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The Voter September 2020

Edited by Jogee Detchemendy

September LWVPC Meeting: Ballot Issues- Be informed before you vote!

by Pat Landes

You are invited to the LWVPC regular monthly membership meeting on Monday, September 21 at 6 pm via Zoom meeting platform to hear about the various issues that will be on the November ballot. We are fortunate to have as our speaker Kristin Higgins, Program Associate at the Public Policy Center, University of Arkansas, to discuss and answer questions on these critical issues.

Getting educated about questions on the ballot is consistent with the League of Women Voters':

- Vision - We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.
- Mission - Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.
- Principles - The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government.

So please plan on attending and have your questions ready.

2020 Ballot Issue Guide is Available

by Ruth Bell

The neutral 2020 Ballot Issue Voter Guide is now available on line at www.uaex.edu/ballot. Put out by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Public Policy Center it provides pro and con information on all issues on the November 3, 2020 ballot. Information on those ballot issues being challenged in the courts are updated as legal decisions are reached. This is an excellent non -partisan source of information on issues that will be on your ballot on November 3.

A limited number of print copies of the Ballot Issue Voter Guide are available to the public at the Pulaski County Extension Service offices on Roosevelt Rd., Little Rock.

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Other Important Dates to Remember:

Thursday September 17 and 24 from 8:00-10:00 am Voter Registration Drive

St. Mark Episcopal Church, Food Pantry, 1000 North Mississippi, Little Rock, AR

LWVPC members are asked to assist clients in completing forms and to answer questions.

To volunteer please email lwvpc@lwvpc.org or contact Kathy Roberts at 501 831 4124 to volunteer.

Thursday September 17, 2020 from 6:30-8:00 pm Issues that Matter: On the Ballot and in the Voting Booth

Zoom platform. Registration is free, but required. Register here: cals.org/event/issues-that-matter-on-the-ballot/

Saturday September 19 & Saturday Sept 26 from 1:00-4:00 pm LWVPC/CALS Voter Registration Drive

Multiple libraries across Pulaski County. To volunteer please contact Danielle Butler at dtmoses@ualr.edu.

Saturday October 3, 2020 from 9:30 am-12:00 pm Forum for City Director Candidates

Zoom platform. Put on by The Coalition of LR Neighborhoods. More details to follow.

Monday October 5, 2020 Voter registration deadline

Monday October 19, 2020 Early voting begins

Tuesday October 27, 2020 Last day to request absentee ballot

Friday October 30, 2020 Last day to transfer registration from one county to another

Monday November 2, 2020 Early Voting Ends

Tuesday November 3, 2020 Election Day

Redistricting Update

by Nell Matthews

There is Still Some Life in Independent Redistricting Commission Ballot Initiative

The LWV Arkansas was about to give up the fight to get Issue 4, Independent Redistricting Commission, approved for Nov. 3 after the 6/1 decision by the Arkansas Supreme Court. But, LWV US decided that this was a first amendment freedom of expression issue and offered to support us in an appeal to the 8th Circuit Court. Bonnie Miller, president of Washington County, had been crushed, but this brought her back to life and ready to fight on. At issue is that the legislature has written the requirements for submitting petition signatures in such a way that it is impossible to comply. We may get to vote 'yes' on Issue 4 after all.

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Election Updates

by Danielle Butler

Polling Sites

On Tuesday, August 25, the Pulaski County Quorum Court unanimously passed an ordinance to accept the Pulaski County Election Commission plan to establish 12 Vote Centers in Pulaski County, making voting more accessible to the public during COVID-19.

These Vote Centers are accessible to all registered voters in Pulaski County on Election Day and will also serve as Early Voting locations for the two weeks prior to the General Election (starting October 19th). These 12 Vote Center locations are in addition to the current 108 assigned precinct Election Day polling sites in the county, creating a new total of 120 polling locations available to voters on November 3rd. The Vote Center locations selected under the ordinance are near high traffic areas in the county to give accessibility to the most people.

