

# An Introduction to the League of Women Voters

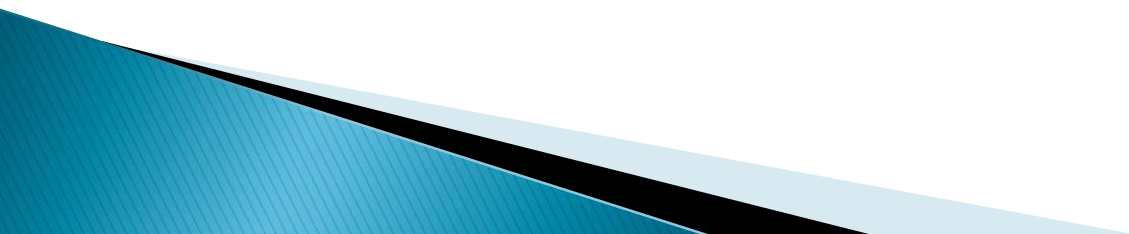


Prepared by Linda Langan  
League of Women Voters of Mobile

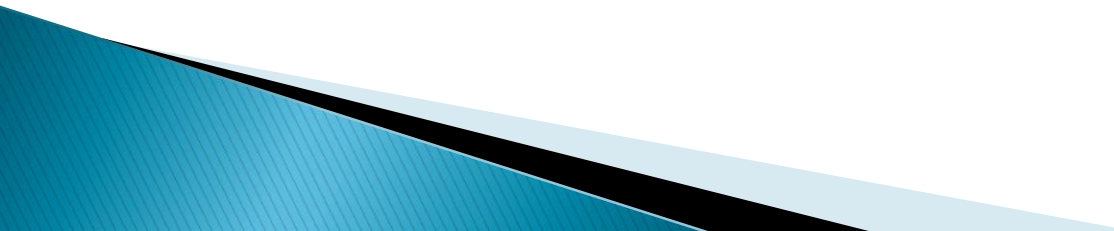
You are the next generation for Democracy

and

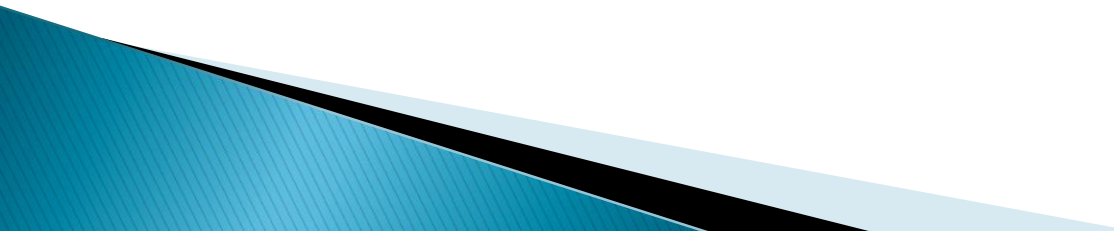
Democracy does not occur without participation



# Outline:

- ▶ History
  - ▶ Video – Overview of LWV
  - ▶ League of Women Voters presence in US
  - ▶ Work and Accomplishments
  - ▶ Organization Activities (Mobile)
  - ▶ Benefits of Membership
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# History:

- ▶ Women's suffrage movement:  
Definition: suffrage is the right to vote.
  - ▶ 1848 – Women's Rights Convention
  - ▶ 1890 – NAWSA  
Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Stanton
  - ▶ Great War (WW1) 1914–1918
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# History (continued)

- ▶ 1919 Bill passed and ratified in 1920
  - Definition: ratified means officially making valid or formal consent.
  - Became the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U. S. Constitution
  
- ▶ Most southern states late to ratify:
  - AL 1953,
  - FL and SC 1969 (man on moon),
  - MS 1984 (they wanted to be sure...)

