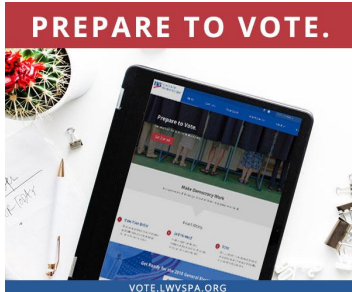




THE VOTER

August 2019

Get Ready to Vote: The St. Petersburg Primary Election



PREPARE TO VOTE.

The St. Petersburg Primary Election is happening Aug. 27. Voters in Districts 3, 5 & 7 will have the chance to vote for candidates in those races.

Since this is a primary, the top two vote-getters in each district will then go on the ballot for the General Election on Nov. 5, where they'll be joined by the candidates for District 1. Everyone in the city will have the opportunity to vote in that election.

You can check your registration status, polling place and sample ballot on the [Supervisor of Elections' website](#).

Please note there is no early voting for this election; you can either cast your ballot on Election Day, or you can request a vote-by-mail ballot. The deadline to [request a vote-by-mail ballot](#) is Aug. 17 at 5 p.m.

Our Voter Guide Is Live!

Our award-winning online Voter Guide is live, and **we're happy to report that all of the candidates for the upcoming election have responded!**

You can read the candidates' responses by going to [pinellasvoterguide.com](#).

Voters also had a chance to hear the candidates live and in person at our candidate forum on July 23. If you were unable to attend the candidate forum, we have video of the event on [our website](#).



Letter from the President

Greetings fellow Leaguers!

This summer has been very busy for the board and team leads. We've successfully completed a strategic planning session for the next year, cataloged and cleaned the office, and began working on our top three priorities for the League this year:

1. Define a successful membership process to facilitate better and sustained engagement.
2. Complete a Standard Operating Procedures manual for LWVSPA operations.
3. Provide Leadership Development and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Development Training in order to meet the needs of our community.

These are big undertakings, but the League has never shied away from a challenge. We hope to build and improve our organizational infrastructure to better serve our community and our



members as we embark on our 100 year anniversary in 2020.

If you're interested in working on any of these initiatives, please let me know:
president@lwspa.org.

In League,
Linsey Grove, LWVSPA President



Join Us for an Advocacy Training!



The LWVSPA and LWV North Pinellas will co-host an advocacy training featuring Nicolette Springer, Director of Government Affairs & Development for the League of Women Voters of Florida.

Nicolette will be providing information and training to help us better coordinate advocacy efforts as we move closer to the early legislative session and committee meetings this fall.

Action team leads and county-wide team leads will also talk about coordinating legislative efforts in Pinellas County.

The training will be held Aug. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Allendale United Methodist Church, located at 3803 Haines Rd. N in St. Petersburg, Florida. If you plan to attend, [please RSVP](#) ahead of time so we know to expect you.

This event is open to the public.



Creative Loafing's Best of the Bay: Vote for LWVSPA!

We're excited to announced that we've been nominated for [Creative Loafing's Best of the Bay 2019](#) under the category Best Local Nonprofit!

You can vote for us by going to the [Best of the Bay site](#) and **clicking on Best Local Nonprofit, under People, Places and Politics.**

And don't forget to check out the other categories, where you'll see some familiar names, including our very own Linsey Grove under Best Mover and Shaker and Amy Weintraub under Best Local Activist.

You have until Aug. 28 so make sure to cast your vote soon!



Member Spotlight: August 2019

WHO? Marti Moorefield

WHAT is a favorite experience with the LWVSPA?

Collaborating with the Voter Services team on the Voter Guide has given me the chance to meet and work with some amazing women! I was happy to find a project which allowed me to work from home and on my own schedule. Also, I really enjoy the speakers that educate members on specific issues.

WHERE do you find inspiration within the LWVSPA?

I believe the League's mission to increase understanding of, and participation in government and policy making is so important, especially in a time when there is such mistrust and misinformation to deal with.

WHY did you join the LWVSPA?

I was drawn to the League by the non-partisan nature of their work, and the fact that many of the League's efforts result in positive change. It seemed obvious to me, that they had the focus and drive to make an impact.

HOW are you involved with LWVSPA?

My primary focus with the League has been helping with the development and maintenance of the online Pinellas County Voter Guide, and Vote411, which is the League's national online guide.

WHEN not with the LWVSPA?

I am an avid reader, and I enjoy noodling around with my camera. I also see a play or go to a concert as often as I can. Board games and time spent with the grand kids are also a welcome treat!



Committee Spotlight: August 2019



The **Media & Publicity Committee** is our spotlight League group of the month.

This standing committee promotes LWVSPA and its mission to the greater St. Petersburg area.

"We try our best to get the word out regarding the League and its events and activities," said Amy Weintraub, committee chair. "We use social media as well as traditional media outlets to reach targeted audiences. We work with action team chairs to ensure events are well populated with interested folks and stakeholders."

