



# THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville  
PO Box 158369, Nashville TN 37215 | 629-777-5650  
[www.LWVnashville.org](http://www.LWVnashville.org)

Volume 72, No. 3

August 2018

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**August 18, 2018, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Voter Registration Training (League Members only).** For additional details and to RSVP, email <mailto:hazelthorn@gmail.com>.

**August 25, 2018, 11:00 a.m. TN Woman Suffrage Board Celebration.** Centennial Park-Tennessee Suffragist Monument. 2500 West End Ave. Nashville, 37203

**August 27, 2018, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. “Why Aren’t Tennessean Voting Like They Should?” A Conversation about Security, Disenfranchisement, and Democratic Renewal.** Lipscomb Burton Health Science Center. 1 University Park Drive, Nashville, TN 37204. Sponsored by The Tennessean and Lipscomb University.

**September 6, 2018, 6:00 p.m. Runoff Election for Vice-Mayor of Metro Nashville. Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>**

**September 7, 2018, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. First Fridays Hot Topics: Mental Health Issues: Incarceration or Treatment?** Goodwill Lifsey Center, 937 Herman Street, Nashville, 37208. *Program starts at Noon. Bring your own lunch.*

**September 12, 2018, 6:30 p.m. Voter Registration.** The Academy at Old Cockrill, 610 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.. Nashville, TN 37209.

**September 12, 2018, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Encore Hot Topics: Mental Health Issues: Incarceration or Treatment?** Nashville Green Hills Branch Library. 3701 Benham Ave. Nashville, 37215.

**September 14 – September 23, 2018. Voter Registration-YMCA Welcome Week.** Green Hills YMCA, 4041 Hillsboro Circle, Nashville 37215.

**September 15, 2018, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. TN Health Care Campaign Annual Meeting and Voter Education/Registration.** Nashville School of Law, 4013 Armory Oaks Drive, Nashville, TN 37204



### President’s Message

Election season continues in high gear. The **League** needs volunteers more than ever and we hope members will take advantage of many voter registration opportunities.

**Ginna Foster-Cannon**, 1st Vice President, is arranging for speakers to address **Criminal Justice Reform** for our September public First Friday and Wednesday meetings.

There will be a **runoff** election for Vice-Mayor on **September 6th**. Early voting will be **August 17th through September 1st**. **Susan Mattson** has posted our **Vote411 Vice Mayor** candidate statements on line. Please plan to vote and encourage your family and friends to do so. Voter turnout for the September election is likely to be low.

**Hazel Thornton** and **Perry McDonald** attend the Davidson County Election Commission meetings and will have more details. They have several voter registration events lined up before the **October 9th** deadline to register for the November mid-term election. Please contact them to help.

**Laura Webb** has met with social studies teachers to organize League presentations to high school classes. She has created a curriculum and will need volunteers to help.

The **Nashville Ballet on Women's Suffrage** will be previewed on **October 21st** at a **LWVN fund raising event** at the downtown public library. The ballet will be presented to middle school students in the area. The premier performance of the full ballet will be Saturday, **November 10th** at **Harpeth Hall School**.

The **LWVTN** is co-sponsoring a **Senate Debate** at Cumberland University with the University, USA Today, and WDCN on September 25th. Both candidates **must** agree to participate in the debate for it to occur and this issue has not been settled yet.

If you have **not** renewed your **LWV Nashville League membership**, please do so. We need your help!

**Barbara Gay**



## **Notes from August Hot Topic: Sustainability and Carbon Tax and Dividend** **By Environment Director Barbara Futter**

It is exciting that Nashville is booming, but the economic boom is challenging our air and environment. Did you know that Nashville has a sustainability plan to encourage citizens to make Nashville healthier and livable? Nashville is working hard on a draft that you can look at and follow. It addresses **Natural Resources, Mobility, Water Reduction and Recycling, Green Buildings, Climate and Energy**. The plan is informative, instructive and inspiring! Go to [livablenashville.org](http://livablenashville.org)

Our **August's** Hot Topic had speakers from two areas in our community: **Laurel Creech**, the assistant director of Sustainability in Metro Government Services, talked about sustainability practices. **Ryan Egly** of Citizens Climate Lobby talked about a carbon tax plan that would both reduce emissions and increase jobs at the First Friday Hot Topic event August 3, and **Frankie Fachilla**, also a CCL volunteer, joined Laurel at Encore Wednesday August 8.

