

THE VOTER

November 2022

Letter from the President



Dear League,

Do you feel the power? It's election season!

Time to cast your ballot and have your voice heard. I feel empowered as I research the candidates from our nonpartisan voter guide at [PinellasVoterGuide.com](https://www.PinellasVoterGuide.com) and vote! Early voting has started, mail ballots are being mailed in or dropped off, and **voters are making informed decisions, thanks to all of you**. Our power is our vote, and I couldn't be prouder of all your efforts to register voters, hold candidate forums, create the voter guide, monitor polls and the canvassing board, and all the other ways that you

contribute to our democracy. **Thank you for empowering voters and defending democracy!**

Last month I loved seeing so many of you and having fun at our *Hopped Up on Democracy Trivia Night- Special Redistricting Edition*. It was a fun and educational night (you can check out some pictures below)!

I look forward to seeing you at the polls!

In League,

Gretchen Johnson





A special thanks to all our members who came out for *Hopped Up on Democracy Trivia Night!*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS





The League of Women Voters is one of America's most trusted grassroots, non-partisan organizations engaged in hands-on work to safeguard democracy. In addition to making important contributions in our community, "Leaguers" are interesting, engaged, **and** they know how to laugh and have fun. So come on and join us!

JOIN US!



Seeking LWVSPA Members to serve on the Board of Directors!

Beate Marston, Nominating Committee Chair 2022-23

Dear League Members:

The Nominating Committee is uniquely positioned in that it is responsible to you, the League Membership, not the Board. It is with this in mind that I am appealing to our Membership to consider serving on our board next year.

As members of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area, we all bring unique perspectives, love for your community, and special skills that make our League strong. One meaningful way to share your passion and your skills, and to make our League the best it can be is through serving on the Board of Directors.

Our Board of Directors helps to set the future direction for our League, sharing their time and talents to make a positive impact in our community while growing as leaders.

The Nominating Committee is seeking members who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors. If this sounds like an opportunity you or a fellow League member you know might want to pursue, please contact Beate Marston, Nominating Committee Chair, at **beatemarston654@gmail.com**, for more information.

Learn more LWVSPA and our current Board of Directors [here](#).

VOTER SERVICES



**The General
Election is
November 8,
2022!**

LWVSPA Voter Guide

Click on the [Pinellas Voter Guide](#) and you'll find all the information you need to vote on November 8th. The LWVSPA voter guide is a trusted and non-partisan resource packed with information in an easy-to-use electronic format.

Sign up on [LWVSPA Facebook Page](#) to receive reminders and links to valuable election information.

Some Helpful Reminders for Voting in the November 8th Election

Cast your ballot and make your voice heard!

Remember you need to vote in your assigned polling location and bring photo/signature ID. You can find your polling location and look up accepted forms of ID at [VotePinellas.com](#).

Protect Your Vote!

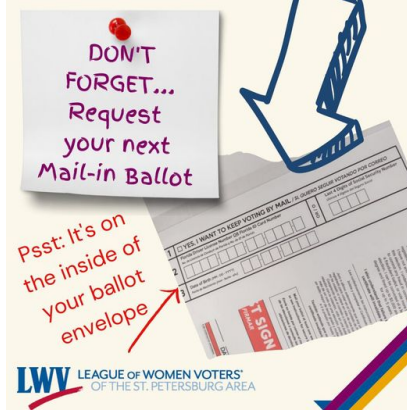
If you think you're experiencing voter suppression or intimidation while trying to cast your ballot, immediately call 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) or go to [866ourvote.org](#).

Return your Mail Ballot by 7 pm!

Your mail ballot is due by 7 pm on November 8th! Drop it off at any of the three [Supervisor of Elections](#) offices (like the one at 501 1st Ave N). If you bring your mail ballot to your regular polling place, you will have to exchange it and vote an in-person ballot instead.

Stay in line!

If you are registered to vote in Florida and you get to your polling place by 7 pm, **YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO VOTE**. Don't leave without casting your ballot! Have a problem? Call 866-OUR-VOTE for help.



Vote By Mail Update

Good news on voting by mail! If you want to continue VBM'ing, look for the box that's on the inside of your ballot's return envelope. You'll notice that you now have to fill in either your driver's license or last 4 digits of SS#. We suggest doing both so the Supervisor of Elections office can easily certify that you are registered to vote and can receive a ballot.

We have confirmed with the SOE that by filling out this information, you will get a ballot through the next federal election, which is in 2024. After that, you will have to newly request your vote-by-mail ballot every two years, after each federal election.



Debate Dodging: The latest threat to our democracy

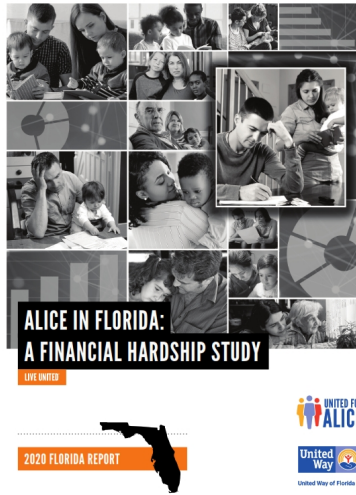
The League of Women Voters is and always has been a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. This commitment to democracy called League of Women Voters US President Deborah Ann Turner MD, JD, and CEO Virginia Kase Solomon to author a recent op-ed on candidates who refuse to participate in democratic debates, something being seen with more and more frequency.

Here is an excerpt from Deborah's newsletter, sharing why she felt it important to write the op-ed:

*So why do they suddenly take issue with our positions now? It's not because we've changed. It's because they've made a purely political calculation to dodge their job interview and want to blame the messenger. Debates are essential to our democracy, and if candidates refuse to appear, it is a loss for voters. In response to this growing issue, our CEO, Virginia Kase Solomón, and I **authored an op-ed** on the harmful impact of debate dodging. I encourage you all to share this with fellow League members and within your social circle.*

[Read the Op-Ed](#)

PARTNER EVENTS



Our partners at LWV Manatee County are hosting United Way Suncoast to discuss the state of poverty and "ALICE" households.

What is ALICE? Families who are **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, & **E**mployed. These households include people who work hard, but barely get by and often do not make ends meet.

According to the United Way, in the Suncoast Region of DeSoto, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, and Sarasota counties 12% of families live below the Federal Poverty Level and another 31% are classified as **ALICE** for a total of **557,372 households in our local communities who are struggling just to get by.**

Has this picture changed since the 2020 report? How did COVID-19 impact people below or near the poverty level?

To help answer those questions LWV Manatee is hosting a Zoom Presentation on **Friday, Nov 18th from 12-1 pm.**

LWV Manatee is happy to have United Way Suncoast's Douglas Griesenauer, Senior Director – Workforce Development & Financial Stability and Nichole Peña, Senior Manager, Financial Stability Initiatives, who will:

- discuss what changed since the 2020 ALICE report was published
- review their **Eviction Mitigation and Housing Crisis Dashboard**, and
- tell us about the housing policies the United Way is advocating for implementing in the Suncoast region to help address this crisis.

**Register for the
Webinar**



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- [November 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](#)

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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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