



The Voter

ID Requirements to Vote in Tennessee

Betsy Smith

Voting rights and voting security are prominent issues right now. The League’s basic policy position is to protect the right of all citizens to vote and to encourage all citizens to vote. Does the photo ID Requirement impinge on the right of all citizens to vote?

You are registered to vote. You have located your official polling place. You show up on election day. You have attended candidates rallies and studied the ballot. What ID is required in order to vote? In Tennessee each voter must present a federal or Tennessee state issued ID containing the voter’s name and photograph*.

The following IDs may be used, even if expired:

- Tennessee driver license with your photo
- United States Passport
- Photo ID issued by the Tennessee Dept. of Safety and Homeland Security
- Photo ID issued by the federal or Tennessee state government
- United States Military photo ID
- Tennessee handgun carry permit with your photo

What IDs are not acceptable?

- College student IDs
- IDs not issued by the federal or TN state governments, such as county or city IDs or library cards

If you are unsure about whether your ID is acceptable, contact the Division of Elections at 1-877-850-4959. Be aware that database errors, misspellings, and other issues may arise at the polling station.

If you do not bring a photo ID with you to vote, you must vote a provisional ballot. You then have (2) business days after Election Day to return to the election commission office and show a valid photo ID.

Continued on page 2

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Inside this Issue

ID Requirements to Vote in Tennessee.....	1-2
Lunch with the League.....	2
Breakfast with the Legislators.....	2
Committee Reports	3
Pearls and Politics 2018.....	3
LWVUS Updates	3
State Spring Convention.....	4
Suffrage Movement in Tennessee Program.....	4
Burn Memorial Bricks, Unveiling	4
Our Observer Corps.....	4
Observer Corps	5-7
Fiscal Review Committee.....	7
Membership Notes	7
Membership Application.....	7
Calendar	8

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Precision Printing and Graphics supports the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge by helping with costs for printing and folding *The Voter*.

If you don't have a photo ID you can obtain a free photo ID for voting from the Department of Safety and Homeland Security at any *participating* driver service center. (See Department of Safety and Homeland Security's Driver Service Center Locations page on the web.) You may use the "express service" line to minimize wait time. You will need:

- Proof of citizenship such as a birth certificate**
- Two proofs of Tennessee residency such as a utility bill, vehicle registration or title, or bank statement.
- If your name differs from that on your primary proof, proof of the name change, such as a certificate of marriage or divorce, or court order.

The requirement for a government issued photo ID is not a problem for most middle class voters. It disproportionately affects the elderly, minority, and low-income groups who may not, for example, have transportation to get to a driver service center or may not be able to pay for a birth certificate that can cost \$25 or more.

Proponents of the photo ID requirement say it protects against voter fraud. Opponents of the photo ID requirement point out that instances of in-person voter fraud, whereby someone deliberately uses an ID belonging to someone else when they show up at the polls to vote, are extremely rare. Research indicates that the rate of voter impersonation is about one in 32 million votes, and many of those are the result of error. Furthermore, they note that the ID requirements do eliminate or suppress groups of potential voters. Read more at "Here are Nine Investigations on Voter Fraud that Found Virtually Nothing" *The Washington Post*, January 25, 2017.

* Most of the information in this article was taken from the online page, "[What ID is required when voting: Tennessee Secretary of State.](#)"

** "A voter who is indigent and unable to obtain proof of identification without payment of a fee or who has a religious objection to being photographed shall be required to execute an affidavit of identity on a form provided by the county election commission and then shall be allowed to vote." §2-7-112(f)

Editor's note: Betsy Smith is First Vice President of LWVOR and acting President. Thank you, Betsy.

Lunch with the League



On March 6 our speaker is Bruce Borchers, Superintendent of Oak Ridge Schools. His topic is "The State of Oak Ridge Schools."

On March 20 our speaker is Michelle Brown, Associate Professor, UT Department of Sociology. Her topic is "Social Justice and the Sociology of Incarceration."

Lunches from the [Soup Kitchen](#) are available for \$8. Lunch with the League is open to the public and reservations are not required. We provide coffee, water and tea. Lunch with the League is at the [Unitarian Universalist Church](#), 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike.

Breakfast with the Legislators

The third session for Breakfast with the Legislators is **Monday, March 26**. Our local legislators have been invited. They will make brief remarks on legislative activity and their constituents will have time to ask questions or make comments. We ask that everyone maintain civility, a longstanding tradition at these Breakfasts with the Legislators.

There is no charge and they are open to all. Coffee and a light continental breakfast is served.

Subsequent breakfasts will be held on the fourth Monday of every month the legislature is in session from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room. If the Oak Ridge schools are closed for snow or inclement weather, the breakfast will be cancelled.



