



# The Voter



The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast

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

Volume 38: No. 3

January-February 2019

**Mission:** The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

## January Timely Topics

### Reproductive Rights and the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC)

Join us on January 12<sup>th</sup> for an informative presentation on Reproductive Rights with speaker Amy Weintraub, Reproductive Rights Program Director for Progress Florida. Amy will present the facts about Reproductive Rights in an interactive format that encourages participation and discussion. Her presentation will touch on legislative issues, access to safe and legal abortion services, contraceptives, Crisis Pregnancy Centers (Fake Clinics) and opportunities for advocacy.



**Information on Amy Weintraub is found on Page 2.**

This Timely Topics will also provide an opportunity to get up to speed on the National Popular Vote Interstate

Compact. LWV of the Space Coast member, Sharon Reynolds-Mixon will give a short presentation explaining the basics of how this system of electing future presidents could revamp the electoral college.

**When:** Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Time:** 11:30am-2:00pm

**Where:** Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library,  
308 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa, FL 32922

**Cost:** This event is free and open to the public

**Refreshments:** Please bring a Brown Bag Lunch

Light refreshment and beverages will be provided

**Registration is required:** To register, go to [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org)



## 2019 Politicos on Parade Luncheon & Fashion Show

### Save the Date – February 8, 2019 for Fundraiser Fashion Show

Every two years, newly elected local politicians are the models.

**Women's fashions this time are by Bobbie's Parkside Fashions in Cocoa Village and Men's outfits will again be provided by Men's Wearhouse in Melbourne.**

**What:** Fashion Show Luncheon – Politics on Parade

**Where:** Indian River Colony Club

**When:** February 8, 2019

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. registration

**Cost:** \$40 for members

\$45 for non League members

Names of the models, menu selections and other information will be published on the website [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org) in early January.

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## President – Barbara Williams

321-890-6021

[president@lwv-spacecoast.org](mailto:president@lwv-spacecoast.org)

Editor: Lucia Watson

321-779-6758

lucbil\_99@yahoo.com

LWVSC: Phone # 321-254-7183

P.O. Box 360823

Melbourne, FL 32936-0823

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

## Diversity Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast will promote in all aspects of the League's activities, a philosophy of inclusion that reflects the diverse composition and issues of the community.



## President's Corner

Barbara Williams

### Time to set our 2019 Legislative Priorities

Please help us set a 2019 plan to focus on the issues that are important to you by taking our 2019 Legislative Priorities Survey:

[https://lwvsc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page\\_id=31&club\\_id=992157&item\\_id=12555&actr=3](https://lwvsc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=31&club_id=992157&item_id=12555&actr=3)

The survey asks you to provide your top 5 priorities based on these State Program categories (for more information, see pages 5-7 of the Study and Action Guide 2017-2019):

1. Florida Constitution
2. Finance and Taxation
3. Election Law
4. Education
5. Justice
6. Children and Families
7. Financing and Delivery of Healthcare
8. Farm Workers
9. Libraries
10. Immigration
11. Gun Safety
12. Sustainability in Florida
13. Land Use
14. Energy
15. Freshwater Resources
16. Other -- provide details if you do not see a priority issue category on the list.

Your input is important because it helps us determine where to focus our time and money. Our local priorities are sent to LWVFL, the state League then uses the input from the local Leagues to determine state priorities. Our Lobbyist will focus on the state priorities.

If you have trouble accessing the survey, please provide your input to me at [president@lwv.spacecoast.org](mailto:president@lwv.spacecoast.org). (Input through the survey is preferred.)

Thank you for your participation and Happy 2019!  
Barbara

**National Popular  Vote!**

### It's Time to Graduate from the Electoral College

by Sharon Reynolds-Mixon

When our county was founded, the men in charge decided that every vote should count (for those who were then allowed to vote) with the exception of two offices in our nation. Those who formed our constitution set up a system allowing special individuals to serve as electors for the offices of President and Vice President. This system, known as the Electoral College, is still in place. The number of electors for each state is based upon the state's number of Congressional

positions: one elector for each representative and one elector for each senator. Much later in our nation's history, 48 states created a "winner take all" system thereby casting all electoral votes from that state for the candidates on the Presidential ticket who received the majority of the votes in that state. Generally, this system still awarded the Presidential and Vice Presidential seats to the candidates receiving the majority of the individual popular votes. Move forward in time and think Gore vs. Bush, and Trump vs. Clinton. In these cases, the candidates who won the election did not receive the greatest number of individual votes cast throughout the nation. In our most recent presidential election, Hillary Clinton received almost three million more individual votes nationwide than Donald Trump, but she failed to acquire the 270 "winner take all" electoral votes.

