

VOTER IMPACT

November, 2019 Vol. XXXII Issue 3

Lunch with the League

"Immigration: Policies and Possibilities"

Speakers: Jeremy McKinney, Second Vice President, American Immigration Lawyers Association; and Dr. Fabrice Lehoucq, Professor of Political Science, UNCG

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Holy Trinity Haywood Duke Room

607 N. Greene Street, Greensboro, NC 27401

Doors open at 11:30

The program is free and a buffet Lunch is \$12.00.

Make reservations with Bonnie Kristoff by phone (336-547-0824) or send email to

Reservations@lwvpt.org by November 13. Contact Bonnie for special needs.

Biographies follow the lunch instructions. See article following the president's message.

Lunch is to be prepaid. To make reservations by mail, send your check made out to the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad with the date of the lunch on the memo line. Mail to LWVPT, PO Box 9721, Greensboro, NC 27429. You may also use our website and PayPal or your credit card to make reservations. To attend the program without lunch, please let Bonnie know by phone (336-547-0824), email (bbklunch@gmail.com), or via the website (lwvpt.org). Please note new lunch price. If you need the form to send in your reservation, contact Bonnie with that request.



Jeremy McKinney is Second Vice President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). He has lived and worked in Greensboro for 20 years, having founded McKinney Immigration Law (www.mckinneyimmigration.com) with offices in Greensboro and Wilmington. Jeremy is a North Carolina Board Certified Immigration Law Specialist and has served on AILA's Board of Governors previously as Secretary, Elected Director and Chapter Chair of AILA Carolinas. He is admitted to practice law in North Carolina, the Middle, Eastern and Western District Courts of North Carolina, along with the Fourth, Seventh and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeal, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Jeremy earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Virginia Commonwealth University and later received his Juris Doctorate from Campbell University School of Law. He has previously taught Immigration Law at Elon University and served on the North Carolina State Bar's Specialization Committee.



Fabrice Lehoucq is a professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He studies the origins and breakdown of political systems, electoral fraud and reform, the operation of democratic institutions, and political economy. Professor Lehoucq is the author of *The Politics of Modern Central America* (Cambridge Univ. Press). His research has been supported by numerous fellowships and grants, and he has been a consultant for the Bertelsmann Transformation Index, the Carter Center, the *Estado de la Región en Desarrollo Humano Sostenible* (State of the Region in the Sustainability of Human Development in Central America), the Inter-American Development Bank, Management Systems International (Washington, D.C.), the Open Budget Initiative, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the World Bank.

Our sympathies

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families of former U.S. Senator Kay Hagan and District Court Judge Tom Jarrell, and to N.C. Rep. Pricey Harrison on the recent loss of her sister.

Message from the President -- November 2019

Where has 2019 gone???? This will be our final issue of VI for 2019, and I want to remind you of upcoming events in 2020 so they don't slip on us!

In January, the annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast** is hosted by the [Human Relations Commission](http://www.humanrelationscommission.org). LWVPT usually hosts a table at this event, with seats costing \$20. If you are interested in being a part of our table, please let me know (president@lwpvt.org) so that I can add you to the list! This is always a good program to help kick off the year!

During 2020 we will also have many events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment and the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters! Please keep an eye out for them and help support them. There is a lot of fascinating information about what led to the passage of that amendment and the formation of the group that decided that informed voters were necessary to democracy! (*see the logo and update in this VI.*)

We have a lot to be thankful for, and this season is a good time to remember that. We are blessed with an active and dedicated organization, and always welcome more participation by all. If you would like to be more involved but aren't sure how, please reach out to me, or to others who serve on the Board of Directors. You can also find information in our weekly Alert, this newsletter, and our website. We also have a Facebook page and are on Twitter. We welcome suggestions about how we can do more and how we can make sure people know what we are doing.