~Dan Robbins and Charlie Hensley

Committee Reports

Education Committee

The next meeting of the LWVOR Education Committee is March 20. They plan to review the activity in the Legislature that deals with education from Kindergarten to college. For more information please email Harriett McCurdy at mccurdy46@hotmail.com.

Pearls and Politics 2018

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Oak Ridge Chapter, in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge and the City of Oak Ridge, will present “Pearls and Politics” on Thursday, March 8, in the Scarboro Community Center, 148 Carver Ave, Oak Ridge. It begins at 6 p.m. and will end at 8 p.m.

This nonpartisan voter education event features city and county officials, board of education members, and state legislators, along with a moderator, at each table. Attendees will be able to ask questions and discuss issues with some of our officials in an informal setting. About every 10 minutes the attendees will move to a different table so that they can talk with a number of local officials. League members and others will serve as moderators.

Heavy hors d’oeuvres will be served. The event is free and open to the public.

LWVUS Updates

The LWV US, along with the Brennan Center, is suing the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, which now allows Alabama, Georgia, and Kansas to require documentary proof of citizenship on the federal voter registration form. This in violation of a federal court order making this requirement invalid. Research shows that in Kansas alone over 7 percent of voters do not have documentary proof of

citizenship and that tens of thousand of Kansans have been blocked from registering to vote in the state. Federal law already requires applicants to swear that they are U.S. citizens under penalty of perjury.

The Michigan LWV has filed a federal lawsuit targeting gerrymandering and requests that state and federal legislative districts be redrawn.

The LWV of North Carolina won a case where a panel of federal judges ruled that the NC General Assembly created unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering when drawing new congressional maps in 2016. The judges have order the maps to be re-drawn. This ruling has been stayed by the US Supreme Court until it hears other gerrymandering cases from Wisconsin and Maryland.

The Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, which was created by the LWV of Florida, plans to release a dozen videos featuring testimonials from Pulse (Orlando night club massacre) survivors and parents. This was due to the Florida legislation continuing to push bills to allow concealed weapons virtually everywhere. The coalition wants a state ban on assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition feeding devices; universal background checks; defeating open-carry and campus-carry legislation; and creating gun laws meant to protect domestic violence victims. This was before Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting tragedy in which 17 students and staff were killed by a former student using an automatic rifle that he legally purchased.

The LWV of California is part of an coalition to support a ballot initiative that will change how commercial properties in the state are taxed and could raise billions of dollars more each year fo schools and other programs.

The LWV of the United States sent a letter outlining the necessary provisions that it proposes including in any immigration bill that moves forward: the



Dream Act should be passed as a stand alone bill; Congress needs to stop using these individuals who pay taxes and contribute to social security as a bargaining chip; provide a reasonable pathway to citizenship; reasonable border protection to secure our border but resist militarizing the border, criminalizing immigrants, or threaten the right of due process; and preserve family reunification.

The LWV US joined coalition partner in petitioning EPA administrator to prioritize the protection of public health and finalize science-base designations. Until the designations occur the Clean Air Act's protections can not kick in.

~Mary Ann Reeves, from the LWVUS
President's Update

State Spring Convention

The state League Spring Convention is April 28 and 29 in Chattanooga. The convention includes speakers, information sessions, a state legislative update from Stewart Clifton, LWVTN's lobbyist, and more. Information and tickets are available at http://www.lwvtn.org/2018_spring_council.

Suffrage Movement in Tennessee Program

On March 18 the East Tennessee Historical Society will host a program with leading scholars about the suffrage movement in Tennessee and its prominent role in securing voting rights for women. They will discuss the important work of the women who worked so hard to win public and legislative support for women's suffrage.

Presented from 1 to 4 p.m. at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, the program is open to the public.

Burn Memorial Bricks, Unveiling

The deadline for honorary or memorial brick orders for the Suffrage Coalition's Burn Memorial is May 15, 2018. Find out more about their work and options for donations at <http://suffragecoalition.org>. You may also contact Mary Ann Reeves at 865-693-6286 or maryannreeves1@att.net.

The Burn Memorial unveiling is June 9, 2018, following a re-enactment suffrage parade from Gay Street to Market Square for a short program. There will then be a procession to the statue for closing remarks and unveiling.

~Mary Ann Reeves

Our Observer Corps

Ours is a government of the people, by the people, for the people. The government exists for our benefit and is accountable to us, its citizens. But how do we know what is being decided and who is making those decisions?

