

LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE  
ST. PETERSBURG  
AREA

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

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# LWV<sup>®</sup>

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21

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# Annual Report

## STATE OF THE LEAGUE

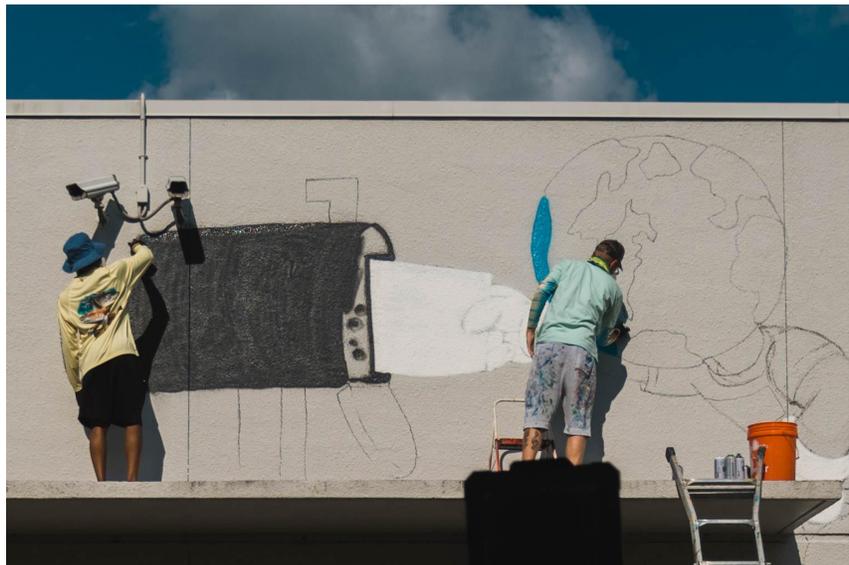
The 2020-21 League year has been historic to say the least. We have endured a global pandemic, celebrated our 100 year anniversary as an organization and movement, and worked tirelessly to buoy democracy during an extraordinary election season. Despite these challenges, we have carried the torch of suffrage while keeping our volunteers and community safe from the spread of COVID-19.

Our year started with our very first online Annual Meeting, using technology that many of us were unfamiliar with. However, as a century-old organization, we learned and adapted. These characteristics have and continue to serve us as we faced a global pandemic that forced us to stay inside, work remotely, and use technology to connect and organize. Many of our planned events were cancelled or changed to online formats; our candidate forums became live-streamed videos and Food Politics launched digital dining for members and advocates alike. Virtual formats allowed us to reach new audiences and increase accessibility to our organization.

Some tasks were not as easy to convert to digital platforms; our Voter Registration efforts had to be creative yet safe. Our volunteers donned masks, face shields, and other personal protective gear as they registered voters at food drives, protests, and other community events. We relied heavily on our community partners to do outreach to neighborhoods and communities with low voter registration and voter turnout. Without these relationships, we would not have been able to fulfill our core duties to our community: empowering voters and defending democracy.

## 2020 Elections

The historic primary and general elections of 2020 were no match for our tenacious Voter Services leaderships and volunteers. Using funds from our Engage St. Pete project, we commissioned iBOMS and Derek Donnelly to create a beautiful mural on the west-facing wall of the Enoch Davis Center to promote voting by mail. We secured an additional grant from the



PlusProjec+ to commission a second mural on Central Avenue to promote diversity and voting. We helped complete 198 voter registration forms and 112 vote-by-mail forms for voters in 2020, distributed 6,500 constitutional amendment guides and 2,500 local race Voter Guides, worked with community partners to distribute over 10,000 vote-by-mail flyers, and sent over 2,000 postcards to voters in some of the lowest voter turnout precincts in St. Petersburg (117 & 119) to encourage them to vote, and so much more!



According to data from the Supervisor of Elections Office in Pinellas County, there was a 2.6% increase in voter turnout across Pinellas County in 2020. Minority voter turnout increased in 2020 compared to 2016 (the previous presidential election).

Our efforts didn't stop there; we worked diligently to conduct outreach to returning citizens in our community by working with local partners like the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, local faith-based organizations and churches, and the Pinellas Ex-Offender Re-Entry Coalition. We also participated in LWVFL and ACLU's state-wide postcard and texting campaign to approximately 200,000 returning citizens sending 2,500 postcards.

The shift to a virtual format meant that our Candidate Forums were hosted on YouTube and Facebook this year and included a wide range of

technological partners like the St. Pete Catalyst and the St. Petersburg College Institute for Policy Solutions. We hosted seven forums total, with an ASL interpreter and closed captioning available, and a special live panel to answer questions about voting and elections. Additionally, our Voter Guide was a huge hit; from September 25 to November 4th, our award-winning Voter Guide experienced almost 1 million views from over 200,000 users. The most frequented pages were the judicial races, ballot issues, and local office demonstrating the need for this information by voters.

We continued to educate voters by providing presentations to community organizations about voting rights and processes, mini-trainings on how to be voting ambassadors, and other ballot issues. The Election and Voter Protection team made sure to educate voters ahead of time while providing their robust mobile and COVID-19 safe poll monitoring on the day of the election. Despite experiencing harassment, voter confusion, and a pandemic, our poll monitoring

volunteers were undeterred; 124 volunteers served as poll monitors across all Pinellas precincts in 2020.



Finally, we were fortunate to have a funding and community partner in the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg. With the leftover funding of the Engage St. Pete project, we were able to develop and implement a social marketing campaign in low voter turnout precincts in St. Petersburg. We promoted voting by mail to Black women who were already registered to vote using targeted texting campaigns, sending kids ballots, and a community-driven social media and photography

campaign that highlighted real individuals and families in the community voting. We wanted to promote voting as a tradition; this campaign was called Democracy Starts at Home.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives

With COVID-19 raging, we were undeterred in our efforts to continue our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. In fact, COVID-19 highlighted many of the racial disparities experienced in our community making it imperative that we continue this important work.

In partnership with the St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. and the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum, we shifted our Coffee in Common series to an online format and continued to see high rates of attendance for 2020 and 2021. Building off of the conversations being had at Coffee in Common, our Social Justice team started a Social Justice Discussion Club, reading and reflecting on books like White Fragility and How to Be an Anti-Racist. We also released our Engage St. Pete Report to the community highlighting the civic disparities in our neighborhoods across the city. This report has become the basis of many of our DEI efforts. An example of the intersection of our Engage St. Pete work and our incredible partnership is Rolls to the Polls; we worked with the Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum to



promote voting by mail and exciting the community about voting at the Tropicana Field drop box site.

We continued the Resident Leadership Workshop passion projects with south St. Petersburg neighborhood associations as they shifted their focus to COVID-19 relief. This project will continue into 2021 as communities think about what they've learned during the past year.

Finally, we were awarded a \$10,000 Racial Equity grant from the Rays and Rowdies Foundation for our work to register minority voters, relocating our office to south St. Petersburg to better serve low voter turnout precincts, and our outreach to returning citizens.

## Local Advocacy Initiatives and Achievements



Much of 2020 was hyper-focused on the election, but our advocacy and education teams continued to work hard. The Food Politics Team had a stellar year; they moved their dining series to a digital format and, because of this, were able to include farm animals on their zoom events! They also formed a strong partnership with St. Petersburg City Councilmember Gina Driscoll to create a Food Policy Council to address food insecurity and the impact of food deserts in our community. Recently they supported efforts to move an Urban Agriculture bill forward during this legislative session.

Our Sustainability Team worked hard to keep members in the know of all things conservation, solar, and environmental protection, increasing their membership this year and partnering with other environmental organizations in the area.

Our National Popular Vote Interstate Compact team officially established a statewide coalition: Floridians for National Popular Vote. This is a huge achievement as they work with national and statewide partners to push for Florida to join the compact.

The Social Justice Team launched an advocacy initiative to pass a Resolution to Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis in the City of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County. The city resolution is making its way through committees and has recently been approved by the legal department. The county-wide resolution is being drafted by community partners from Unite Pinellas, the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg, the African American Heritage Trail, and Pinellas Remembers.

With a presidential election year behind us, we plan to focus on capacity-building and support for our teams this year.

