



# THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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[www.LWVnashville.org](http://www.LWVnashville.org)

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Description
<b>Monday December 27</b>	5:15 pm	E/Spaces, Inc. 4322 Harding Pike, Suite 417 Nashville, TN	<b>LWV Nashville Board Meeting</b> Guests are always welcome at the League’s monthly board meeting on the fourth Monday (5:15–7 pm). NOTE: Location is upstairs of the Belle Meade Publix on Harding Pike near White Bridge Road. Covered parking is available through the driveway between Sweet CCs & Publix. Take the elevator bank to the office building (not grocery) to the 4th floor, then left off the elevator, and conference room is to your left.
<b>Third Friday Trial! January 21</b>	11:45 am	Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee—The Martin Distribution Center Metro Center 331 Great Circle Rd.	<b>Third Friday Lunch—Tennessee Legislative Priorities</b> Stewart Clifton, principal of Clifton Government Relations and LWV of Tennessee lobbyist, will outline the League’s Legislative priorities for 2011. Clifton represents, consults with, and trains nonprofit organizational clients and their staff, board, or volunteers about public policy concerns with emphasis on passing helpful legislation, defeating unhelpful legislation, and also advocating with the executive branch. For additional information, contact Vickie Ziegler ( <a href="mailto:Vziegler@comcast.net">Vziegler@comcast.net</a> ). 
<b>Monday January 24</b>	5:15 pm	E/Spaces, Inc. 4322 Harding Pike, Suite 417 Nashville, TN	<b>LWV Nashville Board Meeting</b> Guests are always welcome at the League’s monthly board meeting on the fourth Monday (5:15–7 pm). NOTE: Location is upstairs of the Belle Meade Publix on Harding Pike near White Bridge Road. Covered parking is available through the driveway between Sweet CCs & Publix. Take the elevator bank to the office building (not grocery) to the 4th floor, then left off the elevator, and conference room is to your left.
<b>Thursday January 27</b>	5:30 pm to 7:00 pm	Bass, Berry & Sims The Pinnacle at Symphony Place 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor 150 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue So. Downtown	<b>League of Women Voters of Nashville Legislative Meet &amp; Greet Reception</b> Add this event to your calendar now!

### From Nashville’s President

Holiday greetings to all! While this Voter will arrive after our holiday gathering at Kay Simmons’ home, I certainly hope you all had a chance to attend. Whenever League members and friends gather, a wonderful time ensues. Many, many thanks to Kay and all those who worked to make the party a success!

Our first 2011 event will be the Third Thursday (in January we will try out the third Friday!) luncheon with discussion of the upcoming legislative session and League priorities, to be led by Stewart Clifton who keeps a close eye on action on Tennessee’s hill for us. Stewart has a wealth of knowledge and a tremendous sense of humor. Do yourself a favor and come

catch up on the latest from the Capitol. First Vice President Vickie Ziegler is planning this event at Second Harvest in MetroCenter. We plan to tour the facility after our luncheon presentation.

A week later, we will have a Legislative Meet & Greet Reception at Bass, Berry and Simms in the Pinnacle building downtown, starting at 5:30 pm. We look forward to welcoming old friends from the Legislature and greeting new ones. And we'll be sharing our thoughts about top issues for the session. Please plan to attend this important event.

As we look forward to the New Year, I want to express my deep appreciation and thanks to all of you in the League, and especially our Board. Together, we are moving forward with vital issue advocacy, educating ourselves on the issues of the day, and making democracy work for all. I'm proud to be here with you and greet the New Year with great anticipation.