**Laurel** specifically spoke on two of the areas: Climate and Energy and Green Buildings. The focus of Climate and Energy is to reduce reliance on oil and coal by setting measurable goals and recommendations for Nashville and Metro to lower GHG emissions and energy consumption through gains in efficiencies and renewable. For example, one goal is to convert all the streetlights to **LED** lighting. There are also efforts to encourage the community to participate in **green purchasing**. One example of this is the Music City Solar Project, which is estimated to produce 55 million kilowatt-house of green energy over its lifetime. Learn how you can participate in this effort and learn about its impact, [gosolarmusiccity.com](http://gosolarmusiccity.com) Another initiative is Metro Parks **preservation** of open spaces through private /public partnerships. This year **3000** acres were conserved through one such partnership. Laurel concluded that there is good news but much room for improvement.

Laurel was followed by **Ryan Egly** at the Friday session and **Frankie Fachilla** at the Wednesday session. Both spoke from the perspective of volunteer leaders with the **Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL)**, a non-profit with the goal to create a political will for climate solutions by enabling individual breakthroughs in the exercise of personal and political power. They emphasized that Climate is really about **us**; we know how to solve the problem and just need to have the political will. Ryan said a solution for carbon emissions exists but political will is needed.

The focus of their talks was the climate bill **Carbon Fee and Dividend Bill**, which bridges the partisan divide. This is a revenue-neutral carbon tax with 100% of the net revenue being returned directly to U.S. citizens. The projection is that such a tax will reduce greenhouse gas emissions **to 52% below 1990 levels within 20 years**. At the same time, this tax will grow the economy and save lives.

The **local** chapter of the CCL lobbies Tennessee representatives and coordinates with the national network of **90,000 citizen volunteers across the country** who are hard at work lobbying their representatives in their home states and in Washington, DC. CCL prides itself on being **non-partisan** and operates on the principles of respect, appreciation, and gratitude. They have found that they are listened to by congressional members and are making an impact. To learn more about this organization, please go to [citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org).

The Hot Topic session concluded with many ideas for follow up opportunities:

- Sign up to receive Mayor's news by going to [Nashville.gov](http://Nashville.gov) and click on Mayor's newsletter.
- Go to [SOCKET.nashville.gov](http://SOCKET.nashville.gov) to look at metro governments sustainability work.
- Learn how to make a rain garden and about composting by contacting Cumberland River Compact.
- Look for upcoming bills on Tree preservation at Metro Council (Burkley Allen and Angie Henderson, sponsors)
- Get involved with your neighborhood or an environmental group to amplify your voice:  
Cumberland River Compact,  
Tennessee Environmental Council,  
Watershed organizations listed at [www.paddletsra.org](http://www.paddletsra.org)  
Land Conservation Land trust,  
Beautification groups to promote tree plantings or preservation.



## September 2018 Hot Topic Information

By 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ginna Foster Cannon

For years, community leaders have been frustrated that individuals with **untreated** mental health issues were ending up in Metro jail and the justice system was failing to find satisfactory solutions. A **recent** Nashville grand jury concluded that too many Tennesseans with mental illnesses were being incarcerated rather than referred for treatment. **Mayor Briley** announced this month plans to create a Behavioral Care Center in Nashville to divert mentally ill arrestees from the criminal justice system. Come learn more about the current issues and plans for the future from a representative from the Metro Nashville Sheriff's department and a spokesperson from the mental health community at our September **Hot Topics sessions**.



## The League of Women Voters of Nashville Presents

**First Friday Hot Topic at Noon**

**Mental Health Issues:  
Incarceration or Treatment?**

**Participants:**

**Representatives from the Metro Nashville Sheriff's Department and Amanda Bracht, Senior VP of**

**Clinical Services, Mental Health Cooperative (MHC) will share their perspectives about the current situation and their vision for the future.**

**FIRST FRIDAYS HOT TOPICS**  
**Friday, September 7, 2018 — 12:00 to 1:00 pm**  
**Lifsey Career Solutions Building**  
**Goodwill Industries, 937 Herman Street, Nashville 37208**  
**Bring your own lunch. Program begins promptly at noon.**  
**&**  
**SECOND WEDNESDAY EVENING ENCORE**

**Mental Health Issues:  
Incarceration or Treatment?**

**Representatives from the Metro Nashville Sheriff's Department and from the grassroots community group, NOAH, will share their perspectives about the current situation and their vision for the future.**

**Wednesday, September 12, 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](mailto:LWVNash@gmail.com) for more information  
Please remember to LIKE **LWVN** on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/LWVNashville?ref=ts>



**Voter Service Report for June/July**

**By Voter Services Chairs Hazel Thornton and Perry Macdonald**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

We have **eight** voter registration events scheduled as of **August 15**. Check the [calendar](#) on our homepage for more details. We are very fortunate to have a healthy roster of voter registration volunteers! **Thank you one and all** for joining the League and engaging in voter registration instruction and activities. Many would-be voters need answers to their various questions, and some encouragement to participate. With your help we are providing such support to them.

