

THE VOTER

April 2025

LEAGUE UPDATES



Attend our Annual Meeting & Luncheon
Sunday, April 6th!

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Sunday, April 6th, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Banquet Masters: 13355 49th St. N., Clearwater

KEYNOTE
SPEAKER:

**BACARDI
JACKSON**

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

ACLU
OF FLORIDA



The League's work to build democracy has never been more needed or crucial. Let's dig into that at our Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Sunday, April 6th.

Ticket sales end Wednesday, April 2nd at 5pm.

Our keynote speaker is Bacardi Jackson, Executive Director of the ACLU of Florida, who will share insights about our shared vision of a fair and just Florida, where all people are free, equal under the law, and can live with dignity.

Please join us for our biggest event of the year as we recognize all that we accomplished from 2024-2025, honor our incredible action teams and volunteers, and celebrate our ongoing efforts to make democracy work.

**RSVP & Purchase Luncheon
Tickets**

Get your raffle tickets ahead of time for your chance to win wonderful prizes from many generous donors like Tombolo Books, Metrix Next Level Fitness, Body Electric Yoga, Black Crow Coffee, Freefall Theater, the Florida Holocaust Museum, Bayview Animal Hospital, ARTpool Gallery and Green Light Cinema, Chihuly Collection and E&E Stakeout, just to name a few!

**Buy Raffle
Tickets**



2025 Member Survey: Your Input is Needed!



2025 MEMBER SURVEY

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Leaders of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area want to ensure members are as engaged with League activities as

they want to be, and that we are using effective communication methods and providing quality programming and volunteer opportunities. We also want to have an accurate understanding of the makeup and collective priorities of our membership.

To this end, we are asking every member to complete our 2025 Membership Survey by clicking on the button below. You might set aside 15 to 20 minutes to complete it.

Thank you for all you do, and for helping us do better.

Questions or concerns? Let us know.

[Take the Survey
Here](#)



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

**TAKE ACTION TODAY!
AND GET YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
TO TAKE ACTION TODAY TOO!**

*Looking for ways to take action?
Calls are the best way to make your voice heard and
tell your representatives how you feel about issues.*

*There are tools available to make
calling your representatives as
easy as possible!*

A stylized illustration of a megaphone in shades of blue and white, pointing towards the right.

The **SAVE Act** is a federal voter suppression bill that would **prevent millions of eligible American citizens from registering to vote** by requiring everyone to show up in person with a passport, birth certificate or other proof of citizenship. It would threaten voter registration drives as we know them, disproportionately harm communities of color, and make it harder for millions of married women who've changed their names to vote.

1) Several LWVSPA members have reported that they are finding the **5 Calls app** helpful for contacting their senators and representatives in congress on issues like reproductive rights, voting rights, and education. Download it here to give it a try: [Android](#) / [iOS](#)

2) Our partner organization, Common Cause, has an easy tool to find the phone numbers for your representatives at every level of government: <https://www.commoncause.org/find-your-representative/>

3) The League of Women Voters of the U.S. has a "Take Action" page where you can learn about priority League actions at the national level, like opposing the SAVE Act: <https://www.lwv.org/take-action>



LWVFL State Convention Coming Up

Planning to go as part of the St. Pete delegation?
[We'd love to know!](#)

Attending events sponsored by the Florida League of Women Voters is a terrific way to deepen your understanding of League activities and priorities, engage in organizational capacity building, and get to know fellow League members.

LWVSPA will provide financial support to members attending this event. The amount of that support will depend on the number of folks traveling as part of our delegations.

LWVFL BIENNIAL STATE CONVENTION

When: June 6th & 7th, 2025

Location: Orlando, FL

The Biennial State Convention provides an opportunity to be part of the St. Petersburg delegation, participating in the LWVFL Convention Plenary and voting on things like:

- LWVFL's Program
- Budget
- Board of Directors and Nominating Committee
- submitted bylaws amendments.

Other Convention activities include a reception and dinner on Saturday night and a variety of breakout sessions and workshops hosted by members and supporters of all levels of the League. There will also be opportunities to network with fellow League members, participate in training sessions, and hear from dynamic speakers.

Registration and details for the State Convention will be available by mid-March at lwvfl.org.

Please fill out the LWVSPA form linked below if you intend to go to either or both of these events. We need to coordinate!

I Will Join the St. Pete Delegation at a 2025 Statewide
Event



Proposed 2025 Election Slate



The Nominating Committee's proposed slate for Membership is linked below.

