

THE VOTER

June 2022

Letter from the President



Dear League members,

Happy June! Happy LGBTQ+ Pride Month!

Despite devastating news and events in May, we have educated, registered, and empowered voters to vote for issues that matter to them. We rallied for reproductive freedom and for an end to gun violence.

As this was my first month as President, I am continuing to learn how amazing you all are and am inspired. Answering calls to action even at the last minute! To listening to powerful personal stories that inspire voters to vote. You are all super stars. Thank you!

I am looking forward to June, celebrating Pride month, Juneteenth, and LWVUS National Convention. I am looking forward to meeting more of you, learning and action.

As summertime kicks off, it's a great time to also take care of yourself and enjoy life, hug your loved ones, laugh with friends, and watch the sunset. I encourage you to enjoy this month while we also empower voters and defend democracy.

In League,
Gretchen Johnson

TAKING ACTION



St. Petersburg Bans Off Our Bodies Rally



Hello. My name is Laura M. Turley. I'm a new LWVSPA board member with a particular interest in assisting with Voter Registration, Voter Education and Election Protection.

On May 14, I joined league members, including President Gretchen Johnson, to attend the St. Pete Bans Off Our Bodies Rally.

It was an honor to be among a vibrant crowd of men, women, young and old, marching in solidarity to protect women's reproductive rights. The rally was well organized and peaceful.

We gathered in solidarity with hundreds of organizations that held rallies throughout the nation after a leaked draft of a US Supreme Court decision that suggests it will overturn Roe v. Wade and the constitutional right to abortion. [See article in Tampa Bay Times](#)



Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America Rally Against Gun Violence

League member Martha Jacobs (behind table) and board member Janice Drinkwine (not pictured) represented the Voter Services Team at the "Moms Demand Action for Gun



Sense in America Rally Against Gun Violence” at Williams Park in St. Pete on Saturday May 28.

The event was in response to the heartbreaking loss of 21 lives in the Uvalde, TX, school shootings. It is with heavy hearts that league members participated in this event.

Ensuring safe and fair elections and well-informed voters is at the heart of what the Voter Service Team does throughout the year.

Team Lead Maryellen Gordon says, “Martha and Janice are two of our most stalwart and committed Voter Registration Team volunteers who leaped into action on short notice on a holiday weekend. We’re so grateful for

the energy and commitment of our members.”



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 prescient 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](#)

MEMBERSHIP HAS BENEFITS!

Don’t forget, your local membership includes LWVFL biweekly VOTER newsletter, featuring well-researched and nonpartisan information that helps members understand complex issues. President Cecile M. Scoon’s informative “Conversations” column, access to what’s happening at leagues throughout the state, valuable Lunch and Learn online events and important updates and resources from the national league are all perks that come with your membership. [See LWV May Recap](#)

If you know of a league member who may not be receiving state and national league email communications, have them write to comms@lwwfl.org to update their preferences.

COMING NEXT MONTH

Gretchen and Linsey Going to the League National Convention!

President Gretchen Johnson and Past-President Linsey Grove will be representing LWVSPA at the national convention to be held in Denver, June 23 -26. Linsey will be attending in person, and Gretchen will be attending virtually; both promise highlights and photos to come in July Voter.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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



League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

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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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