



# Okaloosa-Walton Voter

*A force for progress on the Emerald Coast since 1962!*

## March / April 2019

"Your purpose, then, plainly stated, is that you will destroy the Government, unless you be allowed to construe and enforce the Constitution as you please, on all points in dispute between you and us. You will rule or ruin in all events."

*Abraham Lincoln  
16<sup>th</sup> President of the US*

"Monsters exist, but they are too few in number to be truly dangerous. More dangerous are the common men, the functionaries ready to believe and to act without asking questions."

*Primo Levi  
Holocaust Survivor*



## Join the Okaloosa-Walton Solar Co-op

Joining the Co-op is cost and commitment free, so sign up by 1 March to take advantage of economies of scale plus Solar United Neighbors of Florida expertise. Go solar in 2019! Join on-line here: <https://tinyurl.com/join-OWC-solar>



## League's Mission:

*The League is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The 2019 Okaloosa Municipal E-Voter was published on 1 Feb for the 12 March election, and the 2019 Municipal E-Voter for DeFuniak Springs will publish in March for the 9 Apr election. No excuses: get out and vote!

Friday, 1 March, is the deadline to join the Okaloosa-Walton Solar Co-op, so don't delay. Get details below.

There are several general and member meetings being planned for March

## TIME IS RUNNING OUT: JOIN THE SOLAR CO-OP BY 1 MARCH!

Friday is the deadline to join the Okaloosa-Walton Solar Co-op. Just remember: joining the Co-op is cost and commitment-free. There is absolutely no obligation. You are signing up for a free evaluation of your home's suitability for solar panels, and a free estimate of how much it would cost to go solar!

through June. See page 2 and watch the website for details. And don't miss the 21 March meeting on munitions disposal (details below). Why are our troops being exposed to unnecessary risks when there are safer alternatives?

**Members:** Your League needs you to step up. A new slate of officers and Board members is needed to serve in 2019-2021. Many hands make light work, so volunteer today!

The Co-op delivers economies of scale plus everything you need to join the ranks of solar owners, including expert advice on requirements, costs and financing options. Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, is the deadline, so join today to go solar in 2019! Go to <https://tinyurl.com/OWC-solar>. Then scroll down and click on the "Join Our Co-op" button.

## OKALOOSA COUNTY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: 12 MARCH 2019

Residents of Cinco Bayou, Crestview, Destin, Fort Walton Beach, Laurel Hill and Shalimar: Are you ready to vote? Your cities, towns and fellow residents are counting on you!

Check out the Okaloosa County Municipal E-Voter at <https://tinyurl.com/y3tth8m1>.

Be informed. Be prepared. **Be a voter!**

## DEFUNIAK SPRINGS MUNICIPAL ELECTION: 9 APRIL 2019

DeFuniak Springs residents: Your local election is also coming up, so look for your Municipal E-Voter after 1 March. The E-Voter is your *one-stop-shopping place* for election-related info.

There are three competitive City Council races as well as a three-way race for City Marshall, so get ready to vote.

Be informed. Be prepared. **Be a voter!**

## MUNITIONS DISPOSAL: A THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH?

Did you know the EPA allows the US military to dispose of munitions via open burning and open detonation—practices the Congress outlawed decades ago in private industry and other government agencies? Did you know that Eglin Air Force Base is authorized to dispose of old munitions from military bases across the Panhandle?

open detonation the safest way to get the job done?

A recent National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine report (<https://tinyurl.com/y5yhae5d>) says there are better, safer ways to accomplish munitions disposal.

Eglin stopped using open burning for disposal in 2008, and complies with all DoD and FDEP regulations governing the safe disposal of munitions—but is

Join League from **6-7:30 on Thursday, 21 March, at Destin Library** (150 Sibert Ave) to find out who may be at risk and why. This event is free and open to the public.

**COMING EVENTS****Substance-Exposed Newborns.**

League will be partnering with the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit Community Alliance (C1CA) on to support babies exposed to substance abuse. Drug abuse is a fact of life in our community that we ignore at our peril, so we'll be working with C1CA to help the most vulnerable residents of Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

**Property Assessed Clean Energy.**

PACE provides low-cost financing to eligible property owners for energy efficiency, renewable energy and wind mitigation upgrades to their properties. Walton County has a PACE program, but there isn't one in Okaloosa County. League will be educating citizens about PACE as well as advocating with county officials to start a PACE program here.

