

THE VOTER

FEBRUARY 2013

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MURFREESBORO/RUTHERFORD COUNTY

LOCAL LWV NEWS

LWV Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held on March 12th at the Heritage Center on College Street. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm, with social hour beginning at 6:00pm. We will have Representative Brenda Gilmore, also a LWV member, be our speaker and provide a legislative update.

We will also be voting on our 2013-2014 board members. We currently have the following nominated:

Two Year Terms: Co-President position—Leslie Ann Collum (2015)
 Secretary—Shirley Brackin (2015)
 Director—Kaylene Gebert (2015)
 Director—Bonnie Black (2015)
 Director—Kory Wells (2015)

One Year Term: Director—Mary Elaine Hargis (2014)
 Nomination Committee Chair—Charlotte Molloy (2014)

Continuing in office: Co-President—Amy Greene (2014)
 Treasurer—Suma Clark (2014)
 Director—Judy Powell (2014)
 Director—Faye Johnson (2014)

The 2012 Nominating Committee included: Carolyn Strang (Chair), Leslie Ann Collum and Mary Elaine Hargis.

The Budget Committee has agreed to keep membership dues at \$50.

Amy Greene
Co-President

Review from January 28th LWV Membership Meeting

Dr. Mary Evins, Associate Professor at MTSU and Coordinator, American Democracy Project, spoke with us about the need to increase voting registration for MTSU college students. She stated that we had about 700 students registered from our help in handing out voter registrations on campus back in October.

She also stated the importance of having a polling location on campus. She provided data from other universities with similar student population, UT of Knoxville, showing that when there are polling locations on campus then more students will vote. Knox County even has a precinct set up for college students. Ease and proximity to voting are variables that increase student voting.

She asked us to think of ways on how we can convince the Rutherford County Election Commission to making voting more accessible to our MTSU students. We also plan to make more visits to MTSU campus with voter registration forms to get more students registered.

Amy Greene
Co-President

Action Alerts

The Tennessee legislature is back in Nashville with some new faces and new committees, and for the 6th year, so is the **Tennessee Scenic Vistas Protection Act**. This session the bill numbers are **HB 0043 and SB 0099**.

This year, the House bill is sponsored by Knoxville teacher and freshman legislator, **Representative Gloria Johnson (D)**. **Senator Lowe Finney (D)**, Jackson attorney and legislative veteran has the bill on the Senate side. These are smart and energetic folks with a heart for creation. Please make a call or send an email to thank Representative Johnson and Senator Finney for stepping up. Then ask your own Representative and Senator to add their voice by co-sponsoring HB 0043 or SB 0099.

(continues on next page)

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF
MURFREESBORO/
RUTHERFORD
COUNTY**

P.O. Box 4108
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
league@lwvrutherford.org
www.lwvrutherford.org

Officers and Directors for
2012-2013

Co-Presidents: Leslie Collum
Amy Greene

Secretary: Mary Elaine Hargis

Treasurer: Suma Clark

Directors: Catherine Corbitt
Kaylene Gebert
Shirley Brackin
Faye Johnson
Judy Powell

Nominating Committee Chair:
Carolyn Strang

Past President:
Charlotte Molloy



*Making Democracy
Work.*

Supporters of the TSVPA come from both parties. This year, we hope to build on the bipartisan coalition. With the Republican supermajority, at least one strong Republican leader is critical to passage of meaningful protection for Tennessee's mountains. **Please call or email Governor Haslam**, Lt. Governor Ramsey, Speaker Beth Harwell, the Senate Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee Chair, Senator Steve Southerland and the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee Chair, Representative Curtis Halford. Ask them to use their roles and legislative majority to do the will of the people and protect Tennessee's iconic horizons, jobs, property values, water and health for all time.

Patricia Hudson
Leaf, Executive Director

Judicial Selection

As expected, the Senate Judiciary committee approved a constitutional amendment (SJR 2) that would change our current system of appointing appellate judges by removing most of the merit-based aspects of the current system. The new amendment would also require legislative approval, a feature that would we have never had in our state and that would necessarily inject more politics into the process. This matter is on the calendar to be voted on by the full Senate this Monday @ 5:00. LWVTN is not in favor of this amendment. The action step for those interested is to contact your Senator or other Senators that you believe might be interested in your opinion before Monday @ 5:00. For full disclosure, this resolution is expected to pass by all observers, although that fact is not necessarily a reason to be silent.

Income/Payroll Tax

Similarly the Senate will vote Monday night on the constitutional amendment to bar an income and/or payroll tax (SJR 1). LWVTN opposes this amendment and believes it is a bad move to tie the hands of future legislators and governors. The Senate Finance committee voted 9-1 for this amendment. Senator Henry, who has traditionally opposed imposition of an income tax by statute, voted no based on his general support for a payroll tax and because he did not want to tie the hands of future legislatures. As above, the action step for those interested is to contact your Senator or other Senators that you believe might be interested in your opinion before Monday @ 5:00.

While there are other bills we are following that are beginning to move through the committee process, it is still early and new bills are still being filed. Please see the following two bill lists, one of which is a somewhat arbitrary list of a few key bills, while the other is more comprehensive.

Take a look at our 2013 LWVTN Priority Issues. The Action Committee has done a great job in concisely stating these matters.

Stewart Clifton
LWVTN Lobbyist

UPCOMING LOCAL LEAGUE EVENTS

- February 11 - Membership Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Panel on Basic Human Needs
- March 12 - Annual Membership Meeting at Heritage Center, speaker Rep. Brenda Gilmore
- April 9 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center, Water/Sewer Update
- May 14 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center