



THE VOTER

December 2018

Vote for the League!



The LWVSPA has been nominated for WEDU's Be More Awards in the category for Best Use of Video! We've been nominated for [our "Defend Our Democracy" video](#) and our [ASL voter education video](#) for voters who are deaf.

You can vote once a day but hurry - the voting ends at midnight on Monday, Dec. 10. [Click here to cast your vote!](#)



Coming Soon: Program Planning

The Program Planning meeting is a couple of months away, but it's never too early to start working on your proposal. If you have an issue you'd like to present to the LWVSPA for consideration as an initiative, this meeting is your chance to do it.



Here are some things you should consider when creating a proposal:

- How does the topic align with a League position? (See our state and local Study and Action and Yearbook guides under the **Resources tab** on the website.)
- What you want to accomplish? (the goal(s) of the project)
- Who will lead the initiative and who will interface with the Board of Directors?
- What is the general plan, including some comments on the structure, timeline, critical activities, and funds needed for the project?

Board leadership is available to help you develop your proposal. Just send an email to office@lwwspa.org and we'll help you get your proposal ready.



Meeting Notice: Bylaws Committee

A meeting of the Bylaws Committee for the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area will be held Monday, Dec. 17 at 5 p.m. The committee will review the current bylaws and hold an initial discussion as to whether any area of the bylaws might benefit from a proposed revision.

In addition to and in conjunction with a call for proposals from the membership, follow-up meetings will be held on Mondays as needed in mid-January and late February to discuss and make further recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The one-hour meeting will take place at 433 Central Ave. Suite 400 in downtown St.

Petersburg. Parking is metered, and the front door of the building will be unlocked at the time.

For more information, contact [Linda Friedman Ramirez](#).



Opportunities to Get Involved!

Support a Ban on Single-Use Plastics

The St. Petersburg City Council will vote Dec. 13 on an ordinance to restrict the use of single-use plastics in the city. **We need you to show up and support the ordinance.** You can do so by:

1. Wear blue and make a public comment at the Dec. 13 City Council meeting at City Hall at 2:45 p.m. Email [Lisa Vanover](#) if you'd like help crafting your talking points.
2. Email City Council at council@stpete.org. Thank them for considering this ordinance, and state your support. We've provided [a template letter](#) to help you craft your email.
3. Help with outreach to businesses to get their support. Here are [some talking points](#).

Website Content: Writing & Fact-checking

The LWVSPA needs people to help review and update content on our website. **It's an ideal gig for people who love writing and fact-checking.** No technological experience necessary; just a willingness to learn and some comfort working with Google Docs or Word.

This is also a great opportunity for anyone who wants to volunteer with the LWVSPA but would prefer to do so from home and on their own time.

If this sounds like something you're interested in, please contact [Amanda Dodge](#).

Note: Several members have expressed interest in helping with efforts related to Amendment 4. We'll have more information about what you can do to get involved as soon as it becomes available!



What's Happening Around LWVSPA?



Sustainability

The team is continuing its efforts around single-use plastics in St. Petersburg, and is asking League membership to show support for the proposed ordinance. (See above.) They are also celebrating a successful year and planning for local legislative advocacy efforts with a get-together at the Cider Press Cafe on Dec. 16 at 1 p.m. If you want to attend, please RSVP to jaybirdjerome@gmail.com.

The team's next meeting will take place Monday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Allendale United Methodist Church (Room 107), 3803 Haines Rd, St. Petersburg. Email Co-chairs [Lisa Vanover](#), [Carol Marks](#) or [Jen Underhill](#) for more information.

Gun Safety

We had a strong turn-out and great engagement at our October Gun Safety event, part of a 3-part voter education series co-sponsored by LWVSPA and the Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg. Speakers included representatives from Moms Demand Action, We the Students, and the South Side community. Rev. Carlos Senior, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, was a particularly compelling speaker; we met with him recently for a follow-up conversation.

Four team members are preparing to meet with City Council Chair Lisa Wheeler-Bowman, Rev. Kenny Irby and representatives from the St. Petersburg Police Department to present [findings on the impact of firearms on domestic violence, suicide and violent crime](#) here in St. Petersburg and our findings and recommendations on [best community-based practices to prevent gun violence](#). Given what we know about local impact, recent shootings and our research on programs that demonstrate evidence-based results, we believe it is time to take local action.

