



P.O. Box 56126, Little Rock, AR 72215-6126

lwvpc@lwvpc.org

The Voter October 2020

Edited by Jogee Detchemendy

October LWVPC Meeting: Why should we abolish the Electoral College?

by Pat Landes

You are invited to the LWVPC regular monthly membership meeting on Monday, October 19, at 6 pm via Zoom meeting platform to hear about abolishing the Electoral College. This meeting is timely since we will be hearing about the Electoral College in the coming months related to the November presidential election.

We are fortunate to have sister League member, Rosemary Heilemann, present to us. She has been in various Leagues for over 40 years and is currently on the LWVIL Electoral College Committee. I saw this presentation recently in a class I was taking and thought it was timely, compelling, and informative of the League's position (listed below).

The League's position on the Electoral College is: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.

So please plan on attending and feel free to invite guests.

Other Important Dates to Remember:

- Saturday October 17, 2020 Women's March: Gender Justice, Racial Justice, and Economic Justice
- Monday October 19, 2020 League of Women Voters of Pulaski County Monthly Meeting: Why we should abolish the Electoral College
- Monday October 19, 2020 Early voting begins
- Saturday October 24, 2020 Vote Early Day
- Tuesday October 27, 2020 Last day to request absentee ballot
- Friday October 30, 2020 Last day to transfer registration from one county to another

Important dates continued on next page.

- Monday November 2, 2020 Early Voting Ends
- Tuesday November 3, 2020 Election Day
- November 17, 2020 Jane Mendel Reading Day



by **Carol Young**

The LWVPC Vote411 committee worked extremely hard to obtain the email addresses for 109 candidates running for office in Pulaski County. And we are proud to say that we are live online at Vote411.org. This website is where voters can find all types on voting information, including answers to questions that were posed to the candidates

The LWVUS helped state president Nell Matthews by locating all the state senate and house candidates for the entire state. LWVUS also added the the presidential race and our senate and congressional races. In addition, the pro/con statements on the three referred issues are listed as well as the millage increase presented by the Little Rock School District. Voters can also find the early voting locations and hours and other requirements for voting.

Please post on your social media and spread the word for all voters to search for their personalized ballot. Our sister chapter in Faulkner County also posted their local race, and many other states participated as well, so you can tell friends and relatives in other areas, that they can use this valuable resource in their states.

Many thanks to our hardworking committee: Danielle Butler, Candy Roman, Julie Weaver, Marnie Wightman, and Carol Young

Membership Committee Update

by **Devita Harden**

I am extremely proud to announce that Lacy Selig, Deborah Higgins, Jane Levine, Edma Delgado, Scott Holladay, and Diane Thomas Holladay are the newest members of LWVPC. When asked what motivated her to join the League, Lacy said “while listening to the ballot issues program, I knew I had to join in the fight”!

It is encouraging to know the good work we do as a non-partisan organization does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Welcome to LWVPC to all of our new members!

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Volunteers in Public Schools

By Pam Whitaker

I know that many of you have been involved with the Jane Mendel Reading Day in the past. This year the event will be on November 17th. We are discussing how this event will look different this year and that we still want volunteers to participate and how that will work. Lots of good ideas....and you will most likely get updates if you have volunteered previously. If you are interested in volunteering please contact me at pamela1@cyberflygirls.org

Superintendent Dr. Mike Poore announced the following:

- LRSD distributed over 700 meals during the summer.
- Day Camps were also very successful, even with Covid restrictions.
- Mask wearing has been going well with the students. Covid cases are reported every day at 5pm on LRSD website [LRSD Covid Reporting site](#).
- Success with partnership with CAW for school water stations.
- Partnership with Imagination Library which provides a book every month to students is well supported by many local agencies & non-profits
- Tutoring is support virtually for those who need it.
- All virtual students have Chrome books, need about 4000 more devices if what happened at Dunbar happens at other schools, <https://www.thv11.com/article/news/local/dunbar-middle-school-closed-tuesday-coronavirus/91-4e841fe7-6ed5-4bfd-8ba0-b26cb4136b4d>
- About 3500 Hot Spots have been purchased to help with Virtual situation - have not all arrived yet
- Dr. Poore is seeking an extension of debt for LRSD, due to lower interest rates. Himself or others on his team can speak to LWVPC regarding this voting issue if LWVPC makes such a request to discuss this issue.
- Dr. Poore is discussing the opening of SouthWest High School and how LRSD is required to continue to support SouthWest and also support changes such as LED lighting, updates to Air Quality systems, and technology
- He specifically noted changes to come: [Re-purposing of several schools](#)
- Regarding upcoming LRSD School Board election, Dr. Poore reported he is meeting one on one with each LRSD School Board candidate, to help them get a base level of information.

