

LWVN VOTER 8-2018



Exciting/Intense Times

LWVN

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STATE QUESTION SUMMIT

The League of Women Voters of Oklahoma held a State Questions Summit on July 21, 2018 from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. in the Stillwater Public Library. Norman League members *Doris Kupfer*, *Judy Reynolds*, *Eva McGinnis* and *Anne Masters* attended. A panel of experts discussed the pros and cons of state questions that will appear on the ballot in November.

The panel, moderated by League member Mary Jane Lindeman, included **Gary Jones**, State Auditor and recent Republican candidate for Governor; State Senator **Julie Daniels** representing District 29 and former Mayor of Bartlesville; **James Davis**, Ph.D. Oklahoma State University Emeritus Professor of American Politics and past candidate for Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor; **Wayne Green**, Tulsa World Columnist and Editorial Page Editor; and Representative **Emily Virgin**, House District 44 of Norman.

The panel reviewed the following State Questions which have been qualified for the ballot:

- **State Question 794** Also called Marsy's Law, this measure amends the provisions of the Oklahoma Constitution and guarantees certain rights for crime victims. Extends definition of victim to family members.
- **State Question 793** to add Section 3 to Article 20 of the Oklahoma Constitution allowing eye care facilities inside large retail stores like Walmart and Target.
- **State Question 800** Also called the Oil and Gas Development Tax Revenue Investment Fund Amendment. Beginning July 1, 2020, 5% of GPT on both oil and gas would be deposited into the Fund. After that fiscal year, the percentage would increase by two-tenths percentage points each year. The State Treasurer would deposit 4% of the principal amount of the Fund into the State General Revenue Fund each year.
- **State Question 798**, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor Joint Ticket Amendment, run as a team.
- **State Question 801** amends Section 10 of Article 10 of the Oklahoma Constitution. It expands the uses permitted for certain ad valorem (property) taxes levied by a school district to allow use for operations as deemed necessary by a school

Report from the Environment Committee, 07.23.18

This was the first meeting of the committee. Our goal was to discuss ideas for a joint environment focused project. Four members attended, Adrienne Gautier, Amanda Marcott Thottunkal, Rebecca Greenhaw, Doris Kupfer. Rebecca Greenhaw represented the OKC League.

Ideas:

1. **RF100**-Goal for the Norman group is to move the city to 100% renewable energy for electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable for all energy uses by 2050. The League supports their goal.

Presentation could be in two events customized for each city. One with the Norman Plans, second an overview of RF100 background and goals.

2. **Commuter Rail**- ACOG (Association of Central Ok Governments) is moving ahead with forming a transportation district including Norman, OKC, Moore and Edmund. The plans for a rail line have been developed.

Presentation would include understanding plan and timeline.

3. **Solar Energy**- Where is Oklahoma in the development of solar energy as a significant source.

An educational forum would help educate us on advances in solar energy and address Oklahoma's entry into this field.

4. **Energy Regulation**

Presentation would consider the role of Corporation Commission and state legislature.

Summary-

We identified four areas of interest.

- RF100
- Commuter Rail
- Solar Energy
- Energy Regulation

-We consider Spring 2019 (January-February) best for first presentation

- Need to study each topic
- Identify resources
- Decide on order of interests

We want to invite additional members to join us.

We will meet again in September.

Contact **Doris Kupfer**, kupfer_doris@yahoo.com

if interested in attending or in more information.

Updating LWVOK Education Positions

The LWV Norman Fall Meeting, Sept 5, will be the kickoff event for our participation in the LWV Oklahoma Education Study. We need input from all our members in the consensus process. We are grateful for Norman League member, **Judy Reynolds** for help writing the information packet and consensus questions for us. Check this link to see the packet, [LWVOK Education Study](#). Feel free to visit this site and have a look at the materials. Check out the education **Quiz*** below. (Learn the answers at Sept. 24th study session.)

Check the calendar of events for the three information forums and two study sessions. The study sessions will be enjoyable events with snacks, wine and beverages to encourage lots of conversation and discussion about important Oklahoma education issues. We look forward to seeing you.

