

THE VOTER

September 2022

Letter from the President



Dear League,

Happy September! We had a great August thank you all for educating and registering voters for the primary election as we head into the general election.

We joined together at our all members meeting and learned about the importance of knowing about our judges and how redistricting is suppressing black voters in Florida.

We also learned from each other how to navigate city council meetings, how to write effective letters to the editor, and how the LWVSPA engage with community partners to make democracy work for all.

We also had fun at Cocktails and Conversations where we met new members and caught up with friends. I am so proud of our League coming together and learning from each other. I am looking forward to September where we will continue to show up for democracy and each other.

In League,
Gretchen Johnson



Forty nine members attended the All Member Meeting on Wednesday, August 17. After presentations on Judicial Candidates and Redistricting, members met in small groups to increase their knowledge and make a greater impact in the

(Top) **Maryellen Gordon,**

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



New Member Orientation

Tuesday, September 27th at 6:00 PM
Sanderlin Center - 2335 22nd Ave S.

Get Plugged Into the League's Work!

As one of the most active advocacy and policy education groups in Pinellas County, the League's current issues include voter engagement, environmental sustainability, gun safety, campaign finance reform, immigration, education, health care access, international relations, and reproductive rights.

Come learn about the League's strategies to influence change and how you can join in! Our New Member Orientation is designed to orient folks who are curious about the League, as well as those who've been members for less than a year. Our hope is that everyone will find what interests them and get involved as expediently as possible.

**REGISTER
TODAY!**



Let's face it; we've been living through tough times that have challenged our personal, professional and political lives. It's easy to feel overwhelmed, wondering what one person can really do to make a difference when issues seem so insurmountable.

You'll be glad to know the remedy begins with a small step like joining the League of Women Voters St. Petersburg (LWVSPA). Or, if you're

Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy happens.



Join us!

already a member, join an action team and volunteer a little, or a lot, of your time.

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!



August Cocktails and Conversation

The midterms are over and time to have some fun. It was great meeting up with new and seasoned LWVSPA members at Cocktails & Conversation

VOTER SERVICES



Souls to the Polls

On August 21, 2022 President Gretchen Johnson and LWVSPA members joined the Souls to the Polls rally at Williams Park before strolling to the County Building to cast their votes. Speakers at the event remembered Rev. Watson L. Haynes II, the President and CEO of the Pinellas County Urban League, who died at the age of 69.

"On Sunday afternoon, Kriseman praised Haynes again, telling people gathered for a Souls to the Polls event at Williams Park in St. Petersburg that Haynes was always focused on making his community

better. 'The best way we can keep his memory alive is by voting.' "

[Tampa Bay Times](#)



National Voter Registration Day

September 20th!

Local midterm elections are over, but our work has just begun! October 11 is the last day to register to vote for the November 8 General Election and we need your help!

There are lots of ways you can become involved. For more information on all the League's Action Teams, go to the [website](#) and, or see our [Leadership Contact List](#).

STAINABILITY TEAM



The Sustainability Action Team is celebrating more than 200 native plants that have been successfully growing for 6 months at the Sanderlin Neighborhood Family Center.

Gardening group consists of League members and non-League volunteers. Want to know more about the project? [Click Here](#) to see a video prepared by Sustainability Team member Rita Knorr. The video describes the love and care that has been given to this project over the past 6 months.

If you're interested in joining in on the fun, contact Sustainability Chair Laura Crabtree at lauracrabtree.league@gmail.com

PARTNER EVENTS

LIVE ONLINE

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 | 7:00 PM

Sixth Judicial Circuit State Attorney (Pasco & Pinellas Counties) Candidates Forum



Bruce Bartlett
Incumbent (R)



Rob Lorei
Moderator



Allison Miller
Candidate (D)

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY



Online Candidate Forum Sixth Judicial Circuit State Attorney Tuesday September 20th, 7:00 PM *No registration required*

Participating candidates are incumbent Bruce Bartlett (R) and Allison Miller (D); Rob Lorei, well-known host/managing editor of Florida This Week on WEDU, will moderate. The candidates will take turns addressing identical questions posed by the moderator, and then each will conclude with a personal statement.

This virtual forum will be a Zoom event and streamed on the ACLU of Florida Facebook page. This online forum is free to the public and no registration is necessary. For those who can't view the forum live, a recording will be posted at the League of Women Voters St. Petersburg Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Event sponsors are the Pinellas and Greater Tampa Bay Chapters of the ACLU of Florida, League of Women Voters chapters from St. Petersburg and North Pinellas as well as the Pasco Unit of the Hillsborough County League. Other non-partisan co-sponsors include LULAC, NAACP Clearwater Upper Pinellas County Branch, NAACP St. Petersburg Branch, and the St. Petersburg Bar Association.



How to Organize for Effective Legislative Advocacy Thursday September 15th, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Free Virtual Event

Hosted by St. Petersburg College Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions
In partnership with the City of Seminole, Seminole Chamber of Commerce,
and the Florida League of Cities, ISPS is hosting a conversation about how
to organize your constituency on the local, state, and federal levels,

REGISTER



We Draw the Lines:
FL Congressional District 13 Redistricting Forum

Tuesday September 13th, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Location TBD, St. Petersburg - see registration link below

Join the Florida Redistricting coalition (Black Voters Matter, Equal Ground, Florida Rising, and League of Women Voters) as we educate voters about the redistricting process in the state of Florida and provide updates about pending litigation that challenges the existing Congressional maps approved by the Florida Legislature and signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis.

Participants will also have the opportunity to learn more about existing maps and the importance of judicial races. To learn more text "FairDistricts" to 52886.

REGISTER



Today's
Students,
Tomorrow's Voters
Preparing High School
Students to become
Lifelong Voters

A Virtual Panel Discussion Featuring:

- Matthew Blum, Social Studies Specialist for Pinellas County School District
- Laurie Meggesin, JD, Voter Services Chair for League of Women Voters
- Dustin Chase, Deputy Supervisor of Elections, Pinellas County
- A Pinellas School Teacher
- A Pinellas School Parent
- A Pinellas High School Student

Please register online at:
tinyurl.com/lifelong-voters

Questions? email:
lwnnpc.info@gmail.com
Voice: 727-386-8525

Please email questions for panelists BY SEPT 10th to lwnnpc.info@gmail.com

REGISTER

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- [September 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



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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