



# VOTER IMPACT

LWV OF THE PIEDMONT TRIAD  
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PHONE: 336-274-0202  
EMAIL: LWVPTMAIL@GMAIL.COM  
HTTP://LWVPT.ORG  
VOLUME XXX ISSUE 2 OCTOBER 2017

## LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

### Greensboro City Council Candidate Forum Co-sponsored by Greensboro News & Record

**Tuesday, October 17**

Doors open at 11:30 AM, Buffet begins at 11:45 AM

12:00 -1:00 PM Mayor and At-Large candidates.

1:00-1:30 PM District candidates in 5 separate rooms by district

**Please note change of venue for October**

**First Baptist Church**

**1000 W. Friendly Ave. Greensboro, NC 27401**

<< Reservation Deadline is Wednesday, October 11 >>

The public is welcome. Lunch is optional at \$11.00.  
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED, with or without lunch.

[Click here for Reservations with a lunch](#)

Vegetarian options available upon request.

[Click here to reserve a spot without lunch](#) (free),  
or contact Bonnie Kristoff at (336) 547-0824 or [Reservations@lwwvpt.org](mailto:Reservations@lwwvpt.org)

Or, send in the registration form on Pg. 3

Please refer to this page when you need to contact a board member. Where emails are shared by two people, each will get the message.

### Board of Directors (2017-2018)

Tracy Nash, President (2016-2018)

[president@lwwpt.org](mailto:president@lwwpt.org)

Vicki White-Lawrence, Vice-President (2017-2018)

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[treasurer@lwwpt.org](mailto:treasurer@lwwpt.org)

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(2017-2018), Co-Chair, Membership Committee

[membership@lwwpt.org](mailto:membership@lwwpt.org), [presemeritus@lwwpt.org](mailto:presemeritus@lwwpt.org)

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Kay Brandon, Nominating Committee (2016-2018)

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Andy Stern (2016-2018), Co-chair, Fair Elections

Roundtable

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Catherine Magid (2017-2019), Chair, Voter Services Committee

[voterservice@lwwpt.org](mailto:voterservice@lwwpt.org)

Bob Kollar (2017-2019), LWWPT Correspondent

[Correspondent@lwwpt.org](mailto:Correspondent@lwwpt.org)

Ann Shaw (2017-2019)

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### Appointed one-year board members

Gary Kenton

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Addy Jeffrey, Chair, Social Media

[SocialMedia@lwwpt.org](mailto:SocialMedia@lwwpt.org)

Whitney Vanderwerff, Chair, Immigration Reform

Roundtable

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Walter Salinger, Co-chair, Fair Elections RT, LWWNC

Board Liaison

[fer@lwwpt.org](mailto:fer@lwwpt.org)

Make **tax deductible donations** to the "LWWPT Education Fund, Inc." online at [http://www.lwwpt.org/donate\\_form.html](http://www.lwwpt.org/donate_form.html) or by mail to:

LWWPT Education Fund  
P O Box 9721  
Greensboro, NC 27429

Using the same information, you may also make **non-deductible donations** to "LWWPT" (operating fund), used for advocacy on issues.

### Adjuncts to the Board

Anna Fesmire, Chair, Social Justice Roundtable

[SocialJustice@lwwpt.org](mailto:SocialJustice@lwwpt.org)

Dick Feulner, Co-Chair, Environment Roundtable

[ert2@lwwpt.org](mailto:ert2@lwwpt.org)

Judith Hoag, Lunch with the League Coordinator,

Co-Chair, Environment Roundtable

[lunchcoordinator@lwwpt.org](mailto:lunchcoordinator@lwwpt.org), [ert2@lwwpt.org](mailto:ert2@lwwpt.org)

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Bonnie Kristoff, Lunch w/the League Reservations

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Barbara Carter, Co-chair, Voter Registration

[VoterRegistration@lwwpt.org](mailto:VoterRegistration@lwwpt.org)

Joan Dressler, Co-Chair,

Sally Austin Project Committee

[SallyAustinProject@lwwpt.org](mailto:SallyAustinProject@lwwpt.org)

We appreciate Jennifer Filipowski for coming forth to produce the October issue of Voter Impact. What a beautiful job. Thanks, Jennifer.