Additionally, a big job every election is making sure that voters know that they can get important election information and compare candidates using the Pinellas Voter Guide. This important resource is published by LWVSPA and our sister League in North Pinellas.

"We work to create graphics and catchy messaging that will catch folks' eye," Amy said. "With dedicated help from some very tech-savvy League members, we have markedly increased Voter Guide usage through placement of Facebook and Google ads."

We can thank the Media & Publicity Committee for all the Facebook event pages, Facebook and Twitter posts, email invitations, and posts on online community calendars and forums such as NextDoor. Their work is nonstop and year-round and we all benefit.

The Media & Publicity team's next meeting will be held Sept. 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA office, located at 233 3rd St. N. in St. Petersburg.



What's Happening Around LWVSPA?

Education

This cross-county action group is co-chaired by [Nikki Fleming](#) and [Barbara Meloche](#) of LWV of North Pinellas County. Their next meeting will be held Thursday, Aug. 15 at

10:30 a.m. at 2642 Sabal Springs Dr. in Clearwater. Contact the co-chairs if you are interested in working with this action group.

Election & Voter Protection

The team is recruiting volunteer poll monitors and legal experts and developing public outreach campaigns to educate voters as to their rights when it comes to voting.

The team will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 20 at a location to be determined. Please contact [Caitlin Constantine](#) or [Stephanie Owens](#) for more information.

Gun Safety

The team's next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 23 at Allendale United Methodist Church (Wesley Room), located at 3803 Haines Rd. N in St. Petersburg. Contact Team Lead [Sharon Winters](#) for more information.

To learn more about the issues and how to take action, visit lwvspa.org/gun-issues.

Immigration

To broaden this team's advocacy for migrant rights and just treatment, they joined the local Detention Center Coalition. They also continue to collect signatures on petitions to Rep. Crist and Sens. Rubio and Scott, asking that they step up to their oversight responsibilities.

Migrant children are being held in facilities run by for-profit companies under no-bid contracts. The team is very concerned about the potential for fiscal mismanagement and inhumane treatment.

This team's next meeting will be held Aug. 26 at 1:30 p.m. at a team member's home. If you'd like to get involved with the Immigration Action Team, email Team Lead [Karen Coale](#) for more information.

Media/Publicity

This action group is always looking for effective ways to get the word out about our efforts through traditional, social and digital media. If you have experience with this - or you're just interested in learning more and helping out - then attend the committee's meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, located at 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg.

Email Team Lead [Amy Weintraub](#) for more information about joining this action group.

Membership Services

If you're interested in helping out with the Membership Committee, contact co-chairs [Stacey Jurewicz](#) or [Kathi Garrity](#).

National Popular Vote

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact goes into effect when states totaling 270 Electoral Votes have agreed to aggregate their votes. During this year's legislative session, Colorado, Oregon, New Mexico and Delaware have joined the compact. The total Electoral Votes in the compact now equal 196. We only need 74 more for the president and vice president to be elected by the majority of the entire country.

Florida is hosting NPV Expert Pat Rosenstiel in Sept. 17, 18 and 19 for two college events, Constitution Day at FAU/Boca Raton and FGCU/Ft. Myers and The Tiger Bay Club in St Pete. In addition, Deb Mazzaferro has been invited to train at NPV Inc. in San Francisco on August 16.

If you have a local group who would like a speaker, contact [Marty Shapiro](#). If you are interested in learning more or joining the local committee, please reach out to [Deb Mazzaferro](#) or [Marty Shapiro](#).

Plant Power

This team will hold its next meeting on July 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, located at 233 3rd St. N. in St. Petersburg. For more information, email [Julie Kessel](#) or [Jen Underhill](#).

Reproductive Justice

The team's own Amy Weintraub edits the Floridians for Reproductive Freedom Weekly Roundup as part of her duties with Progress Florida. This e-newsletter, out every Friday morning, includes important upcoming Florida events related to the repro movement, action alerts, and links to important movement-related news stories. Don't miss out -- [sign up today!](#)



The team's next meeting is Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Stacey Kroto](#) for more information about getting involved with this action group.

Sustainability

The [League of Women Voters St. Petersburg Sustainability Committee](#) is hosting a Composting 101 workshop in partnership with the [Pinellas Community Composting Alliance](#) and [Wunder Farms](#). Join the team as they learn to turn food scraps into rich soil.

The workshop will be held Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 7 p.m. at Wunder Farm's Edgemoor Community Garden, located at 116 Hampton Ave. NE in St. Petersburg.

Email [Carol Marks](#) or [Kal Marquise](#) for more information about joining this action team.

Voter Service

The team's next meeting will be held Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA office. Email Team Lead [Raechel Garafalo](#) for more information.