LWVOK Education Restudy

Quiz* to See How Much You Already Know
Answers available at first study session, Sept 24

- _____ 1. Between 2008 and 2015, education funding in Oklahoma declined by ... adjusted for inflation.
- 3.2%
 - 7.7%
 - 11.8%
 - 13.5%
- _____ 2. Which of the following was **not** responsible for the decline in education funding?
- HB 1017
 - Reduction in income tax rates
 - Reduction in gross production taxes
 - A failure to tax internet sales
- _____ 3. Most Oklahoma school districts get the majority of their funds from
- Federal sources
 - State sources
 - Local sources—including county
 - Sources such as Bonds
- _____ 4. What is the most common argument used to support the use of education vouchers?
- Vouchers will lighten the burden on public schools.
 - Vouchers will improve teacher salaries.
 - Vouchers will give poor students a way to escape substandard schools.
 - Vouchers will increase athletic competitiveness.
- _____ 5. The percentage of voucher funds in Oklahoma that are spent at religious schools is
- 10%
 - 60%
 - 42%
 - 0%
- _____ 6. The greatest number of charter schools in Oklahoma are authorized by ...
- The Oklahoma State Department of Education
 - The cities of OKC and Tulsa
 - Rural communities
 - Native American nations
- _____ 7. The future expansion of charter schools in Oklahoma will be due to the following 2 statements...
- Amendment to 1999 law in 2015 allowing charters in rural areas
 - Increase in ad valorem taxes to add more charter school sites
 - An influx of federal dollars
 - Relaxing of rules that dictate which institutions can authorize a charter school
- _____ 8. How many virtual charter schools are there in Oklahoma?
- 4
 - 8
 - 12
 - 16
- _____ 9. The primary reason given by parents who enroll their child in a virtual school is
- The individual attention their child will get.
 - The fear of bullying in a traditional school.
 - The fact that their student will not have to drive or be driven to school.
 - The opportunities for bonding with other virtual students.
- _____ 10. Colleges were first created in Oklahoma in
- 1865
 - 1890
 - 1907
 - 1921
- _____ 11. Funding for higher education between 2008 and 2017 dropped by ...
- 25%
 - 34%
 - 43%
 - 50%

53rd National LWVUS Convention—“Intense”

The 2016 election, and the extraordinary events that have followed it, contributed to the record attendance of 995 delegates at the 53rd National LWVUS Convention, held June 28th - July 1st in Chicago. The Convention opened in an atmosphere of urgent intensity.

“**The Transformation Journey Roadmap**” was presented as the strategic plan to transform the League of Women Voters into a vital force for change in the 21st Century. The League’s mission to empower voters and defend democracy in the future will require the embrace of diversity, equity and inclusion. The convention title was “Creating a More Perfect Democracy,” for *all* citizens. Convention workshops and caucuses offered training focused on raising awareness, developing skills and sharing tools and resources required. -see www.lwv.org >click “see more” in Convention and Council box>type *Transformation Journey Roadmap* in the Search League Management field.

Each day sessions began at 7:30 am and ended at 9:30 pm. It was an exhausting schedule. Presentations were excellent. The sessions I* found most meaningful to the rebuilding of the LWV-OKC were the “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” training, the workshop on “Fostering Civility and Respect in a Divided Democracy” and “Beyond Youth—Empowering Generation “Z”.

The centerpiece of Convention training was the three-hour session on “**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.**” The Harvard Implicit Association Test was used in its development. The purpose was to learn how to recognize and overcome our unconscious biases. Suggestions for integrating diversity, equity and inclusion into all League operations at all levels were provided, as was a checklist on “What do I do next?” and “Where do I begin?” A webinar of the Convention training will be made available online to state and local Leagues this Fall. “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training” - see www.lwv.org > click purple League Management button>type *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training* in Search League Management field.

The workshop “**Fostering Civility and Respect in a Divided Democracy**” was hosted by the San Diego LWV. Their experience in “fostering civility” led them to develop a training manual and offer support to other Leagues. The manual also offers examples of activities and events Leagues can use to begin a civil dialogue in their communities. If the LWV-OKC can create a consistently safe space for civil dialogue in Oklahoma’s capitol, the entire state could benefit. “Fostering Civility and Respect in a Divided Democracy” - see www.lwvncsd.org or call 760-736-1608, also www.nicd.org National Institute for Civil Discourse, University of Arizona

The caucus titled “**Beyond Youth -Empowering Generation Z**” was my favorite. Our newest generation of voters wants to make democracy work. The focus of the caucus was to explore how Leagues could grow beyond student voter registration to create meaningful engagement with new and future voters. The LWV of Anchorage, Alaska, hosted the caucus. They sponsor a separate “Youth League” called “Youth Vote,” which began in 2001. The group has its own full-time adult coordinator. She facilitates group activities and events, but the students are in charge. They created the PowerPoint presentation and ran the Q & A session. They worked with a graphic designer to create their own t-shirts and water bottle stickers, which they displayed at the session. I was so impressed! I think there is little else we could do to ensure the OKLWV has a sustainable future than to implement such a program. The Anchorage LWV has developed a “replication plan”, and the students and their adult coordinator will provide support to other Leagues interested in undertaking the program.

