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THE VOTER

Newsletter of the
League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham
September 2022 Edition

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK ...

Dear LWVGB Members:

I know it has been a little time since you have heard from your Board of Directors but we have been busy transitioning into our new leadership roles and making plans for an exciting year of programs and activities to **get out the vote, protect and restore the right to vote, and provide opportunities to participate in civic engagement around an array of important issues facing our area!**

I would like to take a moment to personally thank our wonderful past president, Dana Ellis, and our long-time Treasurer, Leslie O'Neil who are stepping down after more than five years of service. At our annual meeting in May, we approved our 2022 Program and Budget and of course elected our new slate of Officers and Directors.

Here are your new 2022-23 Officers and Directors:

President – Cindy Lowry

Vice-President – Julie Reese

Secretary – Judy Jones

Treasurer – Jamerie Moore

Director - La-Tanya Dunham

Director - Donna Reynolds

Director - Ellen Buckner

Director - Scottie McClaney

In this issue of **The Voter** we have lots of information about upcoming volunteer opportunities and where you can find information about the important election in November. We also have some

opportunities to get to know your fellow members at member social later this fall at the Lumbar in Birmingham and our December holiday gathering (details TBA).

Please keep an eye on your email and social media as that is where we do most of our communication these days. Never hesitate to reach out to me or any of our board members if you have questions or want to get more involved!

- Cindy Lowry

P.S. Email me any time at president@lwvgb.org!

UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER

The 2022 United States elections will be held on **Tuesday, November 8, 2022**. The registration deadline in Alabama is October 24. Absentee ballots can be obtained starting September 14.

Alabamians can vote absentee only if they meet one of the following conditions:

- You will be absent from the county on Election Day
- You are ill or have a physical disability
- You are a registered Alabama voter living outside the county
- You are an appointed election officer or poll watcher
- You are working a shift of 10 or more hours
- You are a caregiver for a family member
- You are incarcerated but haven't been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude.

There are business and medical emergency conditions that allow application after the deadline. More information on this and other topics pertinent to Alabama voters can be found [by clicking here](#).

IMPORTANT ALABAMA VOTER DATES	General Election Nov 8
Can Request Absentee Ballot	Sept 14
Voter Registration Deadline	Oct 24
Can Apply for Absentee by Mail	Nov 1
Can Apply for Absentee in Person	Nov 3
Deadline for Hand-Delivery of Absentee Ballots	Nov 7
Deadline for Absentee Ballots Received by Mail	Noon Nov 8
Deadline for Voters to Provide info for Provisional Ballots Cast	5 pm Nov 14

LEARN HOW TO BECOME A POLL WORKER!

The League of Women Voters Alabama and Legal Defense Fund will host a special **Nonpartisan Poll Monitor training session on September 28 at 6 pm**. Please share with your fellow members, family, loved ones, community organizations, and anyone else interested in protecting democracy throughout Alabama.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE TRAINING](#)

A MESSAGE FROM LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Our democracy is under attack. Period. For more than a decade, Prepared to Vote has prepared voters for elections by engaging volunteer non-partisan poll monitors on Election Day. Nonpartisan poll monitors are the eyes and ears on the ground that help ensure registered voters can successfully exercise their rights during early voting and on Election Day. LDF will provide training and materials; no prior experience needed! [Sign-up for the training session](#) and commit to monitoring the polls on Election

Day - Tuesday, November 8th!

LWVGB PROVIDES CANDIDATE INFORMATION AHEAD OF NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION



A team of LWVGB volunteers is contacting candidates in Jefferson and Shelby counties about participating the League's Vote411 survey ahead of the general election Tuesday November 8. All candidates in contested races on the November ballot will be contacted. A unique **VOTE411** link will be sent to each candidate allowing them to securely respond to the questions at their convenience. The group plans to publish survey responses **Monday October 10** and publicize the resource through traditional and social media.

The LWVUS has made an unprecedented step to include all state house and senate races in Vote411 regardless of whether there is a local league covering that part of the state. LWVGB has offered to assist with this effort in Alabama if needed.

VOTE411.org, a one-stop non-partisan voter resource, was launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund in 2006. It is a 'one-stop' non-partisan and unbiased 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.

Local Vote411 coordinator Judy Jones said she shared the site with friends for the primaries in May and received much positive feedback on how helpful the information was to voters. "This information is especially valuable now after redistricting because some voters may not know who is on their ballot before walking into their polling place. Vote411 is an excellent source of election information customized for each voter."

REFLECTIONS OF A VOTER



Hello. My name is Judy and I am a 'League' newbie. ***A proud League newbie!*** Don't know how I missed it all my life and am very grateful I have found it finally. And I realize how I found it is a funny story that involves a yard sign. Which leads me to my confidence that every member has their stories too, maybe the story of their first vote, the time they helped someone to vote, the hardest time they had getting to the polls, how they found the League, what motivated them to join.

