

## **The Voter**

League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area

*League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.*

October 2016

P.O. Box 68214, Jackson, MS 39286-8214

[http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson\\_League](http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League)



**The League HOTLINE will be open from 7AM until 7PM. The number will be posted on the website and Facebook page on Election Day.**

**Remember to take your photo id with you to the polls.**

**If you must vote an affidavit ballot, make sure it has been initialed by the Initialing Manager BEFORE you accept it. Read and complete the ballot envelope as indicated. If you fail to do so, your vote may be rejected. Make sure you get a card with information to confirm that your vote was accepted.**

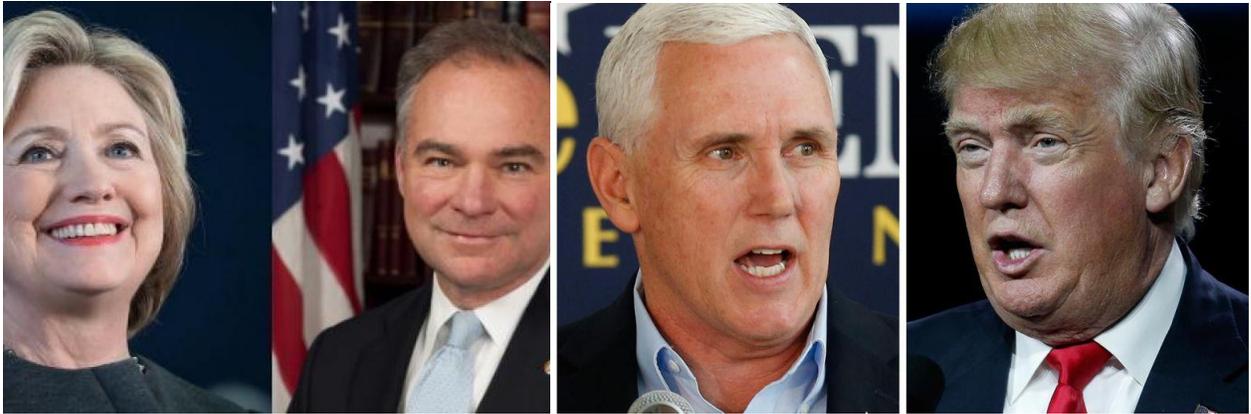
**There can be no campaigning within 150 feet of the entrance to a precinct.**

**No campaign literature, including shirts and buttons, are allowed inside the precinct. If you forget, go outside and turn your shirt inside out so that no campaign information can be seen.**

**League will sponsor a post-election analysis on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker will be Millsaps political scientist, Dr. Nathan Shrader. See details on page 5.**

**Third presidential debate:** Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

- The third presidential debate will have the same format as the first, with six 15-minute segments.



**Tickets** – Tickets for each debate are controlled by the hosting university and are *extremely* limited since the debates are primarily produced for television. The majority of tickets are distributed to host university students and faculty through a lottery system.

**TV Channels** – Each debate will be broadcast live on C-SPAN, ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC, as well as all cable news channels including CNN, Fox News and MSNBC among others.

**Time** – The debates will air from 8:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M Central Time

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## How Important are Election Commissioners?

(Don't Wait Until Election Night to Find Out.)

The League of Women Voters – Jackson Area will host an Election Commissioners Forum on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Welty Library. Dierdre Payne will serve as moderator. President Barbara Powell has contacted all candidates. A follow-up letter was mailed to the candidates which includes the details, including the rules for the forum, and requests for candidate bios. The audience will be given copies of each candidates' bio, as well as the duties and qualifications for the position. This is a voter education event and we want the audience to leave fully informed of the issues and the candidates' qualifications. Publicity is key to the success of this event, so please invite friends and neighbors to attend.

**Thursday, October 27, 2016**

6:00pm – 7:30pm

Eudora Welty Library

300 N. State Street

Jackson, MS 39201-1705

Free. Open to the public.

### Hinds County

All five districts have contested races. Districts 2 and 5 are open seats. Districts 1, 3 & 4 incumbents have challengers. There are fifteen (15) candidates in this race.

