



# The Voter

## *The President's Report*

Early voting has started with a very strong turnout locally and across the state. This election may end on November 6 with record or near-record numbers of voters for a non-presidential election. Besides conducting voter forums before the election, the LWVOR provides monthly opportunities to meet with state legislators at Breakfast with the Legislators once the Legislature is in session.

While the LWV was formed to inform and encourage citizens to actively participate in government, it also studies and takes positions in areas such as voting, judicial organization, education, healthcare, government financing, and juvenile justice.

The newest position, adopted by LWVTN in 2018, is, "Support of government policies that promote broadband, wireless, and other means of high speed internet deployment throughout the state; access to high-speed internet, without charge, through schools and libraries; state efforts to protect the open, neutral and nondiscriminatory nature of the internet; adequate television channels regardless of the provider of TV / video services to Tennessee residents; government provision of opportunities for citizen participation in decisions regarding community access."

After some research online, I learned that in 2018 about 800,000 Tennessee residents (13% of the population) lack access to high-speed broadband internet service. Chattanooga has perhaps the best internet service in the country, provided by its municipally-owned Electric Power Board of Chattanooga (EPB). It's also very reasonably priced. According to [Tech.Co](#), "An [independent study](#) published by the University of Tennessee noted that EPB's new network directly led to the creation of between 2,800 and 5,200 new jobs. Furthermore, the economic benefits have earned the small city around \$1 billion. The fast, reliable internet has also helped to lure multinational corporations such as Volkswagen."

By encouraging public and private partnerships, and providing some funding, Tennessee is working, albeit slowly, toward the goal of having all its residents connected with access to high-speed broadband internet service. The LWVTN supports these efforts.

*Continued on page 3*

Harriett McCurdy

[mccurdy46@hotmail.com](mailto:mccurdy46@hotmail.com) or 865-332-6440

## *Connect with Us*

Website: [lwvoakridge.org](http://lwvoakridge.org)

Facebook: League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge

## **Inside this Issue**

- The President's Report .....1 & 3
- Holiday Luncheon Invitation .....2
- Lunch with the League .....3
- 2018 Election Reminders.....3
- Vote411 Candidate Information.....3
- LWVOR Candidate Forums .....4
- Observer Corps .....4-5
- Financial Review Committee .....5
- Membership Notes .....5
- Membership Application.....5
- Calendar .....6

**Emily Jernigan, Voter Editor**

**Marian Varner, Webmaster**

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



*The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge  
Invites You to a  
Holiday Luncheon*

*Date Sunday, December 2, 2018*

*12:30 p.m. Social Time with Cash Bar*

*1:00 p.m. Luncheon and Speaker*

*Speaker to be announced*

*Place DoubleTree Hotel, 215 South Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge*

*Cost \$30.00 per person; pay at the door; cash or check only  
Cash bar*

*Menu Burchfield's Buffet with Baked Tilapia with Mango Cream Sauce;  
Roasted Pork Loin with Granny Smith Apple & Calvados Sauce; Wild & White  
Rice; Roasted Vegetable Medley; Garden Salad; Cheese, Vegetable & Fruit  
Display; Hot Yeast Rolls; Array of Cakes & Pies; Iced Tea & Coffee*

*Reservations Required: Janis Williams, 483-1219 or [janisor@bellsouth.net](mailto:janisor@bellsouth.net)*

*Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, November 27 (no-shows on December 2 will be  
expected to pay)*

*President's column continued*

Legislation enabled the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development to make available \$10 million in grants and \$5 million in tax credits each year for three years to both private businesses and public service providers for broadband expansion, beginning in 2017. The department funded nine of 66 requests in 2018 and is taking applications for 2019. There is a lot of information available online about this topic, including [here](#) and [here](#).

~Harriett McCurdy, President, LWVOR

## Lunch with the League



On **November 6** our speaker is **Dr. Stephanie Bohon**, Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Social Justice. Her topic is, "Demographic Changes in the US and Their Impact on Our Country."

On **November 20** our speaker is **Jake Morrill**, Minister, Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. He will discuss, "Oak Ridge Agape House," which offers short term, temporary housing and other support services to those homeless who are in transition to self sufficiency.

On **December 4** our speaker is **Stephen Lyn Bales**, Senior Naturalist, Ijams Nature Center. He will tell us about "Natural Beauty and the Interaction of Flora and Fauna at Ijams Nature Center."

Lunches from the [Soup Kitchen](#) are available for \$8 on a first-come basis beginning at 11:30 a.m. The presentation begins at noon. 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.