## Operational Achievements

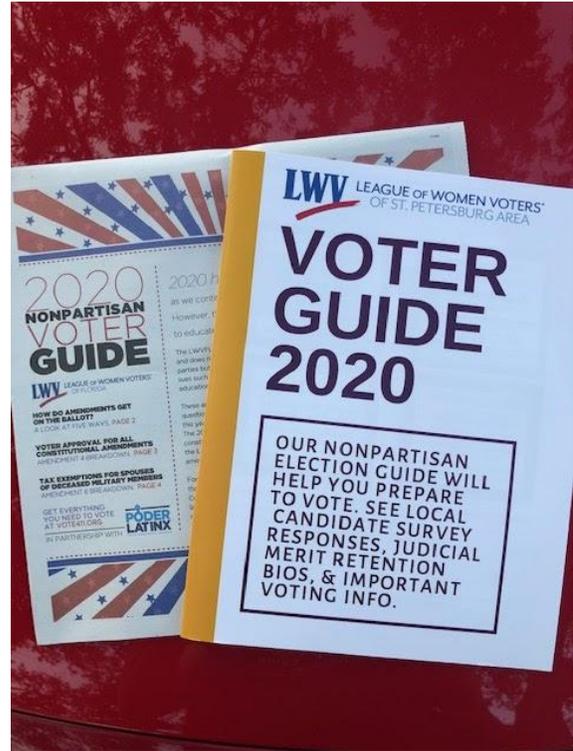
This year, our operational infrastructure was more important than ever; we had to rely on our office staff and administrative teams for technology, outreach, and logistics now that we were all working remotely. This could not have been achieved without the hard work of our Operations Director, Julia Sharp and the volunteers that support her.

With a \$10,000 grant from the Pinellas Community Foundation and in-kind donation from Elevation Web, we were able to launch our new website! The new website will help us better educate our community with an active blog, a future dashboard for team leads and board leadership, and a more easily navigable platform to find what you need.

This year was a banner year for our new fund development team; we raised approximately \$26,000 in donations and fundraising events and secured \$18,000 in grants. It was our goal, this year, to ensure that we were taking as little as possible out of the Gerta Rosenthal Fund and we achieved that. We're heading into the new League year with a comprehensive plan for fiscal stability and growth. Additionally, we established our 501c3 this year; meaning that now we can apply for more grants without having to go through the State League and donations will be tax-exempt. More information on that will be coming soon as we set up this financial entity. We could not have done it without the pro bono support of our partners at the Community Law Program and Kristina Feher, our attorney.

We were extremely fortunate to have Alison Quinn step up as our bookkeeper this past year to help provide accounting support to our organization. She has been working closely with our Operations Director and Treasurer to organize our accounting and financial processes. We are appreciative of her efforts and expertise.

Our *Voter* newsletter editor transitioned from Caitlin Constantine to Deborah Williams this past year. We are greatly indebted to Caitlin for her hardwork and leadership as the *Voter* editor for the past few years. Deborah has been an incredible editor thus far; she has recruited other members to diversify and enhance the content in our monthly publication.





Most importantly, we were able to continue the business of the League while keeping our volunteers and members safe. Many hard decisions were made to ensure that we were abiding by public health guidance; doing work remotely is not ideal but it was necessary.

Overall, this year could not have happened without the tireless work of the board of directors, the team leads, volunteers, and staff. While our local League is fortunate to have a paid staff member and office, we are still completely reliant on the generosity of our volunteers. Without your hard work and dedication, we would not be the League that others look to for information, guidance, partnership, and tenacity. Our hard work and focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion has made us not only more visible and respected in our community, but it has helped us forge strong partnerships with organizations and people that may not have trusted us in the past. We have so much to be proud of; I hope that you take time to reflect on this unbelievable year.

**Linsey Grove, DrPH, CPH, CHES**

**President**

**League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area**

## AWARDS

### Making Democracy Work Award

The **Voter Services Team Leads** had their work cut out for them in 2020. Not only was a historical election on the horizon, but a global pandemic. Undeterred, these incredible leaders worked tirelessly to ensure that voters were registered, educated, empowered, and protected in Pinellas County. Of course, their work was the culmination and coordination of many volunteers from across our membership and community. Many worked additional hours outside of their full-time jobs to ensure that voters and volunteers were able to safely cast their ballots and make their voices heard. These women represent the tenacity and fortitude of the League members that came before us. Thank you to our Voters Service Team Leads for making democracy work in Pinellas County!

- **Ama Appiah**
- **Robin Davidov**
- **Caitlin Constantine**
- **Maryellen Gordon**
- **Amy Keith**
- **Marti Moorefield**

### Virginia Burnside Award for Long-Term Service to the LWVSPA



**Karen Coale** has been a stalwart force in her community and in our local League. Karen has been a board member, a President, and has led the Immigration Team for our League during her 13 year membership. She is an active leader in her church and continues to set the standard for advocacy, leadership, and service for those of us who are lucky to know her. Karen is the type of leader that is focused on the transformation of her team and organization, is a strong buoy amidst challenges, and friendly sanctuary for those seeking guidance, validation, or comfort.

Those of us who have worked with Karen know that you can always call on her for help, a good laugh, or an added voice for advocacy. It is my great pleasure that I honor her work and service to our organization with this award, named for the first woman to be elected to St. Petersburg City Council and the first woman to be elected to a municipal office south of the Mason-Dixon, Virginia Burnside. She was a suffragist and League member and Karen perfectly embodies the determination and dedication of those who fought for suffrage and continue the League's mission.

## Rockstar Volunteer Awards

The League could not achieve the advocacy and educational goals without the hard work of our volunteers. As a volunteer-led organization, we count on the generosity and dedication of our members to get our work done every year. We would like to recognize the volunteers that went above and beyond in 2020:

**Alison Quinn**

**Rachel Gallo**

**Cynthia & Mark Barasz**

**Dorothy Cappadona**

**Heidi Davis**

**Amy Durand**

**Sue Griffin**

**Mary Hanrahan**

**Rebecca Lyons**

**Patti Myers**

**Natasha Samreny**

**Vicki Smaridge**

**Kathy Wagner**

**Betsy Wells**

**Livia Zien**

**Pat Lucas**

**Meryl Blackman**

**Amy Durand**

**Christina Cowell**

**Betsy Wells**

**Ingrid Bredenberg**

**Kathleen Mossing**

**Susan Burr**

**Joan Thurmond**

**Kathy Phelan**

**Stacey Jurewicz**

**Sue Castleman**

# League Business

## PROPOSED BUDGET

### Memorandum

**To: LWVSPA Membership**

**From: Gina Gallo, Board Treasurer**

**Date: March 14, 2021**

**Re: Proposed 2021 – 2022 LWVSPA Budget**

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This memo is a supplement to the presentation planned for the 2021 Annual Meeting on April 17th and is intended to:

- Provide an overview of the 2021 – 2022 LWVSPA Budget the board is recommending to the membership for approval.
- Deliver information about the proposed dues increase.
- Offer an update on the 20-21 audit process.

### Overview of Recommended 21-22 Budget

For 21-22, we are proposing a balanced budget. We are forecasting a significant uptick in revenue, based on the activities of the fundraising committee, and similar expenses to the 20- 21 fiscal year. Areas in which we anticipate significant changes from the previous year include the following:

- **Membership Dues:** related to a restructure of the dues process and the way we track income for this line item. All member dues, regardless of level, will be applied to this line item.
- **Contributions – Members:** related to a verbal commitment for a gift of \$10,000.
- **Grant Reimbursements:** we anticipate a decrease in this area as all our current grants expire this year.
- **Bank & Other Fees:** will see increased spending due to the establishment of the c3, which will require us to keep another set of books and to pay state nonprofit fees for both the c3 and c4. We also plan to conduct an audit or review during the next fiscal year.

- Membership: increased spending to assist the membership committee with their goals related to member retention and for the establishment of a customer relationship management (CRM) system that will allow the organization to better manage membership records, track volunteers, and improve our fundraising processes.
- Fundraising: increased income and expenses associated with the additional events and activities of the fundraising committee.