A priority initiative of our local, state, and national leagues seeks to make a change to this process. The second article of our constitution gives states the right to designate which presidential candidate will receive the votes for the state. Currently, 12 jurisdictions having 172 electoral votes have signed on to the **National Popular Vote** Interstate Compact. These states have passed legislation agreeing to cast all of their electoral votes for the candidates who win the national popular vote. This legislation will take effect once it is enacted into law by states having 270 electoral votes. Florida has sponsors who intend to file this bill in the coming legislative session. If you believe that in our country every vote should count equally in every election, let your state legislators know you support this bill! It's time to graduate from the old way of counting electors.

**"If you know of a local group wanting more information about the National Popular Vote, kindly have interested parties email a request for a presentation to Sharon at [sarmixon2407@yahoo.com](mailto:sarmixon2407@yahoo.com) to schedule."**

You can also contact Audrey Grayson, Speaker's Bureau Chair at [agrayson1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:agrayson1@cfl.rr.com) or 321-454-4556.

### Bio for Amy Weintraub, Speaker at January Timely Topics

An active member of the League of Women Voters St. Petersburg and the statewide Floridians for Reproductive Freedom coalition, Amy is a fearless leader and inspiring speaker. Prior to moving to Florida in 2015, Amy lived in her home state of West Virginia where she led efforts within organizations such as WV FREE (West Virginia Focus: Reproductive Education and Equality), Covenant House of WV, and Planned Parenthood. In 2016 she initiated formation of the LWV of Florida Reproductive Health and Justice Action Team which works to address reproductive rights issues on a state level.



## Justice Committee Chair Molly Domin

The passage of Amendment 4 in the midterm election was a huge victory for the ex-felon population, save anyone convicted of murder or felony sex offenses. These roughly 1.5 million returning citizens will now have their voting rights restored in a timely fashion without the archaic and frankly embarrassing procedure that was in place. For a visceral glimpse into Florida's former voting restoration system, this podcast episode is great:

<https://www.npr.org/2018/11/01/663195571/the-hearing>

However the work to restore voting rights is far from over. Now we need to locate, educate and motivate these returning citizens to register to vote! To accomplish this, we need to collaborate with organizations that support voter restoration. The earliest these citizens can register to vote is January 8 but there may be roadblocks:

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/12/florida-voted-to-give-ex-felons-the-franchise-now-republicans-are-throwing-a-wrench-in-that-process/>

As we get directives to register people, we will surely be asking for volunteers!

Molly



## Message from The Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is hard at work developing a slate of Board Officers and Directors to be presented and voted on at the next annual meeting scheduled for April 2019. The committee has set the goals of continuing to diversify board membership by opening our nominations to newer and younger members while maintaining continuity and utilizing collective experience. The League's goal is to encourage diverse points of view, new skills and outlooks to the Board. The nominating process is very open and committee members want to make sure that leadership opportunities are available to everyone. Please let the Nominating Committee Members (listed below) know by **December 28, 2018** or absolutely no later than **January 11, 2019** if you or someone you know is interested in serving on the board or taking another leadership role within the League. Thank you for your support and continuing to make our League of Women Voters all it can be.

### 2019 Nominating Committee:

Yvonne Minus (Chair), [yvonneminus@yahoo.com](mailto:yvonneminus@yahoo.com) - (321-591-7054)

Diane Conaway - [dbconaway7@gmail.com](mailto:dbconaway7@gmail.com)

Susan Little - [ergajn88@gmail.com](mailto:ergajn88@gmail.com)

Dina Dearmin - [vacca.dina@gmail.com](mailto:vacca.dina@gmail.com)

Krista Soboh - [knsoboh@gmail.com](mailto:knsoboh@gmail.com)



## Education Committee Chair Fran Baer

### Vera Walker 1912-2018

Proud member of the League of Women Voters, Vera Walker, passed away at the age of 105. On the special occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, the League paid honor to her at a luncheon where League member Martha Bradshaw delivered a tribute to Vera and her incredible accomplishments.

Vera served on the Brevard County School Board from 1984 to 1992 and made a significant impact on the Brevard County Schools. At 72 years young, she challenged and unseated a veteran school board member, and woke up the establishment to the realization that a woman of small stature could deliver a large upset.

The opposition had labeled her, "The little old lady in tennis shoes". She wore out many pairs of sneakers knocking on doors throughout the county. In those days, board members ran district wide.

