



LEAGUE LINES

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November 1, Thursday - Public Service Commission begins a hearing on two issues: how much SCE&G's electric rates should be rolled back permanently, and whether Dominion should be approved to acquire SCE&G.

November 15, Thursday: 11:45 a.m., The Lourie Center - Public Policy Luncheon - Professor Mark Tompkins on election results. See [page 2](#) for details.

Mark your calendar: February 21, & April 18, 2019 - Future Public Policy Luncheons. Third Thursday, to be held at The Lourie Center.

December - Annual Member Holiday Social - time and place to be determined

January 2019 - Annual Planning Meeting - in the evening, possibly at a restaurant

May - Annual Members Meeting and Social - to be determined

May 4-5, Friday and Saturday - LWVSC Convention in Charleston



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PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON
Thursday, November 15, 2018



Professor Mark Tompkins will share his analysis of election results. He joined the faculty at USC in 1976 in the Department of Government and International Studies and the School of Public Health, teaching public policy and health policy, U.S. institutions, South Carolina government, and politics. He is currently working in the South Carolina Political Collections of the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library on two projects involving twentieth century leaders in the State. He has been interviewed by the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *NPR*, *BBC*, *ABC*, and most of the State's major media outlets.

All League members are welcome. RESERVATIONS for a catered lunch are required no later than Wednesday NOON, November 14.

Cost of lunch: \$10.00

(Attendees may bring a lunch)

Please RSVP to Susan James: sc.susanbjames@gmail.com

or call 256-6822

**11:45 at the LOURIE CENTER, 1650 Park Circle
Columbia, SC 29201**

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VIEW FROM RIVER'S EDGE

Janelle Rivers

“Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage.” So said Maya Angelou.



As we watched the recent testimony by Christine Blasey Ford in the Senate Judiciary Committee, people could empathize with the pain of watching her relive her experience. We could also see grace and, most of all, courage. She displayed the mental and moral strength to come forward and speak her truth because she felt it was her civic duty. She had good reason to fear that her testimony would be discounted by some of the senators, and especially by the senators who have served on that same committee since the 1991 testimony of Anita Hill.

At a University of Pennsylvania event this October 10, Anita Hill described Professor Ford's situation:

Christine Blasey Ford had no support. None. There was no organization that was on the inside or was connected with the inside, with the decision-makers, that was going to be able to help her. We need to really understand that what we are dealing with, when we talk about these kind of abuses ... we are not just dealing with behavior, we are dealing with systems that protect it, and sometimes encourage it, and sometimes reward it, and that is what you saw. (<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/anita-hill-kavanaugh-confirmation-hearing-disservice-to-the-american-public/ar-BB0dkHy?li=BBnb7Kz>)

We saw members of the Senate proclaim an impossible contradiction as if it were reasonable. It's not rational for senators to believe her testimony while discounting the very motivation that caused her to step forward. That is just a cloud of verbiage designed to obscure their disrespect.

The founding fathers' desire to dominate: There's no doubt that the founding fathers were intentional when they adopted the Declaration of Independence with language carefully crafted to declare "all men are created equal." It's popular in some circles to tout the sacredness of the Constitution as originally written and to interpret that document considering its original meaning. Male slaves were valued as 3/5 of person, so they didn't have to be counted as men. The founding fathers could not afford to think of women as persons of equal value; that would have disrupted the social order. The white male landowners who adopted these documents could not rationally justify dominating people they viewed as their equals, and treating women as equals would have meant relinquishing their power to dominate. It's no wonder they decided to withhold voting rights from women.

Nearly a century passed before slaves were emancipated. Another half century passed before support for women's suffrage reached proportions large enough to demand change.

Historically, you can almost map the strength of misogynist views in the United States by looking at a map that shows when states granted voting rights to women.

(<https://www.utahwomenshistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Suffrage-Map-Aug-1920.pdf>). Confirm by looking at a map of states that adopted the Equal Rights Amendment. (<http://www.equalrightsamendment.org/>)

The power of the electorate: I've never been more grateful for the people—men and women—who stood for the equality of women, and before that, for the emancipation of slaves. Abolitionists and suffragists were change agents who displayed real courage. Perhaps feminists are in the equivalent position today.

Women have been voting for almost a hundred years. The time is right to take the next step. The November 2018 elections will give us an indication of how women feel about the way they're being treated.

