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The Voter November 2019

Edited by Danielle Butler

Upcoming Events:



You are invited to the League's Fall Festival Party:

Who: Current and past members, our donors, and others who may wish to join or donate to the League.

When: Tuesday November 19th, 2019 5:30-7:30

Where: Jay Barth and Chuck Cliett's home, the 1905 Turner-Mann House at 1711 Center St. in the Governor's Mansion Historic District. The home is a real showplace filled with antique furniture and artifacts, some of them politically oriented (Barth taught politics at Hendrix College in Conway).

Why: A chance to get together to visit, hear about our accomplishments and plans for our 100th birthday is next year. Hors d'oeuvres, drinks and decorations prepared by Mary Wildgen and Sheila Primm.

Please RSVP on the [Facebook Event](#) or email lwvpc@lwvpc.org to be sure we have a proper headcount for refreshments!

Thursday, November 14: Issues That Matter Forum

"Census 2020-Why YOU Count" 6 PM at the CALS Nixon Library

in Jacksonville. This will be an opportunity to showcase one of the issues the League supports in an area where we need more members. If you can come at 5:15 and volunteer to hand out cards for audience questions, and help at our materials table, please let Carol know at lwvpc@lwvpc.org.

Tuesday, November 19: ViPS Jane Mendel Reading Day

Each year, on the third Tuesday in November, the Volunteers in Public Schools (ViPS) places a volunteer reader in every Little Rock elementary classroom. The project is named for our League member, who was the founder of the ViPS program in Little Rock. Most assignments are made between 8:30 am and 11:00 am in 20-30 minute blocks. If you have not participated in the past, you have missed a one of the most positive, fulfilling 30 minutes of your life. The students love to have someone read to them. And is so simple to do. You can bring a favorite book of your own or pick one up from the Media Center at the school. The Media Specialist will have books laid out by age groups and will help you choose. [Sign up here](#) or call 501-447-4450.

Info from our Observers Corp:

Thanks to Kathleen Oleson and Ruth Bell for the updates below.

Little Rock Planning Commission: At the October 24 Planning Commission meeting LWVPC observer Ruth Bell spoke in opposition to an application to allow a parking lot to be approved for a complete block in downtown Little Rock. We opposed the parking lot because it was an inappropriate use in an Urban Use zoned area. Urban Use (UU) zoning is designed to facilitate pedestrian traffic, encourage retail business activity, and provide a livable urban environment. After considerable discussion about the parking demands of an

economically viable downtown, the Planning Commission approved the parking lot application by vote of 7 to 3. At the end of the Commission meeting it was announced that the Commission would meet informally on Nov. 7 to gather information on ways to provide for transportation needs of downtown businesses. Our observer commented about proposed changes to the Commission by-laws.

The Governance Committee: The committee appointed by members of Little Rock Board and the Mayor presented its recommendations to Mayor and Board at their Oct. 29 agenda meeting. Those recommendations are:

- **Minimum Electoral Requirement:** To be elected, candidates for city directors receive at least 40% of the vote in their respective elections.
- **Board Structure:** Regional districts should be established to replace at large positions.
- **Board Size:** A majority of the study group recommends Little Rock reduce the size of the board of directors from seven ward positions and three at large positions to six ward positions and two regional district positions. Should the board of directors choose not to change the size of the board, all members of the study group unanimously agree that three regional district positions should replace the three at large positions.
- Mayor's Authority to hire and remove City Manager and City Attorney
- The mayor shall have the authority to nominate, hire, or remove the city manager without precondition. After the mayor makes such nomination, hire or removal, the board of directors may override the mayor's action by a two-third's (2/3) vote of the number of members of the board of directors.
- The mayor shall have the authority to nominate or hire the city attorney subject to confirmation and approval of a majority of the board of directors. The mayor shall have the authority to remove the city attorney without precondition. After the mayor removes the city attorney, the city board may override the mayor's action by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the number of members of the board of directors. The mayor and vice mayor shall jointly conduct the annual review of the city attorney.
- **Citizen Education:** The City of Little Rock should create and implement a Citizen Education Program to equip and empower citizens to have equitable opportunities to participate in the political process.
- **Board Orientation:** Ensure that all newly-elected city officials receive a detailed preservice orientation to their specific role and responsibilities along with a thorough organizational overview.
- **Board Retreat:** The mayor and board of directors hold an annual retreat, which should include social, informational and planning discussions that are memorialized in writing and subsequently considered for policy decisions and related actions, budgeting, and timetables.

