



# The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM  
<http://www.lwvgb.org>

August 2020

## PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPHS

Leonette Slay

July and August have been productive ones for LWVGB and we are expecting even more opportunities through the fall months. We have had over a dozen volunteers that developed candidate questions for multiple local mayoral and council elections and then did the laborious work of securing contact information for them so that they could be invited to participate in the [Vote411](#) database. Jean Johnson was the tireless nerve center for this ambitious project (see her summary on page 2). We owe this team a big debt of gratitude!

The pandemic has forced us to pivot from traditional voter outreach, and we are developing new ways to perform our core missions. Voter Services Chair Ida Tyree-Hyche is collaborating with GASP to provide absentee voting information and Vote411 information to distribute in pop up Saturday markets in north Birmingham. We are also reaching out to Birmingham's neighborhood associations to discuss absentee voting and Vote411 during their monthly Zoom meetings. I spoke to about 30 Highland Park residents on August 11<sup>th</sup> and we have contacted several more to set up speaking dates. Channel 42 conducted an interview with me on August 17<sup>th</sup> on the importance of voting in upcoming elections which aired twice that day.

We have also been contacted by the National Organization of 100 Black Women who want to partner with us on voter outreach and census initiatives. In addition, LWVGB will provide the speaker for AAUW Birmingham's October program.

The Tuscaloosa LWV shared a fact sheet on absentee ballot rules with other local LWVs, and we have this helpful [one page flyer](#) on the [LWVGB website](#). Copies of this flyer will be part of our outreach efforts along with bookmarks showing Vote411 information and voting deadlines for the November 3 election. Please share these tips within your social circles so that we can help minimize ballots that are not counted.

This is the time to become involved! Contact [Ida](#) or [me](#) if you want to assist with voter services. Contact [Jan Colson](#) if you want to be part of the revitalized Observer Corps. Mark your calendar for viewing Jenna Bedsole's terrific documentary on women's suffrage in Alabama on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. And by all means be an advocate for informed voting in our upcoming elections.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Mark your calendar. See this issue or [LWVGB Online Calendar](#) for event details.

- Aug 26: Women's Equality Day
- Aug 27: LWVGB Membership Meeting
- Sep 2020: Dues Renewal Month
- Sep 08: AL Rivers Alliance Presentation
- Sep 09: LWVGB Board Meeting
- Sep 17: Constitution Day
- Sep 21: UN Day of Peace
- Sep 22: National VR Day
- Oct 13: AAUW Presentation
- Oct 14: LWVGB Board Meeting
- Oct 24: United Nations Day
- Oct 29: Absentee Ballot Application Deadline
- Nov 02: Deadline to cast Absentee Ballot
- Nov 03: ELECTION DAY
- Nov 11: LWVGB Board Meeting
- Dec 01: Annual Giving Tuesday

### SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING 9/22/20 @ 6:00 P.M.

"Voting Safely During a Pandemic" will be the topic for our September membership meeting. Panelists include Dr. Mark Wilson, JeffCo Department of Health, and Jackie Anderson-Smith, JeffCo Absentee Election Manager.



## LWVGB ZOOM MEETING

**AUGUST 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 P.M.**

**The Alabama Bar Association Presents  
A Jenna Bedsole Documentary  
"The Fight for the Noblest Democracy:  
Women's Suffrage in Alabama"**

ZOOM Meeting Details TBA

## LWV YARD SIGNS FOR SALE

The general election of 2020 is just around the corner! You can purchase an LWV yard sign with a \$20 donation to the LWVGB General Fund. Please contact [Leonette Slay](#) to coordinate payment and delivery.



# LWVGB PROVIDES LOCAL CANDIDATE AND RACE INFORMATION ON VOTE411.org

Jean Johnson, VOTE411 Local Manager

During this 2020 election season, local races and candidates in the Greater Birmingham area are included for the first time on [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org). VOTE411 is a “one-stop-shop” online voter guide with information about national, state, and local elections. It is a simple, accessible tool that provides candidate information, a voter registration tool, polling place information, and other helpful election information for all voters nationwide.



LWVGB provides this premier voter resource to the citizens of Jefferson County, Shelby County, and beyond. In all, we have invited 113 candidates in 39 races to participate in VOTE411. At this time, 56% of the candidates have responded and entered information. We are receiving more candidate input daily and expect this participation rate to rise.

