



The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

<http://www.lwvgb.org>

November 2020

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPHS

Leonette Slay

As we all "come up for air" after a record-shattering voting season, you should be proud of the numerous, creative ways that members of LWVGB worked to help citizens register, update registrations, or secure voting rights for returning citizens. Thanks to Voter Services Chair Ida Tyree-Hyche Hill and her intrepid team of volunteers, we worked with previous partners like America's Thrift Store and forged new partnerships with area nonprofits (see Ida's report on page 2). After a winter break, we will be gearing up for more voter outreach and education as Birmingham's mayoral and city council races unfold in spring 2021.

You will not see a Voter in December, traditionally a month when activities subside a bit. The board continues to examine optimum communication methods for our diverse membership, and we want to hear what you would like to see more (or less) of, and preferred platforms. Your opinion matters!

As we approach Thanksgiving, it's appropriate to appreciate how well our election systems worked, the tireless professionalism of the legions of election officials, poll workers, and poll watchers, and the determination of millions of voters to cast their ballots during a pandemic. Alabama Leagues will be working, together with AL Arise and others, to improve voting processes here. We will learn more about our 2021 advocacy efforts in our December program (see details on page 2).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Nov 19:** LWVGB Membership Meeting
- Dec 01:** Annual Giving Tuesday
- Dec 10:** LWVGB Membership Meeting
- Jan 18:** MLK Day of Service
- Feb 14:** LWV Birthday
- Mar 14-20:** Sunshine Week
- Apr 22:** Earth Day

\$20.20 in 2020

There is still time to participate in the LWVGB 2020 fundraising effort to honor the suffragists who went before us and those who are continuing the fight for access to voting and voter equality.

Please contribute \$20.20 or any amount, by [check](#) or [credit card](#), to the [General Fund](#) or the tax-deductible [Education Fund](#) or by **CashApp** to the General Fund at \$lwvgb.



LAST CALL FOR 2020-21 DUES

LWVGB dues were due in September. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please [submit](#) your dues payment **ASAP**.



GIVING TUESDAY AND THE CARES ACT

[Giving Tuesday](#), always five days after Thanksgiving, was started in 2012 by the 92d Street Y and the United Nations Foundation. It was an attempt to balance the post-Thanksgiving consumerism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday with a day devoted to giving to nonprofits of all types. Last year Giving Tuesday contributions totaled almost \$2 billion globally. This year Giving Tuesday falls on December 1st.

Members of LWVGB have a special incentive to participate in Giving Tuesday this year, as one of our members has generously offered to provide matching funds, up to \$400, and the match will go through December 31st. So, we have the chance to add up to \$800 to our Educational Fund (which are tax deductible contributions). This will enhance our ability to do voter outreach during the 2021 Birmingham city elections and 2022 statewide races.

To contribute to the Ed Fund through either our expanded Giving Tuesday matching campaign or the suffrage 2020 fund, use this [form](#) and have your contribution doubled up to \$400. What a meaningful holiday gift this might be for the voters in your life. The matching program begins November 18th and goes through December 31st.

In another incentive, the CARES Act allows all taxpayers to take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 per tax return, even if not itemizing. For example, if you donate up to \$300 in cash to a qualified charitable organization like the LWVGB Educational Fund, your adjusted gross income (AGI) will be reduced by up to \$300--and you can still claim the standard deduction. As the centennial year of the ratification of the 19th Amendment comes to a close, please consider including LWVGB in your giving plans.



VOTING RIGHTS ADVOCACY IN ALABAMA

At the annual [Alabama Arise](#) meeting on October 3rd, LWVAL President Barbara Caddell presented a proposal for voting rights advocacy in Alabama. This proposal was chosen by the Arise membership to be one of the priorities for 2021!

Join us on Thursday, 12/10 at 6:00 PM to discuss this exciting development. We will hear from both Barbara and Dev Wakely of Alabama Arise who will discuss the proposal and how we can help in the upcoming legislative session. [Register now](#).



B. Caddell



D. Wakely

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Ida Tyree-Hyche Hill, LWVGB Voter Services Director

OVERVIEW OF THE LEAGUE'S PRE-ELECTION 2020 VOTER REGISTRATION EFFORTS

The Alabama Secretary of State Press Secretary Grace Newcombe reports that more people in Alabama cast their ballots in the November 3rd election than ever before in Alabama.¹ Unofficially, there were approximately 331,794 absentee ballots requested and approximately 318,692 (96% percent) of them were returned. Thanks to the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham's ("The League") voter services volunteers, our voter registration/voter education drives contributed to this increase in voter participation.



