



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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www.LWVnashville.org

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May 2018

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 4, 2018 through May 19, 2018. Early voting for Special Metropolitan General Election – Mayor and District Council 1.** Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>.
- May 17, 2018, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. A Race to the Future: Mayoral Forum.** 15th Avenue Baptist Church. Sponsored by NOAH (Nashvillians Organized for Action and Hope)
- May 24, 2018. Special Metropolitan General Election – Mayor and District Council 1.** Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>
- June 1, 2018, 11:40 a.m. to 1:00p.m. First Friday Hot Topics: The Opioid Crisis.** Presented by Dr. Ida Santana and Senator/Dr. Steve Dickerson. **ONE TIME LOCATION: Oasis Center, 2nd Floor, 1704 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203.** Open to the public. *Note: No lunches are available for purchase at this location so plan to bring your own.*
- June 6, 2018, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Desert Reception and Annual LWVN Membership Meeting.** Home of Judy and Pat Raines, 625 Georgetown Drive, Nashville, TN 37205
- June 13, 2018, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Encore Hot Topics: The Opioid Crisis.** Dr. Ida Santana and Senator/Dr. Steve Dickerson. Green Hills Library Community Room, 3701 Benham Ave., Nashville, 37215



President's Message

How do we energize Nashville voters who feel that one election in a month is enough? We are seeing remarkably **low** turnout for the May 24th election for Nashville's mayor.

We have information about the 13 mayoral candidates at www.vote411.org, but we need your help in urging voters to actually get to the polls. If you haven't done so already, please like us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**. We would love to post photos of you with an **I Voted** sticker, **#votewithafriend**.

Last week, many of us saw the premier of the documentary, **One Vote**, at the Nashville Film Festival. While we often urge citizens to vote in order to impact government, this documentary looked at the surprisingly emotional and personal impact of what it means to **be** a voter. We look forward to opportunities to showcase this film to young audiences in Nashville in the future.

Don't forget to **RSVP** for our annual desert reception and membership meeting on **Wednesday, June 6th** at the home of **Judy Raines**, 625 Georgetown Drive, from **7:00-8:30 p.m.** Please join us for a fun evening with friends and our very, very brief annual meeting to approve next year's budget and board slate. RSVP by voicemail, 629-777-5650, or lwvnash@gmail.com.

Finally, a big thanks to our supporters who donated as part of The Big Payback. We truly appreciate your vote of confidence in our activities!



Update on the Successes at the General Assembly By Vice President Barbara Gay

Thank you to all **League of Women Voters members** who served on the state Action Committee and who contacted their legislators and other officials. Look for a final report from our lobbyist, Stewart Clifton. We had the following successes with your help:

- The League supported and the legislature passed the "**Safe at Home**" bill to protect victims of domestic violence when they vote.
- We supported and passed **Feb Burn Day** to honor her role in the enfranchisement of women.
- We **stopped** the passage of a bill to require nonpartisan judicial elections in Shelby and Davidson Counties alone, as well as a bill to prohibit rank order voting.
- On education, the League helped **defeat** expanding "individualized education accounts, a type of voucher, and allowing teachers to carry concealed firearms upon completion of training.

Your communications make a difference. Please join us at our next meeting on **Monday, May 21st** at 11:30 a.m. at Stewart's office to evaluate our work and plan for the next legislative session in 2019. There will many changes in our state legislature after the November election. We will need **your** involvement and participation more than ever.

If you have questions, please call (615-297-4145) or email me (barbara.b.gay@gmail.com). Please let me know if you want to join or resign from our action team.



May Hot Topic Follow Up -- Gun Violence from an Academic and Activist Perspective By Voter Editor Madeline Garr

Laurie Woods, PhD, Lecturer in Sociology at Vanderbilt University, was the first speaker in this informative conversation regarding gun violence in the United States. In her previous "life", she was a police and narcotics officer in the state of California where she had worked for 21 years. In this capacity, she received initial and ongoing training on carrying and using a gun, which she had with her at all times in the course of her duties.

Her presentation gave insight into the responsibilities and dangers of gun ownership as well as challenged some of the concepts that are prevalent in our society. She pointed out that 95% of the police forces in England and Ireland do not carry guns and that 95% of the police in the United States never fire their weapon and when they do, they only hit their target 1 out of 5 times. Dr. Woods also stated that films and TV shows do not accurately portray what it is like to be in a situation when guns are fired. She stated that it is pandemonium and that one's training kicks in. She also noted that when you buy a gun, you own that gun and every bullet that comes from the gun at all times. You are responsible for securing that gun and knowing where it is at all times. Even though the **Castle Doctrine** gives homeowners the legal right to use deadly force to protect themselves, it is important to ask whether you are trained to kill someone who has broken in and if you do, are you prepared for the consequences of such an act.

Dr. Woods also covered the "**nevers**": **never carry** a gun and drink; **never touch** a gun when you are angry; **never use** your gun in a shooting situation lest you are identified by law officials as the shooter. She stressed that gun ownership is complicated. There are **no** simple answers. She noted that chances are very high that a gun owner will shoot someone s/he loves accidentally and that someone could be their child.