The candidates are invited to post their contact information, social media accounts, photo, and answer questions. The questions address such topics as the candidate’s interests and reasons for running, qualifications, and positions on issues of concern to the community. Each candidate provides her or his own information which is posted verbatim on VOTE411.org. In addition to the local races and candidates covered by LWVGB, LWVAL posts state-wide races and candidates, and LWVUS posts information about the presidential candidates. By simply entering her or his address, one can view the candidates on one’s own ballot - in local, state and national races. The voter can then compare the candidates in any race, side-by-side.

LWVGB is covering a wide range of races in the VOTE411 voter guide. The races covered in the Presidential Party Primary Election (March 3<sup>rd</sup>) and Party Primary Runoff Election (July 14<sup>th</sup>) included Circuit Court, District Court, Jefferson Co. Tax Collector, Jefferson Co. Treasurer, and four Constable races. We covered the Alabama House District 49 Special Republican Primary Election held August 4<sup>th</sup>. (There was no Democratic Primary.) That state house district includes parts of Bibb, Chilton, and Shelby Counties. The municipal elections (August 25<sup>th</sup>) in Gardendale, Homewood, Hoover, Mountain Brook, Pleasant Grove, Sylacauga (Talladega County), and Vestavia Hill are included in VOTE411. (Note: Other municipal elections in the Greater Birmingham area this year are in Adamsville, Adger, Alabaster, Brighton, Center Point, Fairfield, Fultondale, Irondale, Leeds, Trussville, Pelham, Pell City, and Springville.)

LWVGB promotes VOTE411 on the [League website](https://www.league.org) and on our social media accounts on Facebook ([@lwvgb](https://www.facebook.com/lwvgb)), Twitter ([@lwvg](https://twitter.com/lwvg)) and Instagram ([@lwvgreaterbirmingham](https://www.instagram.com/lwvgreaterbirmingham)). When you see a LWVGB social media post about VOTE411 (or any other LWVGB post!), we encourage you to like, share, repost, etc. This will heighten the visibility of VOTE411.org, encourage greater participation by the candidates, and as a result, make it possible for voters to be better informed when they go to the polls (or the mailbox).

Special thanks to the LWVGB VOTE411 Team: Barbara Lewis, Leonette Slay, Becca Flynt, June Fletcher, Ida Tyree-Hyche-Hill, Esq., Nancy Ferrell, Mary Hubbard, Dana Ellis, Ellen Buckner, Vet Hawkins, Jo Silla, Judith Hand, Julie Reese, and Abigail Morrow. These dedicated volunteers have been, and continue to be, diligent in researching and contacting the candidates, answering their questions, and encouraging their participation in the VOTE411 voter guide.

Visit [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) to make a voting plan and be prepared to cast your vote confidently in the 2020 elections. Inform your friends about [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org), too!

## THANK YOU, NANCY SALES!

After many years of service to the LWVGB board, Nancy Sales (pictured 2<sup>nd</sup> from right) is taking a much-deserved break to recharge her batteries. We thank Nancy for her tireless work in the Voter Services arena and look forward to her mentorship in our future endeavors.



## RENEW YOUR 2020-21 DUES NOW

Leslie D. O'Neil, LWVGB Treasurer

LWVGB membership is open to anyone who is 16 years of age or older.

Dues are:           Individual - \$55.00  
                  Household - \$80.00  
                  Student     - \$15.00

Note that the dues for an additional household member have increased from \$20 to \$25, making the Household membership total \$80. Since the per-member payment to state and national is \$21, it was necessary to increase dues to cover costs.

2020-21 LWVGB dues may be paid online [here](#).

If you wish to add \$20.20 or another amount to your [online dues payment](#), please follow this procedure:

1. Add your membership category to the Cart.
2. Click out of the Cart with the gray "x" in the upper left corner
3. Go to the bottom of the page and add an amount for "something extra."
4. Click "Add to Cart" and follow the PayPal payment procedure.

To pay your 2020-21 dues by Cash App, send the money to: \$lwggb

To pay your 2020-21 LWVGB dues by mail, send a check made out to LWVGB to:

Leslie D. O'Neil  
LWVGB Treasurer  
1964 Rocky Brook Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35243-1762

**Please pay dues for 2020-21 by September 30<sup>th</sup>. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## GIVE \$20.20 IN 2020

In honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, LWVGB Board members are asking other members to join us in giving \$20.20 to either the general fund or the Birmingham account of the LWVAL Education Fund. This money will be used to make the public aware of the activities of the LWVGB and to educate the public about voting issues such as online registration, absentee ballots, and voter restoration.