In 1966, the Freedom of Information Act was passed, defining what the public has a right to know, and how they can exercise that right. In 1972 and 1976 two more acts were passed, which focused on access to public meetings – The Federal Advisory Committee Act and the Sunshine Act of 1976. Each law declares that all records and meetings are open to the public, with some limited exemptions.

For many years the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge has been active in promoting openness in government. Members of the LWVOR volunteer to attend various governmental meetings and write reports that are published on our website, <http://lwvoakridge.org/obs Corps.html>, and in *The Voter*.

Observing programs benefits our community by connecting individuals with government; promoting open, transparent and accountable government; educating the public about issues that

impact their lives and their community; and highlighting areas where action may be needed.

If you are interested in being involved in this program, or perhaps sharing it with another member, please contact Joye Montgomery, montgomery102@comcast.net.

~ Joye Montgomery, chair, Observer Corps

Observer Corps

LWVOR members attend meetings and report their observations of the meeting they attend. These notes are not official minutes. Contact the specific committee for official information. Longer versions of some of these reports may be posted on our website.

EQAB

February 1, 2018 meeting

Kaela O'Dell, vice chair, presided for chair Robert Kennedy. Minutes of the October 2, 2017, and January 18, 2018, meetings were approved as amended.

Robert Kennedy wrote a letter to the City Council recommending strong protest to the NNSA Y-12 Electrical Substation Project. EQAB's objections to the present plan include its failure to qualify for the "categorical exclusion" finding received, its potential for significant impact on the Scarboro community, and lack of communication by the NNSA to the City.

The EQAB reviewed the TVA/NNSA public meeting of January 24 at the Scarboro Community Center and approved a motion to have board member Darcie Holcomb request a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) from TVA. The board members wish to know the details of the study that determined that an electrical line along the ridge was the best alternative.

February 24 is 250K Tree Day. The goal is to plant 250,000 trees across all 95 counties of Tennessee that day. This is a program of the [Tennessee Tree Project](#) for the Tennessee Environmental Council. Kaela

O'Dell has ordered 25 trees, and she invites board members to help plant and maintain the seedlings on Haw Ridge. EQAB serves as the City's Tree Board. The Tree Plan completed in Oct has yet to be approved by the City Council.

Adithya Sujithkumar and Tripp Chinn continue working to establish a recycle program at Blankenship field.

~ Kathryn Olsen, Observer

Recreation and Parks Board

February 8, 2018 meeting

International Friendship Bell Peace Pavilion (Alan Tatum): Construction has begun on the new pavilion. Concrete has been poured, the lighting designer has visited, the architects are looking at colors, and ORNL has agreed to provide 3-D printed bench backs. The mounting, curvature, and finish of the carbon fiber beams are details that still must be resolved.

Rails to Trails (Jon Hetrick): Negotiations with the Rails-to-Trails contractor are in progress and the City met with the trail's design team. He hopes the proposal will be ready to present to City Council in March.

East Fork Poplar Creek Trail (Ray Garrett): Ray has obtained three new easement agreements for the trail and would like to start construction when the weather is better. He has written a grant proposal to provide benches along the new trail.

Director's Report (Jon Hetrick): (1) The new manager of Centennial Golf Course is working out very well and Jon indicated that there's tremendous potential for turning the golf course into a successful enterprise. The golf course will have its own budget, and the different types of possible membership are under review. (2) Plans for the Secret City Festival include children's activities, displays of science and technology, and an art show by the Oak Ridge Art Center. There will be no

reenactment this year. Many vendors have signed up to participate and the committee is finalizing contracts for the musical performances.

Other (Dan Robbins, Jon Hetrick): The President of Rotary International has requested that all Rotary Clubs be responsible for planting new trees. To comply, Dan has ordered 100 trees that will be planted at Haw Ridge in late February. Pat Parr has agreed to obtain rooted trees to be planted at the local schools.

Dan also reported that 250 volunteer hours were logged during the recent cleanup of Greenways.

A special work session of the Parks Board has been scheduled for February 17 to review the work plan and capital improvements list.

~ Mary Lou Daugherty, Observer

Roane County Commission

February 12, 2018 meeting

Hearing of Delegation:

Jerry White spoke regarding the Oliver Springs Historical Society, thanking Roane County for their support for the preservation of an Oliver Springs building. The 97-year-old, 5,500 square foot area will be helpful for schools and band as well as theater events.

Albert Tate voiced his dissatisfaction about notification of possible escaped animals present at Tiger Haven. He questioned the Reverse 911 call system's dependability. The system is supposed to be in place during emergencies warning Roane County residents in case of an escaped animal.

Toby Rhynehart addressed the Commission concerning tracking methods at Tiger Haven. He suggested a daily count should be shared with the public. The rules are determined by the state.