We do not plan to remove any money from the Gerta Rosenthal Fund during the 21-22 fiscal year. We budgeted conservatively for moderate interest income and no revenue from market gains.

## Dues Increase

The board is recommending a membership dues increase for 21-22. There are several reasons for this:

- LWVSPA has grown significantly in the past several years and we cannot rely solely on grants and donations to support our increased operational and programmatic expenses.
- We have not raised dues in many years. Compared to 9 other Florida Leagues, including the ones in surrounding counties, we have the lowest dues. We are recommending increases that are slightly higher than these League's dues, as we hope to keep dues at the new level for several years.

We recognize that there are always concerns about increased pricing impacting the ability of all people who want to participate in the League. We will continue to work with anyone who wants to join us, regardless of ability to pay and are considering several options to pilot, including a pay-what-you-can membership, retiree pricing, and associate memberships.

The details of the proposed dues increase are below. Please note that this chart estimates the annual impact of changing our dues structure. 21-22 recommended revenue in the proposed budget is slightly less than this total because we anticipate one month (April 2021) under the previous model.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Estimated Membership</b>	<b>Old Pricing</b>	<b>New Pricing</b>	<b>Revenue-Old Model</b>	<b>Revenue-New Model</b>
<i><b>Individual</b></i>	300	\$52	\$70	\$15,600	\$21,000
<i><b>Household</b></i>	30	\$78	\$100	\$2,340	\$3,000
<i><b>Silver</b></i>	50	\$125	\$150	\$6,250	\$7,500
<i><b>Gold</b></i>	20	\$250	\$250	\$5,000	\$5,000
<i><b>Total</b></i>	400	\$505	\$570	\$29,190	\$36,500

### 20-21 Budget Report

As the fiscal year does not end until March 31, 2021 and the books will not be finalized for at least 30 days after that, we will not have an audit report available to the membership at the 2021 Annual Meeting. The current recommendation in the bylaws is outdated and we will be recommending a bylaw change on this matter at the 2022 meeting.

The Treasurer will provide a preliminary report on the 20-21 budget at the 2021 Annual Meeting and an internal audit will occur within 90 days of the close of the fiscal year. The report will be emailed to membership in July 2021.

League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area, Inc.			
2021-2022 Budget Draft			
	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Budget	NOTES
<b>Revenue</b>			
4000 Member Dues	\$16,000.00	\$35,890.00	Based on proposed dues increase + one month at previous dues rate
4110 Contributions - Members	\$5,000.00	\$12,000.00	Based on 20-21 donations + 10K verbal commitment from EJ (5K voter services (3.5K VS line and 1.5K for Director salary), 5K to BHEA)
4120 Contributions - Nonmembers	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Based on 20-21 donations
4130 Bequests			
4210 Grant Reimbursements	\$30,000.00	\$10,000.00	Estimated 5k for program, 5k for unrestricted operating
4220 LWVEF Reimbursements	\$6,000.00	\$4,785.00	Balance of ed fund minus what we take for Feb 21 PMP payment
4300 Annual Meeting		\$0.00	Remote annual meeting
4400 Meeting Revenue	\$500.00	\$0.00	
4500 Fundraising Events	\$5,500.00	\$16,130.00	October 2021 suffragist shuffle (\$5K); Century for a Century (\$7.5K); annual appeals (\$2.5K); remainder: Mask/T-shirt/Card/Swag Fundraisers
4600 Miscellaneous Revenue	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	
4900 In-Kind Contributions	\$0.00	\$828.00	For CRM system
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$65,000.00</b>	<b>\$80,633.00</b>	
<b>Expenditures</b>			
5000 PMP Dues	\$17,000.00	\$19,505.00	Based on estimated membership numbers for 21-22
6000 Programs			
6100 Voter Services	\$5,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$2500 for voter registration flyers and videos; \$1000 for ASL and Spanish interpreters at candidate forums

6200 Grant Projects		\$10,000.00	Expenses related to anticipated grant revenue for new projects (e.g. DEI training, EJ \$ to BHEA); all current grants expire this fiscal year
6210 Engage St Pete			
6211 LGBTQ+ Project			
6212 Website Remodel			
6220 Sex Education			
Total 6200 Grant Projects	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	Remaining + new grants
6300 Community Action	\$10,000.00	\$3,150.00	Social justice: Assumed in-person meetings resume fall 21: 2 meetings (e.g. coffee in common) @\$500: \$250 facility rental, \$150 refreshments, \$100 tech and other expenses; Honorariums: 2@ \$150; NPV: \$100 for postcard campaign and postage; food politics - \$1000 (in-person events); nominal budgets for education, medical, sustainability - \$750 total (\$250 each)
6400 Annual Meeting		\$250.00	Remote meeting expense (videoconferencing): \$250
6500 Local Meetings	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	Registration fees for local meetings (e.g. Collard Green fest, Back to School, etc.)
6600 Natl & FL Meetings	\$5,600.00	\$400.00	8 attendees to virtual LWVF meeting @\$50 each
6700 Other Programs	\$600.00	\$100.00	prior yrs: \$100 contrib to FL Ed Fund; \$200 to lobby fund - no longer required
Total 6000 Programs	\$23,200.00	\$17,900.00	
7000 Operations			
7100 Office Manager	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00	Based on office manager hours for 2020-21
7200 Rent	\$5,400.00	\$4,954.00	rent: 6 months @\$426; 6 months at \$398
7300 Telephone & Internet	\$1,000.00	\$780.00	cell phone: 12 months @\$65
7400 Insurance	\$1,300.00	\$950.00	liability: \$450; D&O: \$500
7500 Office Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	General office supplies: \$500; Upper cabinets from Ikea for League office: \$1000

7600 Bank & Other Fees	\$1,400.00	\$4,458.00	Monthly fees: \$10/mo direct pay at Wells Fargo (\$120); Annual filings x2 - c3 and c4: Dept of State (\$124), Dept of Ag (\$150), sales tax (\$104); Quickbooks x2: 12 months @\$40 (\$960); fees for audit or compilation in 21-22 (\$3000)
<b>Total 7000 Operations</b>	<b>\$33,100.00</b>	<b>\$34,642.00</b>	
8000 Marketing & Fundraising			
8100 Website	\$5,000.00	\$849.00	\$100: vote411; website maintenance @\$50mo x12; \$149 for additional month of website support for transfer of PVG info to vote411
8200 Membership	\$700.00	\$2,568.00	TY gifts for members joining at higher levels: \$600; gift postage: \$40; reminder postcards printing/postage: \$75; member events: \$250; \$575 cc fees; \$1,028 for CRM
8300 Advertising & PR	\$500.00	\$1,919.00	Constant contact annual: \$840; canva: \$129; FB boost ads \$50/mo (\$600); Google ad words \$350 (based on spending in last municipal election year)
8400 Fundraising	\$500.00	\$3,250.00	Donor stewardship: \$200; Shuffle event: \$1000; spring annual appeal: \$250; end of year appeal: \$250; special initiative promotion: \$250; \$800 cost of swag; \$500 CFC costs (\$275 runsignup fees, \$225 promotion and swag)
<b>Total 8000 Marketing &amp; Fundraising</b>	<b>\$6,700.00</b>	<b>\$8,586.00</b>	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>	<b>\$80,633.00</b>	
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>(\$15,000.00)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Other Revenue</b>			
9100 Interest/Dividend Income	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	
9200 Market Gain (Loss)	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>(\$15,000.00)</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	

## PROPOSED BYLAWS

### ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND POLICY

Sec. 1. Purposes. The purposes of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government, to act on selected governmental issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Sec. 2. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

*ADD: Sec. 3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy. The League is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and practice - with the League of Women Voters of the United States' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.*

### ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

(a) Voting members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of the LWVUS;

1. those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;
2. those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state Members-at-large.

(b) Associate members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

*ADD: Sec. 3. Definition of Membership. Members are persons at least 16 years of age who have joined the League for one year by paying their annual dues; this includes membership to the local, state, and the LWVUS.*

### ARTICLE VIII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area shall be from April 1 to March 31.

Sec. 2. Dues.

(a) Annual dues shall be set at the annual meeting by a vote of the membership and shall be due and payable on or before each member's anniversary date. Approval of dues shall include the creation of dues categories with differing levels of payment recommended by the board.