**National Popular Vote.**

League has long favored popular election of the President, and the NPV bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popu-

lar votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Join us to learn more about the NPV initiative.

**Annual Meeting: May 4th.**

Members: please mark your calendars. We'll be approving a new budget and electing new officers and a new Board of directors. Watch for details at: <http://lwvowc.org/members.html>.

**2019 State of the County Report.**

LWVOWC's signature June event features local elected officials reporting on activities within their purview. This year SOTCs will be held for both Walton and Okaloosa Counties.

**Annual Planning Meeting.**

Members are invited to this July event to share ideas for League events in the coming year. We need your input!

Check the website for details on when and where these events will take place. As always, League general meetings are free and open to the public.

**ELECTION FRAUD V. VOTER FRAUD**

In 2013 the Supreme Court struck down Section 4 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, freeing 9 states (mostly in the South) to change their election laws without advance federal approval. Since then many states moved to implement restrictive voting measures, justifying these efforts as designed to prevent in-person "voter fraud."

Many organizations—League included—pushed back, insisting that the new measures were intended to suppress the vote, since study after study has proven that voter fraud is practically nonexistent. Additionally, many other

studies have indicated voter ID laws are racially motivated. However, there is no data tying lower turnout to voter ID. In fact, a recent study finds voter ID laws don't reduce voter fraud **OR** voter turnout (<https://tinyurl.com/y6ezgjwo>).

Meanwhile, confirmed **election** fraud—in this case, ballot stuffing—resulted in invalidation of North Carolina's 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District 2016 election. The state must now hold a new primary and election for 9<sup>th</sup> district citizens. And the investigation into Georgia's 2018 voter roll purges hasn't even begun. What has become of American democracy?

**LWVFL: UPCOMING 2019 EVENTS****2019 LWVFL League Lobby Days.**

Learn how to lobby from **9–10 April 2019**. Network with League members from across the state. Meet with your legislators. Cap off the event at our annual Gala! The event will be held at Four Points by Sheraton (316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee). This is a wonderful experience for new and old members. If you'd like to attend, please contact us at [info@lwvowc.org](mailto:info@lwvowc.org).

**2019 LWVFL Convention.**

The Florida League's Biennial Convention will be held **7–8 June** in Naples.

Do you have the time to attend? Our League has two votes in all deliberations, so please contact us at [info@lwvowc.org](mailto:info@lwvowc.org) and volunteer to help represent our League. Help us make our voices and choices heard!

**Sisters Across the Straits.**

Join League in Cuba from 21–25 May to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Havana's founding. The focus of the 5-day/4-night trip will be on providing support to the Cuban people. Only 10 spots are available. Get more info at <https://tinyurl.com/y2p9yo5v>.

**Calendar**

**2019 Legislative Session**  
5 March–3 May

**Munitions Disposal: A threat to public health?**

21 March, 6–7:30 PM  
Destin Library, 150 Sibert Ave  
Find out who may be at risk and why.

**PACE for Okaloosa County**  
March (details TBD)

Learn about this low-cost financing program for property upgrades.

**LWVFL Lobby Days**

9–10 April, Tallahassee  
Network with fellow Leaguers and learn how to lobby.

**National Popular Vote**

April (details TBD)  
Find out how we can ensure popular election of the President.

**LWVOWC Annual Meeting**

4 May, 10:00 am–1:00 pm  
Location TBD  
Elect officers and Board members for the 2019–21 term.

**Substance-Exposed Newborns**

May (details TBD)  
Join League & the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit Community Alliance in an initiative to support babies exposed to substance abuse.

**Sisters Across the Straits**

21–25 May, Havana, Cuba  
Celebrate Havana's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary with League.

**LWVFL Convention**

7–8 June, Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples.  
Attend workshops, hear from dynamic speakers, vote on changes to LWVFL positions and elect a board of directors.

**SOTC Reports**

June (details TBD)  
Local elected officials will report on activities in Walton and Okaloosa Counties.

**Annual Planning Meeting**

July (details TBD)  
help plan general meetings for the coming year.