

# LWVN VOTER 09-2019



## Events-Studies-Forums

**LWVN**  
**P.O. Box 720621**  
**Norman, OK 73070**

**WEBSITE:**

<https://my.lwv.org/oklahoma/norman/>

**EMAIL:**

[LWVNormanOK@gmail.com](mailto:LWVNormanOK@gmail.com)

**FACEBOOK:**

League of Women Voters  
of Norman, Oklahoma

**STEERING  
COMMITTEE**

Doris Kupfer, Co-President

Sandy Bahan, Co-President

Lois Hilbert, Secretary

Joyce Collard, Treasurer

Sandy Shapiro, Member-  
ship

Helen Duchon, Facebook,  
Voter Editor

Amanda Marcott-Thottunkal,  
Web Master

Helen Debolt, Voter Service

Aleisha Karjala, Census

Judy Reynolds, Studies

### **Celebrate the 19th Amendment**

**Monday, August 26, 5:30-8 pm**  
Norman City Council Hall

### **Fall Meeting: Speaker: Brenda Burkett, CFO of Norman Public Schools**

**Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019, 7pm - 8:30pm,**  
Memorial Presbyterian Church,  
604 24th Ave SW, Norman, OK  
Bring friends and family

### **Oklahoma Legislature Bill Tracking Workshop**

**Sunday Sept. 8, 3:00-5:00.**

Eastside library, 3051 Alameda,  
We are hosting Senator Mary Boren who will lead the workshop with the help of League member Deborah Hill.

### **Hot Topic Lunch: Waste Reduction presented by**

**Brett Scovill, Solid Waste Division Manager for Norman,**  
Recycling less. How did we get where we are and why we need to change.

**Wednesday, Sept 18, 11:30 am-1pm**

Interurban, 1150 Ed Noble Pkwy, Norman, OK

[https://my.lwv.org/oklahoma/norman/event/hot-topic-lunch-](https://my.lwv.org/oklahoma/norman/event/hot-topic-lunch-waste-reduction-brett-scovill)

[waste-reduction-brett-scovill](https://my.lwv.org/oklahoma/norman/event/hot-topic-lunch-waste-reduction-brett-scovill) Mr. Scovill has extensive experience with disaster cleanup and waste management. He will talk about the need for change in our day-to-day practices to allow for waste reduction rather than relying on recycling to address the growing problem of single-use items such as plastic bags, cups and bottles.

### **National Voter Registration Day**

**Tuesday, September 24 Event to be announced**

### **Hot Topic Lunch: Recycling in Norman presented by Crystal Bennett, Republic Services,**

**Wednesday October 23, 11:30 am-1pm**

Interurban, 1150 Ed Noble Pkwy, Norman, OK



## *Dear Members,*

This summer the steering committee explored areas we want to focus on starting this fall. Since 2020 is an election and a U.S. Census year voter registration is more important than ever to assure that citizens have current registration and are aware of the importance of the upcoming 2020 Census. Redistricting is an area we will definitely be exploring as well. This will happen in 2021 after the Census results are in. We are interested in attempts to put redistricting under a politically balanced committee to avoid partisan involvement that in the past has resulted in Gerrymandering.

We are looking into recycling and waste reduction issues in Norman, a world-wide concern, of course, that we can educate ourselves about and act locally.

Finally, the LWVOK will begin a study on Healthcare in Oklahoma. We do not have any position currently and use LWVUS positions. We would like to have an Oklahoma focused position statement to work from for advocacy on important health issues. An emphasis in this study will be mental health and maternal and infant care. Look for information in this Voter from Karen Cardenas, who is heading up the study. She is looking for contributions from Oklahoma League members. Send her an email with any ideas you have. If you can contribute time to the study let her know. Steering Committee member Judy Reynolds will be working on the study and keep us up to date on progress.

The Calendar will be filling up as we organize programs. Stay tuned for upcoming activities.