#### Candidates

District 1	Eneva May-Pittman		Democrat
District 1	Evelyn O. Reed		Democrat
District 1	James A. Reed	I	Democrat
District 2	Bobbie M. Graves		Democrat
District 2	Artis J. Johnson		Democrat
District 2	Toni N. Johnson		Democrat
District 3	Jermal Clark	I	Democrat
District 3	Lonnie Gene Holmes, Jr.		Democrat
District 3	Zakiya Summers		Democrat
District 4	Connie Cochran	I	Republican
District 4	Yvonne R. Horton		Democrat
District 5	Ebony L. Cooper		Democrat
District 5	Ella "Ellouise" Beechman-Green		Democrat
District 5	Ronald Lattimore		Democrat
District 5	Connie Little		Democrat

Madison County

No forum will be held. There are eight candidates in this race which includes five incumbents (I) seeking reelection. Three incumbents (District 2, 4 & 5) have challengers.

Candidates

District 1	Timothy L. Jenkins	I	Republican
District 2	Julia Robb Hodges		Republican
District 2	Tammie Hawkins Phillips	I	Independent
District 3	Patricia “Pat” Truesdale	I	Republican
District 4	Azzie L. Jackson Adams	I	Democrat
District 4	Diane Beasley Purvis		Republican
District 5	Pallascene Bright Cole	I	Independent
District 5	Leroy Lacy		Democrat

Rankin County

No forum will be held. All four incumbents (I) are seeking reelection. District 4 – has a challenger. District 5 has an open seat.

Candidates

District 1	Kelly Goff Wedgeworth	I	Republican
District 2	Leslie Foshee Lewis	I	Republican
District 3	Tonya Duke Rivers	I	
District 4	Eric Baldwin	I	Republican
District 4	Patricia “Patty” Hodges		
District 5	Brian Edward Baughman		
District 5	Dean Scott		

Submitted by *Alice Skelton*, Voter Services

## **General Membership Meeting**

Election Analysis by Dr. Nathan Shrader, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Millsaps College  
**November 19, 2016**

Willie Morris Library

4912 Old Canton Road

10:30 A.M. – Noon (**NOTE: We will begin at 10:30 A.M.**)



Nathan Shrader, Millsaps Assistant Professor of Political Science  
B.A., Thiel College; M.S., Suffolk University; Ph.D., Temple University

Before arriving at Millsaps in fall 2014, Nathan Shrader served successively as legislative aide and deputy director of communications to Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll; legislative aide to Delegate L. Scott Lingamfelter in the Virginia General Assembly, and research analyst at Abrams Learning and Information Systems under General John N. Abrams (retired). He most recently worked from 2009 to 2014 at the Center on Regional Politics at Temple University and was an adjunct professor at Drexel and Neumann Universities. Shrader earlier served as legislative intern in Washington, D.C. for Senator Arlen Specter; legislative intern to Pennsylvania State Representative Rod E. Wilt; and clerked under Westmoreland County (PA) Recorder of Deeds Tom Murphy. He has worked as a consultant, manager, staffer, and volunteer on more than two dozen campaigns for federal, state, and local candidates.

Through his own unique experiences both studying and practicing the art of politics and governance, Shrader encourages his students to build bridges between the theoretical and the real-world application of political science. His main areas of academic interest include state and local government, political history, the presidency, political marketing, campaigns and elections, political parties, and public policy.

## League members are leaders!

Over the next several months, the Mississippi Humanities Council, JSU Margaret Walker Alexander Center, and the Smith Robertson Museum are recognizing African-American midwives and recording their stories for MDAH. Minta Uzodinma was recently recognized. Minta is no longer active, but was in attendance. Her son, Eze, spoke. Several people, including League's Judy Barber, paid tribute to her.

Minta is a former LWV Voter Services VP, and the League's 1998 Thelma Workman award recipient. *The Mississippi Link* newspaper featured Minta:

<http://themississippilink.com/2016/09/22/more-midwife-stories-sought/>

- <http://prabook.com/web/person-view.html?profileId=890107>
- <https://books.google.com/books?id=79zhCgAAQBAJ&pg=PA262&lpg=PA262&dq=Minta+Uzodinma&source=bl&ots=jQ2cc7vWU-&sig=cd52cbHemEHqikYMHyFVcaD8DBQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiO3Yzfh6jPAhXp5oMKHSe9AKE4ChDoAQgrMAQ#v=onepage&q=Minta%20Uzodinma&f=false>

The information below is from The American College of Nurse-Midwives website, <http://www.midwife.org/ACNM60-Hometown-Heroes>



## Catch up with member Judy Barber



My name is Judith (Judy) Barber, 80 years old and a Jackson resident for the past 40 years. I was born in Chicago but came to Mississippi in 1971. When I tried to register my 5-year-old in public kindergarten, I found that they didn't have kindergarten in Mississippi and so my son and I went to Head Start where I had been volunteering up north. Then I found that the League of Women Voters was working on trying to get kindergarten in Mississippi and I joined the effort.