## Message from the President

As I write this, though the calendar says it's fall, we're experiencing some very summerlike weather. Those with school-age children are back in the routine; we're starting to think about the end-of-year holidays. Amid the activities of life, all of us, I hope, continue to do what we can to make our democracy work.

We continue to be bombarded with national and international events, be they devastating weather, concerns about access to healthcare, senseless acts of violence, or escalating tensions with other countries. Feelings of helplessness in these situations can easily cause us to just give up.

Rather than giving up, where we can, let's all take control! One way in which we can is by voting in the municipal elections in our communities. While we are -- and should be -- concerned about what happens at the state, federal, and international levels, what happens right in our home towns should be of equal concern. Our local governments have a much greater impact on our daily lives than what goes on in Washington, D.C. or Raleigh. Your city government controls fire and police, water resources, transportation, economic and neighborhood development, parks and recreation and much more.

Missed the September 28 event at NC A&T titled "What Does the City Council Do & Why Should I Care & Vote?"? Don't worry, you have another opportunity! The program will be presented again, this time at UNCG, on October 11. Check the calendar on our website <http://lwvpt.org/calendar.html> for details about this event and other election-related programs.

If you didn't make it to Early Voting for the October 10 Primary election, which ends on Saturday, October 7, make sure you make a plan to cast your ballot on Tuesday, October 10. Polls open at 6:30 A.M. and close at 7:30 PM, but if you're in line by 7:30 PM you will be allowed to vote. Remember - on Election Day, you must vote at your assigned Precinct polling place.

Our October 17 Lunch with the League is a Greensboro City Council candidate forum. We're excited to welcome Bill O'Neil, from WXII Chanel 12 News as our moderator. All candidates who make it past the primary are invited to participate. We have a terrific new format this year, so come and check it out. Don't forget the change of venue for this event – see the email announcement or the front page of this issue of Voter Impact.

*Tracy Nash, President*

**Reservations for:**

**Lunch With the League on October 17, 2017**

To pay by check, please print out and complete this form and mail to:

The League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad  
 PO Box 9721  
 Greensboro, NC 27429

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations @ \$11.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

LWVPT members and guests are asked to prepay for lunch at our Lunch with the League meetings by mailing a check to LWVPT for \$11.00 or paying online with a credit card or via PayPal. Those not having lunch simply preregister as usual by contacting Bonnie Kristoff at 336-547-0824 or [bbklunch@gmail.com](mailto:bbklunch@gmail.com), or following the instructions sent with the email message. These procedures expedite the check-in process and make certain payment is made for a reserved lunch.

## Membership: New Member Orientation

The Membership Committee is planning the next orientation meeting for November 5 at 3 PM at Kathleen Clay Edwards Library, 1420 Price Park Dr., Greensboro, NC 27410. If you joined since the last orientation in May, or if you have not been able to attend an orientation in the past, please come to learn more about the League, the LWVPT Round Tables and Committees and upcoming Lunch with the League and other programs. We want to learn more about you, why you joined the League and what you hope to gain from your League membership. We also welcome more "seasoned" members and invite you to share your League experiences. Watch your email (or postal mail if we don't have your email address) for an invitation to the orientation.