Notice and Cure Lawsuit Ongoing

by Nell Matthews

The complaint against Sec. of State John Thurston and the Pulaski County Board of Election Commissioners was filed. Our request for expedited review was denied by Federal Judge P.K. Holmes III. He stated that the defendants needed time to respond and to propose other solutions. We are asking that voters who make minor errors in their absentee ballots, such as an incorrect date or failure to fill out or sign the form be given a chance to 'cure' the error. Also, if a signature is deemed to not match, the voter will be given the opportunity to show proof of their identity and signature. The cure period is from the time the commissioner reviews the ballot until three days after the election. Currently, voters are allowed to bring in copies of their photo ID if they fail to include this in the ballot envelope, and therefore, this is just another opportunity to fix problems. Arkansas would join Georgia, South Dakota, Virginia, and several other states in allowing voters to take care of minor errors instead of having their vote thrown away.

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Voter Service Committee Update

by Devita Harden

As League members we hold fast to the belief that every eligible citizen should be registered to vote. In support of that belief many of our members and friends volunteer and take on the responsibility of registering citizens. And that is exactly what we did!

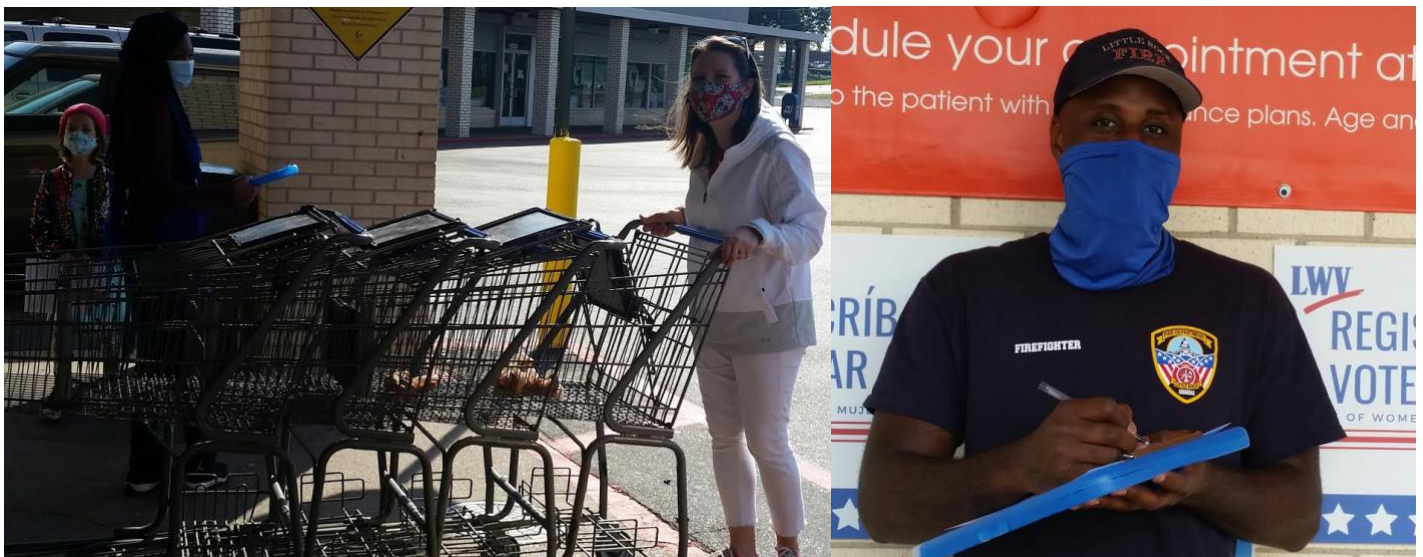
LWVPC in partnership with St. Mark Episcopal Church, CALS (Central Arkansas Library System), and Kroger (1100 East Roosevelt) registered 60 citizens, handed out 55 absentee ballot applications and answered countless voter related questions.

It is always exciting to witness an individual registering to vote for the first time. This was especially true for volunteers Lori Burrows and her seven-year-old daughter, Greta. Lori literally gathered carts for an eighteen-year-old Kroger employee as she completed the registration form. Another volunteer registered a firefighter who stated “Yes, I need to register to vote, this is my first time. I can’t wait to vote”! Glad we were able to capture these awesome moments.

A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who gave up their time and energy to make sure democracy works everyone. A very special thank you goes to Kroger manager, Ms. Angela Bryant. She did not hesitate to say yes when asked if LWVPC could register citizens at her store. Not only did Ms. Bryant accommodate us she also registered to vote!

Voter registration committee let’s to do it again in 2021!

Pictured left: Lori and Greta Burrows collecting carts for Kroger worker while he registered to vote. Pictured right: Firefighter registering to vote for the first time.



