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The Voter November 2020

Edited by Jogee Detchemendy

November LWVPC Meeting: A scholar's guide to skeptical and safe surfing on social media

by Carol Silverstrom

Election Day is over, but social media's influence continues. Our speaker, Christopher Etheridge, Assistant Professor of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas, will lead us in a challenging and interactive discussion on Monday November 16th at 6 pm on Zoom.

Chris joined the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications faculty in 2020 as an assistant professor. He researches media representations of crime and community storytelling. His current work focuses on information-seeking behaviors of community groups and the ability of media outlets to serve those information needs. He also studies digital adoption of technology in rural communities and related relationships between news organizations and their audiences. Chris previously served on the faculty of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the University of Minnesota Duluth. He also has worked as a news reporter and in marketing and communications. He teaches courses on media and society, reporting and editing techniques, and media ethics.

The League of Women Voters believes voters should play a critical role in democracy with education as a priority.

Other Important Dates to Remember:

- November 17, 2020 Jane Mendel Reading Day
- December 1, 2020 Runoff Election Day
- December 14, 2020 LWVPC Monthly Meeting hosted by Jay Barth Chief Education Officer for the City of Little Rock

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More Elections!

by Ruth Bell

There is another Election Day coming up in 2020. On December 1 there will be a runoff election for two seats on the Little Rock School Board-- Position 3 and Position 6, and North Little Rock residents will vote on candidates for North Little Rock Mayor and an Aldermanic position. Runoff elections often get overlooked, especially when scheduled so close to the end of the year. Every election is important! If you live in an area having a runoff election be sure to vote and encourage your neighbors to do so, too.

Need for Notice and Cure for Errors on Absentee Ballots

by Nell Matthews

Even though the polls were not crowded, I don't regret voting absentee this year. I was one of the ones who encouraged all my friends and family to request an absentee ballot. However, hearing that some 4000 ballots in Pulaski County were uncounted because of failure to properly fill out the voter statement leaves me conflicted. As a member of the LWV Arkansas leadership team, I was a party to litigation to require notice and cure of missing information on absentee ballots. However, Federal District Judge P. K. Holmes ruled that no actual disenfranchisement had occurred before the election and thus, he would not issue a preliminary injunction to require a chance for voters to fix or 'cure' their errors. Well, there are 4000 reasons now. Please, please, if anyone receives a rejection postcard or knows of anyone who has, contact me, Nell Matthews, lwvarnell1920@gmail.com or 501-563-6734. This lawsuit is not over.

Absentee Ballots Pending in Pulaski County

by Danielle Butler

25K absentee ballots were received. 20.5K were counted on election night and included in the totals. 4.5K are currently being reviewed by the commission with time given to absentee voters who didn't provide IDs to show them so their ballot can be counted.

By law we give provisional ballots until Nov 9 to provide missing information. Then we approve the provisional and absentee provisional ballots that night. Then we wait until Nov. 13 for overseas and military ballots to come in. Then we certify the final results of the election on Nov 13 -- 10 days after the election.

4,500 total absentee ballots were initially not counted on Election Day due to various issues like missing/incomplete red Voter Statement, etc.

- About 1,200 remakes of damaged ballots that cannot be read by the machine will be counted
- About 2,000 provisional absentee ballots that are signed and will be counted
- 230 absentee ballots redeemed from rejection pile by commissioners personally will be counted

About 1,070 absentee ballots still needing to be sorted and reviewed. This includes provisional absentee ballots with no ID and that were unsigned that can be cured by the voter by Monday 11/9 and the "misfit" irregular ballots. Please note that these are rough numbers. We will have final hard totals on all absentee provisional and early voting and election day provisional ballots by Monday 11/9. Will keep you updated.

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LWVPC Membership Update

by Devita Harden

Hello League members,

It gives me great pleasure to announce we have another new member. Please join me in welcoming Lois Sandusky to LWVPC. Lois's recent membership brings our total membership to 113. The program of work for 2020/2021 adopted during our annual meeting proposed an increase in total membership by 5%. Drum roll please...we have met and exceeded that goal in the last five months! Hopefully, more individuals will join League as we continue our efforts to ensure democracy works for all.

Members please note that the time to renew your membership is right around the corner. Section 2 of LWVPC bylaws state **Annual dues shall be due by December 31st each year. Student dues will be ½ of individual dues.** You can renew your membership for 2021 by check or online. If paying by check please mail to: LWVPC, PO Box 56126, Little Rock AR 72215. To renew online click the Donate button on the LWVPC website: <https://my.lwv.org/arkansas/pulaski-county>.

Stay safe and healthy!

Leaguers Lives

by Ruth Bell and Jogue Detchemendy

Congratulations to our member Norma Johnson who is a newly elected Little Rock School District Board member! Norma served on the School Board some years ago before its takeover by the Arkansas Department of Education.

Thanks are in order to all League members who have worked tirelessly during this election season registering voters, educating voters, or volunteering for candidates. Thank you to everyone who made a call encouraging a friend to get an absentee form or drove people to polls. Thank you to those who worked on Vote 411 or helped with the North Little Rock Mayoral candidate forum. Thank you to those who spoke to reporters to help inform the public. This has been a long and stressful election year, and we appreciate everyone who took time to make democracy work. You are truly an incredible group of people.

Invite a Friend to a League Program

by Nell Matthews

We have some dynamite programs coming up including on December 14, hearing from Jay Barth, the Chief Education Officer for the City of Little Rock. Why not invite your friends to 'attend' the zoom meeting to hear Dr. Barth?

Now that all presentations are virtual, we can invite all our friends to participate. Watch for the zoom invitation and share it.

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Women on City or County Commissions

by Ruth Bell

It is an established fact that when women are added to boards or commissions it results in an increased consideration of a wide range of issues, and engenders thoughtful decisions. Many commissions in the various cities and towns in Pulaski County have limited numbers of women as members. For women to be appointed to those groups they must apply for a position on them.

Go to your town's web page and look at its list of boards and commission, decide which one you would like to serve on, fill out an application (usually available on the city's web page) and submit it. It is not necessary to wait for a position to be advertised to apply. Little Rock, for example, keeps applications until a position is available, at which time it is considered.

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](#)