The City Board and Mayor thanked the governance committee for its work but took no further action on the recommendations at their Oct. 29 meeting.

Observing Opportunities:

Please click links for calendar of each committee's meetings. I am also putting names of current League members who observe these meetings. If you have any interest in observing these ladies would love your help! If there are any other committees/observation opportunities you would like to suggest to the League, please let us know and we will add it to the next newsletter.

[Volunteers in Public Schools](#)

Meets September to May on second Mondays at noon in the Fair Park Early Childhood Center on Harrison St. Contact Denise Ennett at 817.894.4628 or ennettdenise@gmail.com.

[Jacksonville City Board](#)

Meets first and third Thursday at 6 pm. In the City Hall Council Chambers at 1 Municipal Drive, Jacksonville. Contact Rachel Howell at 501.942.3086 (H) 501.580.2782 (C) or rachel_howell@yahoo.com

[Little Rock Planning Commission](#)

Meets every other Thursday at 3:30 for agenda meeting and the commission public meeting meets same day at 4 at Little Rock City Hall in the City Board Room. Contact Ruth Bell at 501.225.2538 or rbell@aristotle.net.

[Little Rock Board of Directors:](#)

Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6 pm. Agenda Board (to look at the items that will be discussed at the next board meeting) meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 4 pm. Both meet at Little Rock City Hall, 500 West Markham Street, Board of Directors Chambers, 2nd floor, Little Rock. Contact Kathleen Oleson at 501.664.2351.

[County Planning Board](#)

Meets the 4th Tuesday of every month. Agenda discussion starts at 2:30 pm and actual meeting follows at 3pm. Held at Jeffery Hawkins Conference Room – Pulaski County Regional Center. 501 W. Markham Street, Little Rock. Contact Kathleen Oleson at 501.664.2351.

[Quorum Court](#)

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month for agenda and then the full court meets 4th Tuesday. Both meetings start at 6 pm at 201 S. Broadway 4th Floor Quorum Court Room. Contact Kathleen Oleson at 501.664.2351 or Ruth Bell at 501.225.2538 or rbell@aristotle.net

[Central Arkansas Water Board](#)

Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2 pm at the 221 East Capitol, Little Rock. Contact Kathleen Oleson at 501.664.2351 or Ruth Bell at 501.225.2538 or rbell@aristotle.net

[Water Reclamation Commission](#)

Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 4 pm in Little Rock Wastewater Offices, 11 Clearwater Drive. Currently no one is observing so we need someone to volunteer!!!!

[Pulaski County Election Committee](#)

Meets at Pulaski County Election Commission, 501 West Markham St., Suite A, Little Rock. Contact Mary Wildgen at mzwildgen@ualr.edu

[Little Rock School District](#)

Meet 5:30-6:30 at 810 Markham, Little Rock. Contact Norma Johnson at norma_johnson58@yahoo.com

[MetroPlan](#)

Executive Committee meets at 501 West Markham St., Suite B, Little Rock on the 3rd Thursday of every other month from 10 am-12 pm. Board meets last Wednesday of every other month from 10 am to 12 pm. Contact Mindy Morrell at 501 951 7773 or mindymorrell@hotmail.com

[North Little Rock Planning Commission:](#)

Meets the second Tuesday of every month at 4 pm at North Little Rock City Hall.

[North Little Rock City Council](#)

Meets every other Monday at 6 pm at City Council Chambers at City Hall. 300 Main Street, North Little Rock. Not certain if anyone is observing this meeting.

[North Little Rock School District:](#)

Meets the 3rd Thursday of every month from 5:30 to 7 pm at 2700 North Poplar St., North Little Rock Administration Board Room. Not certain if anyone is observing this meeting. Not certain if anyone is observing this meeting.

[All Boards and Commissions for North Little Rock Government](#) are broken down at this link.

Leadership Team For 2019-2020

Ruth Bell- one year remaining. 501.225.2538 or rfbell@aristotle.net

Jogee Detchemendy - new term. 662.312.9277 or jogeeduzzi@gmail.com

Devita Harden- Treasurer new term. 770.617.3096

Norma Johnson-new term. norma_johnson58@yahoo.com

Carol Young- President one year remaining. 501.680.3947 or cyoung8151@sbcglobal.net

League Links:

[League of Women Voters \(National\)](#)

[League of Women Voters \(State of Arkansas\)](#)

[League of Women Voters of Pulaski County](#)

*Special thanks to Michelle Rhoden for managing the LWVPC website.