Having previously taught high school in Jacksonville, Vera never forgot what it is like to be in a classroom. She visited teachers and their students often, encouraging the planting of school gardens as well as reading and writing. When she retired, Brevard Federation of Teachers, honored her with the planting of a tree at Gardendale Elementary School on Merritt Island, Brevard's first year round school, thanks in part to Vera's vision on the Board. The plaque beside the tree reads, "Vera Walker, Brevard County School Board, 1984-1992. Friend of things that grow."

During her tenure and throughout her life, Vera watched the children grow and Brevard County Schools grow more caring and accountable to the parents, teachers, and their students.

Knowing and remembering Vera is a valued treasure.

Fran

### League of Women Voters to Board of Education Just Say No.

Patti Brigham, President of the Florida League of Women Voters has issued a letter to the Florida State Board of Education urging them to conduct a national search for the Commissioner of Education. Governor DeSantis wants to name Richard Corcoran, the former House Speaker to the job of running the Florida Department of Education. (continued on Page 4)

**Just Say No** (continued from Page 3)

His main claim to fame is his personal agenda to dismantle public schools and support privatization. Read the letter below.

<https://nsfblogs.com/2018/12/07/league-of-women-voters-to-board-of-education-just-say-no/>

**Natural Resources**

**Susan Little – Chair**

**Trouble in Paradise by Maureen Rupe**

1000 Friends of Florida is a statewide nonprofit organization founded in 1986 to better the future of Florida, by increasing our residents' quality of life through building a vibrant environment, creating sustainable communities and protecting our vanishing natural resources. The group's website is <http://www.1000friendsofflorida.org>. The Natural Resource Committee met in November and the topic was 1000 Friends of Florida's Special Reports.

Nathan Pryor Reed, who recently died, spearheaded the 1000 Friends of Florida Special Report 'Trouble in Paradise.' "The first sentence of the introduction states Florida's environment provides both the foundation for this state's quality of life and the cornerstone of its economy.

"As noted in the introduction, Trouble in Paradise is the work product of deeply concerned members of the Florida environmental community who wish to help elected officials and candidates for office better understand six major statewide environmental issues impacting Florida's natural resources and our residents' quality of life."

The six-major statewide environmental issues:

**Conserving natural lands:** Florida was a national leader for land conservation programs. With the Environmentally Endangered Lands program in 1972, the Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) program in 1979, in 1990 the Preservation 2000 Act was passed, and in 1999, the Florida Forever Act was passed. The legislature suspending funding in 2008, and in 2014 voters approved the Water and Land Conservation Amendment to the Florida Constitution. Unfortunately, the legislature has been trying to avoid its proper implementation. Fortunately, Florida residents understands the importance of land conservation as it protects our clean drinking water, allows for flood control, protects wildlife habitat, allows for recreation opportunities, and protects our state's economic health.

**Safeguarding water supply:** The 1972 Florida Water Resources Act created five Regional Water Management Districts (Districts). The core mission areas of the Water Districts are to address regional water

supply, water quality, flood protection/floodplain management, and natural resource systems. Unfortunately, funding has been cut to the Water Districts significantly and the board (appointed by the Governor) has been influenced by politics instead of being based on protection of the water supplies. The report stresses that since clean water is such a finite resource, Florida's waters must be much better managed to ensure there is a fair balance between the needs of people, maintaining the environment and protecting agriculture needs.

**Promoting water conservation:** A 2016 Study named "Florida 2070 / Water 2070," shows Florida will have 15 million new residents by 2070, more than doubling our water needs. We must reduce our water usage by such ways as less water irrigation, and other household usage such as bathing, laundry and dishwashing. Floridians waste a lot of water, and as stated before, this is a finite resource.

**Protecting and restoring water quality:** Floridians expect safe, clean water to drink, swim, fish and for our environment. At least 2,100 Florida water bodies are deemed impaired and there are even more that are contaminated. Nutrients from fertilizer, manure, septic tanks, landscaping, are endangering our water resources. We continually have outbreaks of algae bloom and red tide posing danger to our health, fish kills, death of wildlife, threatening our drinking water, and many other harmful effects.

**Managing growth:** We have 1000 new residents per day, which accounts for the same as adding a city the size of Tampa every year. The report states "Promoting compact, walkable, mixed-use development in appropriate locations reduces the pressure to sprawl out into farmland, rural communities and natural lands." This along with land conservation and accounting for sea level rise due to climate change, will help us towards a better future.

**Addressing climate change and community resilience:** We know as Florida is mostly a low-lying area, we need to think about Climate Change, and proactively protect our communities. We don't know how the impact of climate change will have on natural systems, but we do know we have fewer freezes, our aquifers have increased salinity, our corals are bleaching due to warmer oceans and acidification.

