

THE VOTER

July 2022



Letter from the President



Dear League,

I hope this finds you healthy and well. It's been a rough June so please remember to take care of yourselves and each other.

Happy July! This 4th of July I am strengthened by all of you who continue to co-create our democracy. We will continue to use our collective power to demand our fundamental rights and freedom. We still have work to do, and I am thankful for all of you dedicated to making our democracy work and hearing every voice.

We faced another school shooting by rallying together against gun violence. Our power worked! President Biden signed into law a bipartisan gun bill, the first one in over three

decades. And, we have more to do.

We faced the devastating overturn of *Roe v. Wade* by SCOTUS. This decision is stripping away our reproductive rights and equality. In anger, hurt and power we showed up to rally for our reproductive freedom.

We received good news; a Leon County judge ruled that HB5, Florida's 15-week abortion ban is unconstitutional and violates the privacy provision in our State Constitution and supports a temporary statewide injunction.

And the bad news: Governor DeSantis' office stated they will appeal the ruling and ask the Florida Supreme Court to reverse its existing precedent regarding Florida's right to privacy. We still have work to do.

Linsey Grove, Stacey Kroto and I were able to attend the LWVUS convention. It was inspiring to see over 1,000 people from all 50 states and Washington DC committed to empower voters and defend democracy. We debated, we discussed, we dug into the details of making democracy work and shared best practices when we face misinformation, disinformation and polarization. Florida was responsible for adding two items to the program: support for ERA and elevating direct voting through National Popular Vote (NPV) and abolishment of electoral college by amendments. This is in part thanks to our own NPV team!

Luckily, we did have celebrations too! We celebrated Juneteenth and PRIDE. We celebrated Race Amity Day where races joined in friendship and amity where we are reminded that we all need to show up together for everyone's freedom.

I celebrate you for showing up and being part of the LWVSPA.

In League,
Gretchen Johnson

MEMBERS IN-PERSON EVENT!



**Cocktails &
Conversations are live
and in person!**

**July 21, 5:30-7pm
Tiki Docks Skyway**

After an over 2 year hiatus, please join us for a cocktail, meet new members, reacquaint yourself with current members and just socialize face-to-face. We can't wait to SEE you. Map included with registration.

Cash bar for drinks and food.

Questions: Contact is Gina Burchenal
kgburchenal@gmail.com

REGISTER

VOTER SERVICES TAKING ACTION

Gun Reform Rally Saturday June 10



"Cassie Santella wanted the crowd to know she's frightened, she's angry and she won't apologize for how those emotions are spilling out of her. As a seventh grader, she'd attended her first protest calling for gun reform shortly after the shooting at a school in Parkland killed 17. She'd held a sign that day reading, 'Teachers need a raise, not a gun.' Now she's a rising senior." [Tampa Bay Times](#)

LWVSPA members Betsy Wells, Gretchen Johnson, Martha Jacob staffed a voter registration table at the June 10 event. Betsy said, "We distributed a lot of primary information and Voter Guide cards. I asked if I could take Cassie's photo. She is a very impressive young person!"

[LWVFL position on Gun Reform](#)

Reversal Roe v Wade June 24



LWVSPA members joined several hundred pro-choice advocates who met in Straub Park to protest the Supreme Court decision. [LWVFL position on Reproductive Health Justice](#)

Pinellas Race Amity Day June 12 Pride Celebration Sunday June 26



Laura Turley and Fancy Shawl Dancers celebrating friendships across cultures.



Janice Drinkwine and Amy Keith register voters and answer voters' questions.

[LWV Status of LGBTQIA+ Rights in the US](#)

Want to Learn More About LWVSPA Social Justice Action Team?

The LWVSPA Social Justice Action Team focus on three issues: reproductive rights, gun safety, and racial justice.

The league's St Petersburg Area Social Justice Team invites the public to engage in and become more educated on the present issues of the day. League members seek to expand the imagined possibilities of progress for all people and voices. The league advocate safe, open-minded discussions in the community around the intersections of economics, history, politics, privilege, and race.

To learn more about LWVSPA Social Justice Team [click here](#)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- [July Calendar of Events/Meetings](#)
- [Meet our Board](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)



League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

[Email](#) | [Website](#)

Telephone: 727-295-5255



**The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization,
encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase
understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.**

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