(b) Dues are paid by a new member when joining the League. The join date establishes the member's anniversary date for payment of yearly dues.

(c) Any member whose dues have not been received by two months after their anniversary date shall be dropped from membership on that date unless this action is countermanded by the board of directors.

~~REMOVE: Dues Structure [4/15]~~

- ~~● Carrie Chapman Catt: \$250~~
- ~~● Susan B. Anthony: \$125~~
- ~~● Household Membership: \$78~~
- ~~● Individual Membership: \$52~~
- ~~● Student Membership: \$FREE til 2021~~

Sec. 3. Budget. A budget for the ensuing year based on recommendations of the budget committee shall be proposed by the board of directors to the members at least one month before the Annual Meeting where it will be presented for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Sec. 4. Budget Committee. A budget committee of at least three members shall be appointed by the board of directors by Nov. 1 of each year to recommend a budget for the ensuing year to the board of directors. A member other than the treasurer shall serve as its chair.

Sec. 5. Audit Committee. A committee shall be appointed by the board of directors to examine the books of the treasurer prior to each Annual Meeting and it shall make a report to the members at the Annual Meeting. The audit committee's report shall be presented to the members for their adoption at the Annual Meeting.

## ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting provided that amendments were submitted to the membership at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Sec. 2. Bylaws Committee. A bylaws committee of at least three members shall be appointed by the board of directors by November first of each year to review the bylaws and submit any recommendations to the board of directors. CHANGE: The committee shall also consider proposed amendments from individual members that have been received in writing not later than 6 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

Sec. 3. Proposal. Based on a report from the bylaws committee, the board of directors shall submit recommended and not-recommended proposed amendments to the membership for their consideration at the Annual Meeting.

ADD:

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

LWVSPA is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

## LWVSPA BOARD AND ELECTED OFFICER SLATE

### BOARD NOMINEES (2021-22)



**Linsey Grove**

**President**

**2021-2022**

Linsey was elected as President of LWVSPA in 2019 and is finishing her second term. She also serves as the project co-lead for the Engage St. Pete initiative with Dr. Julie Kessel and co-chairs the Empowering Pinellas Youth Collaborative, a comprehensive sex education campaign as a part of her activity on the LWVSPA Social Justice Action Team. She has helped secure \$200,000 for the LWVSPA in grants to help fund projects such as the Voter Guide and Engage St. Pete. Linsey has been on the Board since 2017 (having also served as 1st Vice President).

Linsey holds a Doctorate in Public Health, is Certified in Public Health, and is a Certified Health Education Specialist. She is an instructor and program coordinator for the Health Sciences program at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. She also works as a public health consultant for various public health agencies, social change organizations, non-profits, and businesses and is co-owner of Carriage House Consulting, LLC.



**Robin Davidov**

**1st Vice President**

**2021-2022**

Robin was elected to the position of 1st Vice President in 2019 and is running for re-election. She is astonished by the hard work of LWVSPA's volunteers and the dedication of team leads and board members.

Robin had a 30 year career in Maryland developing, financing and operating waste management and renewable energy projects for a regional government agency. In Maryland, she enjoyed working with elected officials and community groups. She was on the board of the South Baltimore Learning Center, an adult literacy program. After retiring, Robin became a consultant in sustainable projects and helped clients in Australia, the U.S. and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Robin is currently a member of the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College (ASPEC). She is also a Guardian ad Litem for the 6th Circuit Florida and an education surrogate for the Pinellas County School System. Robin enjoys kayaking, theater, music, travel, and reading books the old fashion way.



**Amy Keith**  
**2nd Vice President**  
**2021 - 2022**

Amy Keith (she/her) was elected to the position of 2nd Vice President in 2020. She also serves as a co-chair of the Voter Services Team. Amy joined LWVSPA in 2018 while looking for a way to get involved after moving back to the US. She helped run the League's Election Protection poll monitoring for the 2018 midterms, and after seeing the amazing impact of volunteer-driven voter protection and education efforts, she was hooked.

Amy has 20 years of experience in nonprofit management and is currently the Grants Director at Empath Health. She has spent most of her career working for international humanitarian and refugee organizations in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa. She holds an MPA from Columbia University and a BA in Philosophy from Bates College. She, her husband, and their cat are happy to call St Pete home.



**Fern Azarian**  
**Secretary**  
**2021-2023**

Fern joined LWVSPA in 2019. She wanted to become involved in a non-partisan organization where voters rights and engagement are critical to their mission. She firmly believes in the Stacey Adams quote, "Our ability to participate in government, to elect our leaders and to improve our lives is contingent upon our ability to access the ballot. We know in our heart of hearts that voting is a sacred right - the fount from which all other rights flow." She is passionate about food politics and environmental issues. She is a member of the sustainability committee.

Fern has a BA in Political Science with a minor in Women's Studies with a Master of Public Administration. She has a broad-based knowledge of how the political process works. However, her 40-year career was in the private sector. She has extensive management experience. She is a certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt who has successfully led and participated in many

improvement projects. One successful project was to help Feeding Tampa Bay organize their warehouse to feed additional food insecure residents.

Fern loves to walk. She has walked over 800 miles since 2017. She spends a great deal of time reading about women's issues and racial inequality. Another passion of hers is the arts. For the past year, she has been hand building clay pottery.



**Jackie Azis**  
**Director (2-year term)**  
**2021 - 2023**

Jackie is a native Floridian. She works as a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Florida. Most of her legal work involves criminal justice reform, homelessness rights, and the First Amendment.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Jackie studied journalism at the University of Florida and went to law school at the University of North Carolina School of Law. During law school, Jackie interned with the ACLU of North Carolina and the ACLU-Capital Punishment Project. Prior to working with the ACLU-FL, Jackie worked as an assistant public defender in Marion County, Florida, representing hundreds of individuals facing misdemeanor and felony charges. In 2016, the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers presented Jackie with the James T. Miller Scholar award recognizing outstanding young criminal defense lawyers.

In her free time, Jackie travels (33 states and 31 countries down!), reads non-fiction, volunteers for a dog rescue, and spends time with her pack of rescue dogs and her partner, who is a veterinarian at a local animal hospital and urgent care. Jackie has lived in various cities throughout Florida, including Palm Beach Gardens, Miami, Jacksonville, Ocala, and Gainesville, but St. Petersburg has won her heart and she's so happy to call it home!



**Gretchen Johnson**  
**Director (2-year term)**  
**2021 - 2023**

Gretchen Johnson is a peacebuilder. She received her MA in Conflict Resolution and Security in International Relations and a BA in geography. She joined the LWVSPA as soon as she moved to St. Pete Beach just over a year ago. She is called to serve to promote democracy, equity, and civic engagement. She is active on the Social

Justice Committee and is a liaison to Pinellas Remembers for the committee. She is the recorder for the St. Petersburg Quakers Peace and Social Concerns Committee and has helped relaunch the St. Petersburg Advocacy team with the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), advocating to end endless wars. She also volunteers at the Florida Holocaust Museum. As a peace practitioner, she is concerned about our increased polarization and is working to reweave our societal fabric with everyone.

Gretchen's career path follows her heart and motto "Life is short, it should be good, for everyone." After volunteering for Peace Corps in Cote d'Ivoire, she moved to Hawaii and became a wildlife biologist and park ranger. Seeking to further build peace, she started her project "Peaces of the World" which seeks to unite humanity one peace at a time, by putting a human face on peoples around the world. She is happy to return home here in Florida and continue to build peace here.



**Beate Marston**  
**Director (1-year term)**  
**2021-2022**

Beate was elected to the Board of Directors in 2020 to complete a one year term. Beate had the good fortune to have spent her childhood growing up in Portugal, India, and Germany. As a young adult she came to the US and prior to moving to Florida she worked with dually diagnosed adults in daycare and residential settings.

