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THE VOTER

Newsletter of the
League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham
November 2021 Edition

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK ...

I, for one, am enjoying the cooler weather and hope that you are as well.

It has been a busy few months for the LWVGB since the last issue of The Voter.

I want to welcome all of the wonderful volunteers who have stepped up and agreed to be on the LWVGB board. We had orientation sessions in July for the board members and all are very engaged in the work of the League.

You will find information in this issue of the Voter about the various activities and I know that you, too, will be impressed by the dedication of each of the board members.

What is your passion? We have ways for you to get involved!

- Voter Services
- Voter Rights Restoration
- Advocacy
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Environmental Concerns
- Redistricting
- Observer Corps

These are just some of the examples of the work we do. If any of these pique your interest, please email me at dellis@lwvgb.org so that I can connect you with others with the same interests.

NEXT MEETING - NOVEMBER 30!

League of Women Voters of
Greater Birmingham presents

**Transparency in
Government**

LWV

Tues.
Nov. 30,
2021 @
6:00 PM
CST

Are they
watching us?

Register at <https://bit.ly/3F9xpjM>

Alabama has one of the most closed open records laws in the nation and government records and information is not historically easily accessed by the people. In September of 2021 the Alabama Supreme Court issued a ruling that a sheriff did not have to turn over records regarding a fatal shooting by a deputy.

[Join us online](#) on Tuesday, November 30 at 6:00 PM for a discussion about the ramifications of this ruling and what's on the horizon for open records efforts in 2022. **Featuring Tish Gotell Faulks with [Alabama ACLU](#) and Leah Nelson with the [Alabama Appleseed](#).**

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

VOTER RIGHTS RESTORATION



Many people believe that a felony conviction prevents an individual from voting. In fact, that is not correct. The majority of convictions have no impact on voting rights. But the majority of Alabamians are not aware of this fact.

So we were delighted to be asked by the Birmingham and Bessemer Field Offices of the Bureau of Pardons and Paroles to assist their clients in voter registration.

Volunteers from LWVGB (Dana Ellis, Becky Laurent, Julie Reese, Connie Arnwine, and Yvonne Brakefield- Knowles), Greater Birmingham Ministries, and Faith in Action Alabama volunteered in July, August, and September at the field offices. Our volunteers interacted with individuals to a) register to vote or b) begin the voter restoration process for those with convictions which are disqualifying. Many of the people we interacted with were unaware that they can register, and it was very gratifying to dispel that notion and register them to vote.

To date, we have registered approximately 100 new voters! These efforts are ongoing. We returned to the Bessemer Field Office in November.

If you are interested in assisting with this effort (don't have to be trained on rights restoration), please email Dana Ellis at dellis@lwvgb.org and she will be happy to add you to the schedule.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

The League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham has graciously taken on the sponsorship of a League Unit on Samford University's campus. The student organization, titled League of Women Voters Samford University, has twelve inaugural members, all of whom are also members of LWVGB, and is currently completing the process for establishment of a student organization on campus. The LWVSU group has already collaborated on the drafting and submission of a constitution for their campus organization and are waiting on final approval.

The purpose of the organization is largely to focus on voter registration and education; the group intends to host voter registration drives that are equipped to accommodate the variety of ways college students might desire to register and vote. Later the group may initiate non-partisan, topical discussions involving local elected officials including those at the student government level, and other events programmed to increase knowledge about the voting process.

LWVSU is hopeful that the involvement of Samford students' peers on campus in the League of Women Voters will increase the interest and dedication shown by the student body to exercising their right to vote, both through growing membership in LWVSU and LWVGB, and through planned outreach efforts for the larger campus and community.

The board has created an advisory committee for the new group including LWVGB members Julie Reese, Jameria Moore, and Leslie O'Neil. They are supporting our initial efforts to create a presence on campus (table runner with LWV logo and signage).

LWVSU thanks Greater Birmingham with the utmost sincerity for all of their continued support of our efforts at Samford!

**DOUBLE YOUR GIFT THROUGH
DECEMBER 15!**



**Give NOW for
TWICE THE POW!**



- **Voter Registrations**
- **Voting Rights Restoration**
- **Candidate & Election Information**
- **Public Policy & Issue Education**
- **and MUCH MORE!**



NOW THROUGH DEC. 15, 2021

**Your donation to the LWV Education Fund for
Birmingham will be MATCHED UP TO \$1000.00!**

Donate to the Birmingham account of the LWV Education Fund and have your donation matched dollar for dollar. Help fund voter registration, voting rights restoration, candidate and election information, and education on public policy and other issues.

