

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 2015

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

http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League

LWVJA October Meeting

When: Saturday, October 17th

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Willie Morris Library, 4912 Old Canton Rd., Jackson



Program: Constitutional Amendment Consensus

Members will discuss the LWVUS consensus questions on amending the U.S. constitution. The results will help form a new national League position. (See article “Constitutional Amendment Consensus” for details.)

Members, please take some extra time to preview the following material, and help the League be ready to advocate on this important issue!

Constitutional Amendment Consensus

MEMBERS, help LWVUS form a position on amending the US Constitution

Over the years there have been at least 11,000 proposed constitutional amendments. Of those, only 27 amendments have passed and one of those was later repealed (prohibition). The constitution is very hard to amend. Our constitution provides only two methods by which it can be amended. In the first method, two thirds majority of both houses of Congress can propose amendments to this Constitution. In the second method, two-thirds of the state legislatures can call a convention for proposing amendments. In either case, amendments then must be ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states, or by conventions in three-fourths the states, whichever mode of ratification is proposed by Congress.

All amendments so far have been proposed by Congress. Some fear that if a constitutional convention was called, it could get out of hand, doing anything it wanted. Neither Congress nor the courts would have any ability to restrict what it decided to do. Others feel those fears are unjustified, since the amendments still have to be ratified by three-fourths of the states.

Some members of Congress continue to call for constitutional amendments on various issues, such as balance the budget. Also, a number of states have called for a Constitutional Convention. For LWVUS to be able to support or oppose proposed amendments or the amendment process, the national board must formulate our position based on the answers to consensus questions from local League units across the nation. Our local League has the opportunity to state our opinions at the October 17th meeting.

It would be helpful if as many members as possible do some background reading before the meeting. The link to the consensus questions and the Consensus Questions Study Guide are listed below. The study guide includes the consensus questions plus some pro and con arguments and links to further reading for those who want to learn more.

Study Materials:

- Constitutional Amendment Study Guide
<http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/constitutional_amendment_study_guide_2015_.1_4.pdf
- Constitutional Amendment Consensus Questions
<http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/ca_questions_board_approved_final.pdf



VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF EITHER, OR
AGAINST BOTH:

FOR APPROVAL OF EITHER Initiative
Measure No. 42 OR Alternative
Measure No. 42 A

AGAINST BOTH Initiative Measure No.
42 AND Alternative Measure No. 42 A

AND
VOTE FOR ONE:

FOR Initiative Measure No. 42

FOR Alternative Measure No. 42 A

Absentee voting has begun! If you're not going to be in town on Nov. 3rd make sure to vote absentee **FOR Initiative 42!**

October 31st – Deadline for in-person absentee voting. Must do so at your county circuit clerk's office before 12:00 noon.

November 3rd – General Election Day. Remember to take your photo id with you. If you also have the current copy of your *registration card*, it might be wise to take that also.

LWV Board Changes

Fran Leber has resigned her position as Membership Director for LWVJA Board. Fran has been on the LWVJA Board for many years, so her presence and contributions will be missed. We fully expect her to continue to be an active member.

The Board, in its September meeting, appointed Dary Shenefelt to be Membership Director for the rest of the year. Thanks to Dary for being willing to fill the vacant position.

Voter Service Activities

- **Election Day Hotline---**The Jackson Area League operated an Election Day Hotline for the August 4 Primary Election. It was well staffed with League members: Carmen Castilla, Fran Leber, Natalie Maynor, Dorothy Moore, Barbara Powell, Dary Shenefelt, Savina Shoenhofer, Elaine Talbott, Megan Tidwell, Carolyn Townes, Toni Van Kriedt, Marcia Weaver, and Margaret Wodetzki. We were also glad to have additional help from Gracie Gadow and Colby Black. Most callers wanted to know where to go to vote. For the most part, the election seemed to go smoothly.
- **Voter Registration---**A number of members of the LWVJA volunteered participate in a state League project, registering voters at WellsFest, September 26th. The volunteers provided a community service while enjoying the music and chatting with friends. Thanks go to the following members for their help: Kay Brodbeck, Carmen Castilla, Gene Everitt, Natalie Maynor, Barbara Powell, Savina Shoenhofer, Elaine Talbott, Deloris Underwood, and Toni Van Kriedt.
- **November Election Hotline---**Plans are being made to provide an Election Day Hotline for the November 3 General Election. If you are interested and have not already volunteered, notify Barbara Powell <barbarapowell1914@gmail.com>.

The consensus study on Money in Politics is the agenda at our November meeting (See calendar).

From the President -

There is a new spirit for the League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area. When I stepped in to be president it was because no one was ready to take the position. I was elections chair and did not want our League to end so I became your leader. I'm very excited about this freshness. We've had four new and one returning member to join us in the last month and even non-members are volunteering to help do our non-partisan League work. At the Membership Brunch Sep. 12 a list was passed around to sign workers for the Nov. 3 Voter Hotline. It got filled. Some Leaguers are working other duties on Election Day so eyes and ears are all around this tri county area on Election Day. Thanks to all for your interest in League. I'm proud of the work we are doing to educate voters!

Marcia Weaver

League of Women Voters – Jackson Area, president

In Sympathy

Our heartfelt love and sympathy go to Fran Leber on the loss of her husband, Tom. Thomas David Leber passed away on Monday, September 28, 2015. Services will be Sunday, October 4, 2015 at the Natchez Trace Funeral Home in Madison, MS. The family respectfully requests that in lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Catholic Charities or the charity of your choice.

League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area 2015-2016 Calendar

- Oct. 17 **General Meeting**, Topic: Constitutional Amendment consensus study. Location - Willie Morris Library, 4912 Old Canton Rd. 10:00 a.m.
- Oct. 20 Board Meeting
- Nov. 2 Deadline for Voter articles
- Nov. 3  **GENERAL ELECTION DAY**---LWVJA Election Hotline
- Nov. 21 **General Meeting**. Topic: Money in Politics consensus study. Willie Morris Library, 4912 Old Canton Rd. 10:00 a.m.
- Dec. 1 Board Meeting
Deadline for consensus report on Constitutional Amendment study
- Jan. 4 Deadline for Voter articles
- Jan. 23 **General Meeting**, Legislative Issues, Willie Morris Library, 4912 Old Canton Rd. 10:00 a.m.
- Feb. 1 Deadline for consensus report on Money in Politics study
- Feb. 11 **State Legislative Day**
- Feb. 16 Board Meeting
- Feb. 22 Deadline for Voter articles
- Mar. 12 **General Meeting**, Affordable Care Act Update
- March 29 Board Meeting
- April 23 **Annual Meeting**
- May 21 LWVMS State Council



Who are the 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. You can also contact us at http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League.html or at 601-372-8851. We'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.



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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.

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