*Your co-Chairs,*

**Doris Kupfer**

**Sandy Bahan**

## Fall Meeting: Brenda Burkett, School Finance

Tuesday evening, September 3, the League of Women Voters of Norman will host their annual Fall meeting, at Memorial Presbyterian Church, 604 24th Ave, SW in Norman. The program will begin at 7:00 pm and members of the community are invited to attend.

The featured speaker will be **Brenda Burkett, Chief Financial Officer for the Norman Public Schools**. Her Topic will be “**School Finance in Oklahoma Today -Are We Better?**”

Areas of discussion will include the effect of this past Spring’s legislative session, the impact of the Norman TIF and the decision to end that agreement, the impact of decreasing enrollment, and the current school year’s anticipated budget needs.

Brenda R. Burkett, CPA, SFO, attended Oklahoma State University, graduating with a double major in Accounting/Agriculture Economics. She has been in education more than 26 years, working for Norman Public Schools since 1991. Brenda has been President of the Oklahoma Association of School Business Officials, is one of Oklahoma ASBO’s Certified School Business Administrators, and was selected as the School Business Official of the Year in 2014-15. She also serves on the Advisory Board for the Oklahoma Center for School Business Management and is a frequent presenter at workshops and conferences held by both of these organizations.

The League of Women Voters is a citizens’ organization that works to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. The League is nonpartisan, which means we don’t support or oppose candidates for public office. We believe deeply that the public should hear different views on the issues facing our communities.

***Sandy Bahan, Co-Chair, LWVN Steering Committee***



## Bill Tracking Workshop

Sunday, Sept. 8, 3-5 pm  
Norman Public Library EAST  
3051 Alameda St., Norman, OK

Are you eager to advocate for Oklahoma legislation in the 2020 session? Come to the bill-tracking workshop the League of Women Voters of Norman is sponsoring on Sunday, September 8, 2019 from 3:00-5:00 at the Norman Public Library East (3051 Alameda St, Norman, OK 73071).

Senator Mary Boren (SD 16) will lead the workshop, and seasoned advocate, Debbie Hill, will share her tools and experience with us as well.

The goals of the workshop are to learn how to effectively follow bills through the legislature and to find others who want to team up to follow bills of common interest in the next session.

For League members, advocacy is the next step after defining our positions on the issues. Recently, LWVOK has revisited our positions on fiscal policy and education.

No matter what your area of concern, bring your friends and come to the workshop to sharpen your advocacy skills!

*Judy Reynolds, Studies & Positions*

*We are lucky to have a new Voter Service Chair, Helen DeBolt. She has experience with the League having been on the board in the past and serving as president. 2020 is a big year for Voter Registration due to the census and presidential and general election.*

## National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 24, 2019

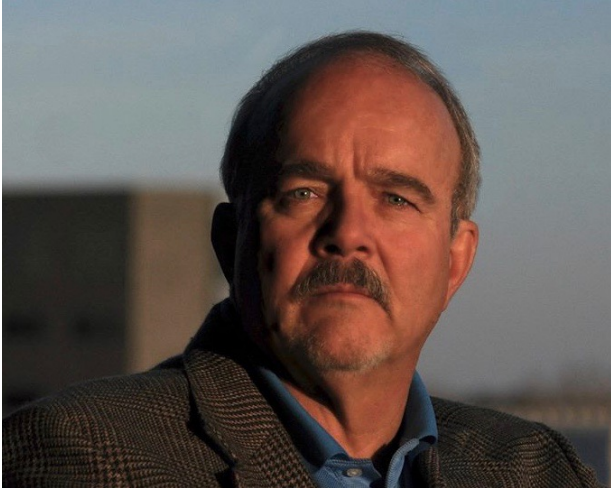
LWVNorman is going to participate in National **Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 24**.. Begun in 2012 by the National Association of Secretaries of State, it was established as an annual event on the 4th Tuesday in September in 2014. I've listed the sponsors below if you're interested. This is our first year to participate, so we'd like to make a splash (in a good way!).

