SECTION 44-96-40, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO SOLID WASTE POLICY AND MANAGEMENT, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT POST-USE POLYMERS AND RECOVERABLE FEEDSTOCKS USED IN PYROLYSIS AND GASIFICATION PROCESSES ARE "RECOVERED MATERIALS" AND ARE NOT "SOLID WASTE" FOR THE PURPOSES OF REGULATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL; BY ADDING SECTION 44-96-145 SO AS TO ADDRESS WHETHER A RECOVERED MATERIAL HAS BEEN ACCUMULATED SPECULATIVELY AND TO REGULATE RECOVERED MATERIALS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATED SPECULATIVELY AS SOLID WASTE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 44-96-340, RELATING TO SOLID WASTE INCINERATORS, SO AS TO INCREASE THE DAILY CAPACITY THAT MAY BE PERMITTED IN THIS STATE.

*Continued on next page*

## Pyrolysis Bill 3753 Continued

The subsequent definitions in the bill of post-use polymers and recoverable feedstocks are the main reasons, as I see it, for our objections at this point since this preamble removes oversight by DHEC and seemingly does not assign oversight elsewhere. Post-use polymers are not solid waste according to the EPA, which needs clarification. More importantly, given the prior example of PVC, this process must be under DHEC control because of the potential environmental impact.

Our position might be that DHEC should remain the regulatory body for pyrolysis of plastics considering the potential environmental impact. At the least, the bills should be tabled until such time as more in-depth review can be conducted.

## Cities of Clemson and Pickens Council Elections March 23

### ABSENTEE IN PERSON VOTING STARTS MONDAY FEBRUARY 22

Call 864-898-5948 or Go to [SCVOTES.GOV](http://SCVOTES.GOV) to request an application by mail.

In Person Voting at the Pickens County Voter Registration and Elections Office:

- County Administration Building: 222 McDaniel Ave, B-9, Pickens, SC 29671
- Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, February 22, 2021 to March 22, 2021

### March 23, 2021 Special City Council Elections (Clemson and Pickens)

#### City of Clemson – Unexpired Council Seat

- Jim Borick Nonpartisan
- John Fulmer Nonpartisan
- Greg Rice Nonpartisan

#### City of Pickens - Unexpired Council Seat

- *Jonathan Baker* Nonpartisan *WITHDRAWN*
- Allen Brewer Nonpartisan
- Ed Leese Nonpartisan
- Robert Nealy Nonpartisan

**Best wishes to Linda Gahan for recovery from a broken hip. Linda was at Oconee Memorial Hospital and now will be in rehab for several weeks.**

<i>Clemson City Council</i>	<i>1st and 3rd Monday, 6:30 pm</i>	<i>Pickens County School Board</i>	<i>4th Monday, 7:00 pm</i>
<i>Seneca City Council</i>	<i>2nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm</i>	<i>Oconee County School Board</i>	<i>3rd Monday, 6:00 pm</i>
<i>Pickens County Council</i>	<i>1st Monday, 6:30 pm</i>	<i>Anderson Co. School Board</i>	<i>3rd Monday, 6:00 pm</i>
<i>Oconee County Council</i>	<i>1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm</i>		
<i>Anderson County Council</i>	<i>2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6:00 pm</i>		

### 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 Women Voters" and is not tax-deductible.

Visit our website at [www.lwvclemsonarea.org](http://www.lwvclemsonarea.org) and contact us at [lwvclemson@gmail.com](mailto:lwvclemson@gmail.com).

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