*Janice Siebert, Co-chair, Membership Committee*

**RENEW NOW!**

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

- In mid-July, we sent out notices that
- it is time to renew your membership
- in LWVPT. Our League year runs from
- July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018.
- To date 159 members have renewed.
- Thank you! It is your dues and your
- support that make voter education and
- advocacy on important issues possible.
- We urge the 141 members who have
- not renewed to do so today. Mail
- your check to *LWVPT, PO Box 9721,*
- *Greensboro, NC 27429* or renew online:
- [http://www.lwvpt.org/LWVPT\\_Membership.html](http://www.lwvpt.org/LWVPT_Membership.html)

## Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome 7 new members since September: Amanda and Dave Wils (who had joined before last report; I inadvertently omitted them), Boodie and Thomas Clary, Mary Lois Brugler, Betty Hatch, and Lois Baldwin

We hope to see you soon at one of the League activities.

## Voter Impact CHANGES

Voter Impact (VI) in PDF format is currently sent to all members as an attachment to a LWVPT email message sent by our new method using MailChimp. The link to Voter Impact at <http://lwvpt.org> is also included. You may read older issues and the current issue online.

If you have an email address and you are not receiving VI via email, please check your SPAM folder. If your email is not there, then inform us at [lwvptmail@gmail.com](mailto:lwvptmail@gmail.com) so we can figure out why. If you are reading this message online and want to be on distribution list, send email to the same address.

If you would like to comment on format or anything else, please send email to the address above. The footers of VI contain important website addresses if you should need them.

**CALENDAR**

Roundtables meet according to their schedules. Check the calendar on our website or contact chair persons on p. 2 for information or to get on the mailing list.

October 17, 2017 at 11:45 AM - Lunch with the League, see p. 1 **NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION!**  
**First Baptist Church, 1000 W. Friendly Ave. Greensboro, NC 27401**

October 18 at 6:00 PM - Immigrant Communities Candidate Forum - Congregational UCC, 400 West Radiance Drive, GSO 27403. For information contact [mohamed.adamou@gmail.com](mailto:mohamed.adamou@gmail.com)

October 18, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM - Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable - Hampshire condominiums meeting room, 1101 N. Elm St. GSO 27401

October 26, 5:30 - 7:00 PM, Greensboro City Council Community Candidate Forum - Revolution Mill, 1000 Revolution Mill Road, Greensboro, 1000 Building and outside. All Candidates, Sponsored by: LWVPT and 12 other organizations

November 2 at 4:00 PM - Environment Roundtable - St. Andrew's Church Library - Special Guest: John Gladstone, CPRP,CPO, Passive Parks and County Farm. If you would like to attend, please send email to [ert2@lwvpt.org](mailto:ert2@lwvpt.org).

November 4, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM - Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable - Hampshire condominiums meeting room, 1101 N. Elm St. GSO 27401

November 5 at 3:00 PM - New LWVPT Member Orientation - Kathleen Clay Edwards Library, 1420 Price Park Dr., Greensboro, NC 27410

November 14 at 6:30 PM - Greensboro News&Record Community Forum - Elm Street Center, 203 South Elm Street in downtown Greensboro. The 2017 topic: Immigration

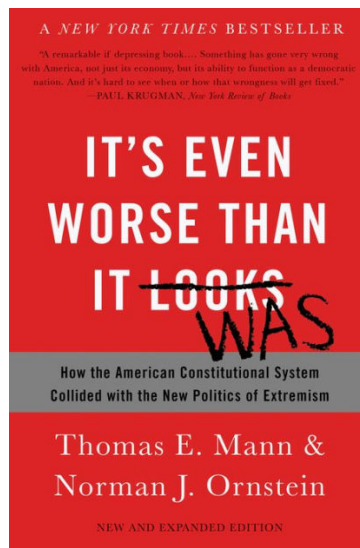
**Save the Date!**

The evening of  
 Thursday, April 12, 2018

LWVPT will present

**Mr. Norman Ornstein**

Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and co-author of *"It's Even Worse Than It Was: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism"*



**Notice: Please be aware that there may be literature available or distributed at our events that has not been authorized. Know that simply because you obtained something at an LWVPT event, doesn't necessarily mean it is a cause or issue supported by LWVPT. When in doubt, please contact [lwvptmail@gmail.com](mailto:lwvptmail@gmail.com)**

