

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.

August 2016

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

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

League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area General Membership Meeting

Saturday August 27, 2016

Jackson Municipal Art Gallery

839 N. State St. (enter from Congress St., one block west of State St.)

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Noon

Speaker: Leonard Van Slyke, attorney

Topic: Ethics and Transparency in Government



We are delighted to have Leonard Van Slyke, attorney with the MS Center for Freedom of Information, as our speaker. Mr. Van Slyke is a leader in media access issues, and has represented clients in the areas of courtroom closures, open meeting violations, and public records access under state and federal law. His work resulted in the establishment of procedures which Mississippi trial judges must follow before they can close a courtroom to the public or restrict access to court records.

Mr. Van Slyke can be contacted through the Mississippi Freedom of Information Hotline for Mississippi journalists and the general public in gaining access to public records, meetings, and legal proceedings in Mississippi. His presence at our August meeting provides an opportunity to learn more about the issues and their possible resolutions. [NOTE: Leonard Van Slyke is authorized to devote thirty (30) minutes of his time for each hotline access inquiry without charge to the user, and the majority of questions will be answered within that time period.]



Saturday, August 27th, will be our first meeting of the 2016-2017 year. Bring a brunch dish (fruit or baked goods) and enjoy the food and fellowship. Following brunch, our speaker, attorney Leonard Van Slyke, will discuss ethics and government transparency, two issues of great importance to the League of Women Voters. Mr. Van Slyke is Mississippi's foremost legal expert regarding open meetings and public records. He will discuss challenges and accomplishments in the struggle to keep government open and accountable to the public. Please think about people you know who would be interested in the LWV or in this particular program and invite them to come to this meeting with you.

This will be an active year for the LWVJA with federal elections in November and municipal elections in the spring. These events provide a great opportunity for League members to serve our community through voter registration, candidate forums, and other election-related activities. There will be volunteer sign-up sheets at the August meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact Voter Service Vice President Alice Skelton <aliceskelton@att.net> to volunteer for an event.

I hope to see you at 10:00 a.m. on August 27th at the Municipal Art Gallery on State Street.

Barbara Powell, president LWVJA

Presidential Debates

The Commission on Presidential Debates announced the schedule for three 2016 presidential debates and one vice-presidential debate.

First presidential debate: Monday, Sept. 26, 2016, at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY

- The first debate will consist of six 15-minute segments selected by the moderator and announced ahead of the debate.

Vice presidential debate: Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016, at Longwood University in Farmville, VA

- The vice presidential debate will be divided into nine 10-minute segments.

Second presidential debate: Sunday, Oct. 9, 2016, at Washington University in St. Louis, MO.

- The second presidential debate will be a town meeting, where half of the questions will come from participants and the other from the moderator. The moderator's questions will be based on public interest topics determined via social media and other sources.

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

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

- August 27 **Membership Solicitation Brunch**, Topic: *Ethics & Government Transparency*, 10:00 a.m., Municipal Art Gallery, 839 N. State St., Jackson
- September 27 National Voter Registration Day
- October Voter Service Forums (Forum for Election Commission Candidates in Hinds, Madison & Rankin counties)
- October 7 **Voter Registration DEADLINE**, 12:00 P.M. 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 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, 10:00 a.m., Willie Morris Library, 4912 Old Canton Rd., Jackson
- January 28 **Membership Meeting**, Topic: Legislative Issues,
- 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

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. 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.



**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