



Okaloosa-Walton Voter

A force for progress on the Emerald Coast since 1962!

Jul / Aug 2019

"An omitted truth is just a lie having a nap."

*Andrew Marltton
Australian Cartoonist*

"Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it."

*George Bernard Shaw
American Playwright*

"I get angry about things, then go on and work."

*Toni Morrison
American Author*



Members: League Annual Planning Meeting

Members: RSVP today for our 2019 Annual Planning Meeting, scheduled from **1-3:00 pm on Saturday, 13 July**. Details at right.



Remember our veterans with your donations.
(<https://tinyurl.com/y2rfdcso>)



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

Well, the 2019 Florida Legislative session left a lot to be desired. Once again Tallahassee ignored the mandate of Florida citizens, this time regarding Amendment 4. Our legislators believe they know better than Florida voters, so they've restricted the citizen initiative process for constitutional amendments (again) after voters approved an amendment they didn't like (again).

While this is discouraging, it's also not unexpected. Take a look at this issue's quotes (at left) and resolve to keep working and keep holding legislators accountable. League hopes you'll also be a part of coming events, including voter registration, the Medicaid expansion campaign and more.

Members: See you at the Planning Meeting on 13 July!

HOT: 2019 LEAGUE ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

Both the decennial census and the Presidential election are coming in 2020, and we need all our members to help us meet the challenge!

The 2019 annual planning meeting is scheduled on **Saturday, 13 July, from 1-3:00 pm** at 19 Buddy Lane, Santa Rosa Beach. Your League **needs your input** to develop a plan for the 2019-

20 League year, so we can make the biggest impact in our counties. What issues do **you** want League to address at our meetings, and how do **you** think we can work together to better serve our community?

Visit <http://lwvowc.org/members.html> for details and RSVP by 12 May to info@lwvowc.org. See you there!

OKALOOSA COUNTY WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME TURNS 25!

The Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women is accepting nominations for 25th annual induction into the Okaloosa County Women's Hall of Fame **now through 15 July**. New members will be inducted on 26 Aug at the Emerald Coast Conference Center.

The Hall of Fame honors the women of Okaloosa County—past and present—

whose contributions to the arts, athletics, business, education, government, the humanities, philanthropy and science have been of great value to our community's development.

The Hall is a monument to exceptional women in our county's history. Get more info and submit a nomination at <https://theocsw.org/hall-of-fame>.

ELECTION SECURITY: HOW MUCH DO WE NEED TO WORRY?

Did you know Russian hackers breached the election systems of 2 Florida counties in 2016? Don't feel bad: The FBI only told Governor DeSantis in May (nearly 3 years after the attack) which counties in his state had been hacked—and then required him not to disclose it.

How did we get here? The federal government placed secrecy over security, which left state officials and the public guessing about what happened and what should be done. The lack of effective coordination among federal agencies, and between them and the state officials who run our elections, is stunning—and not in a good way.

The FBI leads federal investigations of intrusions, but it prizes confidentiality (often for good reason), which has kept it from being forthcoming with the state and local election officials who need timely information about threats. DHS takes the lead in protecting voting infrastructure, a function that depends on sharing information with those who need it and warning the public when necessary.

States need more federal money and expertise to defend against cyber-threats, but so far partisanship has prevented action in Congress. Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/y5b6gy5d>.

LWVF CIVIL RIGHTS TRAVEL & LEARNING EXPERIENCE

You're invited to join the League of Women Voters of Florida for a Civil Rights Travel and Learning Experience from **9–14 October**.

The good side of the struggle for civil rights ranks among America's proudest chapters; the ugly side may be our country's most shameful moment.

League members will visit the historic sites of Selma and Birmingham, Alabama where the civil rights movement took hold.

The last trip garnered nothing but rave reviews, so you definitely don't want to miss out! Get more info and register today at <https://tinyurl.com/yy3cpryk>.

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

If you live in Florida you can't help but be concerned over rising seas and other issues associated with climate change that threaten our coastline. If you live in Okaloosa or Walton County, you can't help but be aware of the huge economic impact the military has in our shared community.

Have you ever wondered how climate change impacts our nation's security? How our military adapts to more frequent and violent storms, which threaten our bases, homes and places of work? What kind of structural changes come with these extreme weather events?

The military is currently spending over \$8 billion on repairs from Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and on key bases in Florida and Nebraska. Congress is developing legislation to ensure our crucial military bases and infrastructure are protected from extreme weather, allowing our forces to focus on keeping America safe.

If you'd like to learn more, please join the American Security Project and Environmental Defense Fund on **17 July at 9:00 am for a webinar** on the real impacts of climate change on our military. Get details and register at: <https://tinyurl.com/y4ohmsk6>.

HELP YOUR LEAGUE GET READY FOR 2020!**League's 100th Anniversary**

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of LWV and the 19th Amendment in 2020. Local and state Leagues will have many opportunities to recognize the strides made over the past century, while celebrating the power of women voters and setting our sights on the future. Check out the resources here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5a83adw>.

2020 Census Action Toolkit

Many states have already begun educating communities about the importance of 'getting out to count' and participating in the 2020 Census. Check out League's Census Action Toolkit at <https://tinyurl.com/y6txryzx> for helpful resources, including the comic strip LWVUS created to educate people on why the Census is important.

IT'S DEBATE SEASON!

Remember back in 2015–16 when we thought the GOP field of 17 presidential candidates was crowded? Well the 2019–20 Democratic field now numbers 24 (and counting), and the first debates are already history. So, we must ask: Do debates change voters' minds?

- Research has shown that people are more knowledgeable about where candidates stand on issues after debates, and many American voters prefer to learn about their choices via debates.
- Debates allow us to watch the candidates think and respond in real time, going beyond their stump speeches, but "winning" a debate really

doesn't make a candidate more likely to win the nomination.

- Making a big mistake during a debate can hurt a candidate (remember Rick Perry?), but overall debates tend to equalize the participants, and everyone comes out of a debate better off.
- Public expectations are key to success in any debate. If you exceed expectations, that's great, but if you fail to meet expectations, that can actually hurt. With so many people competing for funds and insider backing, someone who fails to impress at all may just drop further behind in the months to come.

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/y5nahbym>

Calendar**LWVOWC Annual Planning Meeting**

13 July, 1–3:00 PM
19 Buddy Lane, Santa Rosa Beach

Members: Help us choose local priorities and meeting topics for the coming year.

Okaloosa County Women's Hall of Fame Nominations

Due NLT 15 July!
Details and nomination forms at: <https://theocsw.org/hall-of-fame>.

11th Annual 3-in-1 Community Festival

3 Aug, 10:00 am–2:00 pm
Santa Rosa Mall, Mary Esther
This festival provides school supplies, healthcare screenings/info, back-to-school physicals and outreach services to those in need.

2019 Spirit of Community Awards

30 Aug
The Florida Commission on the Status of Women recognizes volunteers who have improved the lives of Florida women and served as positive role models. Nominate someone who has made a difference. Get details: <https://tinyurl.com/y2wwlhkt>.

Civil Rights Travel & Learning Experience

9–14 Oct
Selma to Birmingham AL
Join the Florida League to learn more about the struggle for Civil Rights in America. Get more info and register at <https://tinyurl.com/yy3cpryk>.

Sisters Across the Straits

19–23 November, Cuba
Join League on a 5-day/4-night trip that will focus on providing support to the Cuban people. Get details: <https://tinyurl.com/yybr7y46>.

LWVF Lobby Days 2020

4–5 Feb 2020
Tallahassee FL

LWVF Leadership 2020

17–18 2020
Orlando FL