Upcoming Events

Aug. 8: Hopped Up On Democracy: A Night of Trivia, Games and Beer!
6-8 p.m. @ Flying Boat Brewing Co., 1776 11th Ave. N, St. Petersburg
[Facebook](#)

Aug. 13: General Membership Meeting
6-7:30 p.m. @ Empath Partners in Care, 3050 1st Ave. S, St. Petersburg
[Facebook](#)

Aug. 20: Advocacy Training
6:30-8:30 p.m. @ Allendale United Methodist Church, 3803 Haines Road, St. Petersburg
[Facebook](#)

Aug. 21: Cocktails and Conversation
6-8 p.m. @ Bacchus St. Pete, 124 2nd Ave. NE, St. Petersburg
[Facebook](#)

Aug. 21: Composting 101
7 p.m. @ Wunder Farms, Edgemoor Community Garden, 116 Hampton Ave. NE. St. Petersburg



For Other
Upcoming Events

Click here to visit our website for the latest updates on action group meetings and other events.



Membership: Are You Up for Renewal?

Join us. Renew your membership. We make a difference.

We need your support to continue our work in the community and at state and national levels. Whether you want to be an active member or a supporting member, your dues help advance the League's mission.

We invite you to [renew today!](#)

[Renew / Join Now](#)

We offer five levels of membership:

Carrie Chapman Catt (Gold) for \$250*

Susan B. Anthony (Silver) for \$125*

Household for \$78*

Individual for \$52

Student for \$26

*Includes two members residing at the same address.

Only \$7 of your basic membership goes to support the activities of the local league; a large percentage of what you pay for an individual membership goes to support our state and national Leagues. By selecting the Gold or Silver membership level, most of your dues will help support the work of our local League.

You can also offer your financial support by upgrading your membership, offering an additional monthly, quarterly or annual donation, and encouraging others to do the same.

Consider including the League in your estate planning. Your gifts allow us to continue our education, advocacy and leadership programs to forward our mission in Making Democracy Work in the St. Petersburg area. If you would like to discuss an estate planning contribution or other gift, please **contact our office.**

The following memberships are up for renewal during this 3-month span. We invite you to [renew today!](#)

August 2019

Marsha Baker
W Glen Bateman Jr
Ansley Burtch
Lauren Constantino
Rachel Cornish
James Dobyns
Amy Durand
Sydney Frasca
Catherine Griggs
Nancy Hunter
Yardena Isakson
Veronica Jimenez
Cheryl Knight
Phyllis & James LeTellier
Rhyia Miller

Vionette Mull
Carol Nelson
Mary Olson
Naya Payne
Bailey Peterson
Sue Price
Terry Rimer
Joan Sheehan
Vincent Spina
Jamie Tremblay
Lola Ward
Linda Whiteford & John Douglas Uzzell
Cassandra Williams
Virginia Zeigler

July 2019

Michelle Anderson
Ama Appiah
Ruth Bentley
Meghan Cottrell
Eleanor Davidov
Janet Debiasio
Joanne Delmonico
Lisa Flaherty
Jamie Flanagan

Barbara Hartwell
Susan Kaineg
Rebecca Klonel
Amanda Patanow
Valerie & Nestor Rigual
Thomas Schenck
Bonnie Sklaren
Kathy Wagner

June 2019

Kathryn Adikes
Mary Lou Ambrose
Nina & Ken Bailey
Joe Barkley
Lisa DiPiero
Timothy Dutton
Megan & Seth Firestone
AnneMarie Fraley

Ed Fraley
Kathleen Kingston
Jacqueline Ott
Dana & Scott Robertson
Jackson Stewart
Jackie Swigler
Amy Volpe
Kimberly Walker



2019-2020 League Leadership

OFFICERS

President: Linsey Grove
First Vice President: Robin Davidov
Second Vice President: Maryellen Gordon
Secretary: Ken Wrede
Treasurer: Caroline Bloodworth

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ama Appiah
Caitlin Constantine
Amanda Dodge
Raechel Garafalo
Stephanie Owens

[Visit our website](#) for more information about our local leaders.

[Click here](#) for more information about our education and advocacy groups.

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY LEADS

Gun Safety: Sharon Winters
Immigration: Karen Coale
Reproductive Rights: Stacey Kroto
Census: Gina Gallo
Plant Power: Julie Kessel, Jen Underhill
Election Protection: Caitlin Constantine, Stephanie Owens
Voter Service: Raechel Garafalo
Sustainability: Carol Marks, Kal Marquise
National Popular Vote: Deb Mazzaferro, Marty Shapiro
International Relations: Judy McSwine
Media/Publicity Lead: Amy Weintraub
Membership: Kathi Garrity, Stacey Jurewicz
Office Administrator: Julia Sharp



League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

[Email](#) | [Website](#)

Telephone: 727-896-5197



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.