## 2018 Election Reminders

### November 6 Election

Duly registered Oak Ridge voters can vote for Governor, US Senator, US House of Representative District 3, Tennessee House of Representatives Districts 32 or 33, Oak Ridge Board of Education (3 members), and Oak Ridge City Council (5 members). **Anderson County** residents will be voting for

Tennessee Senate District 5. **Roane County** residents will be voting for or against a County Wheel Tax of \$50 per vehicle, with proceeds directed toward funding the school building and consolidation plan.

### Early Voting Ends Thursday November 1!

**On Election Day you must vote at your precinct.**

**Anderson County:** *Early Voting* sites are the Midtown Community Center (Wildcat Den) in Oak Ridge, the Clinton Community Center (Clinton), and the Anderson Crossing Shopping Center (Norris/Andersonville). Hours are Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. *Election day* voting, November 6, is at the precincts only. Hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Anderson County Election Commission (865-457-6238) is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. View and print your ballot and find more information at <https://www.acelect.com>.

**Roane County:** *Early Voting* is at the First Christian Church, 100 Gum Hollow Road in Oak Ridge and at other sites in Kingston, Harriman, and Rockwood. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. *Election day* voting, November 6 Roane County hours for voting **on election day**, November 6, is at the precincts only. Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Roane County Election Commission (865-376-3184) is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. View and print your ballot and find more information at [www.roaneelections.com](http://www.roaneelections.com).

**Knox County:** If you live in Knox County the ballot can be found at the Election Commission website, [www.knoxcounty.org/election](http://www.knoxcounty.org/election).

## Vote411 Candidate Information

VOTE411 is an online voter information guide that began in 2006 at the national League level, and now has nearly 300 local Leagues participating. To use it, simply log on to [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org), and follow the instructions. The site uses GIS data from the U.S. Census Bureau and State Comptroller's Office to identify your voting district from the address you enter. Therefore, the races you see should be only those pertaining to your district. The information you provide and selections you make while using the site are not being collected or retained.

Invitations to participate in Vote411 were sent in early September to candidates for whom Oak Ridgers can vote. These invitations included a link for the candidate to attach a photo, update personal information, and respond to several questions, submitted by LWVOR members, pertaining to the office they are pursuing.

The site allows voters to compare candidates' responses, side-by-side, in their own words.

Please check out the site, and send your feedback or questions to [patbryan2@att.net](mailto:patbryan2@att.net).

~Pat Bryan

## **LWVOR Candidate Forums**

The Oak Ridge League hosted two candidate forums in October. The October 16 forum featured candidates running for Oak Ridge City Council and Oak Ridge Board of Education. It was held in the Oak Ridge High School Amphitheater and moderated by Darrell Richardson, editor and publisher of The Oak Ridger. About 70 people attended. City Council candidates ably answered audience questions for more than an hour when the moderator suggested sharing the many remaining questions with the candidates and moving on to the School Board section of the forum. Many thanks go to our candidates for participating. We also thank the following volunteers from the LWV Oak Ridge (LWVOR) and Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) sorority for assisting with the forum: Estella Simmons and Ella DuBose distributed programs; Peter Scheffler and Joye Montgomery were timekeepers; Carol Plasil and Rose Weaver distributed and collected question cards; and Claudia Lever and Harriett McCurdy screened questions.

The October 25 forum featured candidates running for Tennessee's 32nd and 33rd Representative Districts and the 5th Senatorial District. It was held at the ORHS Amphitheater with about 60 people attending. Patrick Bryan, former LWVOR co-president, moderated. Thank you to the candidates who participated: John D. Ragan (R) and Richard Dawson (D) running in the 33rd District; Mrs. Kent Calfee (R) represented her husband running in the 32nd District; and Randy McNally (R) and Stuart Starr (D) running in the 5<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District. We thank the volunteers from LWVOR and AKA sorority

who assisted: Trellis Barksdale and Estella Simmons distributed programs by; Peter Scheffler and Hella Peterson were timekeepers; Harriett McCurdy distributed and collected question cards; and Pete Peterson and Mary Lou Daugherty screened questions.

The forums were organized and conducted by Dan Robbins, LWVOR Voter Service Director.

~Mary Uziel

## **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.*

## **Anderson County Commission**

*Regular meeting, October 15, 2018*

Chair Tracy Wandell called the meeting to order. All 16 commissioners were present.