The report has a lot of recommendations to fix these problems using down to earth solutions. We need to ensure every candidate, whether state or federal are aware of these major issues and are willing to work through the recommendations for each issue's resolutions. If they are not, our future and quality of life will pay dearly.



## International Relations

Joyce Calese – Chair

**January Meeting of International Relations will be on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at Satellite Beach Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

The Great Decisions Topics for 2019 are

- Refugees and Global Migration
- The Middle East: Regional Disorder
- Nuclear negotiations: Back to the Future?
- The Rise of Populism in Europe
- Decoding U.S.-China Trade
- Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics
- The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested
- State of the State Department and Diplomacy

**Martha Bradshaw will be presenting the topic of Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics.** All are invited to attend these meetings. They are very educational.

The February meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12 at Satellite Beach Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The topic will be announced on our website calendar [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org) in January.

### □ [Refugees and Global Migration](#)

Today, no countries have open borders. Every state in today's global system has its own laws and policies about who is permitted to cross its borders, and how they will do so. Who determines whether someone is a refugee or a migrant? How have different countries, including the United States, reacted to migration? How effective are the international laws, policies and organizations that have evolved to assist and protect refugees and migrants?

### □ [The Middle East: Regional Disorder](#)

As the presidency of Donald J. Trump passes the halfway point, the Middle East remains a region in turmoil. The Trump administration has aligned itself with strongmen in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, which along with Israel have a common goal of frustrating Iranian expansion. What will be the fallout from policy reversals such as withdrawing from the Iranian nuclear accord and moving the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem? Does the United States see a path forward in troubled states such as Syria, Yemen, Libya and Iraq? Is the United States headed toward war with Iran?

### □ [Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?](#)

Nuclear weapons have not gone away, and the Trump administration has brought a new urgency, if not

a new approach, to dealing with them. The President has met with Vladimir Putin as the New Start Treaty with Russia comes up for renewal in 2021, the first presidential summit ever with Kim Jong-un occurred to discuss denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, and President Trump has decertified the Obama nuclear deal with Iran. To what degree should past nuclear talks guide future U.S. nuclear arms control negotiations? Can the art of the deal apply to stabilizing our nuclear future?

### □ [The Rise of Populism in Europe](#)

Mass migration, and the problems associated with it, have directly abetted the rise of populist parties in Europe. Opposition to immigration was the prime driver of support for Brexit, it brought a far-right party to the German Bundestag for the first time since the 1950s, and propelled Marine Le Pen to win a third of the vote in the French presidential election. In addition to calling for stronger borders, however, these parties are invariably illiberal, anti-American, anti-NATO and pro-Kremlin, making their rise a matter of serious concern for the national security interests of the United States.

### □ [Decoding U.S.- China Trade](#)

Though arguably the most advanced economy in the world, the United States still uses centuries-old numbers to measure trade. These antique numbers mangle understanding of the U.S.-China trade relationship, shrinking America's true economic size and competitiveness, while swelling China's. Bad numbers give rise to bad policies that ultimately kill U.S. jobs and cede market share to China. What other tools can the United States employ to counter China's unfair trade practices? There are several available, yet they remain mostly unused.

### □ [Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics](#)

Cyber conflict is a new and continually developing threat, which can include foreign interference in elections, industrial sabotage and attacks on infrastructure. Russia has been accused of interfering in the 2016 presidential elections in the United States and China is highly committed to using cyberspace as a tool of national policy. Dealing with cyber conflict will require new ways of looking at 21<sup>st</sup> century warfare. Is the United States prepared to respond to such threats?

### □ [The United State and Mexico: Partnership Tested](#)

The United States and Mexico have a long, intertwined history, with both countries prominently featured in each other's politics and agendas. The war on drugs, immigration and trade issues have taxed the relationship over the years. What impact will new leadership in both countries have on this crucial partnership?

*(continued on Page 6)*



## International Relations (continued from Page 5)

### □ State of the State Department and Diplomacy

During the Trump administration, the usual ways of conducting diplomacy have been upended. Many positions in the State Department have never been filled, and meetings with foreign leaders such as Kim Jong-un and Vladimir Putin have been undertaken with little advance planning. What effect are these changes having now, and how will they affect ongoing relationships between the United States and its allies and adversaries?



## HELP WANTED

1. Members are asked to volunteer for the Budget Committee. Bookkeeping background is helpful but not required. Please contact Treasurer, Brigitte Sinton [dfsinton@aol.com](mailto:dfsinton@aol.com)

2. All members are encouraged to help put together the 2019-2020 CONTACT. This is the yellow brochure that we publish every two years for the community with current information on elected officials. The brochure is found in all libraries and other locations. This involvement does not require a lot of meetings and most of the work can be done at home. Please send Lucia Watson an e-mail if you are willing to assist with this project. [lucbil\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:lucbil_99@yahoo.com).