In League, *Jo Singer*

## LWVN Kicks Off Partnership with Nashville Public Television Initiative: Children's Health Crisis Project

On November 15, twelve LWVN members—**Maura Lee Albert, Sue Bredensteiner, Barbara Gay, Beth Shinn, Courtney Jenkins, Carol McSwiney, Pat Meadows, Jennifer Murphy, Freda Player, Jo Singer, and Karen Weeks**—facilitated by **Pat Post**, participated in the first of three community conversations that the League will host about NPT's series of seven documentaries on the state of children's health in Tennessee. The initial three documentaries of the series "**NPT Reports: Children's Health Crisis**" are available at the NPT website (<http://www.wnpt.org/productions/chc/>) along with other educational resources about children's health. League members interested in participating in this project may contact Pat Post ([postpa@gmail.com](mailto:postpa@gmail.com)). Those interested in outreach to other community groups may contact Sue Bredensteiner ([suebred@mindspring.com](mailto:suebred@mindspring.com)). The Summary of this meeting is attached as a PDF with the December *VOTER* and is available online at <http://lwvnashville.org/>, where you can also review a related article in the November LWVN *VOTER* for more information.

## Observer Corps

**Sue Bredensteiner** has attended three community meetings about planning for complete streets in Nashville and our Middle Tennessee region. Here is Sue's report:



The Metro Nashville-Davidson County Planning Department held two community meetings in October and November to discuss and explain its process in developing a recommended plan to build sustainable futures and a more livable city in regard to expected growth that will ensure appropriate smart development strategies and improved multimodal transportation. *Mobility 2030* and the *Major and Collector Street Plan* are countywide plans, which guide transportation development in Nashville and Davidson County. *Mobility 2030* is a comprehensive plan that provides broad policy guidance for multimodal transportation, and the *Major and Collector Street Plan* is one of three major products of the larger plan; the others are a Transportation Policy document and a set of seven Guiding Principles, accompanied by several Proposed Strategies. The current update process is guided by a complete streets approach to transportation planning. *Complete Streets* encourages the development of context-appropriate streets which accommodate all modes of transportation, including private vehicles, mass transit, walking, and bicycling. Planners are currently working on updates to both documents, adding new emphasis on mass transit and bicycle and pedestrian mobility, see [http://www.nashville.gov/mpc/transportation/street\\_plan.asp](http://www.nashville.gov/mpc/transportation/street_plan.asp), to review the plans. The Planning Commission is scheduled to review this plan in January; check the website for the meeting date.

The Nashville Area MPO also held a series of community meetings this fall (Davidson County's meeting was on November 29, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Adventure Science Center with Mayor Karl Dean) to discuss and explain its major update to its multi-billion dollar *2035 Regional Transportation Plan*, which includes a vast scope of federally-funded transportation projects. The MPO sets aside money for projects that support significant policy initiatives such as mass transit—including modernized options for Middle Tennessee such as streetcar or Bus Rapid Transit—as well as walkable/bikeable communities, and roadway technologies to keep people & goods moving through the region. is the federally-designated transportation planning agency for over 2800 square miles and more than 1.5 million people throughout Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, Wilson, and parts of Maury and Robertson counties (see the plan at <http://www.nashvillempo.org>).

Serving as a regional partnership among the United States Department of Transportation, Tennessee Department of

Transportation, transit agencies, local elected leadership, local planning and public works directors, the business community, and citizens across the five-plus county planning area, the MPO leads in the development of the region's long-range transportation plan and short-range Transportation Improvement Program and contributes to ongoing conversations about issues such as land use, economic development, climate change and the environment, safety and security, and health.

At the December 15th MPO Executive Board meeting, the Mayors of each of the cities in the region who compose the board adopted the Plan, which depicts an innovative vision for regional transportation, but must also establish a path to realistic financial feasibility. As fuel prices rise, and demand for energy independence scenarios continue, what happens in the transportation sector is critical to everything from regional quality-of-life, to business and job recruitment and retention. This region is also expected to grow by another one million people over the next two decades; the plan attempts to address how those people might commute or use our transportation system to carry out their daily activities. Having this plan in place also allows the MPO to compete for federal grants for funding of mass transit initiatives.