Over a dozen former LWVGB leaders who have been long-time members of the League have made commitments to match the first \$1,000 donated on Giving Day. Any donations from now through December 15 will also count.

Show these former leaders that you, too, are enthusiastic about the mission of the League!

These donations are tax deductible for those who itemize or who take advantage of the \$300 charitable deduction when taking the standard deduction.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#)

LWVGB Provides Candidate Information Ahead of Birmingham Municipal Elections

A team of LWVGB volunteers worked ahead of the Birmingham municipal election in August to compile candidate information and

make it available on the non-partisan election resource, VOTE411.org.

All 68 candidates competing for mayoral, city council and board of education seats were contacted. The team developed a set of questions for each of the three race categories and uploaded them to the VOTE411 site. A unique VOTE411 link was forwarded to each candidate allowing them to securely respond to the questions at their convenience. Candidate responses, including contact and social media information, were made available to the public at 5 pm on Thursday August 12. The effort, which required multiple communications to each candidate, achieved a survey response rate of 60%.

VOTE411.org was launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund in 2006. It is a 'one-stop' nonpartisan and unbiased voter resource that is simple to use and easily accessible to voters across the country. Voters can enter their address and receive customized information on elections, candidate information, polling places, ballot measures, absentee ballots, candidate debates, and ID requirements. In the press release distributed upon publishing the information, LWVGB President Dana Ellis was quoted saying "The League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham is pleased to provide this important, nonpartisan resource to Birmingham voters. We encourage voters to visit VOTE411.org and make a voting plan so that they are prepared to cast an informed vote on Voting Day."



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALABAMA PRESENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SERIES

THE TRUTH ABOUT PLASTICS

presentation by
Rick Eggerth



Tuesday, December 7, 2021
6:30-8:00pm CST
on Zoom

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/3mQwOfg>

[Register now](#) for "The Truth About Plastics," on Tuesday, December 7 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM CST. This is the next virtual program in the League of Women Voters of Alabama's Environmental Education Series.

The keynote speaker is Rick Eggerth, nationally renowned environmental litigator and activist against the world-wide blight of plastics pollution. [Read more about Rick Eggerth and this League program.](#) Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear from one of the nation's experts on plastics pollution. This program is free and open to the public.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

SUMMARY FROM THE WOMEN'S MARCH

The LWVGB was proud to participate in the Women's March at Linn Park on Saturday, October 2nd where hundreds of enthusiastic citizens came to champion their dedication to furthering the rights of all American women. We had a steady flow of people to our table with lots of affirmation for our cause of educating and empowering our citizens.

Four members (Dana Ellis, Cindy Lowry, Connie Arnwine and Jan Colson) volunteered to assist attendees with whatever questions and concerns that arose. A few women expressed interest in joining the League, and they were given registration forms. There were a couple of voters who registered, some who were changing addresses, and lots of questions from college students from UA, UAB and Birmingham - Southern about voting absentee and checking voter status. It was very encouraging to see these young women (and men) so excited about voting and being involved in our community.

Dana Ellis presented a powerful and informative mini-lesson on redistricting in Alabama to multiple groups of interested people, and there were copies of fair maps for them to take and share with others. Everyone worked hard to assist and answer questions and do what the LWV does best, educate and engage voters!

LEAGUE HAPPENINGS





PICTURES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

1. LWVGB President Dana Ellis shared information about registering to vote and voting rights restoration at this fun party at the Redmont Hotel on Oct. 10, 2021. It was broadcast on [dopemusicradio8570.com](https://www.dopemusicradio8570.com).

2. UAB students (project leader) and Sierra volunteered to help students register to vote and answer all their registration questions. Anjali was there all three days! Anjali designed those “UAB is Registered to Vote” stickers and got them printed and given out. Show that Blazer pride!

3. Dana talks redistricting at the Women's March in Linn Park.

4. Views from the Women's March in Linn Park.

5. Registering people to vote on National Voter Registration Day - Cheryl Ransom and Sherry McClain.

DON'T FORGET: PAY LEAGUE DUES!

If you were a member of the LWVGB before July 1, 2020, your dues anniversary is September 1 and you need to renew your membership by November 30.

[Click here to renew today!](#)

Your membership and support are vital to our LWVGB services and programs! A big thanks to all who have already renewed!

Dues assistance is available!

If you have questions, contact Leslie O'Neil at ldoneil@bellsouth.net or (205) 968-9863.

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