



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF POLK COUNTY

MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK®

October 2019

www.lwvpolk.org

Upcoming Events

October 3rd

Advocacy Training, 1-3 pm, Public Library on Lake Morton (see p.3)

October 4th

Board of Directors meeting, noon, Public Library on Lake Morton
First Friday, 6-9 pm, Munn Park

October 5th and 6th

Polk County Solar and EV Tour

October 11th

Immigration Summit (see p.3)

October 21st

Deadline for November newsletter information to Katy Pace Byrd, byrdkp@gmail.com

November 1st (tentative)

Board of Directors meeting

November 11th

Veterans Day

November 21st

Deadline for December newsletter information

November 28th

Thanksgiving

December 6th (tentative)

Board of Directors meeting

Polk County Solar and EV Tour Saturday & Sunday, October 5th & 6th 10 am – 4 pm

Want to learn more about solar energy and electric vehicles (EVs)? This **FREE**, public, self-guided tour is the perfect way to see solar up close and connect with fellow solar enthusiasts while visiting solar homes and businesses in Polk County. Rsvp here:

<https://www.nationalsolartour.org/localtours/polk-county-tour/>

to learn the locations of open houses throughout the county, and choose the ones you'd like to see. Several sites include EVs, so you'll be able to learn about driving green as well.

At least eight locations are signed up to participate, with more expected. When you arrive between the hours above, you'll find tour hosts eager to showcase their solar installations and answer all your questions! What could be more fun and interesting on a fall day?!

The tour sponsors, including LWV Polk, are particularly excited and proud to welcome **Magnify Credit Union** to this year's tour. Magnify Credit Union's **South Lakeland Branch at 961 E County Road 540A, Lakeland** (intersection of County Road 540A and Carter Road) is Florida's first net-zero commercial building! LEED Gold certified, the structure boasts solar PV (photovoltaic) panels, natural and LED lighting, rainwater cisterns for irrigation and lavatories, interior design chosen for recycled content, and additional environmentally friendly features. This location will also include an electric vehicle rally in the parking lot.

Thanks to the League's own climate action chair **Rick Garrity** and Polk County Solar and EV Tour chair **Karen Freedman** for championing this exciting event, now in its 24th year nationwide.



2019-2020

LWV Polk Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President, open

Vice president, Andy Crossfield,
usandy@aol.com

Secretary, Barbara Wallace,
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Treasurer, Terry Lauretta,
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Past president, Jessie Gomez,
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Karen Freedman,
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SPOTLIGHT ON 2020

March 17th

Presidential Preference Primary Election

Deadline to register February 9th

August 18th

Primary Election

Deadline to register July 20th

November 3rd

General Election

Deadline to register October 5th

Source:

<https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/election-dates/>

Successful Constitution Day Celebration!

On September 19th, longtime LWV Polk supporters **Paula and Tom Mims** opened their house on Lake Hollingsworth to ninety League members and guests for a fundraiser to benefit our planned recognition in 2020 of the **100th anniversary of the founding of the League and the ratification of the 19th Amendment**. The beautiful setting, delicious hors d'oeuvres provided by our generous hosts, and perfect weather combined to create a festive event.

Paula and **Jessie Gomez** kicked things off with a performance of Paula's original "Suffragette Rap." LWV Florida President **Patti Brigham** shared news of the state headquarters' relocation from Tallahassee to Orlando. LWV Florida has spent a significant amount of time recently in the courts trying to mitigate legislative efforts to curb the vote in two groups, college students and returning citizens. "Get Out the Vote" efforts will be critical in 2020, with the League's efforts being aided by growing membership in Polk County and across the state. A key part of the League's mission, Brigham said, is "keeping voter suppression at bay."

Andy Crossfield revealed LWV Polk's plans to observe the 2020 Centennial on January 9th through 11th with several performances of a play about the trial of Susan B. Anthony for "illegal" voting in 1872. Drama students from Harrison School for the Arts will perform ***The Remarkable Susan*** at the historic Bartow Courthouse, directed by their teacher Cory Wilson. The performances will be **free** thanks to the funds raised by this event. Two Harrison students "teased" the play with inspiring and dynamic presentations on the history of women's suffrage and a monologue from the play. The event closed with a group recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution, and attendees lingered to enjoy the gracious hospitality of the Mims Family.