We are scheduling introductory meetings with local legislators for late January, focusing on LWV-FL gun safety legislative priorities.

The next Gun Safety Action Team meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. at Allendale United Methodist Church. Contact Team Lead [Sharon Winters](#) for more information.

Reproductive Rights & Justice

On Dec. 1, LWVSPA's Reproductive Rights Team partnered with Pinellas NOW and Progress Florida for a visibility event outside one of Pinellas County's dozen anti-abortion, fake women's health/wellness centers.

Dressed in "Handmaid's Tale" uniforms, the group drew attention to the sexism and anti-women rhetoric promoted by these extremist organizations, which receive millions of Florida taxpayer dollars annually. With reproductive rights more vulnerable than ever, things are beginning to mirror the dystopian society depicted in the novel/TV show. For more information about these clinics, [watch this short video](#).



The team's next meeting is Thursday, Dec. 13 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.

Immigration

Immigration remains of keen interest across this nation, and there is energy in the newly elected House of Representatives for some immigration legislation. The most favorable would be to pass legislation that gives DREAMers a path to citizenship. Over 70% of adults support such legislation.

To support that effort, our Action Group will shine a light on local DREAMers and encourage communication with our elected federal officials. We also plan to exchange information and plans with other immigration groups within the FL League and LWVUS. The local League in Augusta, Georgia, used our "Before You Vote: Some Immigration Facts" info cards at a Voter Services session just before the election. We can learn so much from each other.

The action group's next meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 17 at 12 p.m. at Buya Ramen, located at 911 Central Ave. in St. Petersburg. If you'd like to get involved with the Immigration Action Team, email Team Lead [Karen Coale](#) for more information.

Education

At Nov. 30 Education Advocacy Committee meeting, co-chairs Robin Jones and Iris Yetter resigned. Robin now would like to chair the new Advocacy Research Subcommittee. We Leaguers need to learn the point of view of education-committee legislators, monitor their meetings, follow their bills, and be proactive during session before their bills become laws. If you're interested in being part of this, contact [Robin Jones](#).

Iris proposes chairing the new Community Education Subcommittee. It will create and distribute a matrix comparing traditional public vs. charter schools on these critical issues: administration, management, accountability, safety, student performance and student dismissal, etc. These should be transparent to families considering school choice, also to taxpayers before legislators allocate tax dollars to K-12 education. If you're interested in being part of this, contact [Iris Yetter](#).

The Advocacy Subcommittee will support LWVFL's education agenda by attending legislative delegation meetings, visiting legislators' district offices, organizing letter-writing/emailing/social media actions and/or visiting legislators' offices during session. Contact [Marty Shapiro](#) if you're interested.

Volunteering in the after-school YMCA Reads program as mentor or tutor is another important opportunity. Contact [Shiloh Capone](#) if interested.

National Popular Vote

There will be several opportunities to learn more about the [National Popular Vote](#), which uses the existing Electoral College system to elect the president and vice president by counting the total votes nationally. Team members will give a presentation Jan. 18 in Orlando prior to the start of the State Leadership Conference. The Hillsborough League has a workshop planned for Feb. 20 and the LWVSPA is working to host a workshop in late January.

If you are interested in learning more or joining the local committee, please reach out to [Deb Mazzaferro](#) or [Marty Shapiro](#).

Membership Services

If you're interested in helping out with the Membership Committee, contact Chair [Melanie Sheehan](#).

Media/Publicity

This committee meets monthly on the 1st Thursday @ 5:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Amy Weintraub](#) for more information.

Voter Service

The committee's next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Raechel Garafalo](#) for more information.



LWVF & LWVSPA in the News

- [LWVF and Common Cause Florida File Suit to Remove Scott from Recount Process](#) (Roll Call)
- [LWVF: Not So Fast on New Florida Education Commissioner](#) (Florida Phoenix)

- [Confusion, Potential Delays as Florida Prepares to Restore Voting Rights to Felons](#) (Next City)



Holiday Party Fun!

Many thanks to all who turned out for our holiday fete. About 80 of us celebrated together on the afternoon of December 1st at the Weintraub home.