# History (continued)

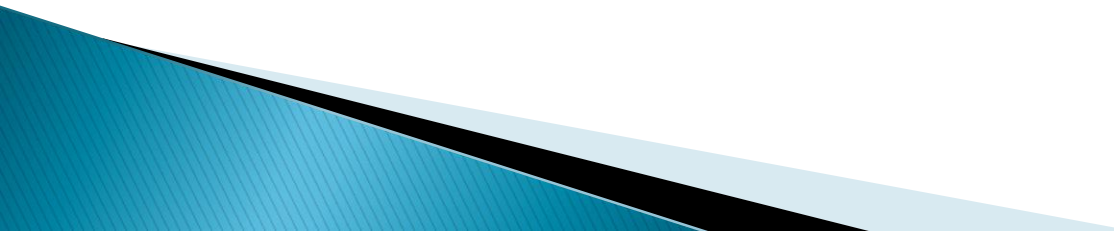
- ▶ 1920 NAWSA became LWV
  - Carrie Chapman Catt
  - Eleanor Roosevelt
  
- ▶ LWV : a political grassroots citizens organization driven by the consensus of its membership.
  - Non-profit
  - All volunteers

## Video – Overview of LWV:

- ▶ URL to video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=undHUR0ckQs&index=10&list=UUzd5f5VyMYrtCZKM3dYaXQ>

# League of Women Voters Presence in US

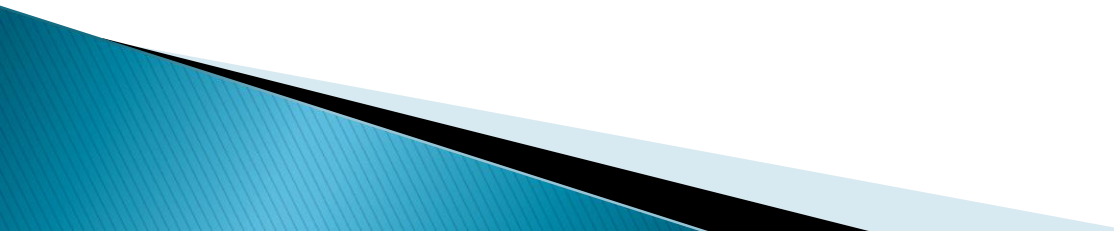
- ▶ Levels (90,000 members)
    - National, State and Local
  - ▶ Political
  - ▶ Non-partisan (all political parties), men and women. League members are urged to work for the political party of their choice. The LWV supports issues not candidates.
- 



# Work and Accomplishments

- ▶ Influencing legislation
  - Voter protection
  - Protection of women and children
  - Child labor laws and welfare
  - Education
  - Women's gainful employment
  - Public health
  - Environmental : clean air/water, nuclear waste
  - Human trafficking
  - Violence prevention
  - Campaign finance and anti-corruption

# Organization Activities (Mobile):

- ▶ Vote 411
  - ▶ Vote 18
  - ▶ Candidate Forums
  - ▶ Voter Registration Drives
  - ▶ Observer Corps
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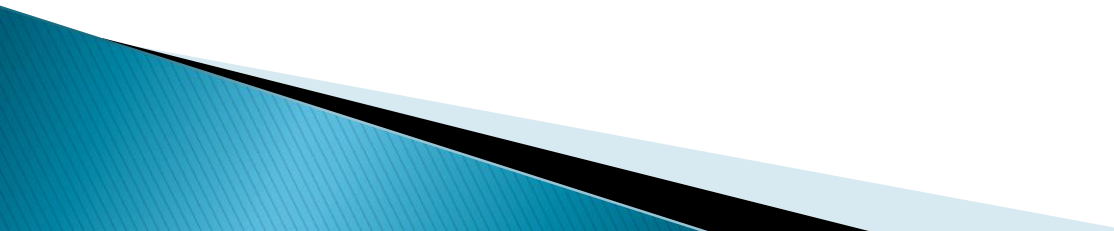
# Organization Activities (cont.)

- ▶ Monthly Study Groups
  - Money in politics, prison reform and alternative sentencing
- ▶ Monthly Luncheons (Guest Speakers)  
Announced on web page. You may choose to attend without purchasing lunch, but RSVP needed.



**WE NEED  
YOU**

# Benefits of Participation

- ▶ Having fun with like-minded people.
  - ▶ Educated on political issues:
    - From expert speakers
    - By attending and discussing topics in study groups
    - Attending board meetings of local government
  - ▶ Leadership training
  - ▶ Resume Building (volunteering and civic participation)
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# Contact Information:

- ▶ Web Sites: [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) and [lwvmobile.org](http://lwvmobile.org)
- ▶ Twitter: @MobileLWV
- ▶ Facebook: LWVMobile
  
- ▶ Emails: [LindaMLangan@gmail.com](mailto:LindaMLangan@gmail.com)
  
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