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) has been revived as a focus for the League of Women Voters at the national level. Only 35 of the 38 states needed for ratification did so by the 1982 deadline. Supporters of equality for women began considering an innovative “three-state strategy” that scholars think could withstand a legal challenge. Nevada became the 36th state to ratify the ERA on March 22, 2017. After the current president had been elected, Illinois followed suit, ratifying the ERA on May 30, 2018. Who's left? Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia. Most strategists hold little hope that South Carolina would adopt the Equal Rights Amendment, but many think North Carolina might do so.

Five states—Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Tennessee—voted to rescind their original ratification, and legal scholars argue that those rescissions are a legal nullity. So ratification by just one more state could trigger a legal challenge.

(http://www.equalrightsamendment.org/ratification.htm#Legal_analysis).

How does South Carolina rate in its treatment of women? Rankings are notoriously dependent on methodology, but trends are reliable and worth noting. The 2018 Wallethub data ranks South Carolina 45th among the states with respect to women's equality (<https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-women-equality/5835/>). The Center for American Progress ranks South Carolina 35th (<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2013/09/25/74836/the-state-of-women-in-america/>). The Status of Women website offers similar analyses for several specific issues (<https://statusofwomendata.org/explore-the-data/state-data/south-carolina/>). The bottom line is this: the powers that be in South Carolina have created a climate that is not favorable for women.

Women with courage. Especially for a woman in South Carolina, choosing to run for office is an act of courage. While the League's nonpartisan stance requires that we never support or oppose candidates or political parties, we can be glad that more women are running for office. We're so proud of the local League members who have found that kind of courage and put their names on the ballot this year!

Sad to say, misogyny is alive and well in South Carolina. The prevalence of misogynist attitudes is probably one reason that Columbia has the longest running I-Believe-Anita-Hill celebration in the country. The Columbia League is well represented again this year.

Everyday acts of courage are immensely valuable. Celebrating women is one of those acts. Encouraging more women to run for political office is another.

Registering Voters at the 27th We Believe Anita Hill Party



*Standing: Lady June Cole, Joanne Day, Eve Stacy
Seated: Rosa Bennett*

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OTHER NEWS



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS (regarding the need for new voting

computers): “We do need to replace our current system, but as we plan to spend this much money, we should take guidance from other states with recent experience and make sure we spend the money wisely. [http://www.statehousereport.com/2018/10/19/my-turn-buell-spend-tax-money-wisely-on-new-voting-machines/Duncan Buel](http://www.statehousereport.com/2018/10/19/my-turn-buell-spend-tax-money-wisely-on-new-voting-machines/Duncan%20Buell), **Duncan Buell**, a member of the League of Women Voters of South

Carolina, is NCR Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of South Carolina. **Note:** This article is a **must-read** for League members who are not already acquainted with Professor Buell’s position, which is also a League position.



A NUCLEAR ENERGY MELTDOWN SCRAMBLES SOUTHERN POLITICS:

“South Carolinians have some of the highest electricity bills in the country because of a decision made in 2007. That year, the state's General Assembly passed the Base Load Review Act, allowing utilities to charge customers for the "prudently" incurred capital costs of new power plants as the plants are being built.

Citizen activists began speaking up, including **Lynn Teague**, a retired archaeologist turned volunteer lobbyist for the League of Women Voters of South Carolina. She had been scrutinizing the Base Load Review Act with colleagues, including a nuclear engineer who had worked at the summer plant. After Teague's group quizzed experts and reviewed available documents, their investigation concluded that SCE&G wasn't doing enough to oversee the project, possibly because it didn't have a strong incentive to do so. The way the Base Load Review Act was set up, the more the project cost, the more money the utility made.....

ON A BRIGHT SPRING DAY, wearing glasses and earth tones, Lynn Teague looked more like a friendly librarian than an arm-twister as she strolled past the granite columns in the South Carolina State House lobby. She was there for a press conference on what could happen if Dominion Energy takes over SCE&G, but made time for a discussion about all the reforms needed in South Carolina's energy system....

The League of Women Voters is neutral on nuclear energy but emphatic about the necessity of good governance, which means getting rid of ill-conceived laws like the Base Load Review Act. The law shifted the burden of proof of mismanagement away

from utilities, Teague pointed out; when SCE&G argued for higher rates, it was up to others to prove it didn't deserve them....

"As we've seen over and over again," Teague said, "they've been hiding that information not just from the public but from the regulators."