Join Leaguers already committed to working with the Observer Corps in 2011: **Barbara Devaney**, **Berdelle Campbell**, **Carol McSwiney** and **Bev Leiser** (covering the Finance Commission), **Nancy Hudgins**, **Sue Bredensteiner** (following Metro Planning Commission and MPO on complete streets), **Jo Singer**, **Nancy Whitehouse**, **Riffi O'Brien**, **Libby Thurman**, **Pamela Atkins**, and **Barbara Gay** (MNPS on public education). Contact Barbara Gay at 297-4145 ([Barbara.b.gay@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.b.gay@gmail.com)). The *LWV Nashville Voter* will report on Observer Corps activities regularly. For more detailed information about Observer Corps, you may also check the LWVN website (<http://lwvnashville.org/ObserverCorps.html>) and LWVUS website ([http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&section=Observer\\_Corps&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentFileID=3590](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&section=Observer_Corps&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentFileID=3590)).

## Voter Services

The LWVN Voter Services committee has been active monitoring elections in November. It will hold its quarterly meeting at 10:00 am, Saturday, January 15, at the home of Lynn Williams, committee chair, to discuss results of its poll watching project and set goals for 2011. Anyone interested in becoming involved with Voter Services (see what LWV Voter Services include at <http://lwvnashville.org/>) is welcome and encouraged to attend. Call Lynn at 383-0778 or email her at [lynn.wms@comcast.net](mailto:lynn.wms@comcast.net) to for more details and directions to her home. All advance response is appreciated!

## LWVN Stars

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, **Debby Gould** and **Kay Simmons'** presentation at Third Thursday was an absolute smash! *Salud!*, the designer cooking school space at the Green Hill's Whole Foods, was packed and members participated in a lively Q&A. Kay's facile knowledge base as District 9 School Board representative was helpful in explaining how Metro's public schools are progressing and what new initiatives are on the horizon. Debby did a super job of outlining the importance of the quest



for higher standards across Tennessee and what the 2010 Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) Achievement Test outcomes would mean for students and the District. Former School Board representative and League member Betsy Walkup thought the presentation was excellent and also shared her response to the current documentary about education in America—"Waiting for Superman," saying: "You know, we need to remember that some Charter Schools have problems too. Many of Nashville's schools are working hard to stay on target. It's making sure that all schools are effective that is so important." That is really the same view Allan Coverstone, Metro Nashville Public Schools' executive director of charter and private schools, expressed in a recent *Tennessean* editorial: "It is the breadth and depth of our commitment to work together across all part of this city that has earned us national recognition. Nashville's collaboration between charter and district schools begins and ends with the belief that all students deserve high-performing schools. It addresses issues of equity; it commits to closing ineffective schools, it establishes a strong working relationship between

leaders in the public school system and charter schools; and it will usher in a new era of shared practice and understanding among the teaching professional who make our system of schools successful.”

The League’s holiday parties have always been a treat. This year’s continued that tradition. Education remained the topic at the League’s holiday gathering at Kay Simmons’ home on December 9. Special guests included Mayor Karl Dean and Metro Nashville Public Schools Director Jesse Register. Guest mingled and enjoyed delicious food and a warm holiday atmosphere before participating in a fireside chat and spirited Q&A with Dr. Register about Nashville’s schools. Topics included Paideia designated schools and their adventure in life-long learning approach—East Literature Magnet is joining this approach; community partnerships with individual schools and the District; the importance of the high school Academies that emphasize individual learners and student development; school community enrichment from parents and students involvement and the importance this brings to improved discipline and the learning environment.



**ATTENTION!** *The Nashville Voter* became a digital publication in Spring 2010. If you have received this copy of the *Voter* in the mail, it means the League of Women Voters of Nashville has no recorded e-mail address for you. Please help us in the switch to electronic publications and announcements by sending your e-mail address to [LWVNash@gmail.com](mailto:LWVNash@gmail.com). This will ensure you receive all LWV newsletters, event invitations, Third Thursday announcements, and Call to Action alerts. Thank you, *Voter* Editor Sue Bredensteiner ([suebred@mindspring.com](mailto:suebred@mindspring.com)).