Harrison students, left, and Patti Brigham, right, speaking to the celebrants. ***Photos courtesy of Gerald Weeks. See Facebook for more!***

Additional Committee and Action Team Chairs

Natural resources:

Climate action, Rick Garrity,
rgarrity@tampabay.rr.com

Banning plastic bags & straws in Polk County, Sharon Masters, see above

Juvenile justice, Andy Crossfield, see above

Voter registration, Larry Rankin, lallenr@gmail.com

Women’s reproductive health, Eileen Swiler, see above

Speakers Bureau, Trudy Rankin,
trudycorryrankin@gmail.com

Healthcare, Catherine Price,
catprice2199@gmail.com

Immigration, Ivelisse De La Fe, ivalisse3@gmail.com

Education, open

Gun violence prevention, Leander Ausilio,
oyaji_lee@msn.com

Libraries, Lillian Blessing,
lillianblessing@gmail.com

Don’t Forget to Like the League!

The LWV is on Facebook!

The League of Women Voters of Polk County

League of Women Voters of Florida

League of Women Voters of the U.S.

Advocacy Training

The **Hot Topic!** for October will welcome LWV Florida director of government affairs **Nicolette Fariello** to give a legislative status update, as well as some tips and strategies for advocating for your favorite causes. This event is open to all members.

Hot Topics! in the coming months may include a young people’s forum to gain insight into youth attitudes toward politics and voting. Other topics under consideration are the 2020 census, “Plastics—Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,” the importance of the courts, and affordable housing.

2019 LULAC Immigration Summit

LWV immigration action team chair **Ivelisse De La Fe** reports that the LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) Council of Central Florida will present its annual summit on October 11, from 9:30 am to 3 pm at the Student Center of the Winter Haven Campus of Polk State College. Attendance at the exhibits and forums is free, and Congressional Representative **Darren Soto** (FL-9th district) will deliver the keynote speech at the luncheon. Tickets to the luncheon (\$35 per person) are available by going to “LULAC Council of Central Florida” on Facebook and clicking on “events.”

LULAC is a 90-year-old organization—the oldest and largest-such group—that “advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 1,000 LULAC councils nationwide. The organization involves and serves all Hispanic nationality groups.” Source: www.lulac.org

Did You Know?

A 5700-page book detailing the history of women’s suffrage in the U.S. was published in six volumes between 1881 and 1922. Packed with primary sources from the decades leading up to the ratification of the 19th Amendment, *History of Woman Suffrage* was compiled by Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Matilda Joslyn Gage, and Ida Husted Harper. Anthony financed the massive project with her own money.

The Classifieds

Help Wanted!

WANTED: Volunteers

Have a passion for a particular issue? Get involved! Check out the list of League action teams and committees. Whether you are interested in voter registration, banning plastic bags and straws, or women's reproductive health, we welcome your energy and talent!

WANTED: Venues and Volunteers

Do you know of places where LWV Polk might be able to set up a table to do **education** and **registration** of potential voters? Heavily trafficked places like grocery stores or other spots where folks gather, especially in underserved neighborhoods, would be ideal, as well as names and contact info for any group that would like a League voter registration team to visit. Contact voter registration chair Larry Rankin at lallenr@gmail.com if you have any venue suggestion or want to join Larry's trained cadre of volunteer voter registrars. Required free training will be provided!

WANTED: Information

The **deadline** for story ideas and information for this newsletter is the **third Monday of every month**. Action team and committee chairs are especially encouraged to submit events scheduled for the next month and activities already carried out by your team! Please send to Katy Pace Byrd at byrdkp@gmail.com. And thank you! Can't do it without you!

Welcome!

WELCOME to our ten newest LWV Polk members, who all joined our organization in response to our wonderful Constitution Day Celebration! We are thrilled to have you!

Juanita Zwaryczuk
Sandra Thompson
Cindy Petterson
Pat Jorgesen
Yadira Holmes
Stephanie "Stevie" Buck
Cherish Welch
Richard Sutherland
Trinity Laurino
Jennell Thornton

WANTED: Audiences

Are you a member of a club or organization that needs speakers at its meetings? Our Speakers Bureau can fill that need! Available topics include banning plastic bags, election reform, solar energy, voter registration, gun safety, fracking, the Stolen Girls of Americus, Georgia, and others. The League is well-known for its in-depth research and study before taking a position on any issue affecting all of us. LWV is a 100-year-old, non-partisan, national, state, and local organization.