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Observer's Corps

by Ruth Bell

FROM LITTLE ROCK CITY HALL

Much of activity at City Hall the past few weeks dealt with education. Dr. Jay Barth, Little Rock's Chief Education Officer, announced the names of the four LRSD schools who have been designated "community schools" They are: Chicot, Stephens, Washington, and Watson elementary schools. The community school concept is to facilitate connections between students and their families with community services that may benefit the educational experiences of the children. There will be a staff person on site at each school with the responsibility of helping this happen. Besides City of Little Rock, LRSD, PCSSD, CALS, ArKidsRead, UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute are partners in this project.

Later in September Mayor Scott announced the creation of two new education focused groups. The Mayor's Council on Higher Education will develop cross campus linkages and help develop a plan for a college saving account program. Leaders from local institutions of higher learning and other learning institutions plus others including a student will make up this group. The Lifelong Learning Cabinet's creation was also announced. Its membership will be made up of three representatives from the City's Commission on Children, Youth and Families, the Excel by Eight Little Rock Steering Committee, Ford Next Generation Learning Academies Steering Committee and the above cited Mayor's Council on Higher Education. The Cabinet, chaired by Dr. Barth, will meet quarterly to share information and work together to benefit education in Little Rock from pre-school through college. Dr. Barth plans to set up the Council in October and November and begin their quarterly meetings in 2021.

Will There Be Disturbances at the Polling Places?

by Nell Matthews

The race for US House of Representatives in the 2nd District between French Hill and Joyce Elliott is going to be close. There will be challenges to just about every possible thing when counting starts. With the number of absentee ballots to count, don't expect to see results immediately. The primary runoff between Joy Springer and Ryan Davis was decided by one vote, an overseas ballot that arrived after the election day. In this close election, every vote will count. If anyone hears of any threats or instances of intimidation at polling places, such as people openly carrying guns and signs to scare people away, please contact the County Board of Election Commissioners at (501) 340-8383. Or, call or text 1-866-OUR-VOTE – that's 1-866-687-8683. Trained election protection volunteers are standing by to help you navigate any voting problems.

League leaders are expected to be nonpartisan, however, individual League members are not required to maintain nonpartisanship. You are free to express your opinions and thoughts. Just be sure you say this is your opinion and not that of the League. For some races, you can send the person to the recorded forums on YouTube or Facebook. But, everyone, please vote NO on Issue 3, the legislature's effort to silence citizen-initiated ballot issues. The requirements would make it very expensive and extremely difficult to get enough signatures by the earlier required day of submission. Plus there would be no cure period to get the last few signatures if you fell short. And, instead of 15 counties, signatures must be collected in 45 of our 75 counties.

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Issues That Matter

by Danielle Butler

Issues That Matter: On the Ballot and in the Voting Booth occurred virtually on September 17, 2020. There were 122 total virtual attendees. Six panelists: Jay Barth (Poli Sci Prof. Emeritus), Kristin Higgins (UA Extension Services), Preston Eldridge (Attorney), Kenny Hall (AR Chamber of Commerce), Melissa Fults (Marijuana Ballot Initiative Driver), and Joshua Price (Pulaski Co. Election Commission).

The panel began with Price discussing the complexities of voting during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the steps the Commission and the Clerk's office are taking to ensure that poll workers and voters remain safe. Many viewers posed questions to Price to help clarify any questions about the validity and security of mail in voting, expanded early voting locations, and what election day will look like.

The next section of the forum centered on how voters can get issues on the ballot and what ballot issues will be there in November. Kristin Higgins gave a very thorough overview of the issues remaining on the ballot, more information can be found in the [Voter Guide](#) that the extension office releases every election. Many thanks to Kristin for her hard work on that. There was also a short overview of how issues 4-6 were removed from the ballot due after court battles.

Issue 3 was then discussed pretty heavily. First, Jay Barth gave a pretty thorough overview of the citizen ballot initiative process as it currently stands. A good summary of that is available in his Encyclopedia of Arkansas article: "[Initiatives and Referenda](#)," and how Issue 3 would alter this process. After Barth gave general context, Kenny Hall spoke on why the legislature wanted this measure on the ballot. After he gave that justification, Preston Eldridge and Melissa Faults discussed their own experiences both attempting a ballot initiative by petition, and defending the process in the court room.

Overall, the discussion was very lively and informative. Thank you again to KUAR and CALS for partnering with the League to make this happen. So far, the YouTube video has over 50 additional views.

North Little Rock Mayoral Forum Success

By Joguee Detchemendy

On October 1 the LWVPC and William F. Laman Library hosted a one-hour mayoral candidate forum for North Little Rock. Candidates answered nine questions ranging from economic development to diversity and inclusion. The Zoom event, which housed a capacity of 100 people, was full. Over 5,000 people have watched the recording of the forum on LWVPC's Facebook page. The forum has been featured on the Arkansas Democrat Gazette.