## Social Justice Roundtable (SJRT)

Consider these facts that have prompted the Social Justice Roundtable (SJRT) to make Criminal Justice a subject of study in 2017, with an eye toward advocacy:

- 1.6 million North Carolinians have criminal records.
- Approximately 40,000 individuals are currently in North Carolina's 70 prisons.
- Currently, 1 in 106 Caucasian males is incarcerated, while 1 in 36 Latino males and 1 in 15 African-American males is incarcerated.
- It costs the NC Department of Public Safety \$27,000 annually to incarcerate someone.
- 95% of incarcerated individuals will eventually leave prison and return home.
- 92% of employers conduct criminal background checks; an applicant with a criminal record is 50% less likely to receive a call back.
- More than 900 state and federal laws deny North Carolinians a wide range of privileges and rights based on a criminal record.
- North Carolina's 3-year recidivism rate is 40%  
<http://ncjustice.org/?q=second-chance-alliance/nc-second-chance-alliance>

The Social Justice Roundtable is preparing the program for the November Lunch with The League (LWL). Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we will have the LWL on the 28th of November, the 4th Tuesday instead of the 3rd. Our speakers will be David E. Clark of the Guilford County Public Defender's office and Sarah Goff, Juvenile Mediation Program Director for One Step Further. While Dave will talk about how our criminal justice system disproportionately disadvantages indigent defendants, resulting effectively in a modern day debtor's prison for the poor, Sarah will reveal how the Juvenile Mediation Program she administers helps youthful offenders atone for their crimes while avoiding incarceration. More details of the November program to follow at the October LWL!

The next roundtable meeting of the SJRT will take place on Friday October 13 from 4:00-5:30 pm at First Friends Meeting, 2100 West Friendly Avenue. Dave and Sarah will join us as we engage in a preliminary discussion of our November LWL program. All are welcome to attend!

*Anna Fesmire, Chair, LWVPT Social Justice Roundtable*

**NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION  
FOR LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE  
THIS MONTH ONLY**

**First Baptist Church  
1000 W. Friendly Ave  
Greensboro, NC 27401**

## Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable

Gratitude to people who are following the suggestions for advocacy and support given at "Immigration Issues: Fears, Facts, Families," the September 19 Lunch with the League program.

Susan Ladd writes about the program in a Friday, Sept. 22 News&Record column, "People we know could soon be deported," beginning with the DACA recipients Vargas Andres brothers who are ICU nurses at Wake Forest Medical Center, and Winston-Salem firefighter Luis Olivera who hoped to be trained to deploy during the next hurricane season. Ladd writes about others already deported or threatened with deportation now, and concludes that "comprehensive immigration reform is the only policy that will address all these situations."

Speaking from the audience on the 19th, LWVNC Co-President Margaret Salinger asked, "Can we take this on the road?" Ashley Nissler of the ODC League, who coordinates the LWVNC League Action Team (LAT) on Immigration, responded, "Yes!"

The LAT met via conference call on Tuesday, September 26. Component parts of "Immigration Issues: Fears, Facts, Families" are now available to League locations throughout the state. 2-3 people will travel with the program. First on the schedule: The Northeast NC League, Oct. 26, with President Terra Fox in Elizabeth City. Ashley Nissler and ODC President Pam Oxendine are scheduling a program in January in Chapel Hill. TBA: Henderson County League with Lee Luebbe. Leagues make their choices for components of the program. We are thrilled to develop these plans for the LAT on Immigration, which was approved at the LWVNC convention at the Marriott this past May.

Ann Marie Dooley spoke recently at Central Greensboro Public Library about DACA and other immigration legislation; her slide presentation demonstrates that "there is no line."