Commission passed resolutions recognizing National 4H week, Domestic Violence Awareness month, and honoring Louise Mixon as the recipient of the 2018 ADFAC "Bill Wilcox Bow Tie Award." They passed resolutions recognizing Gwen Cole for her work with Quilts of Valor; honoring Mark Morgan on his retirement as Manager, Norris Dam State Park; and Rick Meredith for being chosen Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executive of the Year.

Tim Thompson, President of the Anderson County Economic Development Association, asked Commission to act quickly to allow Carter Express to lease a 28-acre parcel in the David Jones Industrial Park. Carter is adding onto their building and needs a place to park trucks during construction. Commission asked the Law Director to draw up a one-year lease for \$250 a month. Carter will clear and gravel the lot for an estimated cost of \$15,000.

Commissioner Fritz moved and Commission passed by voice vote a motion to put the 205 Main Street property up for bid as surplus. The Mayor, Purchasing Department representative, and Law Director will iron out details. Commissioner Mead pointed out that the bid process won't cost the County anything and it does not oblige the County to sell the property if bids are not high enough.

Emory Valley Center is going to continue to share the Daniel Arthur building with the General Sessions

Court II. The Center had hoped to remodel another building on the property but found that it would be too expensive. Instead they are offering to pay for the firewall and upgrade the fire alarm system for an estimated cost of \$50-60,000. Commissioner Meredith moved and Commission passed with a voice vote a motion to accept the offer and ask the Law Director to draw up an agreement.

Anderson County Community Action Commission (CAC) has worked with the IRS and reduced their delinquent payroll tax bill to \$15,300. Commissioner Meredith moved that the County pay half. The motion passed with Commissioners Fritts, Waddell, Vowell, Isbel, and Yager voting against. The City of Clinton has agreed to pay the other half. CAC expects to receive a grant as soon as they work out their tax problems. At that time, they will donate up to \$4,000 to the Inclusive Park. East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA) is assuming oversight of the program as soon as the IRS problem is resolved.

Commissioner Isbel moved that the Ethics Committee meet, select a chair, and prepare to move ahead. Motion passed with voice vote.

~Willa Reister, Observer

**EQAB**

*Regular Meeting, October 4, 2018*

There was not a quorum present, but some of the board members and city liaison, Sandy Sexton, reported on a tour of the proposed DOE disposal site (EMDF) in Central Bear Creek Valley that they were given earlier in the day. They were pleased that their questions were addressed and they were promised a briefing on the DOE cost estimates. The site and the surrounding land that cannot be lived on in the future covers 76 acres.

DOE announced that the public can submit written comments about the proposed plan during the public comment period that has been extended to December 10. Those comments may be submitted to John Michael Japp, OREM FFA Project Manager, DOE Oak Ridge Operations, P.O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831.

There is a public hearing scheduled for November 7, 2018, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Y-12 New Hope Center Auditorium, 602 Scarboro Road.

~Kathryn Olsen, Observer

***Financial Review Committee***

Pat Bryan chairs this year's Financial Review Committee. Other members are Marti Salk, Harriet McCurdy, and Janis Williams.

***Membership Notes***

Please contact Janis Williams, 483-1219 or [janisor@bellsouth.net](mailto:janisor@bellsouth.net), with membership corrections and updates.

 *In Memoriam* 

We remember with fondness and extend our sympathies to the family of Jo Ann Garrett. She died October 30, 2018. She had served as a president of the Oak Ridge LWV.

***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

lwwor@comcast.net

Return Service Requested

Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Oak Ridge, TN  
Permit No. 148

**November 1 – Last Day for Early Voting**

**November 6 – Election Day**

*Remember! Every vote is important and  
your vote helps make democracy work.*

*The LWV: Empowering Voters.  
Defending Democracy.*

## Calendar

### November

- 1 Early Voting Ends**
- 6 Election Day Anderson County** precinct polls open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. **Roane County** precinct polls open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 6 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12–1. Speaker: Dr. Stephanie Bohon, Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Social Justice. Topic: “Demographic Changes in the US and Their Impact on Our Country.”
- 13 Board Meeting\*** 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- 20 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12–1. Speaker: Jake Morrill, Minister, Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. Topic: “Oak Ridge Agape House.”
- 27 Deadline to RSVP for Holiday Luncheon**

### December

- 2 Holiday Luncheon**
- 4 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12–1. Speaker: Stephen Lyn Bales, Senior Naturalist, Ijams Nature Center. Topic: “Natural Beauty and the Interaction of Flora and Fauna at Ijams Nature Center.”

\* 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.