As I sit here and reflect, I am surprised by all the personal stories, funny and poignant, I personally have related to voting. The time I pushed my dear friend to the poll in a wheelchair from our home; she could no longer ride in a car and wanted badly to vote for the first Black presidential candidate. She died three weeks later but by golly she voted for President Obama.

I remember exactly where I was the day in my 20s when I heard a horrendous quote on the radio by a US Senator I had voted for. I almost ran off the road -- but I swore I'd never cast a vote again for someone I had not researched.

And I haven't.

I know my interest in "voter education" came directly from that long-ago experience. I remember the night I heard someone utter the surprising (but believable to me) words

'If everyone who could vote in Alabama did vote, the balance of power would change'.

We all have had these moments which brought us to this place. We are asking LWVGB members to submit their own **"Voter Reflections"**. These pieces don't have to be stories per se, you might write about something with a 'voting connection' for which you have a pet peeve or a passion - for example, maybe you've been waiting to write "The Case for a National Voting Holiday".

If you have an interest, idea or a question, email me, Judy Jones, at jjflowgoer@aol.com. Let's get to sharing as it reminds us and others why the work we do is so very important!

VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATES AND

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hello League Members!

I wanted to share some updates on all the amazing work we've been doing with **Voter Registration and VRR**. We are continuing our important work under the leadership of Dana Ellis (Please see her article below this one in this issue of The Voter!). Our community is so fortunate to have so many willing to give their time for this important effort. Alabama has a 9% felon rate so their work has the potential to impact many residents. **Please contact Dana Ellis (205) 531-5668 if you want to get involved.**

We are looking for volunteers for our National Voter Registration Day which will be held once again at America's First Thrift Stores. The event is on September 20th from 11 am - 2 pm. We will have to see how many volunteers before we know which locations we can staff. In the past we've staffed Alabaster, Bessemer, Gardendale and Roebuck. Don't be afraid because they are very strict with Covid precautions at the stores. Please contact Julie Reese (205) 936-0536 if you want to volunteer. OR, [click here to register](#) for a volunteer shift and we'll be in touch with details soon! Find more volunteer opportunities at the bottom of this email.

We are having a Voter Registration at the Shipt headquarters in downtown Birmingham on September 22 from 9-5 and they will provide lunch. We will need a VRR volunteer for the event. Shipt is very excited to have us on board for the event. The address is 420 20th St. N. Please call Julie Reese for volunteering info. (205) 936-0536.

We have an opportunity to be involved with a great project called 'Art of The Vote' which is on October 9th at Club M from 3-7 pm. This event will include artists from many different disciplines using voting as a medium for expression. The address 521 3rd Avenue West 35204. Please call Julie Reese for more info (205) 936-0536.

We have so many amazing opportunities for our volunteers to get involved with in League this Fall, please call to volunteer ([or fill out the online form!](#)) and defend our Democracy.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#)

VOTER RIGHTS RESTORATION WORK CONTINUES

As you may remember from previous articles, dedicated LWVGB volunteers have been working along with volunteers from Greater Birmingham Ministries and Faith in Action Alabama to inform citizens with previous convictions about their voting rights.

For several months we were able to be present at the Field Offices of the Bureau of Pardons and Paroles in Birmingham and Bessemer. In May we were informed that we could no longer be inside the building to accomplish this work.

Did that deter our volunteers? Absolutely not!

This summer we have set up outside the offices so that we can continue to interact with individuals. Because of the heat, we have only been present in the mornings, but we hope to expand the hours as the weather improves this fall. Using this approach, we

have registered 22 people and have begun the CERV application process for others!

We have recently been invited to be available for individuals who are assigned to Drug Court in both Bessemer and Birmingham. Most of these individuals have not lost their right to vote but many believe that they have. We have registered or updated addresses for 16 people to date and confirmed active registration for many more.



Thanks so much to the LWVGB volunteers who are doing this awesome work: Donna Reynolds, Becky Laurent, Yvonne Brakefield-Knowles, Connie Arnwine, Dori Miles, Cheryl Ransom, Wynne Dimock, JoAnn Weatherly, Julie Reese, and Nancy Sales.

We will continue this work until the registration deadline. At that point we will take some time off to give the volunteers a break before we resume later in the fall. Should you have interest in assisting in

this important work, please reach out to Dana Ellis at danaellis865@gmail.com or 205-531-5668. The work is very rewarding!

LWVSU KICKS OFF 2022 - 2023!

The newly established League of Women Voters of Samford University (LWVSU) held its 2022-2023 Kickoff Party at the home of Dr. Ellen Buckner, Faculty Advisor prior to the start of classes. Jada Hunter, President, convened the group to discuss the organizational leadership, membership, and strategic initiatives for the year. The group is committed to holding registration drives and helping every Samford student know how to vote, where to vote, and why to vote.



DON'T FORGET: PAY LEAGUE DUES!

If you are a member of the LWVGB have not yet renewed, you can do so now!

[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!

REMEMBER: dues assistance is available!

[**CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW**](#)

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