“Beyond Youth - Empowering Generation Z”- see www.anchorageyouthvote.org; Facebook: Anchorage Youth Vote; Instagram: ancyouthvote; Twitter: ANCYouthVote

—*Rebecca Greenhaw, Chair of OKC Area League

More 53rd LWVUS Convention Reports, *Joyce Collard, Delegate*

Get-Out-the-Vote Strategies that Work - Begin Today

1. One million people were served this year on <https://www.vote411.org/>. Advertise this.
2. <https://www.TellMyCell.com> is an easy to use, affordable way to contact voters.
3. Have parties for mail-in ballots.
4. Door-to-door and “chatty” phone calls work. Robo calls usually don’t work well.
5. Link people to on-line voter registration, where available.
6. Join with other non-partisan groups.
7. Opt-ins for high schools, where available.
8. Stay in contact with new voters.
9. Attend community events.

Election Day: Are We Ready?

Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Funds are available to states to be requested by 2023 to update equipment to include a paper record, poll observing, security of vote, language translation, on-line registration, accessibility, more poll workers, and problems at voter sites. Oklahoma’s portion is \$5,196,017.00, plus its 5% share. For more information, see Election Assistance Commission <https://www.EAC.gov>. Problems at polls should be investigated immediately and getting the voter’s name for follow-up is very important. Also, get and report all of the good things for voter confidence.

2020 Census is Important for States’ Health and Economy

Census allocates the seats of the U.S. House of Representatives based on states’ population, helps distribute over \$400 billion in federal funds every year, helps states, and local communities make informed decisions on where to build and maintain schools, hospitals, transportation infrastructure, police and fire departments and other services. More important and controversial for the 2020 Census is asking the question of U.S. citizenship. It will probably scare many people from completing the form, thus reducing needed services. Contact your congressional representatives now to voice your concerns.

Actions to take now:

- Join a state or local Complete Count Committee at <https://www.census.gov/2020census>
- Using demographic information, identify the communities in your area that are likely to be undercounted.
- Engage with partners and allies reflecting the diversity of your community and assess entry points into undercounted areas.
- Launch community education forums for the public and elected officials.
- Conduct letter-writing campaigns focused to your local papers and elected officials underscoring why a full count benefits your area.

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More 53rd LWVUS Convention Reports, continued

Regional Water Study

On the day prior to the LWVUS Convention Deborah Langley and Joyce Collard attended a regional water study, with information addressing approaches and solutions to problems across the country. Some of the presentations were from the League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization, comprised of member Leagues throughout the Upper Mississippi River watershed and others across the country. <https://www.lwvumrr.org>. Video of the talks will be available soon. You may contact lwvumrr@lwvmn.org to be added to their monthly e-newsletter. Find your own watershed, we all have one, at <https://www.lwvumrr.org/watersheds.html>. These myriad of watersheds have many problems and our League members have continually, and tirelessly fought for solutions and are making progress. Other resources are available from the United States Geological Survey.

More Convention Resources

In future newsletter(s), we'll have more useful news. Resources are going out to Local Leagues not attending the last LWVOK Trustees Meeting.

*—Joyce Collard, LWVUS Convention Delegate &
Norman Treasurer and LWVOK Trustee*



Hot Topic Luncheon: Stormwater

August 29, 11:30 am

Interurban Restaurant, 1150 Ed Noble Pkwy, Norman, OK

Speaker: Dr. Jason Vogel, Director, Oklahoma Water Survey and Associate Professor, Civil Engineering and Environmental Science at The University of Oklahoma.

Fall 2018 Calendar

Hot Topic: Stormwater 101

August 29, 11:30 am, Interurban Restaurant, 1150 Ed Noble Pkwy, Norman, OK
Speaker: Dr. Jason Vogel, Director, Oklahoma Water Survey and Associate Professor, Civil Engineering and Environmental Science at The University of Oklahoma.

League Fall Meeting: Public School Funding

Sept 5, 6 pm, Central Library, Rm A-B
Speaker: Brenda Burkett, CFO, Norman Public Schools

LWVOK Education Study, Part 1

Sept 24, 6 pm, West Wind Unitarian Universalist Church, 1309 W Boyd St.
Judy Reynolds, Discussion Leader: Funding and Charter Schools

Reviewing OK School Reforms: Helpful, Harmful, and Needed

Oct 10, 6 pm, Central Library, Rm A-B
Speaker: Dr. Shawn Hime, executive director of Oklahoma State School Board Association. He will speak on public school funding and privatization of schools in our state.