## Membership Chair

The second half of 2018 was so busy with all of our activities leading up to the November election that I feel we may have missed giving more emphasis to our new members or even long time members who have questions. Consequently I am suggesting that we have one or two small informal meetings to answer questions and become more inclusive.

Please send me an e-mail if you are interested in such a get together. I am Lucia Watson [lucbil\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:lucbil_99@yahoo.com). Let me know if you have a preference for time of day. I look forward to hearing from you.

## Advancing the League's Goal from National League Website

**Diversity, equity, and inclusion are mutually reinforcing.** Increased inclusion is associated with increased equity; the majority of organizations with higher inclusion and equity also have greater demographic diversity.

### DIVERSITY

Diversity includes all of the similarities and differences among people, not limited to: gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, appearance, language, accent, ability status, mental health, education, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, and political perspective or affiliation.

Diversity refers to population groups that have been historically underrepresented in socially, politically, or economically powerful institutions and organizations. These groups include but are not restricted to populations of color, such as African Americans and Blacks, Latinx, Native Americans and Alaska Natives, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. They may also include lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations, people with disabilities, women, and other groups.

A team can be diverse and so can an organization. A person is not diverse. Diversity is about a collective or a group and can only exist in relationship to others. A candidate is not diverse—they are a unique, individual unit. They may bring diversity to your team, but they in themselves are not diverse. They are a woman; they are a person of color; they are part of the LGBTQ community.

We commit to increase diversity in the recruitment, retention, and retainment at the national, state, and local level, and in the leadership and executive roles.

### EQUITY

Equity is an approach based in fairness to ensuring everyone is given equal opportunity; this means that resources may be divided and shared unequally to make sure that each person has a fair chance to succeed. Equity takes into account that people have different access to resources because of system of oppression and privilege. Equity seeks to balance that disparity.

Improving equity involves increasing justice and fairness within the procedures and processes of institutions or systems, as well as in their distribution of resources, including professional growth opportunities. Tackling equity issues requires an understanding of the root causes of outcome disparities within our society.

Equity prioritizes efforts to ensure the most underserved and marginalized among us has as much of an opportunity to succeed as the most well-served and advantaged. By taking into account the various advantages and disadvantages that people face, we work to ensure every person has an equal opportunity to succeed.

We commit to prioritizing equity in the work of the LWV staff, board, and members.

(continued on Page 7)

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (continued from Page 6)****INCLUSION**

Inclusion is an ongoing process, not a static state of being.

Inclusion is the dynamic state of operating in which diversity is leveraged to create a healthy, high-performing organization and community.

Inclusion refers to the degree to which diverse individuals are able to participate fully in the decision-making processes within an organization or group.

An inclusive environment ensures equitable access to resources and opportunities for all. It also enables individuals and groups to feel safe, respected, engaged, motivated, and valued for who they are and for their contributions toward organizational and societal goals.

While an inclusive group is by definition diverse, a diverse group is not always inclusive. Being aware of unconscious or implicit bias can help organizations better address issues of inclusivity.

We commit to making deliberate efforts to ensure LWV is a place where differences are welcomed, different perspectives are respectfully heard, and every individual feels a sense of belonging and inclusion. We know that by creating a vibrant climate of inclusiveness, we can more effectively leverage our resources to advance our collective capabilities.

We commit to working actively to challenge and respond to bias, harassment, and discrimination.

**League Photos**

Diane Conaway & Tony Dutton



Marilynn Collins, Marilza-Novaes Card  
Linda Kyvik & Lucia Watson



Maureen Rupe, Vince Lamb &  
David Sinton



Pam Kendrick & Jan Bancroft



Rhonda Rhodes, Molly Tasker &  
Margee Smith



Roger Williams, Barbara Williams &  
Betty Baker

Additional League Photos can be found on our website at [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org)

On the menu under Get to Know Us is a link for Photo Albums

**Calendar for January–February 2019**

~Members are welcome at all meetings~

Saturday, January 12th

January Timely Topics - Reproductive Rights and the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) at Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library at 308 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa, FL 32922. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

Politics on Parade at Indian River Colony Club 1600 Old Glory Blvd. Viera, FL 32940  
11:30 Registration followed by Luncheon and Fashion Show.

Dates and Times of Committee Meetings are listed on the Events Calendar under Meetings and Events on the League Website.

Issue Date: January-February 2019

League of Women Voters of the Space Coast - P.O. Box 360823, Melbourne, FL 32936-0823

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