The 12 Vote Center locations in Pulaski County are:

- Pulaski County Regional Building, 501 W. Markham St., Little Rock
- Sue Cowan Williams Library, 1800 S. Chester St., Little Rock
- Dee Brown Library, 6325 Baseline Road, Little Rock
- Roosevelt Thompson Library, 38 Rahling Circle, Little Rock
- William F. Laman Library, 2801 Orange St., North Little Rock
- Jacksonville Community Center, 5 Municipal Drive, Jacksonville
- Jess Odom Community Center, 1100 Edgewood Drive, Maumelle
- First Christian Church of Sherwood, 2803 Kiehl Ave., Sherwood
- Sidney S. McMath Library, 2100 John Barrow Road, Little Rock
- Hillary Clinton Children's Library, 4800 W. 10th St., Little Rock
- John Gould Fletcher Library, 823 N. Buchanan St., Little Rock
- Adophine Fletcher Terry Library, 2015 Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock

See all Election Day locations and learn how to sign up to serve as a poll worker at www.votepulaski.net

The Numbers: Getting Ready for Election Day

- 11,447 Absentee Ballot applications received by Pulaski County Clerk
- 563 Election Day Poll Workers assigned
- 85 Early Voting Poll Workers assigned
- 68 Absentee Poll Workers assigned
- 401 Poll Worker Applications processed
- 462 Poll Worker Applications still unprocessed

Leaguers Lives

Our member Shannon Chamberlin's letter on education concerns appeared in a recent Arkansas Democrat Gazette Letter to the Editor section. Well done, Shannon.

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Voter Service Committee Update

by Devita Harden

In previous election years, the League of Women Voters held voter registration events at county and state fairs, on college campuses, and at high schools. But in 2020 those events were cancelled due to COVID-19, thus voter registration opportunities diminished greatly. Not to be deterred, the LWV and other non-profit organizations have had to become innovative in their determination to provide voter service to citizens who want to be part of the political process. One of the innovative ideas was to host drive thru voter registration events. What a great idea...after all it works well for the fast food industry!

Each Thursday in September, LWVPC will partner with St. Mark Episcopal Church to register voters and provide applications for an absentee ballot. To date 10 individuals have registered to vote and 30 applications for an absentee ballot have been requested. A huge thank you goes to League members, Terri Crook, Nayla Hatley, Jennifer Ronnell, and DeeAnn Minor for volunteering. A very special thank you goes to Kathy Roberts (St. Mark Episcopal) for reaching out to LWVPC to help in this effort. Kathy stated "If you want something done call the League of Women Voters..."

There's more! LWVPC and CALS have partnered to sponsor voter registration drive thru events on September 19th and September 26th. Over 30 volunteers from LWVPC and CALS will be on hand at 5 branches to help individuals register to vote and to complete the application for an absentee ballot. We are sincerely appreciative of the opportunity CALS has provided for LWVPC to do the good work we are known for during election cycles, ensuring every eligible person is registered to vote.



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The Battle Will Not Stop on November 3

by Nell Matthews

I (Nell Matthews), LWVPC and LWVAR, have agreed to work with LWV US on litigation related to the challenges expected to absentee ballots. Certain people will say that any problem with the ballot, like a signature that is slightly different from the registration form, or an incorrect date is reason to discard the ballot. There is something called "notice and cure" where the county clerk will contact the voter to get a corrected signature. Clerks are already receiving requests from the head of the Arkansas Republican Party and certain Republican legislators to document the process of accepting and validating absentee ballot requests. LWV Arkansas will not stand for partisan shenanigans to disenfranchise voters.

Membership Update

by Devita Harden

It gives me great pleasure to announce that we have four new members...Yippee!!

Nayla Hatley joined in August and went to work right away volunteering to register voters. Kathryn Loyd Wilson, DeeAnn Minor (student), and Kate Hatley (student) joined in September. DeeAnn joined after volunteering to register voters. How about that?!

It is refreshing to know that the good hard work of the LWVPC continues to be an inspiration that stirs others to join in the fight to Defend Democracy.

Observer's Corps

by Ruth Bell

NEWS FROM LITTLE ROCK CITY HALL

Mayor Scott recently announced a City effort to economically revitalize areas south of I-630, beginning with the Asher Avenue area east from University. Central Arkansas Water and Little Rock Wastewater Utilities will waive connection fees for new users in the target area, and the City planning staff is meeting individually with owners of seventeen buildings on Asher Avenue that the City has found to be unsafe or an eyesore, to help the owners commit to either rehabbing the buildings or removing them. It is intended that similar action will be taken on other thoroughfares in the south of I-630 area over a period of time.