On that Tuesday, I would like to have registration available at the high schools, the libraries, and OU. I hope we can have laptops set up so that people can also check their registration in the State Election Board database, and confirm polling places.

That's six locations on one day, so we're going to need lots of volunteer help to staff all of them. I will be in touch with everyone who has volunteered to do voter registration in the past, but if you want to help, please get in touch with me, **Helen DeBolt**, [htdebolt@ou.edu](mailto:htdebolt@ou.edu), text or calls to **405-550-5907**.

**Sponsors** for National Voter Registration Day include Facebook, democracy fund, Carnegie Corporation, Creative Artists Agency, Wallace H. Cotter Foundation, Viacom, and Google.

*Helen DeBolt, Voter Service*



## Hot Topic Lunch: Waste Reduction

**Recycling less. How did we get where we are and why we need to change?**

At our next Hot Topic Lunch we will host Brett Scovill, Solid Waste Division Manager, for the City of Norman.

<https://my.lwv.org/oklahoma/norman/event/hot-topic-lunch-waste-reduction-brett-scovill>

Mr. Scovill has extensive experience with disaster cleanup and waste management. He will talk about the need for change in our day-to-day practices to allow for waste reduction rather than relying on recycling to address the growing problem of single-use items such as plastic bags, cups and bottles.

Join us for the first of several presentations looking at the waste issue-the problems and possible solutions.



The Norman City Council, Tuesday August 13, presented LWV Member Mary Francis, the National Women's Equality Day Proclamation. Congratulations Mary on recognition of your work for women's equality.

## August 26th is National Women's Equality Day

The [National Women's History Alliance website](#) has a lot of great resources related to the day, including the text of the Joint Resolution passed in 1973 declaring August 26th National Women's Equality day. Join us 5:30 to 8 pm at City Hall for the speeches and festivities!

## Medicaid Expansion

The League is supporting the Initiative Petition effort to place **State Question 802 Medicaid Expansion** on the November 2020 ballot.

Judy Reynolds and Doris Kupfer have been trained for the signature effort (200,000 signatures from registered voters are needed) and will have petitions available at League events.



Please don't hesitate to contact the Norman League Webmaster with any questions, concerns, how to find something, or feedback on the site! Just send an email to [LWVNormanOK@gmail.com](mailto:LWVNormanOK@gmail.com).

Happy Browsing!  
*Amanda Marcott-Thottunkal, Webmaster*

## The new League website is live!

Please bookmark the new home page -<https://my.lwv.org/oklahoma/norman>.

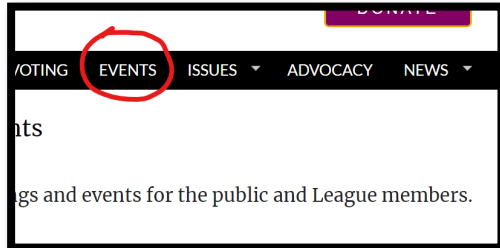
Here is a brief description of the menu options on our new site:

- Our **HOME** page will provide up to date news and events.
- Click on the **ABOUT** page for the League's mission, history, the new diversity, equity, and inclusion policy, and the most up to date information on the Steering Committee.
- **JOIN** is the place to visit to either join or renew a League membership online.
- The **WHO'S WHO** page will host the most current downloadable copy of the Who's Who, and provide some helpful links to the City of Norman.
- The **VOTING** page provides step by step instructions for registering to vote in Oklahoma.
- Visit our **EVENTS** page frequently to find out what exciting and educational events the League is planning. Most recently posted events will appear here and also on the home page.
- Within the **ISSUES** page, find Federal, State, and Norman studies and positions.
- Our **ADVOCACY** page will contain important information about current legislation that the League is interested in, at both the state and federal levels, and suggest meaningful action steps for making an impact.
- The **NEWS** page will be home to all Voters, both current and archived copies.