This article appeared in the September/October 2018 edition of Sierra. Headline Meltdown. <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2018-4-september-october/feature/nuclear-energy-meltdown-scrambles-southern-politics>

LWVSC CIVICS HISTORY LESSON: I read with interest the comment by Melinda Hamilton, president of the Charleston League, in the Fall 2018 LWVSC Voter, "through most of its existence the League has not welcomed women of color." She was quoting Chris Carson, LWVUS president, citing this national perception.

On the contrary, I remember that the League in Charleston, under the leadership of Harriet P. Simons, was the first local League to advertise League meetings in the *Charleston Post and Courier* newspaper and to specifically invite all women to attend, with personal invitations to friends.

Mrs. Simons was an organizer of the LWVSC and the first president, 1951-1955. She was an outstanding leader. Upon her election, the newspaper headlined their article, *Without A Superior* and went on to note her civic activities.

Proud Heritage, A History of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina 1920-1976, quotes the *Post and Courier*, "instead of dealing with personalities, the League has attempted to get the facts on basic issues, and to inform the community how certain candidates stand on those issues."

In the first issue of the *South Carolina Voter*, 1951, Mrs. Simons' heartfelt remarks are as pertinent and inspiring now as they were then, "feel sure it is with you as it is with me: you have joined the League because of your love of your country; your deep concern with the workings of democracy; your private and personal determination to fulfill your obligations of citizenship; and to do what you can at all times to strengthen this amazing, powerful and world-important country of ours." Keller H. Barron, State President 1967-71

POLITICAL FACT CHECK SITES

AARP recommends the following as providing fair, nonpartisan election information:

Votesmart.org: Data, without interpretation; includes a "Political Courage Test" of positions of importance to voters.

RealClearPolitics.com: "Election 2018" for information on specific races, polls, more.

Ballotpedia.org: "Neutral, reliable" articles about politics at all levels of government.

PolitiFact.com: checks statements by members of Congress, White House, lobbyists & interest groups; includes "Truth-O-Meter" with "Pants on Fire".

LWV Charleston recommends:

FactCheck.org: a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. Fact-checks claims made by the president, members of Congress, presidential candidates, and other members of the political arena. It mainly reviews TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews, and news releases.

Viral Spiral: a section of FactCheck.org devoted to internet rumors.

PolitiFact.com: as above.

The Washington Post's Fact Checker: assesses claims made by politicians or political advocacy groups.

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PHOTO GALLERY

REGISTERING VOTERS



Sharon Ayling and Susan Cirulli Registering Voters at Spring Hill High School October 1 – 2



Sharon Ayling at Okra Strut September 29.



Sharon Ayling posing with the Okra Man

CANDIDATE FORUM RICHLAND 2 School Board– October 16 Pelion High



Moderator: Cynthia Flynn; Timekeeper::Sharon Ayling

Candidates: Jada Boatwright Garris, Kyle Guyton, Reese McCurdy, Tim Oswald, Chris Rice. Absent: Scott Vaughn



Pelion Forum general audience

RICHLAND 2 FORUM – OCTOBER 17



LWV moderator, Charmaine Clowney at podium



LWV Timekeeper Laura Covington with Richland 2 candidates: : Cheryl Caution-Parker, Teresa Holmes, Amelia McKie, James Mobley, James Manning, Craig Plank, Darrel President Sr.



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Websites:

National: www.lwv.org/

State: <http://lwvsc.org/>

Columbia: www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

Facebook: *To see our Facebook Page:*

1. Go to YOUR Facebook page and begin typing "**League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area**" in the search box until a list pops up.
2. Click on the name **League of Women Voters of Columbia, SC** with the familiar blue LWV Logo on the left.

That's it!

Twitter:

1. Go to YOUR Twitter account and search for the League of Women Voters Columbia Area and connect.

Facebook and Twitter email address:
@LWVColumbiaSC

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Columbia City Council

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM City Hall 1737 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201

Check website at www.columbiasc.net for more information.



Lexington County Council

Meet: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 4:30 PM 2nd Floor County Administration Building 212 South Lake Drive Lexington, SC 29072

For confirmation of meeting dates, please call 785-8103 or check website www.lex-co.com



Richland County Council

Meet: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM 2nd Floor County Administration Building 2020 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29202.

For more information, please contact the Clerk of Council Office @ (803) 576-2060 or check: www.richlandonline.com

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