Recap for Rally of Restoration

by LaTonya Austin Honorable

On August 6th, LWVPC was one of the hosts for the Rally of Restoration designed to register and get the word out about restoring voting rights for felons who have completed/discharged any criminal sentence.

Based on numbers reported by hosts, we had only about five people to register at the event, BUT, we have had about 50 to register since the event based specifically on the information they received from or through the event. Many people reached out after the event inquiring about the process because they saw us on social media. So, the virtual awareness is making a difference. Also, other organizations have reached out to have similar events. Saline County, Faulkner County and Jefferson County has reached out to me to hold a similar event. THANK YOU for your support and ALL the work LWVPC does for this community.

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Pulaski County Election Commission Report for DPPC Meeting on Monday, August 24, 2020

by Commissioner Joshua Price

PCEC Poll Worker Update

Approximately 1,000 poll workers are required to effectively conduct the General Election

Poll Worker Survey Results as of 08/21/20

- 436 Yes
- 246 No
- 70 Answers that require follow up
- 346 new applications since last Tuesday 8/11/20

PPE – The Pulaski County Election Commission has thousands of masks plus 750+ gallons of hand sanitizer

If you are interested in serving as a poll worker, please visit www.votepulaski.net for more information (application links are on bottom left column). You can also call 501-340-8383 or email jprice@votepulaski.net.

Polling Location Survey

Polling Location Survey Results as of 08/21/20

- 108 YES
- 7 NO – Chenal Valley Church of Christ, Agape Church, First Presbyterian (Jacksonville), Pulaski Academy, Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock Fire Station #4, Calvary Baptist Church (NLR)
- 1 Follow-up – Park Hill Christian Church (will decide in early September)

4 Polling Location Replacements:

- St. Peter Baptist Church replaces Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church
- Bethea Baptist Church replaces First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville
- Brady Masonic Lodge replaces Pulaski Academy
- Asbury United Methodist Church replaces Agape Church

1 New Poll - Hampton Inn Maumelle

1 New Vote Center - Adolphine Fletcher Terry Library

This gives Pulaski County 114 Election Day voting locations and 12 Early Voting locations committed as of 8/21/20. We are still awaiting answers from an additional 6 facilities.

Vote Center Plan Update

On August 11, the Pulaski County Government Quorum Court agenda committee approved 14-0 the Pulaski County Election Commission's Vote Center Plan to expand voting across the county for the General Election.

Report continued on next page.

This plan will allow Pulaski County's Early Voting locations to also stay open on Election Day, giving our county's citizens access to more polling location options to allow them to vote safely and conveniently at ANY of these 12 Early Voting locations during COVID-19.

The Vote Center Plan will go before the full Quorum Court on August 25th for final approval. Special thanks to Judge Barry Hyde and our Justices of the Peace for supporting this initiative.

Absentee Ballot Update – From Pulaski County and Circuit Clerk Terri Hollingsworth's office
9,320 Absentee ballot applications received as of 08/21/20

- Over 7,000 absentee ballot applications received in last 2 months
- Zero applications rejected thus far
- 3 received from non-registered voters
 - These 3 were sent voter registration applications

Leadership Team 2020-2021

Danielle Butler- Records dtmoses@ualr.edu

Jogee Detchemendy- Communications. 662.312.9277 or jogeeduzzi@gmail.com

Devita Harden- Treasurer, Voter Services, Membership 770.617.3096 or devita467@gmail.com

Pamela Whitaker

Chairs for Committees to Work with Leadership Team 2020-2021:

Audit Committee- Susan Leon

Communication Committee- Jogee Detchemendy

Finance and Membership Committees-Devita Hardin

Issues and Policy Development Committee- Corinne Kwapis and Becky Jackson

Observers Corps-Ruth Bell

Program Committee-Pam Whitaker, Carol Silverstrom, Nell Matthews, and Pat Landes

Records Committee- Danielle Butler and Carol Young

Voter Registration -Katherine Pope

Vote 411- Carol Young

League Links:

[League of Women Voters \(National\)](#)

[League of Women Voters \(State of Arkansas\)](#)

[League of Women Voters of Pulaski County](#)