Guilford County Schools will be hosting evening workshops in Spanish for immigrant parents and their families, a series to help families prepare for the possibility that an unauthorized family member might be detained. People wanting more information about "How to Prepare a Family Safety Plan" may call the GCS English as a Second Language office at 336-370-8982.

October 2, a dark day in U.S. history, was a bright morning for Minerva Cisneros Garcia, who learned that the deportation order against her had been vacated. She entered the United States from Mexico without documentation in 2000 to escape the violence in her community. Cisneros had been granted a stay of removal by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in 2013 owing to the needs of her son Eduardo, 21, a DACA recipient who is blind. But on May 25, she was ordered to leave the country by June 30. For the past three months, Congregational UCC has provided Sanctuary for Cisneros and her sons. After leaving the church on the 25th, she went to St. Barnabas Episcopal Church to visit Juana Luz Tobar Ortega, 45, a mother, grandmother and seamstress now in Sanctuary at St. Barnabas. She has been in this country for more than 20 years. Many will remember the video about her shown at the September 19 League program. The Rev. Julie Peebles, pastor at Congregational UCC, will continue to work for others with no criminal record who face detention and deportation. The Rev. Randall Keeney of St. Barnabas said that Juana is very happy for Minerva and "she's hoping desperately that the same thing can happen for her."

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Republican Senators Thom Tillis, James Lankford (Oklahoma) and Orrin Hatch (Utah), have introduced the SUCCEED Act which opens a path to citizenship for DACA recipients, and Republican Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Democrat Dick Durbin of Illinois have drafted a bi-partisan measure. DACA is discussed in detail in the last month's Voter Impact. Dr. Julianne Malveaux's September 21 Carolina Peacemaker column "What happens to a dream deferred?" argues that DACA does not go far enough.

The Tillis bill entails biometric data, registering for military selective service and earning a high school diploma or the equivalent. Permanent resident status would be good for five years and renewed for another five if the person remains continuously employed, enrolls in post-secondary education or serves in the military. That's ten years. After another five, they could apply for citizenship. Throughout the fifteen years, they are subject to deportation if they fail to meet all of the requirements, raising questions about continuous employment, for example. Parental leave?

The News&Record suggests, "Perhaps there's room for compromise. Portions of the Graham-Durbin bill might be more palatable to a Senate majority. But a bill must pass to spare Dreamers from being uprooted and cast out of their country." Follow the SUCCEED bill's progress and consider contacting Senator Thom Tillis, 185 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, Phone: 202-224-6342, Fax: 202-228-2563. In-District Office: 1840 Eastchester Dr., Suite 200, High Point, NC 27265, Phone: 336-885-0685, Fax: 336-885-0692.

*Whitney Vanderwerff, Chair, Immigration Reform Roundtable*

## **2017 Election Schedule - Greensboro City Council**

**Tuesday, Oct. 10th  
Primary**

**Friday, Oct 13th  
Last Day to Register to Vote in Election  
(25 Days before Election)**

**Thursday, Oct. 19th  
Election: Early Voting Begins**

**Saturday, Nov. 4th  
Election: Early Voting Ends**

**Tuesday, Nov. 7th  
Election Day**

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## **Environment Roundtable (ERT)**

On September 7, we had a presentation by Elaine Stover and Ellen Van Velsor of the Greensboro Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL). CCL is an international organization whose mission is to create the political will for a livable world. The goal is to educate people to sway congress to legislate for a carbon fee and dividend proposal. They showed a short promotional video and provided handouts that (1) summarize the carbon fee and dividend policy's benefit to the environment and jobs and (2) discuss the increased financial benefit for the lower economic quintiles since the carbon dividends would be returned to households each month.

Some former members of Citizens Climate Lobby (including James Baker III and George P. Shultz) have formed the Climate Leadership Council, a more conservative organization, also working toward carbon fee and dividend legislation. <https://www.clcouncil.org/> The differences are that the latter would: 1) have a fee higher than \$15/ton, with an additional \$10/ton each year, 2) would roll back carbon regulations deemed no longer necessary, and 3) make the income tax-exempt rather than taxable. The Citizens Climate Lobby proposal would return money to households based on number of adults, number of children and economic quintile. The Citizens Climate Lobby has a number of endorsements by government individuals, scientists, economists and citizens while the Climate Leadership Council touts its corporate endorsers.

