



Letter from the President



Dear League,

Happy New Year! I welcome 2023 with a grateful heart and a happy mind that we will continue our work empowering voters and defending democracy.

I reflect on this past year as we started to carefully gather again in person and am thankful. I enjoyed open discussions on issues, rallying together for our rights, and the camaraderie that comes from working together.

We gathered to educate ourselves and our neighbors on how gerrymandering, voter restrictions and losing our reproductive freedom affect us all. Together we showed up for democracy and held those in power

accountable. I am looking forward to continuing these efforts with all of you. Thank you!

As we look forward to a new year of education and action the League of Women Voters of Florida has built consensus for our strategic focus. As legislative session begins statewide, March 7th, league advocacy also begins. Voting Rights & Election Reform, Reproductive Health & Justice, Education and Natural Resources will be our priority issues. The priority process allows for resources, staff/lobbyist time and our Florida League Lobby Corps to be allocated in a productive manner.

As always, we plan to be responsive to all pertinent matters that develop without notice in the legislative arena. Of course, issues that matter in our locale such as affordable housing and clean energy can still be addressed.

- ***Are you interested in gun safety? Affordable housing? International relations?***
- ***What impels you to make difference?***
- ***You! Yes you, can propose a program that you are interested in leading. You can start a team!***

This new year we will continue to gather, study, and improve our community. Program planning is coming up in January, so look forward to an email in January on how you can start a new program for the upcoming

year. We will have a meeting February 11th to review options for our focus.

Thank you for all of that you do and your interest in supporting democracy!

In League power,
Gretchen Johnson



MEMBERSHIP NEWS



**MLK PARADE
MARCH WITH US!
FEBRUARY 16, 2023
Contact Linsey.Grove@gmail.com**



**Orientation for New &
Prospective League Members**

Saturday, January 28, 10am-11am ***Get Plugged In to 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 on Saturday, January 28 at 10am 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 in advance for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

REGISTER



TAKE ACTION!

Save the Date: Sunday, Jan 22, 12pm-1pm ***Roe v. Wade Commemoration St. Pete Visibility Event***

With the Roe v. Wade decision toppled, abortion rights more volatile than ever, it is critical that we represent publicly the majority of Floridians who believe in reproductive freedom. Join us on this anniversary of Roe for the annual sign-waving visibility event. We will gather at the corner of Central Avenue and Third Street in downtown St. Petersburg on Sunday, January 22 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

[Facebook event page](#)



YOUR ACTION REQUESTED

The LWVFL has request League members to take action for the United Faculty of Florida in support of academic freedom in response to BOG 10.003 that will virtually eliminate tenure in the state of Florida if adopted in its current form.

While deadline has passed for public comment, there is still time to sign the petition and complete a form to participate in further collective actions. [Learn More](#)



Why Serve on the LWVSPA Board?



Janice Drinkwine



Lindsey Grove

From: Beate Marston, Nominating Committee Chair
beatemarston654@gmail.com

Serving on the LWVSPA Board of Directors is one of the many meaningful ways for members to share their time and talents. The Nominating Committee is currently seeking and interviewing members who are interested in serving on the Board.

We have asked Janice Drinkwine, who joined our board for the first time this year, and Linsey Grove, our former League president to give us their take on what inspired them to join the League and serve on the Board.

[Read Beate's Interview with Janice and Linsey](#)

VOTER SERVICES



**Step Up and Join the
Candidate Forum Team**
*No experience necessary. We will
provide training.*

The City Administrator for South Pasadena recently called Robin to ask if the LWVSPA would manage a candidate forum on February 6th with seven candidates running for two open seats for City Commissioner. The League provided this service in the past and the City Administrator was so impressed with the skill in running the event, they asked again for our services.

Candidate forums are a valuable service our league provides to our community. In small municipalities league organized candidate forums may be the only way candidates get their message out to voters. Educating voters is the bedrock of league work and we need more members to step up, especially now when we are resuming in-person forums after years of virtual events in response to Covid.

The first forum will be held on February 6, 2023 in South Pasadena, followed by municipal elections in March. This is a great time to learn the process and meet an incredible array of dedicated Leaguers. Please contact Robin Davidov at rbdavidov@gmail.com to join the January Candidate Forum training class.

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE



Floridians for NPV are happy to announce Bill #53 - The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is sponsored by **Rep Michael Gottlieb**, District 102/Broward for the 2023 Florida Legislative session.

This is the 7th consecutive year the bill has been filed in the Florida Legislature. If you'd like more information, contact Deb Mazzaferro at Deb@CoachMaz.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- [January 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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