



LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF TULSA

METRO TULSA VOTER

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MARCH 2011

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At-Large City Council Districts: Will They Help or Hurt Tulsa Government?

Attend the second in a series of public meetings to explore City Charter Change: What's Best for Tulsa?

Dr. Kenneth Hicks, head of the Department of History and Political Science at Rogers State University, will speak about the various proposals that could face Tulsa voters this fall that would change the way our city officials are elected and how our city is run.

Greg Bledsoe, Tulsa employment and civil rights attorney, will speak against a proposal to create at-large city council seats. He represents the organization Tulsans Defending Democracy which has long opposed at-

large representation.

The meeting will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Mar. 26, at Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.




LWV and Charter Change

The Tulsa League was very involved in amending the City of Tulsa Charter in 1989, when voters approved a change that brought district representation by city councilors and estab-

lished our current strong mayor/city council form of government.

There are currently several proposals for changing city government, including:

- Non-partisan elections;
- Two-year city council terms with all councilors running at once;
- A city manager/weak mayor form of government;
- Adding three at-large councilors; and
- Giving the mayor a seat and vote as a member of the city council. 

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **District Judge Orders Voter ID Lawsuit Venue Moved to Oklahoma County**
- **Save the Dates!**
April 17: **Membership Recruitment Party;**
May 2: **Annual Meeting**
- **Take the survey: John Hope Franklin Center Wants to Hear From You**

Tulsa Public Schools: Project Schoolhouse and the League

Beginning very soon, the Tulsa League will begin organizing a series of forums across the city to more closely examine what is needed to help the Tulsa Public School system best serve our children.


The school system is in crisis, facing declining enrollment and funding. We have been asked, and have agreed, to help involve the larger community in discus-

sions of the school system's future.

The Tulsa League has a celebrated history of positive involvement in Tulsa Public Schools. We were leaders during the last major realignment of the schools in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The children of those Leaguers and others who were students at the time are eager to get involved to ensure that the Tulsa Public

School system enjoys a strong future.



Contact us if you'd like to volunteer with this effort:
info@lwvtulsa.org 

JUDGE ORDERS VOTER ID VENUE MOVED TO OKLAHOMA COUNTY


On Friday, Mar. 4, District Judge Tom Thornbrugh ordered the Voter ID lawsuit be transferred to Oklahoma County because Tulsa County “is not the proper venue for an action seeking to enjoin the governor from enforcing a legislative referendum.”

Prof. Jim Thomas, who filed the suit, is expected to appeal.

Voter ID is short-hand for a

requirement that all voters must present government-issued identification or voter registration card in order to vote.


The League joined this suit because we believe this requirement will disenfranchise up to 78,000 Oklahomans, mostly elderly, poor or disabled who have as much a right to vote as anyone else. We will challenge any attempts to keep citizens from voting.

We will provide updates here and on our website, lwvtulsa.org. 

Children’s Consortium: Day at the State Legislature

The League has been asked to provide volunteers to help prepare about 200 Tulsa Public School students for a day of lobbying at the state capitol.

On March 23, at least five busloads of kids will head to Oklahoma City as party of the Children’s Consortium’s Day at the Legislature. Be among the adults to make their day a success.

To volunteer, contact: nancymcdo@aol.com. 

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENT:

I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Twenty years ago this summer, as I prepared to become president of the Oklahoma League of Women Voters, I reflected on why, at that point, I had devoted so much of my life to the League. These many years later, those sentiments still hold true. I hope these thoughts will inspire you as we move into 2011 with renewed commitment to make this city and this state the best it can be.

I believe in service to both the small and large community. *And so I’m a member of the League.*

I believe in personal responsibility for our environment, our schools, our families and our cities. *And so I’m a member of the League.*

I believe in the integrity of those in public office and public service. *And so I’m a member of the League.*

I believe in seeking the truth, even when the answer is not popular or is hard to believe. *And so I’m a member of the League.*


I believe in patriotism, the kind that lasts a lifetime and doesn’t just blossom during war. *And so I’m a member of the League.*

Most of all, I believe in myself. I value my opinion and I value my vote. *And so I’m a member of the League.*

What has always attracted me to the League of Women Voters is the people I meet here. Among the civic organizations that I have known, the League has the highest concentration of people with the combination of qualities I most admire—people who are both contemplative and active. I suppose that is why this quotation (author unknown to me) appeals so much; it summariz-

es what I think the League is about: “To learn and from time to time, to practice what one learns—isn’t that joy indeed?”