During this Pre-Election 2020 cycle, The League's voter service volunteers served over 1,658 citizens from August – October 19, 2020, largely by connecting with other non-profit, non-partisan organizations. At our Grace Klein Community site, alone, our weekly volunteers provided voter education handouts to an average of 130 persons, once weekly, entering the drive-through to pick up food boxes.

October was quite a busy month with voter registration and voter education drives throughout Jefferson County! Voter Services volunteers served citizens in Greater Birmingham, Fairfield, Midfield, Bessemer, Gardendale, Alabaster, Irondale, and Hoover. There was a pool of over 18 volunteers dispatched at various locations. Some of our volunteers provided voter education literature at breweries. Others provided voter education through ZOOM forums, while some provided information at their respective churches. During this pre-election cycle, The League collaborated with Alabama Rivers Alliance, Alabama Vote!, Greater Birmingham Ministries, Inc., Zion Star Community Development, Inc., H.I.V.E., Magic City Bar Association, Alabama Lawyers Association, Upsilon Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and Alabama Thrift Stores of America, Inc. in order to expand our efforts to educate and register persons to vote, Greater Birmingham Ministries provided 75 Voter Services Handbooks for distribution to citizens. Volunteers served at the Jefferson County – Birmingham and Bessemer Division locations on Saturdays when the Election Manager's office was open to receive absentee ballots or applications for absentee ballots.



LWVGB APPLIES FOR FUNDS FROM CARES ACT 2020 GRANT

The League of Women Voters of Alabama offered a CARES ACT 2020 Grant opportunity for Voter Services. The League of Women Voters, Greater Birmingham applied for a \$500 grant to purchase a tent, printer and social distancing placemats to enhance its voter services efforts.

¹ Al.com, Lee Roop, "Alabama hits record 62 percent voter turnout in 2020's pandemic election", November 4, 2020

CALLING FUTURE LWV LEADERS

The LWVGB Nominations Committee is at work developing a slate of new board members to present to the general membership in the spring. If you are interested in serving on the board, contact Chair [Michael O'Donnell](#) or member [Jean Johnson](#).

The LWVAL Nominating Committee invites all local leagues and individual League members to suggest nominations for the 2021-23 LWVAL State Board. Self-nominations also are welcomed. If more than one suggested nomination is made, each should be made on a separate [survey form](#) (see below). Please email the survey back to [Kathryn Byrd](#), Nominating Committee chair by December 15th, 2020. Earlier would be very helpful.

LWVAL Nominating Committee Survey Form (download form [here](#))

Name of Suggested Nominee:

Best email address:

Best phone number:

Local League or MAL Unit:

Name of Person Suggesting the nomination:

Best email address:

Best phone number:

Local League or MAL Unit:

Please check the position(s) for which you are making the nomination. (Job descriptions may be found in Articles IV and V of the [LWVAL Bylaws](#).)

President Vice President Treasurer Secretary Director

Suggested nominee's previous experience on league boards:

Please list special experience, interests and/or training outside the League that would be useful to the 2021-2023 State Board:

In which of the following areas of State League operations might the suggested nominee be most interested? Check all that apply.

League Administration Board management Website management Social media communications Financial management Membership and leadership development Event planning Other: Please explain.

Advocacy Bill reading & evaluation Lobbying Message development Presenting testimony forums (list areas of specific policy interest (e.g., environment, health care, education; civility): Other: Please explain.

Voter Services and Citizen Education Voter registration Voter rights education League candidate forums & debates Vote411 data entry & editing Other: Please explain.

Nominating Committee 2023-25:

Convention will also vote to elect three league members to the next Nominating Committee. Please list any individual(s) you would like to suggest for nomination to the committee:

Local League/MAL Unit:

Best email address:

Best phone number:

What would you like to see as the next State Board's main areas of focus? How might the State League better serve Local Leagues and MAL Units?

How can it better serve the citizens of Alabama?

I VOTE BECAUSE...



LWVGB GOTV video attracts young and first-time voters.

- **YouTube** - 104 views, 64 unique viewers
- **Facebook** - 621 views, 48 shares
- **Twitter** - 531 impressions, 56 views, 6 retweets
- **Instagram** - 6 views

Thank you, Ellen Buckner, for leading this project!

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	THE VOTER Editor

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"You wouldn't let your grandparents pick your playlist. Why would you let them pick your representative who's going to determine your future?"

~Former President Barack Obama

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