There is hope that the Climate Caucus, a bipartisan caucus with equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans, will become the group to sponsor this legislation. The local chapter of the CCL (with Ellen Van Velsor as liaison) is presently meeting with Representative Ted Budd with the hope that he will pair with Representative Alma Adams in joining the Climate Caucus. A different congressional group has introduced a bill stating the need to move ahead.

Citizens Climate Lobby meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 PM at Kathleen Clay Edwards Library and welcomes new volunteers. The website is <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

The Citizens Climate Lobby would like an opportunity to present to the entire LWVPT.

*Teresa Bratton, ERT Member*

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### **VSK is Back!**

Our [VoterSurvivalKit.org](http://VoterSurvivalKit.org) website is updated with contact information for municipal candidates in Alamance, Forsyth, Guilford and Rockingham Counties thanks to the efforts of members who made many phone calls and to Sara White, who created the website and entered all the data. It is chock full of answers to frequently asked questions such as how can I register, who is going to be on my ballot, where can I vote early, how can I get an absentee ballot and so forth. It even has a link to our Greensboro Voter Guide. If you come across any problems with the site, please contact Sara at [vsk@lwvpt.org](mailto:vsk@lwvpt.org).

## ERA/Observer Corps

*"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."*

### POP QUIZ!!!!

What year was the Equal Rights Amendment ratified and made a part of the U.S. Constitution?

**ANSWER:** Trick question! It is NOT part of our Constitution.

If you are interested learning more about the status of the ERA, and/or in helping our League establish an ERA effort, please let me know! Vicki White-Lawrence -- [vicepresident@lwpvt.org](mailto:vicepresident@lwpvt.org) or 336-324-7267.

You aren't committing to anything except to finding out more about the status!!! Thanks!!!

## What's going on with our Guilford County Board of Commissioners? City Council? Board of Elections? Board of Education?

Since July, I have been attending the meetings of our County Commissioners. I admit it's something I already had some interest in, and something I used to do when there were issues with the schools, etc. (when my kids were students in the Guilford County School system). I also know from personal experience that being present in the room is different than watching it on TV or reading about it in the newspaper.

I learned about the proposal for the High Point Stadium AND the proposed quarry in the Pleasant Garden area during the time at the beginning of meetings set aside for citizen comment. Citizens have up to three minutes to get up and talk to the Commissioners about whatever they want. Imagine that!

These meetings are held twice a month and usually last a couple of hours, although the last one involved two Public Hearings (one on proposed changes to the Animal Control Ordinance regarding spay and neuter requirements and the other on on Economic Incentive Grant Request for the High Point stadium project) and so it lasted more than twice that long. (I chose to stay to the end. I even snagged a cool hand fan left behind by a disgruntled supporter of the stadium!)

If you'd be interested in learning more about being part of an Observer Corps for our League, please contact Vicki White-Lawrence.

Vicki White-Lawrence -- [vicepresident@lwpvt.org](mailto:vicepresident@lwpvt.org) or 336-324-7267

League of Women Voters of the Piedmont  
Triad PO Box 9721  
Greensboro, NC 27429  
Phone: 336-274-0202  
Email: [lwwptmail@gmail.com](mailto:lwwptmail@gmail.com)  
<http://lwwpt.org>

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**

**Lunch with the League**  
**October 17, 2017**  
**DIFFERENT LOCATION**  
**Please make a reservation by**  
**October 11**

President Tracy Nash  
Vice-president Vicki White-Lawrence  
Secretary Amy Murphy  
Treasurer Margaret Flannery

The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose political parties or candidates.