

League of Women Voters
of Brown County

December 2017



December 6

*Membership concurrence meeting
and potluck dinner.*

6pm

*Pine Tree Hills Clubhouse
Just North of Nashville*

*Maple Leaf
Community
Conversation
to be an-
nounced.*

decisions
are
made by
those
who
show up.

December 11

*Brown County LWV board meeting
10am lower level library.*

December 12

*Mark Dollase of Indiana Land
Marks*

6:30 pm Community Foundation

*Brown County Council,
Boards & Commissioner
meeting dates, times and
location can be found at:*

*[http://browncounty-
in.gov](http://browncounty-in.gov)*

*Or [browncountydemo-
crat.com](http://browncountydemocrat.com)*

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November Highlights

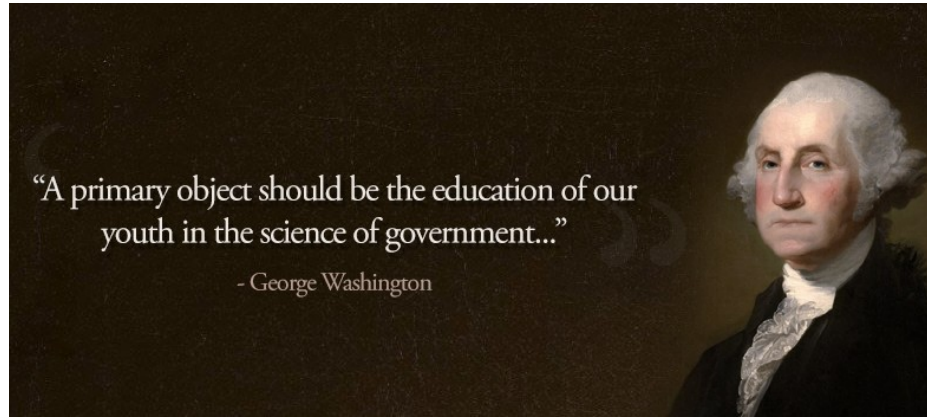
Nov 8: Dr. James Glass presentation to create greater public awareness of the importance of the Brown County Courthouse and its relationship to the historic fabric of Old Town Nashville. Following the presentation, was a Community Conversation on the most important historic features of Old Town.

Some 70 buildings either eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or having some historical or architectural merit are located on the streets and alleys of Nashville. WOW !

Nov. 11: Brown County LWV Board meeting: Leslie Bishop, Biologist, asked for support for forest preservation resolution to be reintroduced in upcoming assembly session to set aside 10% of forest for old growth. Leslie also asked members to look at and consider supporting legislation written by Senator Stoops requesting a halt on all logging until a loss vs benefit analogy could be conducted.

Nov 30: The League, again set up mock voter booths for eighth grade students who participated in the Reality Store. The Reality Store gives students an opportunity to see where they might be in 15 years, based on their current gpa. They are given a salary and must budget for life's expenses, such as housing, transportation, child care and others. It was a great learning experience for all.





What is a constitution?

Constitutions are different in kind from the statutes and ordinances passed by legislative bodies. They are statements of broad principles that govern and limit what kind of laws legislatures may properly enact and what sort of actions government officials can properly take. While parts of the US Constitution deal with specific practical matters—how old must someone be to run for president? What is the function of the courts?—such matters also are statements of important principles meant to guide and constrain lawmakers and government authorities in the future.

Over two centuries after the current American Constitution was drafted, lawmakers and judges must consult the text and context of our Constitution in order to decide what the drafter's original intentions were and the nature of the values they were trying to protect. Since there were many participants in the Constitutional Congress and they did not speak with one voice, there were often differences of opinion about the meaning of the various provisions of the Constitution and Bill of Rights even then.

Understanding the values the Founders were trying to protect helps us apply those values to situations they could never have envisioned. It is a safe bet that James Madison did not have an opinion about government regulation of the world wide web. But he most certainly had strong opinions about the value of protecting free expression. The Founders who drafted the Fourth Amendment's search and seizure provisions could hardly have foreseen technology that allows police officers to see and hear into our homes from across the street. Our courts must decide how the Founders would have applied the principles that were so important to them to such new "facts on the ground." If we don't know the history and philosophy that motivated the Founders' choices, we can not form educated opinions about the application of their principles to modern situations.

HCI Update

In November the HCI team set dates, location and set 6 month projection:

Dec 11-soft launch of community survey offered online.

January 9-team members hit the ground with official survey launch.

February 6-close survey

March 7-will hold forum at Intermediate school cafeteria.

May- make decision on building block; Economy, Leadership or Placemaking and decide capstone project.

For additional information about Brown County Hometown Collaboration Initiative please visit;

Brown County Courthouse History

The original courthouse and jail was erected in 1837 of hewed logs by David Weddle. The structure was 18' x 24', two stories high with a stairway at each end, one room on the lower floor and two rooms on the upper floor.



Two twelve lite windows provided light and air to the upper rooms and one twelve lite window opposite the doorway provided air and light to the lower level. A fireplace in each room provided heat. The cost of the first courthouse and jail was \$700. The courthouse was used until 1853, when it was replaced by a brick structure. The original log structure was sold and repurposed as a stable for half a century.

The second courthouse was built in 1855 by Silvans Manville & Thomas M. Adams, according to William E. Hoguland, at a cost of \$7000. The second courthouse stood until it caught fire on Monday, November 3, 1873. Many of the records in the courthouse were lost. The cause of the fire was undetermined, however some thought it was intentionally set. There were several rumors floated in the day suggesting that the fire was deliberately set to cover embezzlement of county funds, or to cover delinquent taxes.

The third and current courthouse was erected on the same foundation of the second courthouse, incorporating one wall that was still standing. Construction began in 1874 and it was completed in 1875 or 1877 at a cost of \$7500.

An annex was added to the current courthouse in 1939. The annex was designed by McGuire & Shook, Architects, Indianapolis.

In 1992, the current courthouse was renovated, The renovation was designed by Miller Architects, Nashville, and constructed by Waltman Construction ADS Architects 2012 Courthouse Study



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Making Democracy Work

Grassroots leadership since 1920

Educate Advocate Empower Reform

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to women and men.

The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

We cordially invite you to join us and encourage you to learn more about the League of Women Voters by attending our meetings and other events, including our Meet the Candidates, Meet Your Legislators and other community forums. Membership is not required to attend these meetings and events.

For more information, including dates, times and membership dues, please call Brown County League of Women Voters President, Julie Winn at 812-988-6225. Your dues payment includes membership in the national, state and local leagues. Visit our website at: www.lwvbrowncounty.org

VOTE:

Your Right. Your Responsibility.