Candidates Forum

Oct. 22, Time & Location to be determined, mark your calendar for date
The Norman League of Women Voters and the Norman Public Schools PTA Council will host a forum for local legislative candidates. It will be held in a NPS facility TBA.

The forum will be moderated by League member Elizabeth Pierce and held in two parts. The Senate District 16 candidates will be featured first, followed by a break and then the local House District candidates. Start times and the candidates/districts invited to participate will be announced following the August 28 Runoff Election.

Evolution of Charter Schools

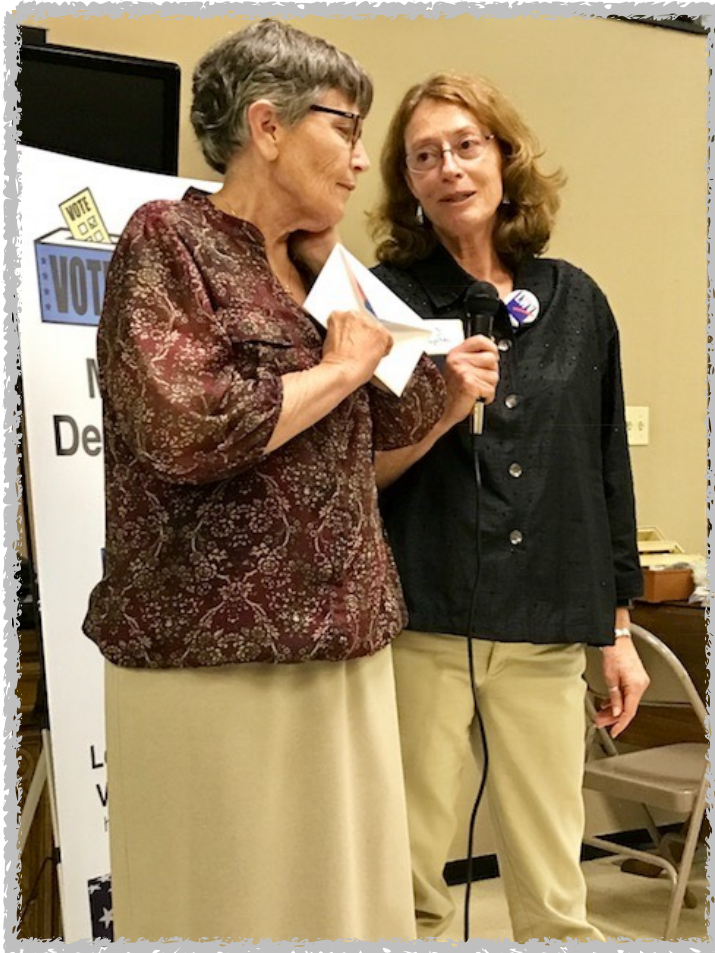
Oct 29, 6 pm, EAST Library
Speaker: Dr. Lawrence Baines, Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies at The University of Oklahoma and author of 11 books. His latest book includes an in-depth discussion of k-12 charter schools, vouchers, Educational Savings Accounts, and Tax Credit Scholarships.

LWVOK Education Study, Part 2

Nov. 5, 6-8 pm, West Wind Unitarian Universalist Church, 1309 W Boyd St.
Judy Reynolds, Discussion Leader: Funding and School Boards.

General Election

Nov. 6, 7 am - 7 pm, Your Precinct



Note from the Chairs

Election years are always busy times for the League of Women Voters and 2018 will be no exception. As always, we will be doing Voter Registration at the local libraries, until the final day to register, October 12. Our Candidates Forum for House Districts 45, 46, 53, 20 and for Senate District 16 will be October 22. Our partner for this event will be the Norman Public Schools PTA.

The State League is busy preparing the Voter Guide for this year's general election with information on the candidates for State offices and ballot questions that will appear this year.

The local leagues will also be participating in an education study that will lead to a rewriting of the

state league's position on public education in our state. Many of our current policy position have not changed since the 1970s. The first step in our study will be a presentation by Brenda Burkett on school finance, Wednesday September 5, at 6pm at the Norman Central Library. Links to materials and consensus questions for the study can found on the Norman League website.

Our first event of the fall will be our Hot Topic Lunch on Wednesday August 29 featuring Dr. Jason Vogel, director of the Oklahoma Water Survey, who is a storm water specialist. Come join us at the Interurban Restaurant at 11:30 AM for a informative discussion on this important issue for the city of Norman. Information on future events and opportunities to volunteer will be presented at this event.

—Sandy Bahan and Doris Kupfer

New **Who's Who** is on our website: <http://norman.ok.lwvnet.org/files/Who's Who July 2018-dk.pdf> (Download and print. It will be updated after November 6, 2018)