In 1976, on my 40th birthday, Rims and I were married and the League of Women Voters had space in his office when he became director of the Mississippi Children's Defense Fund. Before that he was with the Delta Ministry, a project of the National Council of Churches. It took a few years, but League led the way, under Fran Leber and Marcia Weaver, and finally kindergarten was phased in throughout the state.

After working at a child development program and a community health center, I went to work at the Mississippi State Department of Health as director of public health social work. There I began collecting stories from the social work staff about what barriers there were for women to get good health care for themselves and their children. In Mississippi, with the help of the Children's Defense Fund and the League of Women Voters, we lobbied for expansion of Medicaid to cover married mothers and their children. I had learned that the League would take on issues brought to it by members as well as asking us to support already adopted issues. We were successful and moved on, with Fran Leber's advice, to expand coverage and increase eligibility using our platform of good quality health care for all women and children. We worked with Minta Uzodinma, a strong League member, to work for state authorization and funding of a continuing school of nurse midwifery. (In the end, we learned that funds that are not earmarked can be diverted into other expenses.)

In a few more years, there was a national League position on health care for all, for which we all worked. By then I was legislative chair for the state League. We developed an active telephone tree, in the days before email and social media, and involved people from across the state in calling their legislators. We have made great progress on national health care, for which we still work continually, but it has further to go to cover all the uninsured in Mississippi and

other states that have refused to adopt Medicaid expansion.

League gives us all a great opportunity to work together with others to study and support issues we care about or learn to care about. It has taught us how to be nonpartisan in our approach to focusing on voter registration and legislative issues. Earlier this month, the League of Women Voters joined a

group at the Medical Mall, including Hope Credit Union, the Black Social Work Association, the ACLU and others, to continue our work on mail-in voter registration. Working in collaboration with other organizations has always been a strength of the League. We encourage young people to come to the League to make new friends who share their views.

*Carol Anderson*, interviewer





**A Message  
from our President**

The Jackson Area LWV has been very active this fall registering voters. Our thanks to Alice Skelton for organizing the voter registration projects and to so many of our members for volunteering. With your help, over 230 persons registered to vote. We are grateful to Tougaloo College, Virginia College, WellsFest, the Jackson Zoo and Hope Credit Union for inviting League to do voter registration at their facilities. LWVJA member Dierdre Payne presented a lecture on the importance of voting at the Tougaloo College's Prelaw Convocation and Jim Pollard interviewed Alice Skelton on WLEZ radio station about Leagues election activities.

Our election activities continue in October when we host a forum for candidates for the Hinds County Election Commission at 6:00 p.m., Thursday October 27 at the Eudora Welty Library. Be sure to invite friends, neighbors and other organizations to come. The election commissioners are probably the least known candidates on the ballot. The forum will enable audience members to cast an informed vote.

Volunteers will be needed for the Election Day Hotline. If you can participate, let Alice Skelton know <[aliceskelton@att.net](mailto:aliceskelton@att.net)>.

Our last election-related event this fall will be our meeting at 10:30 a.m. on November 19 in the Eudora Welty Library. Nathan Shrader, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Millsaps College will give us an analysis of the election and what it foretells about the future.

**Barbara Powell**, president LWVJA



The League of Women Voters- Jackson is growing.

To paraphrase the Marine recruiting slogan, LWV-JA is looking for a few good women and men to carry on the important work of the League. We are pleased to announce new members who have recently joined. They are: Joanne Olson, Claudine McGhee, Jona Keeton, Jimmy Keeton, and Kotonya Barefield. Please introduce yourself to them at our next project or meeting.

These particular members come to us through invitation by other members, and also by the efforts of our Voter Services VP Alice Skelton who also recruits anywhere League is registering voters. Alice has printed up handy LWV-JA member sign up cards that we will make available to all of you. Please consider keeping one in your purse or pocket so you are ready when you encounter a potential new League member. We will discuss this at the next meeting. We are all ambassadors for the League and better government through our participation in civic engagement and voter education.