Beginning **October 17**, we will be poll watching state-wide. More details to follow in the coming weeks. If you are interested in poll watching, please let me know at [hazethorn@gmail.com](mailto:hazethorn@gmail.com).

**Other**

State-wide news--I am thrilled to announce that the **ACLU** has increased their capacity to help felons **re-gain** their suffrage rights. They have recently begun to offer one-on-one restoration counseling. We have begun sharing this information at our voter registration events. Interested parties must fill out a form [here](#):

The Davidson County Election Commission met on **August 15**. They voted **5-0** to clear the way for a **referendum on the November 6 ballot for a community oversight board**.



## **Membership Update**

**By Membership Chair Reba Holmes**

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

**Pamela Atkins, Kieran Bailey, Kathryn Bennett, Elizabeth Berger, Patricia Brown Dishman, Annette Eskind, Shary Essig, Carrie S. Hudson, Suzanne Luter, Nancy Gunderson McFadden, Mary McLennan, Lisa Mingrone, Sandra Murray, Barbara Neligan, Diana Page, Deborah Webster Clair, Phyllis Williams, and Diane Wyckoff.**

**Susan B. Anthony Membership: Margie and David Paisley, and Robert and Joyce Manyik**

**Anne Dallas Dudley: Debby Gould**

Many thanks to these members and **all** our members for their support of the League's activities and programs.

### **Annual Membership Drive**

While our annual membership drive is winding down, it is **never** too late to join. We encourage you to invite your family members, friends and colleagues. Details regarding the various support levels may be found on our [website](#).

Joining the League of Women Voters is the **perfect** way to get involved in the democratic process.



## Updates on Metro Government

By Metro Government Co-Chairs Winnie Forrester and Michelle Steele

### Addressing Voter Fatigue through Charter Amendments: The Metropolitan Council may allow voters to weigh in.

There are several amendments to the **Metropolitan Charter of Nashville and Davidson County** that were discussed by the Charter Revision Committee of the Metropolitan Council during the August 6, 2018, meeting. The proposed revisions affect local elections in **Davidson** County. Voters may get the opportunity to vote on these measures this fall if the majority of the 40-member council agrees. They will vote on Tuesday, **August 21**, during their regular meeting.

Many of the proposed revisions have come after **Megan Barry** resigned her seat as mayor and vice mayor **David Briley** was sworn-in. It became evident during that process that a more comprehensive succession plan was needed. A detailed PDF of all of the amendments before the Charter Revision Committee are available [here](#). See below for a summary:

**Amendment A.** Revises the line of **succession** for the office of mayor. Of note, members of the metropolitan council will elect a fellow councilmember to become acting Mayor. The councilmember elected will not be able to run for office.

**Amendment B.** Special Election amendment for the positions of mayor, vice mayor and council members.

**Amendment C.** Eliminates **runoff** elections for vice mayor and district council members instead utilizing “instant runoff voting” or “rank choice vote-in.” Of note, this amendment eliminates the additional cost of running another election for run-off candidates. Additionally, legal opinions from both the State and Metro vary.

**Amendment E.** Revises term limits for metropolitan council members from two terms representing eight years to three terms representing twelve years.



## Poor Health Has Economic Implications for ALL of Us By Health Care Co-Chair Constance Caldwell

We continue to discover the state of poor health here in Tennessee. Our state ranks in the **bottom ten (10)** states for health in America. We have previously noted the issues in maternal and infant mortality. Most recently, Tennessee was identified as the state with the **highest** rate of childhood obesity. **Thirty-eight per cent** of Tennessee's youth are currently overweight or obese.

According to the **Sycamore Institute**, a Nashville based research center here in Nashville, there are four **Drivers of Health**. These are identified as:

- 1) Health Behavior (choices made that affect the length and quality of our lives);
- 2) Clinical Care (any interaction with the health care system);
- 3) Physical Environment (the natural and built environments);
- 4) Social and Economic Environment (education, jobs, income and social support).

Genetics, of course, is also a factor but it is not **directly** influenced by public policy and data availability.

Be alert to several roundtable events sponsored by the **Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness** that will occur in **six** cities of the state. These events will bring community and business leaders together in a discussion about the critical implications of Tennessee's poor health. Sites include **Knoxville, Kingsport, Jackson, Memphis, Chattanooga, Chattanooga** and **Franklin**.



### 2018-19 LWVN Board of Directors

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