[View 2025 Election Slate Here](#)



LWVSPA Bylaws Revisions

Recommended changes to the LWVSPA Bylaws have been made and presented to the Board. These changes will be up for the membership's consideration and vote at the Annual Meeting.

2024-2025 Bylaws Committee members: Jean Johnston, Sarah Peacock, Nancy Wildfeir-Field, and Amy Weintraub, chair.
Please [contact Amy](#) with any questions prior to the Annual Meeting.

[Review Proposed Bylaw Changes Here](#)



Take Action: Protect Direct Democracy and

Citizen-led Amendments

Gov. DeSantis and his allies in the Florida Legislature are pursuing a massive power grab that undermines people-powered policy-making and our democracy.

Thanks to citizen-led amendments to the state Constitution, Florida voters have raised the minimum wage, enacted term limits for politicians, protected environmental treasures, legalized medical marijuana, established a taxpayer bill of rights, created universal voluntary pre-kindergarten for children, and passed many other reforms when politicians in Tallahassee have refused to act.

But DeSantis is pushing for legislation designed to make it nearly impossible for citizens to get future initiatives on the ballot.

Urge your state representative and senator to oppose this legislation.

[Send Your Letter Today](#)

[Read More About HB 1205](#)



MEMBERS MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY



Our Parent Advocacy League Met for Some Kid-Friendly League Work!



Huge thank you to **Run+Play Kids Cafe** for letting us use their beautiful space! It says a lot when we can meet for two hours and

our kids had so much fun that they wanted to keep playing. Our community is lucky to have you.

We love the beautiful chaos of our Parent Advocacy League meetings. Join us for our next one in April!



LWVSPA and Pinellas NOW (National Organization for Women) Co-Sponsored Event



LWVSPA and Pinellas NOW co-sponsored an event on International Women's Day, March 8th, in Downtown St. Pete.

Many turned out for sign-waving and protest in **defense of our rights, our bodies, and our future!**



2025 League Lobby Days



LWVSPA was well represented at Lobby Days in Tallahassee! Our statewide priorities this year are voting, reproductive rights, gun control, and education.



LWVSPA members meet with State Representative Michelle Rayner.



LWVSPA members meet with State Representative Linda Cheney's legislative aide, Tristan Sommer.



LWVSPA members meet with State Senator Nick DiCeglie's



Embracing Our Differences Exhibit



The Social Justice Action Team hosted a private tour for League members of the Embracing Our Differences art exhibit.

"Embracing Our Differences is a Southwest Florida nonprofit celebrating individuality and shared humanity through art and education."



A Look Back on Cocktails & Conversations



Cocktails and Conversation at Hawthorne Bottle Shoppe was tons of fun!

We are skipping April due to the Annual Meeting & Luncheon, but we will be back in May! Details will be announced soon



The League Supports the Freedom to Read!

We have a Little Free Library at the entrance to Allendale UMC, and we've stocked it with banned and challenged books.

A huge THANKS to Jean Johnston and her book club for their generous donation to our Little Free Banned Books Library!

If you'd like to donate books, we have a [wish list at the wonderful local book store, Tombolo Books.](#)

If you have any questions please email office@lwvspa.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

National Popular **VOTE** Committee Meetings

Meetings Held on the First Tuesday of Each
Month from 5:00pm-6:00pm via Zoom

Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025
Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

Join us as we talk strategy. First timers are welcome, and all levels of experience encouraged to join!

Meetings will be the 1st Tuesday of every month.

[RSVP for Meeting Here](#)



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION TEAM MEETINGS

Wednesdays from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Sundays from 8:00 am – 9:00 am

2335 22nd Ave. S.

The Sustainability Action Team is meeting to work in the Sanderlin Center Rain Garden.

Free food from the 360 Eats food truck on Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30!

Email lauracrabtree.league@gmail.com if you need more info.


For more information about joining the Sustainability
Action Team, click below to email Laura Crabtree:

[Click Here to Email Laura Crabtree](#)

make sure to voice our resistance to the six-week abortion ban imposed on Florida.


[Click Here to RSVP](#)

[Learn More Here](#)



Reproductive Rights Team Meetings

Meetings Held on the First Monday of Each Month at 5:30pm via Zoom



Date: Monday, April 7, 2025

Time: 5:30pm-6:30pm

Join us via Zoom! We meet monthly on the 1st Monday.