**Elaine Talbott**, Membership Chair, LWVJA

## Voter Services Report

Thank you to all the Voter Services volunteers who helped in our various voter registration efforts:

1. Fran Leber
2. Margaret Wodetzki
3. Dick Johnson
4. Carolyn Townes
5. Mary Ann Everett
6. Toni van Kriedt
7. Gene Everitt
8. Dierdre Payne
9. Eugenie Bradshaw
10. Judy & Rims Barber
11. Natalie Maynor
12. Barbara Powell
13. Elaine Talbot
14. Marcia Weaver
15. Dorothy Moore
16. Deloris Lee
17. Wassie Truly
18. Carol Andersen
19. Gayle Walker
20. Joy Parikh
21. Nina Parikh
22. Savina Schoenhofer
23. Dorothy Triplett

For those who have been unable to help so far, there will be more opportunities between now and Election Day, November 8th.

Beginning September 10<sup>th</sup> with **Virginia College Community Festival**, the League participated in or held seven voter registration efforts. These produced 235 registrations which were delivered to the circuit clerk offices in Hinds, Madison, and Rankin counties. Four registrations were mailed to county circuit clerks in Claiborne, Copiah, and Warren counties.

In addition to Virginia College, on September 20<sup>th</sup> we were at **Tougaloo College** for Dr. Timothy Howard's community-wide GOTV speaker series which included *The Voter* editor, Dierdre Payne. Her workshop topic was "Voting Matters". On September 24, we were at **WellsFest**. Membership Director, Elaine Talbot was key to our success at the festival. **National Voter Registration Day**, September 27<sup>th</sup>, we were with Hope Credit Union in the Jackson Medical Mall. In early October, several events were held with HCU: Jackson Zoo, Medical Mall, and University Blvd. I spoke to the 29-member **Barley Angels** at the Pig & Pint restaurant where all but one was registered, and that one was registered before I left. I also did a 40-minute interview with **WLEZ 98.1**'s Jim Pollard.

Registration efforts are ongoing as we prepare for next springs' municipal elections.

Submitted by *Alice Skelton*, Voter Services director

**League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area  
2016-2017 Calendar**

- October 27 Voter Services Candidate Forum for Hinds County Elections Commissioners. Eudora Welty Library. 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.
- November 5 In-Person Absentee Voting deadline. All county circuit clerk’s office must remain open from 8:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. for any voter registration for the General Election and any county or county district special election.
- November 8 GENERAL ELECTION DAY.** Election for President; U.S. Congress; Supreme Court and Court of Appeals; County Election Commissioner; County School Board, Municipal Separate School Board Trustee, Consolidated/Consolidated Line School Board Trustee, Special Municipal Separate School Board Trustee; and Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Commissioner.
- November 19 **Membership Meeting.** Topic: Election Analysis, 10:30 a.m., Willie Morris Library, 4912 Old Canton Rd., Jackson. Speaker: Nathan Shrader, Millsaps College.
- January 28 **Membership Meeting.** January 28. Topic: Legislative Issues, 10:30 a.m., Willie Morris Library, 4912 Old Canton Rd., Jackson
- February **LWVMS Legislative Day**
- March Candidate Forum’s for Municipal Elections
- April 22 **LWVJA Annual Meeting**
- May 2 Municipal PRIMARY Election Day
- June 6 Municipal GENERAL Election Day

**DO YOU NEED A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM? CLICK HERE:**

[https://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Documents/Voter\\_Registration.pdf](https://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Documents/Voter_Registration.pdf)

Print form as needed. Mail or deliver form to the proper county circuit clerk’s office without delay.

To find your circuit clerk’s name and address, click here:

<http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/County-Election-Info.aspx>

## Who are our members?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages. Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

## How do I join?

It's easy! Just fill out this form - [http://www.lwv-ms.org/join\\_form.html](http://www.lwv-ms.org/join_form.html). You can also contact us at [http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson\\_League.html](http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League.html) or at 601-372-8851. We'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.

## Who speaks for League?

The Local League president is the official spokesperson for their Local League. Only that person should personally represent the local League unless they have delegated another member as their representative. All other members, whether board members or non-board members, do not speak for or lobby on behalf of League issues in the name of League but only as private citizens.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MISSISSIPPI, INC.**

Serving the people of the state of Mississippi.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, multipurpose organization of women and men that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. We do provide a forum where all candidates to an office can state their own positions.

[www.lwv-ms.org](http://www.lwv-ms.org)

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