She has lived in St. Petersburg since 1984 and was a state employee throughout her career locally, experiencing the transitions of a state agency from HRS to CYF to DJJ respectively and serving in capacities such as Rehabilitative Counselor; Children, Youth and Families Counselor; Liaison for the Pinellas Marine Institute; Juvenile Probation Officer; then working within the Pinellas County Court system as an administrative assistant for the Staff Attorney's Office, and finally as assistant to a General Magistrate in the Family Court Division of the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Beate is grateful for the eye opening experience of having witnessed from within the influence of changing political winds on a government agency tasked with providing services for its most needy citizens, and on the court system itself, and how numerous social services agencies in our community try to adapt in order to be able to continue their varied missions.

In 2015, having thankfully retired she turned her full attention to pursuing her love of clay, happily sculpting, glazing and firing and being part of the growing St.Petersburg arts community.

After participating in the Women's March in 2017 Beate became acquainted with the work of the LWV and subsequently, with a bit of gentle encouragement by some close friends she joined the League. She values the League's commitment to non-partisanship and is excited to have made so many capable, interesting, new acquaintances and is exploring all the committees and their important pursuits.

She was comfortable as a "green card" carrying legal resident alien living in this country for over 40 years but felt compelled in 2019 to finally pursue citizenship, and she applied for naturalization. As of November 2019 she has joined the ranks of numerous newly minted citizens who are hopeful, eager and excited to participate in their first ever presidential election in 2020.



**Betsy Wells**  
**Director (2-year term)**  
**2021 - 2023**

Betsy Wells joined the League in 2017 to become more involved in civic activity, beyond voting and contacting her representatives. Betsy became compelled to serve in the League once she gained an appreciation for the many action committees that the League had to offer. After she attended her first Voter Registration meeting she found her calling, educating and registering voters and assisting with candidate forums. These activities amazed Betsy, but registering a first time voter was a complete thrill! Grassroots democracy is where Betsy finds her motivation.

Betsy earned her Bachelors of Science in Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1985. She spent most of her nursing career working in hospital emergency departments and Cardiac Rehab. Betsy also served as a Drug Involved Family nurse at the St. Petersburg Health Department. She now volunteers as a nurse at the St. Pete Free Clinic.

In addition to her professional life, Betsy served on the board at The Canterbury School of Florida. Betsy has served on the Cultural Competency Committee at the Free Clinic, volunteered for many years at the PACE School for Girls, and served as a Girl Scout leader for two Troops. Betsy enjoys swimming, walking, yoga, pickleball, making jewelry and walking her two dogs.

## CURRENT BOARD



**Nita Carroll**  
**Board Director**  
**2020-2022**

Nita Carroll graduated from Stetson College of Law in 1995 and has practiced law locally (save several year adventures to Austin, TX and Asheville, NC) since that time. Prior to law school, Nita graduated from USF – Tampa, HCC, and Hillsborough High School in Tampa. During her stays in Austin and Asheville, she worked at several non-profits, including a domestic violence service provider as a Systems Advocate. In addition to her professional social justice work, Nita has been involved in the movement to end gender-based violence since her first year of law school. She has also volunteered as a literacy tutor for both children and adults.

## NOMINATION COMMITTEE



**Keeley Sheehan LaForme**  
**Nominating Committee Chair**

**2021-2022**

Keeley is running for Chair of the Nominating Committee, having been first elected to the committee in 2018. Keeley is a digital content specialist in the marketing department at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, and has experience in content development, public relations and journalism. She earned her master's degree in journalism from the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, after earning her bachelor's in English and anthropology from the University at Buffalo. In addition to volunteering with the League which she has been a member of since 2017, she volunteers with Tampa Bay Waterkeeper and is a member of the local a cappella group Weird and Wonderful.



**Amy Weintraub**  
**Nominating Committee**

**2021-2022**

Amy is running for re-election to the Nominating Committee on which she has served since 2018. Amy counts the League as one of the best things about life in St. Petersburg, having initially been invited to events by Sue Price in 2016. Amy chairs the LWVSPA Membership Committee. Previously she chaired the LWVSPA Reproductive Rights Action Team (now merged into the Social Justice Action Team), as well as the statewide LWV Florida Reproductive Health & Justice Action Team. Professionally, Amy works as the Reproductive Rights Program Director for Progress Florida. A native of Spencer, West Virginia, she studied as an undergrad at Emory University and graduate student at New York University. She lives in St. Petersburg with her husband with whom she has two college age children. She is active with Pinellas NOW and the Pinellas Democratic Executive Committee.



**Ken Wrede**  
**Nominating Committee**

**2021-2022**

Ken has been a member of LWVSPA since 2017, and a member of the Board April 2018 to April 2021, serving as its secretary for two years. He has been on the Nominating Committee since 2019. A business executive, veteran, and entrepreneur, Ken has a wide-ranging background in the worlds of international business, international

security, consulting, and startup businesses. He has 27 years of experience living and working around the world: South Korea, The Netherlands, Spain, and France.

Ken was commissioned in the US Army from Mississippi State University, holds an M.Sc. from the Golden Gate University in telecommunications, and an EMBA from École des Hautes Études Commerciales d'Paris (HEC Paris), Paris, France with an emphasis in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Ken splits his time between working with non-profit organizations, speaking, and writing extensively on leadership and leadership modeling. Ken writes in a blog on issues concerning leadership, business, and critical thinking.

## PROPOSED PROGRAM

The Program Planning process is part of what makes the League a grassroots organization; each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the local, state, and national League will focus time, talent and money. Every year, local leagues solicit feedback and plans from their members to create the local League's Program . In League jargon, Program means the issues that we choose for concerted study, education and action at local, state and national levels . Program can include both education and advocacy work. League Principles and positions on public policy issues are included in Article IX of the LWVSPA Bylaws.

**Art. IX, Sec. 2. Program.** The program of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area shall consist of:

- (a) action to protect the right to vote of every citizen, and
- (b) those national, state, regional, county and municipal governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

The Program Planning Meeting happens two months ahead of the Annual Meeting. At the Program Planning Meeting, team leads and proposed teams “pitch” their issue and plans to be adopted as a part of the overall Program. This has been done in many different ways over the years; with the continuance of COVID-19 in our community, we will be taking Program Planning virtual for the first time in our League's history. To ensure that members are able to adequately review each team's “pitch,” we have created this workbook with information submitted by each team (new and established). We ask that members review this workbook, submit questions for each team ahead of the meeting using this survey , and attend the virtual Program Planning Meeting to listen to presentations and ultimately vote on a proposed Program.

The proposed Program voted on by members at the Program Planning Meeting will be presented at the Annual Meeting in April for voting members to adopt for League Year 2021-22.

It takes the enthusiasm and interest of our members to keep our program vital. You'd never skip voting in an election; you shouldn't skip the League's equivalent. **The program planning process is your voice!**

**The next few pages are the proposed program for 2021-22.**

- **Sustainability**
- **Food Politics**
- **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact**
- **Social Justice**
- **Medical/Healthcare**
- **Education**
- **Voter Services**

# Sustainability

## TEAM LEAD

Laura Crabtree

## TEAM PURPOSE

Our purpose is to improve the environmental quality and resiliency of our city and the surrounding areas by partnering with community leaders, businesses and environmental groups. This includes long term goals that involve supporting the City of St. Petersburg in their sustainability initiatives, including their roadmap to clean energy. Educating our members, and our citizens, regarding the actions of our political leaders on these critical issues is the backbone of the Sustainability Team.

## TOP THREE INITIATIVES OF 2020-21

1. Because of the pandemic, environmental cleanups with our community partners were most successful. We were able to gather outdoors where it was easier to socially distance and to talk to local residents inquiring about what we were doing.
2. We've been partnering with other Florida chapters such as Broward County and North Pinellas County with co-hosting events and working together on local and state League priorities.
3. We've lent our support to local causes led by community groups and college students advocating for land preservation and environmental protections. This was done through showing public support and by contacting our
4. County Commissioners and City Council members.

## BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2020-21

The biggest accomplishment was increasing the number of team members by personally reaching out to new League members interested in our team and initiating a relationship.

## PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR 2021-22

1. **Sustainability/Environmental awareness for members and citizens through education.**  
**Action(s):** Educational opportunities provided by local non-profits, Government employees, local experts etc. in the form of webinars and eventually in-person gatherings that will include tours or hands-on activities.
2. **Involvement in protection and restoration of our Tampa Bay estuary and surrounding coastlines.**  
**Action(s):** Become involved by volunteering for Tampa Bay Watch's ongoing restoration project. This allows our members and their family members to see

firsthand from watercraft, the ecology of Tampa Bay and the importance of protecting it for reasons of water quality, endangered species and many other reasons.

