



# The VOTER

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

March 2021

## PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPHS

### Leonette Slay

Last month we celebrated virtually the 101st birthday of the League. Now March gives us a trifecta of recognition opportunities: International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>, Women's History Month, and Sunshine Week (March 14-20). All month we recognize women's contributions throughout history and in our current society. Women's History Week started in the school district of Sonoma County, CA in 1978 and quickly gained popularity in other parts of the country. President Carter issued a proclamation in 1980 declaring the week of March 8 as Women's History Week--to coincide with International Women's Day, which dates back to European celebrations in 1911. By 1986 14 states had declared March as Women's History Month. Since 1988, US presidents have issued annual proclamations to recognize March as Women's History Month. (The UK and Australia have similar recognitions in March.) The UN declared March 8 to be International Women's Day in 1975. Here are some far-reaching March highlights to remember this month:



**LWVGB Membership Meeting**  
**April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**6:00 P.M.**  
**"Advocacy with our State Legislature"**  
**Update on LWVAL Priorities**  
**Robin Buckelew & Kathy Jones**  
**LWVAL Advocacy Team Co-Chairs**  
[Register for this ZOOM meeting.](#)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Mar 14-20:** Sunshine Week
- Mar 18:** LWVGB Membership Meeting
- Apr 08** LWVGB Membership Meeting
- Apr 14:** LWVGB Board Meeting
- Apr 22:** Earth Day
- May 22:** LWVAL Virtual Convention
- May 24:** LWVGB Annual Business Meeting
- Aug 24:** Birmingham Mayoral Election
- Oct 05:** Birmingham Mayoral Election Runoff

## LWVGB DUES ASSISTANCE FUND

Members are encouraged to support the LWVGB Dues Assistance Fund by [making a contribution](#) to the LWVGB General Fund. Members in need of financial assistance with 2020 dues may apply [here](#).

- March 4, 1933: FDR appoints Frances Perkins as the first female cabinet member. She champions the Social Security Act of 1935.
- March 8: International Women's Day
- March 10, 1913: Harriet Tubman dies.
- March 15, 1933: Ruth Bader Ginsburg is born in Brooklyn.
- March 22, 1972: The Senate passes the ERA, sending it to the states to ratify. It is still not a part of the U.S. Constitution.
- March 24, 1934: Gloria Steinem is born in Toledo, Ohio.

For more about Sunshine Week and LWVGB and LWVAL recent efforts to help make government more accessible, see Jean Johnson's article on page 2.

## LWVGB MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

"Homelessness in Our Community"

Join LWVGB online on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00 PM to discuss homelessness in the Greater Birmingham area. Guest panelists will be: **Valencia "Val" Green**, Assistant Director for [Firehouse Ministries](#); **Carrie Leland**, Executive Director of [Pathways](#); and **Gordon Sullivan**, Operations Director for [One Roof](#).



Panelists will answer questions following the presentations. [Zoom registration is required](#) to attend this meeting. It is free and open to the public.

## It's Here! Use this Digital Tool to Speak Out to Your Government Officials

A brand-new edition of [“Government Representatives at Your Fingertips”](https://lwv.org/learn-vote/fingertips/) is now online at <https://lwv.org/learn-vote/fingertips/>. “Fingertips”, as it is commonly known, has long been a resource to citizens in the Greater Birmingham community for accessing their elected officials and making their voice heard. Because it needed updating, this popular LWVGB publication has been offline for a while. The 2020 General Election is behind us, and now is the time to roll out updated government contact information. Thanks to the dedicated work of Judy Jones, Judith Hand, June Fletcher and Yvonne Brakefield Knowles, “Fingertips” is up to date with the names, email addresses, postal addresses, and phone numbers of elected officials at all levels of government - federal, state and local. You can also find out how to contact members of important boards and commissions that set and administer public policy. In “Fingertips” you’ll find voter registration, voting rights restoration, and elections information, too.



With the [Alabama Legislature](#) now in session, “Fingertips” provides the critical information you need to have at your... uh... fingertips. We hope you’ll be ready and willing to support the efforts of the LWVAL Advocacy Team. Use “Fingertips” to speak out on all issues and bills that are important to you. You can research bills in the Alabama Legislature in [ALISON](#).



Sunshine Week graphics [courtesy of News Leaders Assoc.](#)

## It's Sunshine Week - time to put “Fingertips” to good use!

Jean Johnson, LWVGB Communications Director

During [National Sunshine Week, March 14-20, 2021](#), we are all focused on the importance of openness and accountability in government. For example, LWVAL is advocating for the [Alabama Public Records Act, SB165](#). If passed, that bill would dramatically increase the public's access to state and local government records. When the call to action goes out from LWVAL, use “Fingertips” and be ready to take action in support of SB165. This bill is just one example. We hope you’ll follow the LWVAL social media accounts ([Blog](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)), have “Fingertips” at your fingertips, and be ready to answer any League call to action. ([This quick tip LWVAL video](#) shows how easy that is!).



Thanks again to Judy Jones and her outstanding team for bringing “Fingertips” up to date. With this information, we are ready to speak out to government and get answers to our public policy questions. Our government representatives will know that we care and we vote!

## 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

### 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

"Fight for the things that you care about.  
But do it in a way that will lead others to  
join you."

~Ruth Bader Ginsburg

"I am not free while any woman is unfree,  
even when her shackles are very different  
from my own."

~Audre Lorde

## Let's grow the LWVGB Social Network!

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