<http://lwpvt.org>

One area that will need as much attention as we can give it in the coming year is the 2020 election. We have a tireless Voter Registration Chair in Barbara Carter, who seizes every opportunity to register voters! However, we know that registering voters isn't enough. We need to continually educate citizens about issues and do all we can to make sure everyone takes their right and responsibility to vote seriously, and exercises that right by VOTING. We will continue to seek every opportunity to fulfill the League goal of empowering voters and defending democracy. We can ALL do that, but if you are specifically interested in being more involved with Voter Services, please let me know. president@lwv.org I look forward to hearing from you!!!

THANK YOU to each and every one of our members for all you do — supporting us with your membership dues, donations, time, letters to the editor, visits, calls and emails to legislators. Whatever you are able to do is greatly appreciated!

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Vicki White-Lawrence, Co-President

Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable

At the Roundtable's "Lunch with the League" program on November 19, we anticipate thoughtful audience participation as **the two illustrious speakers review current immigration policy, examine how U.S. foreign policy brought us to this point, and ask what a fair, humane, transparent immigration policy would look like and what we can do to help achieve it.** Jeremy McKinney, Second Vice President, American Immigration Lawyers Association; and Dr. Fabrice Lehoucq, Professor of Political Science at UNCG will be featured.

We were among those urging Gov. Cooper **to state opposition to SB 250**, which is yet another voter suppression tactic. It seeks to purge NC Voter Rolls by removing individuals who have been excused from any jury duty because they are not US citizens. The Clerk of Superior Court will send information for these non-citizens to the State Board of Elections, at which point the information of the non-citizens identified becomes public record.

Opponents of SB 250 explain that non-citizens voting in NC elections have not been a problem; most of the people excused from jury duty have been naturalized and are now in fact, eligible voters; and it could subject those identified to harassment and discrimination.

Governor Cooper vetoed SB 250. We anticipate an effort to override his veto.

At the **DACA hearing before the Supreme Court November 12**: Three federal district courts and the US Court of Appeals having opined that DACA was lawful, the Supreme Court ruling will determine the fate of approximately 800,000 Dreamers threatened by the Trump administration's attempt to deport them. MJ Mayorga and Adamou Mohamed will be in DC for the hearing.

Ongoing advocacy with elected officials to oppose the Trump administration's efforts to block immigration through the southwest border is vital. U.S. Customs and Border Protection reports apprehension of 76,020 minors mostly traveling without their parents in FY ending September, a 52 percent increase over the last fiscal year. In the same period this year, Mexico detained about 45,000 underage migrants traveling north without their parents. Numbers of adults in the U.S. who have been sponsoring the children have now decreased because new policies have made sponsors, often undocumented themselves, vulnerable to immigration authorities and leaving the children without sponsors.

Also vital now is a timely response to the administration's **Executive Order 13888** which is anti-immigrant, disguised by its title "Enhancing State and Local Involvements in Refugee Resettlement." It would allow refugee resettlement only in areas where both state and local governments consent in writing to resettlement in their respective areas, with restrictive conditions attached. Note that refugees have already gone through rigorous security and medical scrutiny in their flights from persecution and unsafe conditions. Here in Guilford County we have already issued welcoming resolutions as we

continue to affirm and benefit from refugees' contributions to our community. Now, we must urge elected officials to articulate their consent to refugee resettlement and ask the governor to issue a statement of support welcoming refugees.

Supplies needed! Please bring to the November 19 meeting packs of Size 4 and 5 diapers. They will be distributed immediately after the meeting to Faith Action International and to the Latino Center of the High Point YWCA. Thank you.

Whitney Grove Vanderwerff

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Voter Impact will be formatted for at least three months in this simpler format. We need someone to edit and format Voter Impact for January. If you can use Word or another word processor you can do this. Please consider it and send email to lwvptmail@gmail.com and volunteer.

U.S. Census Bureau Kicks Off National Recruitment Campaign

The Census Bureau needs to hire about 500,000 census takers across the country in 2020. In order to meet this goal, [we're starting peak recruiting efforts now.](#)

These positions provide the perfect opportunity to earn some extra income while helping your community. The results of the 2020 Census will help determine each state's representation in Congress, as well as how certain funds are spent for schools, hospitals, roads, and more. This is your chance to play a part in history and help ensure that everyone in your community is counted!