Linda McFadyen Ketchum and **Jeanie Hunter** from [Tennessee Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America](#) (MOMS) spoke next. Linda shared she had gotten involved after **Sandy Hook** although prior to that

she had had relatives who had been killed by guns and a close family friend who had been shot in Knoxville while at church because the shooter wanted to kill liberals and gays. However, she shared that it took Sandy Hook and the reality of small children who had been shot to galvanize her into joining and organizing the Tennessee Chapter. Linda shared some sobering numbers:

- 7 people 19 and under die in gun incidents everyday.
- 13 times more possible to die in a gun event if you are black
- 50 American women die a month as a result of gun violence, usually in domestic violence situations
- 25 time higher rate of homicides in the US than in the other developed countries of the world
- 13,000 gun homicides in the US last year
- 5 times the chance that a woman would be killed with a gun that is in a home
- 96 gun deaths daily, 2/3 of which are suicides
- 3 million gun sales have been stopped by background checks
- 308 school shootings since Sandy Hook

Linda stressed that MOMS respects the Second Amendment and emphasizes **Gun Safety and Gun Violence prevention**. The non-partisan organization works to **educate** the public through programs such as **BE SMART** that addresses safety and the security of guns in the home and car. In addition, they work with the General Assembly by building relationships and being visible. This year, the organization and its volunteers were able to defeat the bills it considered not supporting the goals of the organization.

Linda then introduced **Jeanie Hunter**, a survivor of gun violence. Jeanie shared the story of her cousin whose ex-husband came to her home and killed her cousin, riddling her body with an AR15. Their two children were in the home. Her daughter heard the violence and called the police and her son ran to the neighbors for help. When the police came, the shooter begged to be shot but when the police refused, he lay down beside his ex-wife and committed suicide. In this act of domestic violence, two children were orphaned. Jeanie said that she found MOMS and the **Survivor's Network** to be a place to put her grief to work. She shared that Nashville is participating in **Wear Orange Awareness Day on June 2**. Click [here](#) for more information.



June 2018 Hot Topic Information By Vice President Ginna Foster Cannon

The **League of Women Voters of Nashville** is a **non-partisan** volunteer organization whose goal is to promote an **informed** and **engaged** citizenry. We seek to provide accessible information so that individuals will be prepared to vote on the complex issues and elections that impact the Nashville community. To that end, we are especially interested in helping both our members and the general public learn more about the **Opioid Crisis**.

We invite **Dr. Ida Santana**, Medical Director of the Behavioral Health Group, and **Dr. Steve Dickerson**, TN State Senator, to present information on the **Opioid Crisis**. Dr. Santana will present the medical perspective and Dr./Senator Dickerson will address the policy issues.

It is a lot to fit in an hour, I know!



The League of Women Voters of Nashville Presents **HOT TOPICS EVENTS:**

The Opioid Crisis

Participants:

Dr. Ida Santana and Senator/Doctor Steve Dickerson

FIRST FRIDAYS HOT TOPICS

Friday, June 1, 2018 — 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

at

OASIS CENTER, 1704 CHARLOTTE AVENUE Nashville 37203

and

ENCORE HOT TOPICS

Wednesday, June 14, 2018 — 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Green Hills Public Library Community Room

3701 Benham Ave, Nashville 37215

Free and open to the public. No reservations needed.

Parking is Easy & Free at both locations!

Contact LWVNash@gmail.com for more information

Please remember to LIKE **LWVN** on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVNashville?ref=ts>

Voter Service Report for May

By Voter Services Directors Hazel Thornton and Perry Macdonald

Early Voting has begun for the **May 24 mayoral race**. Turnout is acutely low so far, as this election seems to have taken many Nashvillians by surprise, due to the date changes. Also noteworthy is the high amount of parental concern being expressed because May 24 is the last day of school and school will not be closed for this particular election. Almost half of Davidson County polling places are in schools.

Notes from the DCEC meeting on May 10:

The results of the May 1 County Primary and Transit Referendum were certified and are now available on the DCEC [website](#). The closest race was for Executive Committeewoman District 24, at 45 votes. The next commission meeting is scheduled for **June 1, 2018**.



May Membership Drive Has Begun

By Membership Directors Reba Holmes



It is with great delight that we announce and welcome our new and returning members that joined the **Nashville League of Women Voters**. It is our privilege to welcome these individuals to the organization:

Kelly Baker Hefley, Linda Bengson, Martha Goldner, Sherry Loller, Margaret Macdonald, and Janee Watkins. Many thanks to these members and all our members for their support of the League's activities and programs.

Annual Membership Drive

It's that time... Our annual membership drive began **May 1, 2018**. You should have received your renewal letter last week. If not, follow the link below.

Invite your family members, friends and colleagues to join too. Details regarding the various support levels may be found on our [website](#). You may pay online or send us a check.

Your membership makes a difference. Please renew it **today**.



Education Outreach Update **By Education Director Lara Webb**

In April, I visited the **Big Picture High School** to give a brief overview of upcoming elections and the transit referendum. I spoke to the whole school in conjunction with their student government elections. It was a privilege to listen to the candidate speeches! Each candidate shared his or her vision for the school as well as practical steps to achieve their goals. It is so rewarding to listen to and talk to students about their ideas and questions about current events. Being civically engaged has taken on a new urgency and students have hopes and dreams for the future of our city, state, and nation.

Thank you again to all the volunteers that presented and showed interest in outreach! We will be launching more outreach in the fall around the midterms. Feel free to contact me at lwebbteacher@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering or with any questions or suggestions.



Stay Informed about Upcoming Calendar Events!

For updates regarding upcoming calendar events, go to www.lwvnashville.org. If you haven't taken a look, do so to make sure you mark **your** calendar so you won't miss a thing! Thank you, *Nashville Voter* Editor **Madeline Garr** (mgarr2@gmail.com)



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