Roberta Dennis spoke about roads in Pioneer Village, which will soon be maintained by Roane

County. She told the Commission she is familiar with turnaround areas for emergency vehicles.

John Dennis expressed his appreciation for the public servants of Roane County. He also referred to the State of the Union address made by President John F. Kennedy and compared it to that of the recent speech made by President Trump.

County Attorney's Report:

Commission is expected to have the Pioneer Village road surveys completed by the March meeting according to the surveyor.

The current standstill with the case involves easements at Crystal Cove. The hired process server has been unable to locate the couple who refused access and is therefore unable to serve papers on the lawsuit filed to condemn the easement.

County Executive Report:

Roane County has billed DOE for their In Lieu of Tax Payment. DOE indicated they were waiting on the Federal Budget adoption.

Reports about the sales tax exemption issues related to UT Battelle have been updated and discussed with the Commission. Director of Schools, Leah Watkins, Oak Ridge City Manager, Mark Watson, and County Executive Ron Woody have scheduled a meeting February 21 with the Tennessee Commission of Revenue in Senator Yager's office to further discuss the sales tax exemption issues.

The property committee met February 5. They reviewed nine properties around the courthouse and jail regarding additional needs for jail expansion and relieving parking issues.

New Business: The City of Rockwood will celebrate its 150th birthday. Festivities will be March 10 and 11. The museum will be open. Population is 5443. They voted on nine more resolutions.

~ Hella Peterson, Observer



Roane State Community College

Scott Niermann has been named the new executive director of the Roane State Foundation. As the foundation's executive director, his duties will include meeting with community leaders and others in Roane State's service region, handling the college's nearly \$10 million endowment, and working with foundation supporters and investors who want to include the college in bequests, trusts, and other gift planning arrangements. The foundation awarded over \$324,000 in scholarships for 2017-2018.

~ Mary Ann Reeves, Observer

Fiscal Review Committee

The LWVOR board recently named the following members to the Fiscal Review Committee: Pat Bryan, chair; Harriett McCurdy, Joye Montgomery, and Treasurer Janis Williams. They will derive the 2018-2019 proposed budget to be voted on at Annual Meeting.

Membership Notes

New Members - Welcome!

Catherine Denenberg
122 Salem Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-483-4662

Sue Frederick
19 Asbury Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
713-875-8457

Tena Litherland
220 Connors Circle
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-483-5917 (H); 865-335-1955 (C)

Recent Contact Information Changes

Louise McKown (new address and phone)
360 Laboratory Road, Apt. 418
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-214-0203

Geri Hill (new address)
53 Weaver View Circle, Unit 106
Weaverville, NC 28787-0439

Corrected from the previous Voter:

Diane Petrilla and Eric Keller
167 Liberty Court
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
931-224-5149

Please contact Janis Williams, 483-1219 or janisor@bellsouth.net, with membership corrections and updates.

I want to join the League of Women Voters

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State and Zip _____

Phone (Day / Work) _____

Phone (Evening) _____

Email _____

Individual annual dues _____ \$60

Household annual dues _____ \$90

*Donation to Education Foundation \$ _____

**Make a separate, tax deductible check payable to LWVEF*

Please send this form and your dues, payable to:

LWV of Oak Ridge
P.O. Box 4073
Oak Ridge, TN 37831



PO Box 4073
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4073

lwvoakridge.org

lwvor@comcast.net

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*******OUR SNOW POLICY*******

If Oak Ridge Schools are closed due to weather, League meetings that day are cancelled. If they are simply delayed, we will hold meetings as scheduled. However, please be safe and use your best judgment.

Calendar

March

- 6 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12–1. Speaker: Bruce Borchers, Superintendent of Oak Ridge Schools. Topic: “State of Oak Ridge Schools”
- 8 Pearls and Politics** 6–8 p.m. Scarboro Community Center, 148 Carver Ave. Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, LWVOR, and the City of Oak Ridge sponsor this event with elected and city officials available in moderated discussion groups with interested residents. Open to all.
- 13 Board Meeting*** 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- 18 Program: Suffrage Movement in Tennessee** 1 – 4 p.m., East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street, Knoxville.
- 20 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12–1. Speaker: Dr. Michelle Brown, Associate Professor, UT Department of Sociology. Topic: “Social Justice and the Sociology of Incarceration”
- 20 Education Committee** 2 p.m. Secret City Cafe
- 26 Breakfast with the Legislators** 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room. Open to all. Coffee and a light continental breakfast are served at no charge.

* Unless otherwise specified, Lunch with the League is at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike at Laboratory Road. Board Meetings are in the Main Conference Room, UT Resource Center, Rutgers Ave. at the Turnpike.