Huge thank you to Danielle Butler for moderating a somewhat tense and hectic event. Many positive comments have been made via email and on our Facebook page suggesting that Danielle should moderate the next presidential debate! I would also like to thank Pat Landes and Carol Young for guiding me through the process of organizing a candidate forum.

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IMPORTANT PULASKI COUNTY ELECTIONS INFORMATION I

NEW EARLY VOTING TIMES, NEW LOCATIONS AND VOTE CENTERS

by Debrah Mitchell, Assistant Chief Deputy, Office of Pulaski County Circuit and County Clerk

As the November 3, 2020 general election quickly approaches, Pulaski County Circuit and County Clerk Terri Hollingsworth shared new important information for registered voters with community, educational, civic organizations, and the media.

EARLY VOTING

- Sites: Pulaski County voters have three new early voting sites bringing the total to 12 sites.
- Dates: Early voting will begin on Monday, October 19 and will run through Monday, November 2, 2020. There will be two Saturdays to early vote – October 24, 2020 and October 31, 2020. No early voting is available on Sundays.
- Times: Now all early voting sites will have the same hours - 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. On Monday, November 2, 2020, early voting will be 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

ELECTION DAY

- Sites: Pulaski County voters have the option to vote at their assigned polling location *or* one of the 12 early voting sites which become "vote centers" on Election Day.
- Dates: Election Day will be Tuesday, November 3, 2020.
- Times: All 105 polling locations including the 12 vote centers will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. Pulaski County now has a total of 117 polling locations.

ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATION CHANGES

There are several precincts changes for this election. Seven have permanently changed to new locations and nine are temporarily changed for this election. The names have changed at four precinct polling locations.

PRECINCT	OLD POLLING LOCATION	REASON FOR CHANGE	NEW POLLING LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY
9	St. Nicholas Episcopal	Permanent Polling Place Change	Hampton Inn	11920 Maumelle Blvd.	Maumelle
29/30/33	Jacksonville Community Center	Temporary Polling Place Change	St. Jude the Apostle Catholic	2403 McArthur Dr.	Jacksonville
36	First Presbyterian Church	Temporary Polling Place Change	Bethel Baptist Church	112 N. Jeff Davis Ave.	Jacksonville

41	First Christian Church of Sherwood	Temporary Polling Place Change	Sylvan Hills Comm Church	8019 Hwy 107	Sherwood
54	Calvary Baptist Church	Permanent Polling Place Change	Glenview Community Center	4800 E. 19th St.	North Little Rock
60	Highland Valley UMC	Permanent Polling Place Change	St. Margaret's Episcopal Church	20900 Chenal Pkwy	Little Rock
68	Chenal Valley Church of Christ	Temporary Polling Place Change	Chenal Valley Baptist Church	1800 Rahling Rd.	Little Rock
71	Pulaski Academy	Temporary Polling Place Change	Brady Masonic Lodge	11805 Hinson Rd.	Little Rock
74	Agape Church	Temporary Polling Place Change	Asbury UMC	1700 Napa Valley Dr.	Little Rock
80	Henderson UMC	Permanent Polling Place Change	Oley E. Rooker Library	11 Otter Creek Ct.	Little Rock
106/107	LR Fire Station #10	Permanent Polling Place Change	Calvary Baptist Church in the Heights	5700 Cantrell Rd.	Little Rock
109/112	Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church	Temporary Polling Place Change	St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church	3518 West 7th Street	Little Rock
114	Arkansas Arts Center	Permanent Polling Place Change	Historic Arkansas Museum	200 E 3rd St.	Little Rock
125	Baseline Elementary School	Temporary Polling Place Change	St. Theresa's Catholic Church	6219 Baseline Rd.	Little Rock
126	Ironton Baptist Church	Permanent Polling Place Change	Arch Street Fire Department	15923 Arch St.	Little Rock
129	LR Fire Station #4	Temporary Polling Place Change	LR Port Authority	10600 Industrial Harbor	Little Rock

VOTER INFORMATION

For information on voter registration, polling locations, and absentee ballots call Pulaski County Voter Registration at (501) 340-8336 or visit www.pulaskiclerk.com. A special hotline number is available for voters with questions regarding their absentee ballots at (501) 340-6978.

The Arkansas Secretary of State's Election Division maintains the Voter View database where you can view sample ballots, check your voter registration and find your polling place.

You can link to Voter View through the clerk's website or directly through the Secretary of State: www.voterview.ar-nova.org/voterview

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- Carol Silverstrom

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](#)