With respect,
Kathy Hinkle

Co-President 

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FROM REPRESENTATIVE JEANNIE MCDANIEL

The fourth week of the session, Feb. 28– Mar. 4, marked the final days in which bills authored by House members could receive a committee hearing in hopes of their bills progressing to the full body of the chamber. Of the 1,209 bills filed this session, only 384 House bills survived the first hurdle of the legislative process. The next legislative deadline is March 17 with 337 bills remaining to be heard and passed off the House floor to survive. This count does not include the many appropriation bills that will also surface in the coming



weeks. I've had two bills voted to go to the Senate. One is a request from the Oklahoma State Health Department to move reporting responsibility of medical histories on adoptions to the Department of Human Services. The other creates a taskforce to meet for six months and report on the status of "Oklahoma Children of Incarcerated Parents."

State Treasurer Ken Miller appointed a committee this week to advise him on the state's \$5B investment portfolio. Former State Treasurer Scott Meacham will chair the committee.

The House debated pension bills this week. The argument centers on whether Republican leaders are scrapping guaranteed retirement benefits for public workers in favor of plans that will be held hostage by a volatile stock market. In pursuing the switch, the state hopes to shift more responsibility and risk to employees, while contributing significantly less in employee benefits.

Legislation intended to boost local businesses in the bidding process for state contracts advanced this week. House Bill 1974 would give Oklahoma businesses a 3% preference to goods and services that have been manufactured or produced in the state if the price, fitness, availability and quality are otherwise equal. Currently 25 states have percentage preference laws which favor local, in-state businesses in various trades. The amount these other states give to their local businesses range from 5%-15% preference in bids.

This week saw many bills seeking to expand gun right laws or allow some form of open-carry. Finding passage out of committee this week was HB 2087 which would allow licensed faculty and administrators at colleges and universities to carry con-

cealed weapons on campus, unless the university president banned the practice. SB 858 goes farther in that it would allow anyone who has a concealed-carry license to bring a concealed weapon on campus. HB 1652 would allow students, teachers and visitors who have permits to carry concealed weapons to take their guns to CareerTech centers and leave them locked in their vehicles. HB 1690 seeks to establish the right to own any legal shotgun, rifle, handgun or weapon to any person who has previously been convicted of a violent felony if said offender has received a full pardon from the proper authority. Lastly, HB1796 would allow Oklahoma voters to decide whether or not to authorize the open carry of firearms. Oklahoma's population of over 3.7 million residents

has about 97,000 adults who are concealed carry license holders.

Under legislation approved by a House committee beginner drivers could face hefty fines and possibly lose their driving privileges if caught texting while driving. HB 1316 will make it a criminal violation for anyone under age 18 to use a cell phone while driving, prohibits all drivers—regardless of age—from texting while driving, and prohibits all drivers from using a cell phone while driving in a school crossing zone. All violations will be a primary offense. Currently twelve House members and two Senators from both parties have signed on in support as co-authors to the measure.

HELP THE JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN CENTER

To plan future programming, the John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation is asking for our assistance in distributing the "Tulsa Race Relations and History Survey."

The center's mission is "to transform society's divisions into social harmony through the serious study and work of reconciliation."

Their website says the survey promotes this mission in two ways. It determines the knowledge that Tulsans possess about the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot and assesses how that event may have impacted their current view of race relations in our community. It is critical that the survey be taken by a wide cross-section of the Tulsa area population.

Click [here](#) to take the survey, or visit their website: jhfccenter.org.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TULSA**

3336 East 32nd Street, Suite 1B
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MARCH 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wed., Mar. 9, 10a–12p
Voter Registration at
Naturalization Ceremony,
Jenks East Intermediate,
3933 East 91st St.

Sat., Mar. 12, 10a–3p
Oklahoma League of
Women Voters Board
Meeting—
Tulsa League office

Tue., Mar. 15, 12p–1p
Midtown Unit meeting—
Tulsa League office

Sun., Mar. 20, All day
DEADLINE: Voter newslet-
ter; send submissions to
newsletter@lwvtulsa.org


Mon., Mar. 21, 6p – 7:30p
Board of Directors Meet-
ing—Tulsa League office

Tue., Mar. 22, 7a – 8a
Downtown Unit meeting—
Blue Dome Diner,
311 E. 2nd St.

Tue., Mar. 22, 6:45p –
7:45p
South Unit meeting—
Kaiser Library, 5202
South Hudson Avenue

Wed., Mar. 23, 12p – 1p
Tulsa League Local Study
Committee: City Charter—
Tulsa League office

Sat., Mar. 26, 10a – 12p
Community Forum: City
Charter Change—
Hardesty Library,
8316 E. 93rd St.

Mon., Mar. 28, 12p – 1p
North Unit meeting—
North Pointe Business
Center, 205 E. Pine St.,
#501 

SAVE THESE DATES!

April 17: Membership
Recruitment Garden Party
at the Sophian Plaza—
1500 S. Frisco

May 2: Annual Meeting at
Fellowship Congregational
Church, 2900 S. Harvard