**3. Holding local leaders and politicians accountable for their actions affecting our natural resources including the city's vulnerable communities that may be negatively affected by our leaders' decisions.**

**Action(s):** Sustainability members will be encouraged to keep up with local politics, locally and statewide, and share with the team so that we can collectively be aware of critical issues that need our attention. Our actions will include any or all of the following: contacting politicians, supporting environmental groups or college groups, providing testimony, signing petitions, tabling (after the pandemic) or networking and getting the information out to the public.

## **NATIONAL AND STATE POSITION ALIGNMENT**

### National

**Natural Resources:** Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

- **Climate Change.** Support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations
- **Water.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater, and drinking water, and set up a process to evaluate inter-basin water transfers.

### State

**Sustainability:** The League of Women Voters of Florida supports governmental action that results in sustainability: meeting the needs of the present without endangering the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Environment, society and the economy must be integrated and balanced to achieve a sustainable Florida.

### Natural Resources

**Resource Management:** Promote an environment beneficial to life through the Protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationship of air quality, energy, land use, waste management, and waste resources. Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Support public policies that provide for cooperative, coordinated planning for and decisions about land use in Florida including methods for resolution of conflicts.

- Support the preparation and implementation of a new state growth management plan that addresses current needs.
- Support the implementation of the Water and Land Legacy Amendment consistent with the intent of the adopted language.

**Florida Freshwater Resources:** Support public policies that promote conservation of freshwater and its availability for environmental, public supply, agricultural, industrial and mining uses on a priority basis.

- Support the protection of freshwater resources

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Tampa Bay Watch
- Keep Pinellas Beautiful
- Tampa Bay Estuary Program
- Sierra Club
- Eckerd College PIRG
- Rise Above Plastics - Surfrider Foundation

## BUDGET INFORMATION

\$300

# Food Politics

## TEAM LEADS

Jen Underhill & Julie Kessel

## TEAM PURPOSE

Our purpose is to empower people to make better food choices for their individual health and the environment, expose the corrupting influence of corporate money on our food and health systems, and to advocate for more equitable food access and public policy in St. Petersburg.

## TOP THREE INITIATIVES OF 2020-21

1. Digital dining educational events
2. Establishment of St Pete Food Policy Council
3. Support for Urban Agriculture

## BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2020-21

1. Held 5 digital dining events with over 100 unique participants and 4 partners
2. Supported the establishment of, and became permanent member of, the St Pete Food Policy Council, with principal role to engage the community
3. Established a strong relationship with Gina Driscoll regarding food policy issues interfacing with St Pete City Council
4. More than doubled our team membership
5. Developed robust website content.
6. Added content to the legislative delegation letter reflecting our interests in increasing food access, nutrition security and urban agriculture
7. Integrated technology (gotomeeting, surveymonkey, swift polling) into our events.

## PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR 2021-22

### Food Policy Council

1. **Engage the community to provide input on policy.**  
**Action(s):** Town halls and other measures to ensure outreach.

### Meatless Monday Campaign

2. **Get the Mayor to support a proclamation in the city.**  
**Action(s):** Advocacy, work with Mayor and delegates.
3. **Introduce an advocacy campaign to push city council to entertain a resolution for meatless Mondays.**  
**Action(s):** Find a city council rep champion; Advocacy work with residents.

### Urban Agriculture

**4. To advocate and support policies to support urban ag in St. Petersburg.**

**Action(s):** Advocacy work, letter writing campaign, educational events.

**Educational Events**

**5. Continue our work to educate on food politics issues including impacts to health, climate, and democracy.**

**Action(s):** Digital Dining; Panel moderation; Food tour; Advocacy training; Work more closely with City Depts. (sustainability, health, waste).

## **NATIONAL AND STATE POSITION ALIGNMENT**

### National

#### Healthcare Affordability

**Basic Level of Quality of Care:** Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health).

#### Money in Politics

**Representative Government, the election process, money in politics (formerly campaign finance):** The League believes that political corruption includes the following: A candidate or office holder agrees to vote or work in favor of a donor's interests in exchange for a campaign contribution; an officeholder or staff gives greater access to donors; an officeholder votes or works to support policies that reflect the preferences of individuals or organizations in order to attract contributions from them; a candidate or office holder seeks political contributions implying that there will be retribution unless a donation is given; and the results of the political process consistently favor the interests of significant campaign contributors.

#### Natural Resources

**Climate Change, Agricultural Policies:** LWVUS believes that federal agriculture policies should promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers, farms that are economically viable, farm practices that are environmentally sound, and increased reliance on the free market to determine prices

### State

#### Healthcare Affordability

**Social Policy, Financing and Delivery of Health Care:** Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice, and the health and Safety of all Americans. Support

measures to implement Florida health care in a manner consistent with the LWVUS position on Healthcare reform.

### Natural Resources

**Agriculture:** Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

### Money in Politics

**Government in Florida:** Support the abolishment of Super PACs, the elimination of foreign money investment in US elections, reducing dollar contributions to campaigns and limiting carryover funds from campaigns to PACs.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Foundation for a Healthy St Pete
- St Pete Free Clinic
- Sierra Club
- Sustainable Urban Agriculture Coalition (SUAC)
- Ruth Eckerd Clarke
- Food and Water Watch
- One Community Grocery Co-up
- Wunderfarm
- 3 Black Vegan Girls
- The Well
- Florida Food Advisory Council

## BUDGET INFORMATION

\$1750

# National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC)

## TEAM LEADS

Deb Mazzaferro, Marty Shapiro & Pat Fling

## TEAM PURPOSE

Our purpose is to promote enacting the national popular vote in enough states to replace the 'winner-take-all' system to ensure that the voices of Floridians are just as important as the votes of every other American in all future Presidential elections.

## TOP THREE INITIATIVES OF 2020-21

1. Organizing statewide coalition through monthly zoom meetings
2. Educating the public and legislators about the National Popular Vote although we have been limited by COVID-19

## BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2020-21

The statewide coalition ready to advocate.

## PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR 2021-22

1. Advocating for the passage of the NPV Bill in the Florida Legislature  
**Action(s):** Continue to educate and advocate until the NPV bill passes the Florida Legislature.

## NATIONAL AND STATE POSITION ALIGNMENT

National

Voting Rights

**Selection of the President:** The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.

## State

### Election Law

Support measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise and to advocate fair methods of financing political campaigns including public financing.

- Support the election of the President and Vice president by direct popular vote.
- Support the National Popular Vote Compact (LWVUS).

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

- Floridians4NVP
- Common Cause

## **BUDGET INFORMATION**

\$100

# Social Justice

## TEAM LEADS

Linsey Grove & Stacey Kroto

## TEAM PURPOSE

The Social Justice Team invites the public to engage in and become more educated on the prescient issues of the day. We seek to expand the imagined possibilities of progress for all people and voices. We advocate safe, open-minded discussions in the community around the intersections of economics, history, politics, privilege, and race. We also house the Reproductive Justice and Gun Safety issues within this team.

## TOP THREE INITIATIVES OF 2020-21

1. Passing a Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis in the City of St. Petersburg in partnership with the Black Health Equity Alliance and the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg
2. Continuing the Coffee in Common Series in partnership with the St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. and the Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum.
3. Starting and maintaining a Social Justice Discussion Club for LWVSPA members.
4. Being present at other organizations and initiatives that are aligned with our social justice principles and initiatives.

## BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2020-21

5. Identifying and working with City Councilmember Amy Foster to advance the Resolution to Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis in the city of St. Petersburg. Passing this resolution would make St. Petersburg the first city to pass such a resolution in the State of Florida.
6. Continuing Coffee in Common during the COVID-19 Pandemic. We have hosted the monthly series since September 2019 and are continuing to plan and host these monthly events. Leagues from Alabama and in Orange County are seeking to replicate this model in their communities with local DST Alumni Chapters.
7. We have completed the Engage St. Pete Report for the public to use and have presented the findings of this report at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in 2020.
8. We have completed one book in our Social Justice Discussion Club (White Fragility) and are currently reading How to Be an Anti-Racist.

