



# The VOTER

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

AUGUST-2011

## Volunteers needed to Sustain our State: 1-2-3 GO! Rally in Linn Park, 12:15-1:30, Tuesday, August 16, 2011



LWVGB is pleased to join with LWVAL and other allies to ask our elected officials to sign the LWV Clean Air Promise and to **Sustain Our State** by assuring healthy, clean water and air and real public transit. We call for actionable, implementable (1) water, (2) energy and (3) transit policies and plans now to assure this sustainable future.

Clean air and water and transit impact public health and jobs as well as the environment. The most heavily impacted are the poorest and the youngest in our communities - those who are our future. They are the most exposed to unhealthy air and water and least able get to education, jobs, health care and daily needs. We're called to address environmental and intergenerational justice.

We need you to:

- Help manage the spaces in Linn Park (set up, take down, clean up)
- Welcome people and keep things in order
- Collect Clean Air Promises and signatures for letters to decision makers
- Assist with sign-making activity for participants
- Oversee decoration of trolleys
- Photography – still and moving
- Join the Action

To find out how you can help, Contact Joyce Lanning 870-0808 or [jalanning@bellsouth.net](mailto:jalanning@bellsouth.net). (continued next page)

### SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 30, 2011: Special election to fill District 45 seat vacated by the death of Rep Owen Drake, Leeds, and the District 48 seat vacated by Rep Greg Canfield, Vestavia Hills, when Governor Bentley appointed him to head the state development office.

September 13, 2011: LWVGB Board Meeting, The Community Foundation Building, 2100 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, 11:30am.

September 27, 2011: Bessemer city election to vote on renewal of 4.7 mill property tax that expires in Oct. this tax funds about 4% of the school's budget.



### SEPTEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH!

Dues are \$45 per individual, \$65 for a family membership, and \$20 for student membership. Consider using PayPal for a secure, paperless, stampless payment method. You can renew on the LWVGB website – <http://www.lwvgb.org>.



## **We'll take Action** at the SOS Rally:

- Make signs with SOS/1-2-3 GO messages – to carry and to decorate a DART trolley, and to be used for the Wild & Scenic Film Festival in September.
- Sign the League of Women Voters Clean Air Promise – and see how many others you can get to sign on.

*I promise to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution.*

*Because toxics and pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths,*

*I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality.*

See [www.peoplenotpolluters.org](http://www.peoplenotpolluters.org)

- Hear short explanations of our hopeful vision for a sustainable, accessible future for all our children and **sign the messages** to be sent to Alabama Governor and legislative leadership.

### **1-2-3-GO**

1. Water Management Plan
2. Clean Air/State Energy Plan
3. Mobility – Real Public Transit

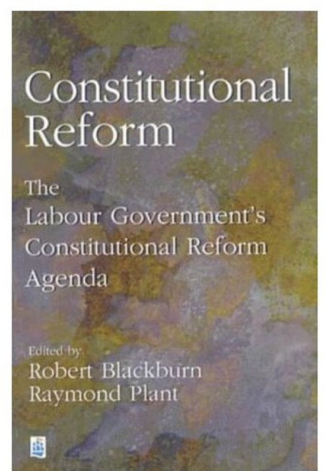
The event will be made possible with support from our allies at: Alabama Environmental Council (AEC); Alabama Rivers Alliance (ARA); American Lung Association in Alabama, Birmingham; GASP; Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment (CASE); and the League of Women Voters of Alabama and of Greater Birmingham. The event supports the recent re-release of the Alabama Water Agenda, the League of Women Voters of the United States Clean Air Promise Campaign, and the hearings over curtailment of bus routes in Birmingham due to funding shortfalls, as well as the United Methodist Women's National Social Justice Training Seminar to be held at the Sheraton August 13-17, 2011.

## **New Constitutional Revision Commissioners**

As you know, we now have a Constitutional Revision Commission, charged with revising three Articles of the 1901 Constitution every year for the next three years. As you also know, one constitutional amendment has already been passed that will eliminate the unconstitutional language in the Constitution, and will come before voters in 2012.

The Governor, the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tem of the Senate were charged with appointing nine citizens to serve on the new Commission. Serving as ex-officio members are Paul DeMarco as chair of the House Judicial Committee, Ben Brooks as chair of the Senate Judicial Committee, Randy Davis as chair of the House Constitution and Elections Committee and Brian Taylor chair of the Senate Constitution, Campaign Finance, Ethics & Elections Committee.

Following are the citizens elected to the Commission, as reported in the



Montgomery Advertiser.

Governor Bentley appointed former Gov. Albert Brewer; Wetumpka Tea Party president Becky Gerritson and Vicki Drummond, of Jasper, a supporter of the Alabama Policy Institute, a conservative think-tank based in Birmingham.

Brewer, who served as Governor from 1968 to 1971 and is now a law professor at the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, established a commission in the late 1960s to consider revisions to the state's 1901 Constitution, framed to disenfranchise blacks and poor whites. Brewer has continued to champion constitutional reform, and later served on a commission created by former Gov. Bob Riley to consider limited changes to the Constitution.

Senator Marsh named Carolyn McKinstry, a survivor of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing in 1963; Matthew Lembke, an attorney at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, and Jim Pratt, a Birmingham attorney, president of the Alabama State Bar and past president of the Alabama Association for Justice, a group representing trial lawyers.

Alabama Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard, R-Auburn, appointed Rep. Patricia Todd, D-Birmingham; Democratic pollster John Anzalone and Balch and Bingham attorney Greg Butrus.

If you know any of these folks, congratulate them and let them know the League is looking forward to working with them on the revisions.

## Meet the Board: Amanda McGriff

Amanda McGriff became interested in the League of Women Voters after attending the Iowa Caucuses as part of a presidential campaign in 2004. This experience opened her eyes to how truly important every vote is, and she joined the League later that year to support the League's ideal of active, informed civic participation. She has been a member of the Board of Directors since May of 2008 and has served as its Treasurer since 2010.



Amanda has an accounting degree from UAB, is a former business owner in the Birmingham area, and is currently a part-time bookkeeper and stay-at-home mom to her two year old son Darwin. Amanda and her husband Wil, also a proud LWVGB member, have been married for eight years.



*Radio Committee of the National League of Women Voters, which is in charge of the weekly radio "Voters' Service". Left to Right: Mrs. Arthur Ringland, of Washington D. C.; Miss Katharine Lundington, Ardmore, Pa.; Mrs. Casper Whitney, New York City; Miss Frances Whiting, New York City, assistant director; Miss Isabel Doughty, New York City, director.*

### Board of Directors, 2011-2012

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Leonette Slay	Director, Membership
Michael O'Donnell	Chair, Nominating Committee
Jean Johnson	Technical Director (Off Board)
Donald Marks	Social Media (Off Board)
Diane Marks	Social Media (Off Board)

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.

~ Maria Robibnson

Long range planning does not deal with future decisions, but with the future of present decisions.

~ Peter Drucker

Equal rights for all, special privileges for none.

~Thomas Jefferson

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