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The Voter July 2019

Edited by Jogee Detchemendy

Upcoming Events:

- 5:30 pm Monday, July 15: LWVPC General Monthly Meeting at Fletcher Library, 823 N. Buchanan, Little Rock. Originally, we were going to have a Drinks and Dialogue in July, but in light of the potential changes to Little Rock City government, we decided to invite our city attorney, Tom Carpenter, to outline how these changes can legally take place.

Please read Ruth Bell's article on the possible changes that the Mayor's appointed Citizens Governance Committee has been considering.

If we [as a League] understand the mechanics of whatever changes the committee presents to the Mayor and Board, we will be in a better position to evaluate them and come to consensus to support or oppose.

- Wednesday, August 21: Drinks and Dialogue at South on Main, 1304 S. Main St., Little Rock. Topic: Human Trafficking. These are less formal than our monthly meetings. Time and more information to be announced soon. Please spread the word and bring a friend.
- Thursday, August 22: Issues that Matter. Topic: Local Education. Sponsored by CALs, KUAR and LWVPC. Will be held at Dee Brown Library, 6325 Baseline Road, Little Rock. Volunteers needed.
- Saturday, August 24: Suffrage Sprint and Stroll- Join Team League of Women Voters AR (LWVAR) at <https://runsignup.com/Race/AR/LittleRock/SuffrageSprintStroll>
- Monday, September 16: General Meeting, Fletcher Library. Little Rock Police Chief, Keith Humphrey will speak on Crime

Upcoming Events continued on next page.

- Tuesday, September 24: National Voter Registration Day. The Leadership Team is working on plans for this very important day. If you have ideas please contact the Leadership Team.
- Monday, October 21: General Meeting, Fletcher Library, 5:30, Program TBA- Possibly Tenant Habitability or Redistricting Amendments
- Tuesday, November 5: ELECTION DAY
- Thursday, November 14: Issues That Matter Forum. Topic: 2020 Census. Sponsored by CALs, KUAR and LWVPC. Nixon Library, 703 W. Main St., Jacksonville. Volunteers needed.
- Tuesday, November 19: Membership Join, Renew, Donate Party at Jay Barth and Chuck Cliett's Home. Details to Follow, but mark your calendars! (There will be no general meeting this month.)



Illustration by Aura Lewis at auralewis.com

The Convener's Corner

By Carol Young, LWVPC President

We had a wonderful, successful Annual Meeting last month. Thanks to all who came and brought food to share, and who added your wisdom to the discussion of our Program of Work for the coming year. A special thank you to Rebecca Zimmermann for taking our minutes.

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Tara Shephard ordered a very nice LWV T-shirt for herself from Café Press. I have asked her to present a recommendation on how the rest of us can order the shirts as well. In addition, I PROMISE to finalize a list of those who want a name tag, and place that order. I have procrastinated way too long.

It is nice to have the social time at 5:30 before the meetings begin, so volunteers are needed for the July, September and October meetings. If everyone brought their own refillable containers for water, that would be super green!

If you would like to contribute to the suffragette sculpture *Every Word We Utter* to be placed in the [Vogel Schwartz Sculpture Garden](#) in the River Market area of Little Rock, please give your tax deductible donations through the non-profit:

“Sculpture at the River Market.”

C/O Jane Rogers, 5409 Hawthorne Road, Little Rock, AR 72207

Please indicate that your donation is through the LWVPC. Jane will keep a list of our donors. If your donation is or a Memorial or Honorarium, please also include: Whether donation is a memorial or honorarium, name of individual being remembered or honored, name and mailing address where gift notification should be sent.

Committee on Little Rock Governance:

By Ruth Bell, Chair of Observer Corps

Kathleen Oleson and I have been observing this committee charged with studying Little Rock’s governance and recommending possible changes. Carol Young, Kathleen and I also attended some of the public meetings the committee held seeking citizen input.

Accessible, accountable, responsible, responsive, equitable, effective, and balanced are values the governance study group believes should guide its recommendations on the best form of government for Little Rock.

The following are governmental issues the study group is looking at:

- Mayor’s general appointive powers

- Mayor’s power to hire/fire city manager and city attorney

- Mayor’s veto and/or line-item veto power

- Minimum threshold for board to override a veto

- Minimum voting percentage for elections of city board and mayor

- Number of total wards/directors

- Types of ward structure (at-large, regional, or ward only)

The Little Rock Governance Study Group plans to make its report to the City Board in early to mid -August. After it receives the Study Group report, the Board will decide what action to take on its recommendations.

Note: Mayor Stodola did not utilize all powers given to the Mayor by the special election of August 14, 2007. Mayor Scott has fully exercised mayoral powers given by the 2007 law since his assumption of office January 1, 2019.

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Observing:

Please click links for calendar of each committee's meetings on the following pages. I am also putting names of current League members who observe these meeting. 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

Observing continued on next page.

Little Rock School District

Meets 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 rbell@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. Please take a few minutes to visit the LWVPC's [updated site](#). From now on you will be able to find this monthly newsletter and an active calendar of our events on the website!