Job Qualifications

To be eligible for a 2020 Census job, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have a valid Social Security number.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Have a valid email address.
- Complete an application and answer assessment questions. (Some assessment questions are available in Spanish. However, an English proficiency test may also be required.)
- Be registered with the Selective Service System or have a qualifying exemption, if you are a male born after Dec. 31, 1959.
- Pass a Census Bureau-performed criminal background check and a review of criminal records, including fingerprinting.
- Commit to completing training.
- Be available to work flexible hours, which can include days, evenings, and/or weekends.

[Apply Now!](#)

LWVPT 2020 100th Anniversary Planning Committee Update



First, we would like to share the LWVPT logo for the 100 Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment giving women the vote.

You may ask why the yellow rose in the center of the logo. It represent VICTORY. When the suffragists and anti-suffragists arrived in Nashville for the special session of the Tennessee General Assembly to vote on the 19th amendment, the yellow rose was in vogue, but so was the red. The suffragists wore the yellow rose; the anti-suffragists wore red. The Tennessee Senate strongly supported ratifying the 19th amendment but not so in the House. As a means of indicating the way they would vote, members of the Tennessee House wore a yellow or red rose in their lapel. When the legislation was brought to the floor of the Tennessee House for the first reading, the vote was split 48 – 48. On August 18, 1920, when the representatives arrived to vote on the third and final reading of the bill, the group still appeared to be divided. This changed when a young man from East Tennessee, wearing a red rose, touched the breast pocket of his suit coat that contained a letter delivered to him from his mom at the beginning of the morning session that advised him to be a good boy and vote yes for ratification. He changed his vote and the 19th amendment was official – the 36th and final state had ratified. The yellow rose became the symbol for VICTORY.

One of the projects of the planning committee is the creation of a solar yellow rose garden that will be moved around the area as programs and events are being held. The first garden display will be at the History Museum for the opening of the Smithsonian Exhibit – “Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith”, on December 7, 2019. The rose is there as a symbol of VICTORY for women but it should also remind us that not all women, nor men got the vote. It would be years later and another struggle and much human sacrifice to achieve VICTORY for people of color. We should be further reminded that the struggle continues.

Environment Round Table, October

The Round Table met on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Two students from UNCG attended. Our guest speaker was Kevin Elwood, Marketing and Communications Specialist for Greensboro’s Department of Transportation, Mr. Elwood has been with the City of Greensboro for 15 years. Our roundtable has been interested in the City’s new electric buses and we were fortunate to get Mr. Atwood. After giving us a short history of Greensboro’s public transportation system, which dates from the early 20th century, Kevin spoke in detail about the electric buses and the entire transportation system.

Greensboro buses use the Hub system with the Galyon Depot as its center. Routes are planned based on population density and usage. Stops are placed so that they are within three quarters of a mile walk for users. Kevin explained that the large bus size is based on peak load usage. When buses leave the Depot, they are full, but as they travel their

passenger load becomes lighter, which explains why those living on the outer perimeter of the City may wonder why we have large buses with few passengers. Each bus can hold 44 seated passengers and 20 standing. Interested persons can participate in a bus orientation at the Depot.

In 2019, the City became interested in reducing its carbon footprint and explored the costs of acquiring diesel/electric hybrid buses. Each bus costs \$750,000, requires no fuel, is easily maintained, and comes with regenerative braking. The City would save \$30,000 a year on each bus. In addition, 80% of the original cost of a bus is paid by the Federal government. Thirteen electric buses were purchased from Proterra in South Carolina and began service in January of this year. Three more buses are on order. Greensboro has the second largest fleet of electric buses on the East Coast. Since 1990, Duke Energy has paid the City \$1.5 million a year to operate the bus system. Duke operated the bus system from 1925 to 1990.

The solar batteries which power the buses are on the roof of the bus. These batteries are charged by the braking system, the quick charge solar system at the depot when needed, and more thoroughly by an overnight charge when parked for the night. The lithium batteries are good for 8 years and the electric bus has a 12 year useful lifetime.