You can make a contribution in any of the following three ways:

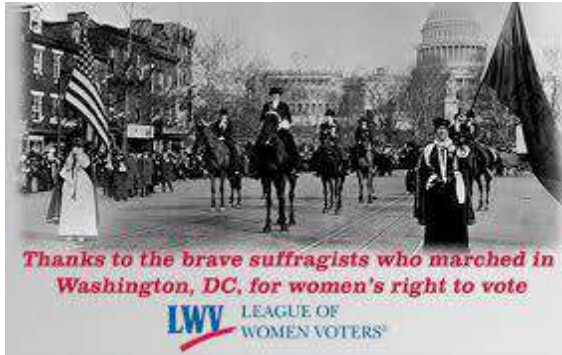
1. To the general fund or the Education fund through [PayPal or your credit card](#)
2. To the general fund through CashApp: \$lwggb
3. To the general fund or Education Fund by writing a check
  - General fund – Make check to LWVGB
  - Education Fund – Make check to LWVAL Education Fund; in the "For" field write "For use by LWVGB"
  - Mail to: Leslie O'Neil  
LWVGB Treasurer  
1964 Rocky Brook Dr.  
Birmingham, AL 35243-1762

This is a good way to honor the suffragists who went before us and those who are continuing the fight for access to voting and voter equality.

Donations to the LWVAL Education Fund are tax deductible.

## CENTENNIAL OF SUFFRAGE

In August 1920, a raucous, boozy special session of the Tennessee legislature wrestled with the question of a Constitutional amendment to guarantee women the right to vote. The Senate passed the amendment, but the vote was close in the House. Pressures from both pro and anti-sides were intense, as 35 states had already approved it and it would take 36 of the 48 states in the Union to enshrine it in the Constitution. Harry T. Burns, who had voted against the



amendment, changed his vote and broke a tie in the House of Representatives--because of a note from his mother Febb delivered to him that day. The vote to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed by one vote on August 18<sup>th</sup>. The amendment was signed by the governor on August 24<sup>th</sup>, then certified by the Secretary of State on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1920. (NOTE: The Alabama legislature rejected the amendment on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1919 despite efforts by leaders such as Pattie Ruffner Jacobs of Birmingham, president of the AL Equal Suffrage Association. Alabama finally ratified the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1953, 34 years after it became part of the U. S. Constitution.)

Many organizations have worked for almost two years to build momentum for acknowledgements of this month's centennial. However, a pandemic has forced a postponement of these events into 2021 and beyond. Nevertheless we should pause to thank those women and men who worked tirelessly for decades to secure the vote for women, and we can redouble our contemporary efforts to ensure the right to vote is not suppressed or made so difficult that many voters cannot exercise a basic right of citizenship.

It is appropriate that this centennial occurs during a season of elections at local, state, and national levels. The League is being sought out for voter education, absentee voting information, assistance in restoration of voting rights, and nonpartisan information on candidates.

## LWVGB DUES ASSISTANCE FUND

This fund was instituted a year ago to ensure that anyone with an interest in joining or renewing membership in the League is not hindered by income or financial difficulty.

A member may recommend assistance on behalf of another person when permission is received from that person. As always, a member may also pay full membership dues for another person.

The terms of the assistance include:

- The member receiving assistance is asked to be involved in LWVGB activities and to contribute a minimum of \$15 for an individual membership or a minimum of \$20 toward a family membership.
- No proof of financial need is required.
- The identity of the recipient is confidential.

The fund carried over \$144.25 from last year. We anticipate a greater need this year. If you are able, please consider contributing to the Dues Assistance Fund by earmarking a donation to the General Fund at <https://lwg.org/about/donate/>.

If you need to take advantage of this assistance, an application form is available [here](#). You may also contact a member of the Dues Assistance Committee if you have questions: [La-Tanya Dunham](#), [Cindy Lowry](#) or [Leslie O'Neil](#).

## Board of Directors, 2020-21

Leonette Slay	President (2021)
Dana Ellis	Vice President (2021)
Jennifer Sanders	Secretary (2021)
Leslie O'Neil	Treasurer (2022)
Brooke Adams	Director, Chair Finance Cmte (2022)
Jan Colson	Observer Corp Director (2022)
Cindy Lowry	Membership Director (2022)

### Nominating Committee (2021)

Michael O'Donnell, Chair  
Jean Johnson  
TBA, Board Appointee

### Off Board (2021)

Jean Johnson	Vote411/Communication Mgr
Ida Tyree-Hyche-Hill	Voter Services Chair
Nancy Sales	Voter Services Advisor
Yvonne Brakefield Knowles	<b>THE VOTER</b> Editor

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

"We women of America tell you that America is not a democracy. Twenty million women are denied the right to vote."

"There will never be a new world order until women are a part of it."

~ *Alice Paul*

## Let's grow the LWVGB Social Network!

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Birmingham, AL 35253