Email office@lwvspa.org with any questions.

[RSVP for Meeting Here](#)



SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA



Meetings Held on the
Second Thursday of
Each Month

7:00pm-8:15pm
via Zoom

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025
Time: 7:00pm-8:15pm

[Click Here to Email for More Info](#)



NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY

CRAFT NIGHTS

We're curating leave-behind materials for
your next legislator meeting!
Meet committee members, talk shop,
practice your talking points, hear about
Lobby Days, and learn about your legislators.

April 10th
May 8th
May 22nd
4 - 6PM

LWVSPA Office
3803 Haines Rd. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

www.lwvspa.org · office@lwvspa.org

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025
Time: 4:00pm-6:00pm

Join the National Popular Vote Committee as we curate leave-behind materials for your next legislator meeting!

Meet committee members, talk shop, practice your talking points, hear about Lobby Days, and learn about your legislators.

We will meet at the LWVSPA Office.

[Click Here to Email for More Info](#)





This group provides an opportunity for parents to get involved in the League in a **kid-friendly** environment!

Come learn about the League, how to get involved, meet other parent advocates, and bring your little ones!



Please register in advance. League members are free. Prospective League members must pay the Run+Play admission fee.

**Sunday,
April
13th**

**4:00 PM
TO
6:00 PM**

**Run+Play Kids Cafe
3950 Central Ave,
St. Pete, FL 33711**



www.lwvspa.org



Apr 13, 2025 04:00pm - Apr 13, 2025 06:00pm



run+play kids cafe
3950 Central Ave, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
[View on map](#)

April Parent Advocacy League Meeting

This group provides an exciting opportunity for parents to get involved in the League in a kid-friendly environment!

Come learn about the League, how to get involved, meet other parent advocates, and bring your little ones.

Please register in advance. League members are free. Prospective league members must pay the Run+Play admission fee.

RSVP HERE



Voter Services Committee Meetings

Zoom meetings held on the third
Wednesday of each month

For More Information Contact: Office@lwvspa.org

Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Time: 6:30pm-7:30pm

Join with the Voter Services Leadership Team to hear about our
Voter Guide, Candidate Forums, Voter Registration, & Election and
Voter Protection.

[Click Here to Email Voter Services](#)



Education Action Team Meetings

**Education Action
Team Meetings**

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

&

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY

The LWVSPA Education Action Team has partnered with the North
Pinellas League's Education Team and will be meeting monthly.

April Meetings

[Joint LWVNC/LWVSPA Education](#)

[Pinellas School Board Meetings](#)

Meeting

Date: TBA; via in person

For an invitation or to attend, contact treasurer@lwvspa.org to receive an agenda.

Open to all current LWV members only.

Date:

Tuesday, Apr 8 @ 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Apr 22 @ 10:30 am

Address: 301 4th Street SW,
Largo, FL 33770

To join the Education Action Team, email Sue Castleman by clicking below.

[Click Here to Email Sue Castleman](#)



Membership Committee Meetings



**Wednesday,
Apr 30th, 2025**

5:00 PM-6:00PM

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

Contact chair, Amy Weintraub, for the teleconference link or for more info.

[Click Here to Email Amy Weintraub](#)



DONOR THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following who donated to the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area in March:

Ruth & Jim Barrens
Patti Blair

Barbara Brady
Karen Cremins
Kay Lahdenpera
Leslie Nicola
Mary Ann Renfrow
Terry Rimer
Erin Sol
Linda & Emily Tanner
Julie Weston



FINANCE TIP FROM AVA



APRIL TIP:

Revisit your asset allocation. When you rebalance your investments at least annually, you should reassess your risk tolerance so you can feel comfortable and confident with your investing. Reach out for a comprehensive financial review.

Ava Elkins with Raymond James manages the LWVSPA accounts.

Ava Elkins, AAMS®, Financial Advisor and Investment Management Consultant, Raymond James & Associates,
ava.elkins@raymondjames.com,
727.551.5254 office
raymondjames.com/avaelkins



LEAGUE ONLINE

- [April Calendar of Events/Meetings](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)
- [LWVSPA Store- Get Your LWVSPA Gear!](#)

SEND US YOUR MONTHLY NEWS

Please send your news and updates one week in advance of the 1st of the month directly to communications@lwvspa.org



League of Women League of 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.**

LWVSPA | P.O. Box 11775 | St. Petersburg, FL 33733 US

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