HEAT and SCAT are two other transportation systems operated by the City. HEAT partners with local colleges to introduce students to public transportation and to reduce parking congestion. It runs to select locations on college campuses and downtown. The buses are federally funded and provide quick and efficient transportation for students. Faculty can ride HEAT at UNCG. SCAT is a transportation system consisting of large vans, which can carry wheel chairs, for disabled citizens.

Judy Hoag and Dick Feulner, co-chairs

Voter Service

LWVPT and You Can Vote (YCV):

LWVPT and YCV are investigating additional opportunities to co-brand at events. If you are interested in participating in future LWVPT/YCV events please plan to attend a 90-minute training session which is required to participate in LWVPT-YCV events. You can view the training schedule and sign up for training and voter education events at YouCanVote.org.

Vote411.org:

A huge thank you to all who cast their ballots yesterday! While we had limited responses from Municipal election candidates, this was an excellent run through to prepare for the 2020 Election cycle. The Vote411.org team will begin preparations to promote candidate participation for 2020 in the near future.

Treasurer's Report

The peer review of the 2018-2019 financial records is complete! Last fiscal year's paperwork will be filed away for records purposes in the LWVPT office .

Planning for the merger of the two LWVPT corporations is underway. We are targeting the January Lunch with the League for the required vote on the By Laws to move forward. Please be on the look out for additional information as the date draws closer.

How to Give to the LWVPT

Donations to all LWVPT funds can be made via the website, http://www.lwvpt.org/donate_form.html or by mail to: LWVPT , P O Box 9721. Greensboro, NC 27429

Nominating Committee

Members of the LWVPT Nominating Committee invite you to consider becoming a nominee for the 2020-2021 LWVPT board of directors. Each of us will gladly speak with you about the positions open next year and about the responsibilities related to those positions. You are welcome to recommend others who might want to serve on our board. We will be in

<http://lwvpt.org>

attendance at Lunch With the League meetings and will be available on email, as well. Members of the committee are: Tyler Daye, Addy Jeffrey, Bonnie Kristoff, Sue Stinson and Lynn Bennett. We look forward to your recommendations.

Lynn Bennett, Chair Nominating Committee

Membership Committee Report

We would like to welcome the following new members who joined us in October: Mary Wessling, Wendy Ross, Candice Campbell Grieg, Cathy Cordero, Lawrence Eisenberg and Elizabeth Sheeran. We'd are so glad you joined us and hopefully we will see you at an upcoming event!

Health RoundTable

The Health RT meets every first Monday at noon at Deep Roots. In October we received executive board approval to post our Health Care Facts signs around the community. As soon as we finish up formatting, we will print them (ourselves) and put them up everywhere we can get permission to do so. We are waiting on an introduction to groups at A&T whose goals complement our own (Health Care for All). We hope that happens next month. Rob Luisanan made his PP presentation to the Jamestown Rotary. Robin Lane keeps us abreast of Medicaid Expansion efforts and Tim Lane agreed to be our liaison to the state's efforts to improve social determinants of health. If you have any interest in promoting our goals, please visit our RT. We'd love to have you.

Officers or the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad

Co-President: Vicki White-Lawrence (2018-2020), 336-643-7676/ 336-324-7267, President@lwpvt.org

Co-President: Ann Shaw (2019-2021), 765-520-5939, President@lwpvt.org

Vice-President: Anna Fesmire (2019-2020), (Chair, Social Justice RT), 336-457-7165, vicepresident@lwpvt.org

Secretary: Cynthia Schaub (2019-2021), 336-908-7697, sec@lwpvt.org

Treasurer: Sandra Colyer (2018-2020), 336-991-1173, treasurer@lwpvt.org

The co-presidents have the same email address. A message sent to President@lwpvt.org will go to both Vicki and Ann.

Submissions to Voter Impact

If you have something to share with other members of the LWVPT, please send your information to webvi@lwpvt.org on or before the first Tuesday of the month.

Volunteering to register people to vote and urging them to be informed voters is one of the most important things you can do to make democracy work! Please volunteer by contacting the coordinator via email

VoterRegistration@lwpvt.org or phone 336-210-7763.