

Remarks for 2018 Triad Women's March on the Polls

Saturday, January 20, 2018

We marched a year ago and we march today.

100 years ago they marched - until they won the right to vote for women.

Born out of that movement, the same women who marched - the suffragettes - formed an organization whose work has evolved - from efforts to gain and foster women's suffrage - to ensuring that **all** eligible voters have the opportunity and the information they need - to exercise their right to vote.

The League of Women Voters is a citizens' organization that has fought - since 1920 - to improve our government and engage **all** citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. We operate at the national, state, and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues.

The League's mission – Making Democracy Work[®] – includes ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters. The League is proud to be nonpartisan - neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties - but we *are* political - always working on issues of vital concern to League members and the public at large, such as the environment, fair elections, health, immigration, public education and social justice.

A large part of what the League does is educate voters. The suffragettes realized it wasn't enough just to vote. People need to understand what and whom they're voting for. They need to know which candidates share **their** positions on issues of importance to **them**.

Locally, the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad conducts monthly Lunch with the League events on important topics - at which experts in their fields - as well as our friends and neighbors who are affected by the issue being discussed - share their knowledge and experiences - with the goal of improving our communities - through informed and active participation.

We have presented programs - attracting as many as 400 people - on issues as far-ranging as nonpartisan redistricting and the opioid crisis.

Before every election, we hold candidate forums and create and distribute thousands of voter guides.

In April, at an evening event on the campus of UNCG, we will be hosting Dr. Norman Ornstein, Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, who will address the current state of our government and our politics.

To learn more, visit our website: lwwpt.org

Today is all about voting.

If you don't like what's been going on in our government, then learn who's currently in office and who is running against them and vote them out. Do like what they're doing? Vote them back in. But know **why** you're voting for the people you're voting for.

Every year is an election year. You need to vote in all of them and encourage your family and friends to vote, also. It's the only way - to get what you want.

The first step in the process is registering to vote - and we're here today to help you do that. Our volunteers are still on duty. SO, if you need to register - or correct any information on a previous registration - now is the time to do it.

Politicians have power. But we, the People give them that power! And they only pay attention to the needs and desires of people who vote. Your vote is **your** power. So Remember: You don't count if you don't vote.

So keep marching and keep voting!

Thank you.