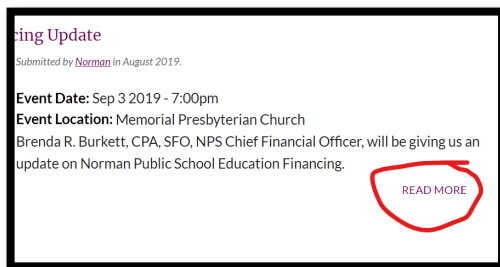
Over the next few Voter issues, the Voter will provide a brief guide through different sections of the website. This month is a focus on the **EVENTS** page.

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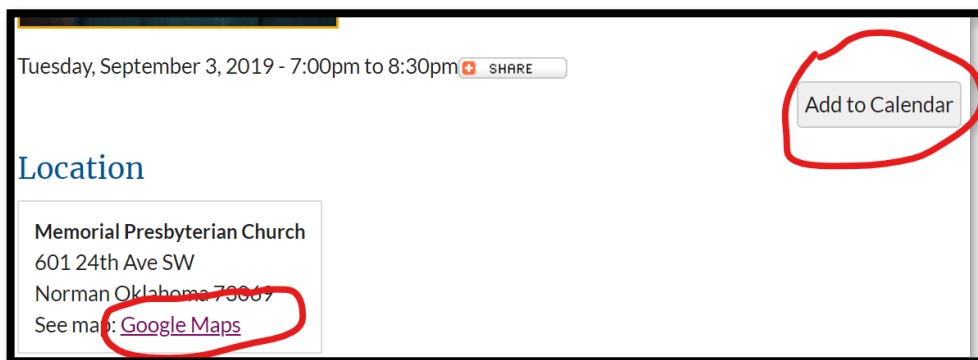
- #1. Click on the [EVENTS](#) page, to find a brief summary listing of all upcoming events. In order to find out more information about a specific event, click on “Read More.”



- #2. More detailed event information - such as address, speaker bio, and topic summary can be read on this page.

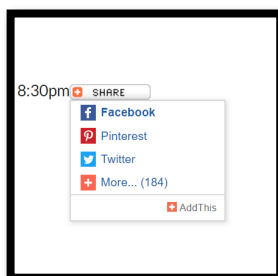


- #3. There is an option to add the event to a digital calendar (such as Google or Outlook). Just click on “Add to Calendar.”



- #4. There is also an option to find the event location on [Google Maps](#) directly from our site, whether you want to plan ahead of time or pull it up on the GPS as you make your way to the event.

- #5. You can also share the event to your own social media site by clicking on the “Share” button.



## 2020 Census

The LWVUS is very active in getting information out encouraging everyone to participate in the 2020 Census. <https://www.lwv.org/other-issues/census>

The Norman league will have information flyers available at our voter registration table. League member Aleisha Karjala is a member of the Norman complete count committee. Developed by the Census Bureau these community committees are tasked to develop and implement a **2020 Census Awareness** campaign based upon their knowledge of the local community to encourage a response. If interested in more information here is a link to the US Census Bureau 2020 site: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/about.html>.

## Healthcare Study

*At its March 2019 meeting, the League of Women Voters of Oklahoma Board of Trustees chose health care as the topic to be studied during the 2019-2021 biennium.*

The LWVOK currently does not have a position on health care, using the LWVUS position instead. For the study we will begin by looking at the LWVUS position on health care in the latest issue of

**Impact on Issues**, the LWVUS policy positions a publication as a starting point (PDF available here: <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>). Please have a look at page 78. We are considering women and children's health as one important focus. We are seeking suggestions and resources from the leading health care agencies in Oklahoma as well.

The GOAL is to produce a uniquely Oklahoma position on health care that can serve as a basis for advocacy now and for years to come.

How can you help? By:

- Identifying people and agencies to contact
- Contributing to a list of subtopics to study
- Volunteering to be a researcher/writer for our study materials

Include this information or questions in an email to Karen Cardenas, the LWVOK Program Coordinator, [kjhcardenas@att.net](mailto:kjhcardenas@att.net), to help us with the Health Care Study!

**—Judy Reynolds, Healthcare Study, NormanLWV Coordinator**



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