9. We have been actively involved with the Community Remembrance Project Coalition in Pinellas. Gretchen Johnson serves as our liaison.
10. We helped secure a \$10,000 racial equity grant from the Tampa Bay Rays Foundation.

## PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR 2021-22

### 1. Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis at municipal and county-wide levels

**Action(s):** Build coalition of organizations to support a resolution to declare racism a public health crisis at the county level; Identify a County Commissioner to file the resolution and work with them to navigate committees and meetings for resolution; Build media awareness of the resolution to garner support for the resolution and educate the community about its importance and need in Pinellas County.

**Continuing Action(s):** Work with City Councilmember Amy Foster to finalize and pass the City of St. Petersburg Resolution.

### 2. Continue to support and improve Coffee in Common and the Social Justice Discussion Club

**Action(s):** Provide technical assistance and support to other Leagues that seek to use this model in their own communities.

**Continuing Action(s):** Work with the St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta and the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Museum to host the monthly series; Identify other members to lead and facilitate monthly Discussion Club.

### 3. Provide DEI Training for League Leadership and Membership

**Action(s):** Identify and apply for grant funding to pay for external consultancy to provide DEI Training for League Leadership and Membership; Implement DEI training; Follow up with DEI training participants to track changes over time (6- and 12-months post-training surveys).

### 4. Advocate for Reproductive Justice and Gun Safety Issues at the Statewide Level

**Action(s):** Identify and track anti-choice and pro-gun safety legislation during the legislative session; advocate for expanded access to reproductive health and information; advocate for common sense gun laws in the state of Florida.

## NATIONAL AND STATE POSITION ALIGNMENT

### National

#### Core League Principles

The League of Women Voters believes every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.

## Equality of Opportunity

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment, and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Employment opportunities in modern, technological societies are closely related to education; therefore, the League supports federal programs to increase the education and training of disadvantaged people. The League supports federal efforts to prevent and/or remove discrimination in education, employment, and housing and to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems.

## Equal Rights

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all regardless of sex. The League supports action to bring laws into compliance with the ERA: a) to eliminate or amend those laws that have the effect of discriminating on the basis of sex; b) to promote laws that support the goals of the ERA; c) to strengthen the enforcement of such existing laws. The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.

## Representative Government

**Public Policy on Reproductive Rights:** The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

## Healthcare

**Basic Level of Quality of Care:** Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care, and mental health care.

## Social Policy

**Gun Control:** Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

- The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semiautomatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and

safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

- The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education, and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.
- The League supports a ban on “Saturday night specials,” enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

**LWVUS 2020 Racial Justice Resolution:**

<https://lww-va.org/2020/07/30/racial-justice-resolution-passed-at-lwvus-convention-june-2020/>

State

Social Policy

**Gun Safety:** Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice, and the health and Safety of all Americans. Support regulations concerning the purchase, ownership and use of handguns that balance as, nearly as possible, individual constitutional rights with the general interest and welfare of the community.

**Financing and Delivery of Health Care:** Support the Constitutional right of women to make reproductive choices, have privacy and have availability of services.

**Healthcare and Kid Care:** To improve the quality of life for children and their families and thereby to combat problems of poverty, discrimination, youth crime and related problems, LWVFL reaffirms its support of equal access to education, employment and housing and support of ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

- Black Health Equity Alliance
- Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum
- African American Heritage Association of St. Petersburg
- St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter
- of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.
- Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg
- Unite Pinellas

- Allendale Methodist Church
- Community Remembrance Project Coalition of Pinellas
- Community Development and Training Center
- The Deuces Live!
- The Sanderlin Family Center
- Operation PAR
- Planned Parenthood
- National Organization of Women (Pinellas Chapters)
- Progress Florida

## **BUDGET INFORMATION**

\$500

# Medical/Healthcare

[New Team]

## TEAM LEADS

Ilene Robeck, MD

## TEAM PURPOSE

The Medical Team is interested in educating about health care issues that will be important in upcoming elections, reviewing issues related to health care education for members and networking with others in the state with similar interests.

## PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR 2021-22

### 1. Health Insurance Parity

**Action(s):** Understand options for improving health care access for all that includes insurance, Medicaid and Medicare parity for services.

### 2. Education for Members

**Action(s):** Educate our membership on important issues such as nutrition, stress, resilience, Covid and other topics that come up.

### 3. Nutrition Parity

**Action(s):** Review issues related to food deserts and how to correct them.

## NATIONAL AND STATE POSITION ALIGNMENT

### National

#### Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents, including behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system.

**Goals:** The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care.

- **Basic Level of Quality of Care:** Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care, and mental

health care. Every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality in and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive service that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care. Dental, vision, and hearing care also are important but lower in priority. The League believes that under any system of health care reform, consumers/patients should be permitted to purchase services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level.

- **Financing and Administration:** The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums. As the United States moves toward a national health insurance plan, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable to the League. The League supports administration of the U.S. health care system either by a combination of the private and public sectors or by a combination of federal, state, and/or regional government agencies. The League is opposed to a strictly private market-based model of financing the health care system. The League also is opposed to the administration of the health care system solely by the private sector or the states.
- **Taxes:** The League supports increased taxes to finance a basic level of health care for all U.S. residents, provided health care reforms contain effective cost control strategies.
- **Cost Control:** The League believes that efficient and economical delivery of care can be enhanced by such cost control methods as:
  - the reduction of administrative costs,
  - regional planning for the allocation of personnel, facilities, and equipment,
  - the establishment of maximum levels of public reimbursement to providers,
  - malpractice reform,
  - the use of managed care,
  - utilization review of treatment,
  - mandatory second opinions before surgery or extensive treatment,
  - consumer accountability through deductibles and copayments.
- **Equity Issues:** The League believes that health care services could be more equitably distributed by:
  - allocating medical resources to underserved areas,
  - providing for training health care professionals in needed fields of care,
  - standardizing basic levels of service for publicly funded health care programs,
  - requiring insurance plans to use community rating instead of experience rating,
  - establishing insurance pools for small businesses and organizations.
- **Allocation of Resources to Individuals:** The League believes that the ability of a patient to pay for services should not be a consideration in the allocation of health care resources. Limited resources should be allocated based on the following criteria considered together: the urgency of the medical condition, the life expectancy of the patient, the expected outcome of the treatment, the cost of the procedure, the duration of

care, the quality of life of the patient after treatment, and the wishes of the patient and the family.

- **Behavioral Health:**

- Behavioral health as the nationally accepted term that includes both mental illness and substance use disorder.
- Access for all people to affordable, quality in and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services.
- Behavioral health care that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care.
- Early and affordable behavioral health diagnosis and treatment for children and youth from early childhood through adolescence.
- Early and appropriate diagnosis and treatment for children and adolescents that is family-focused and community-based.
- Access to safe and stable housing for people with behavioral health challenges, including those who are chronically homeless.
- Effective reentry planning and follow-up for people released from both behavioral health hospitalization and the criminal justice system.
- Problem solving or specialty courts, including mental health and drug courts, in all judicial districts to provide needed treatment and avoid inappropriate entry into the criminal justice system.
- Health education—from early childhood throughout life—that integrates all aspects of social, emotional, and physical health and wellness.
- Efforts to decrease the stigmatization of, and normalize, behavioral health problems and care.

### Meeting Basic Human Needs

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that one of the goals of social policy in the United States should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty. Persons who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate, or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services sufficient to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and access to health care.

**Access to Health Care:** LWVUS believes that access to health care includes the following: preventive care, primary care, maternal and child health care, emergency care, catastrophic care, nursing home care, and mental health care as well as access to substance abuse programs, health and sex education programs, and nutrition programs.

State

Social Policy

**Financing and Delivery of Health Care:** Support measures to implement Florida health care in a manner consistent with the LWVUS position on health care reform.

- Support implementation of the March 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in Florida, emphasizing access for all and control of costs for the individual including Medicaid expansion and mental health coverage.
- Support the Constitutional right of women to make reproductive choices, have privacy and have availability of services.

**Healthcare and Kid Care:** To improve the quality of life for children and their families and thereby to combat problems of poverty, discrimination, youth crime and related problems, LWVFL reaffirms its support of equal access to education, employment and housing and support of ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

None listed.

## **BUDGET INFORMATION**

None listed.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

As I am new to the league I would like, if this team is approved, to reach out to members to see who would be interested in joining the team and the team's priorities. For the remainder of 2021 I anticipate that most things will be done virtually so little will be needed other than ongoing zoom support. 2022 will look quite different so a budget moving forward can be formulated more effectively for the future.

# Education

[New Team]

## TEAM LEADS

Raegan Miller and Stephanie Cox

## TEAM PURPOSE

The purpose of our team would be to educate voters about policies being written in Tallahassee and how they impact the families of Pinellas County. We would also like to educate voters about what the term school “choice” actually means. We would like to work with our current legislators to impress upon them the importance of a strong public education system. We would like to work with local school board members and legislators to reduce the amount of testing done in our public schools. We would also like to work with legislators to ensure that our public schools are appropriately funded.

## PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR 2021-22

### 1. Advocate for public education and students.

**Action(s):** Educate members and voters on the impact “School Choice” has on Florida’s public schools; Advocate for a reduction in high stakes testing in public schools; Advocate for increased funding for public schools; Advocate for higher standards for early childhood education and increased access and funding for early childhood education.

### 2. Develop our action team.

**Action(s):** Find partners (PTA, PCTA, Parent & Teacher Facebook Groups) to develop a marketing campaign to actually educate voters; Develop a team of partners who increase awareness of the strengths of our public schools and increase awareness of the strengths of public schools.

## NATIONAL AND STATE POSITION ALIGNMENT

### National

#### Equality of Opportunity

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment, and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Employment opportunities in modern, technological societies are closely related to education; therefore, the League supports federal programs to increase the education and training of disadvantaged

people. The League supports federal efforts to prevent and/or remove discrimination in education, employment, and housing and to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems.

## Education

**Tuition Tax Credits:** The 1978 Convention directed the National Board to oppose tax credits for families of children attending private elementary and secondary schools. Convention action was based on League support for equal access to education and support for desegregation as a means of promoting equal access. The League is concerned about the negative impact that tuition tax credits would have on the public schools by encouraging flight, particularly from desegregated schools. The League also supports federal efforts through Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulation to deny tax-exempt status to racially discriminatory “segregation academies.”

**Education Financing:** Many state and local Leagues have identified inequities in education financing during the course of their own program studies and have worked for reforms. Action on school financing equity takes place predominantly at the state level, where school financing laws are made.

The League Supports:

- Child-care centers for preschool children to give parents the opportunity for employment.
- Greatly increased educational opportunity through compensatory programs for disadvantaged groups beginning at the preschool level and extending through secondary education.

## Meeting Basic Human Needs

**Early Intervention for Children at Risk:** The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that early intervention and prevention measures are effective in helping children reach their full potential. The League supports policies and programs at all levels of the community and government that promote the wellbeing, encourage the full development, and ensure the safety of all children.

## State

### Education in Florida

Support a free public-school system for Florida with high standards for student achievement and with equality of educational opportunity for all that is financed adequately by the state through an equitable funding formula.

- Promote adequate funding of public education with no use of public funding for the expansion of funding of private education through a voucher program.
- Support a curricular framework that includes broad common standards developed by educational experts that serves as a guide to local districts.
- Support the increased oversight of the development and implementation of charter school contracts with regard to administrative fees, facility contracts, teacher salaries and benefits, and instructional innovation, independence of charter board members, and unmet needs in the district.
- Support a statewide assessment and accountability system that provides valid data at appropriate intervals to measure student progress for all students and schools that receive public funds directly or indirectly. Data should be used to identify areas where increased support is needed.
- Support higher standards for early childhood education staff and programs.
- Increase funding for high quality preschool programs for certified teachers including funding for in-service training for teachers and staff.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

- Pinellas County Parent-Teacher Association
- Pinellas County Council PTA
- Local Parent Facebook Groups

## **BUDGET INFORMATION**

None listed.

# Voter Services

## TEAM LEADS

Maryellen Gordon, Robin Davidov, Amy Keith & Caitlin Constantine

## TEAM PURPOSE

To register, educate, mobilize, and protect voters, so that every eligible voter in Pinellas County has the opportunity to cast an informed ballot that counts.

## TOP THREE INITIATIVES OF 2020-21

The Voter Services team registered, educated, mobilized and protected Pinellas County voters across all three elections in the 2020 election cycle. In the context of COVID-19 and a volatile presidential election, our top four issues were:

1. Voting-by-Mail
2. Voter Outreach and Education
3. Election and Voter Protection
4. Support for Returning Citizens (including postcard campaign for voter registration)

## BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2020-21

1. **Community Engagement:** Pinellas Voter Guide produced for all 3 elections (205,000 users for the General Election alone); Concerted community outreach efforts in collaboration with over 22 community partner organizations; 12 virtual candidate forums with a combined audience of more than 400 people; thousands of flyers and factsheets produced and distributed in collaboration with partners; dozens of community presentations/talks/trainings/Q&A sessions on voting rights, voting by mail and constitutional amendments.
2. **Democracy Starts at Home Campaign:** Working with local artists to produce real-person social media stories and community art to promote voting by mail; mass texting campaign to promote vote by mail with 9,000 registered voters; production of outreach materials aimed at educating people about the process and benefits of voting by mail during the pandemic.
3. **Poll Monitoring:** For the General Election, 124 volunteer poll monitors covered all five early voting locations from Oct 19-Nov 1 and covered 64 polling locations (encompassing over 130 precincts) from 7am - 7pm on Election Day.

## PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR 2021-22

1. **Voter Registration**

**Action(s):** Staying present in the community (and restarting in-person voter registration as COVID-19 context allows); voter registration at Feeding Tampa Bay and St Petersburg Free Clinic distributions, voter registration and education with churches especially in South St Pete, increase work with Hispanic community and Mi Familia Vota; Continuing support for Returning Citizens to regain their voting rights; Retraining/recertifying all LWVSPA voter registration teams for voter registration.

**2. Remaining go-to experts on voter rights and education**

**Action(s):** Tracking election legislation and administrative changes; Continuing community education about how to vote and why voting matters (flyers/fact sheets, talks, presentations, etc.); Ensuring active LWVSPA members and leaders are “voting facts ambassadors”.

**3. Harnessing/continuing youth energy from 2020**

**Action(s):** GOTV videos with young people talking about why voting is important to them.

**4. Advocating for an expansion of Early Voting sites in Pinellas County.**

**5. Redistricting (in collaboration with LWVFL)**

**Action(s):** Redistricting process and how it impacts Pinellas County; Educational program for community about redistricting; Seek to have an LWV member on the county redistricting commission.

## NATIONAL AND STATE POSITION ALIGNMENT

### National

#### Representative Government

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.

- **Citizen’s Right to Vote:** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.
- **Redistricting:** Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.
- **Voter Representation/Electoral Systems:** Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters.
- **Citizen’s Right to Know/Public Participation:** Protect the citizen’s right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making.

## State

### Election Law

- Support automatic restoration of voting rights for former felony offenders.
- Support notifying voters if their absentee ballot has been accepted or rejected and provide a remedy for ensuring the vote of those whose ballots have been rejected.
- Support Florida's participation in the Electronic Registration Information Center.
- Support implementation of Election Day Registration as soon as administratively possible.
- Support implementation of automatic voter registration of eligible voters.
- Make election voting portable within the county to enable the broadest voter access.
- Support retention of 1968 Florida Constitutional Amendment for home rule by municipalities and counties in the administration of local issues.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- St Petersburg Free Clinic
- Feeding Tampa Bay
- Mt Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church (and other churches)
- National Council of Negro Women
- Florida Election Protection Coalition
- Mi Familia Vota
- Deuces Live
- Allendale United Methodist Church
- Pinellas County Urban League
- Midtown Rotary
- PERC
- Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum
- Neighborhood Associations
- ACLU
- Gulfport Votes 100%
- Women Talk Black

## BUDGET INFORMATION

\$3500