[More photos here!](#)



Upcoming Events

Dec. 13: Single-Use Plastics: City Council Vote

2:45-3:30 p.m. @ St. Petersburg City Hall, 175 5th St. N, St. Petersburg
Hosted by Suncoast Rise Above Plastics Coalition

[Facebook](#)

Dec. 16: Sustainability Action Team Celebration

1-2 p.m. @ Cider Press Cafe, 601 Central Ave., St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

Jan. 7: International Relations Study Group: "China and America: The New Geopolitical Equation"

2-3:30 p.m. @ Barbara S. Ponce Library, 7770 52nd St N, Pinellas Park

Jan. 13: Orientation for New and Prospective Members

5-6 p.m. @ St. Petersburg Main Library, 3745 9th Ave. N, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

Jan. 18-19: League Rising: The Power of Women

DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando Downtown, 60 S. Ivanhoe Blvd., Orlando

[Event link](#)



For Other

Click here to visit our website for the latest updates on action group



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.

Please also 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!](#)

December 2018

Cheryl Carson
Meghann Carson
Rhonda Carson
Kate Ciembronowicz

Dianne Clarke
Rebecca Falkenberry
Margaret Somerville
Susan Tuite

November 2018

Monica Abbott
Caroline Bloodworth
Patricia Fling
Lisa Handy

Terry Kessel
Cara McCown
Shannon Young
Pam Zibell

October 2018

Anna Bailey
Janet Bast
Enita Berkheiser
Elizabeth Blanco
Jenna Burr
Sarah Butz
Karen Corbin
Jaime Dixon
Christa Fairbrother

Nicole Gaus
Wendy Grassi
Mary Kingdon
Dory Larsen
Linda Lowe
Judithanne McLauchlan
Rita Moore
Laura Schmid
Sally Watson

Earlier in 2018

Tami Elizabeth Acosta-Urban
Cory Adler-Leidersdorff
Christina Aikman
Kim Alderman
Kristy Alderson
Lisa Alfiro
Melissa Allen
Janet Andrew
Laura Angelides
Sam Angelides
Carol Ardell
Julie Arenstein
Donna Barbar
Bobbie Barber
Ruth Barrens
Lise Beane
David Berman
Karen Berman
Peter Betzer
Susan Betzer
Jody Bikoff
April Birdsong
Angela Boicheff
Karen Bokulicc
Sharron Bolling
Carolyn Boucher
Amy Boyle
Julia Brazier
Carla Bristol
Lisa Brody
Karen Burns
Stephanie Cain
Judith Carruthers
Lydia Castle
Theresa Cathers
Kris Cathey
Julie Chalhoub
Anna Ruth Cianci
Shannan Clark
Erin Coleman
Marlene Colony
Georgene Conner
Christina Cowell
Jules Cozine
Tracy Crabtree
Daina Crafa
Gretchen Craig
Penelope Craig
Marilee Cunningham

Lisa Leverock
Barbara Linder
Doneene Loar
Boni Locke
Diane Lohr
Byron Lorrier
Karen Lumpkin
Quinn Lundquist
Evelyn Lunsford
Chin Mah
Christine Manchester
Mark Marder
Joanne McCarthy
Jill McDonald
Kathy McGeehan
Julia McGinty
Lisa McGreevy
Michael McGreevy
Diane L McKinstry
Judithanne McLauchlan
J. Micco
Judith Michael
Sara Mieczkowski
Jacqueline Mirkin
Brittany Mohamed
Melanie Moore
Patrice Moore
Manitia Moultrie
Kandi Mullen
Karen Mullins
Johnnie Murdach
Lindsay Murdock
Dawn Murray
Devon Murray
Gary Nakarado
Patricia Nardozi
Devin Neitzert
Deborah Nevins
Nina Nicholson
Dorece Norris
Pam OBrien
JACQUELINE OLDS
Rachel Oliver
Floy Lynn Olsen
Susan O'Neil
Loretta Owens
Lisa Pagnotta
Mary Jane Park
Leigh Parks

Ruth Dady
Claudia Dahlman
Debora Dandridge
Linda Darin
Barbara Daudigan
Sherry Deibel
Karen Denehy
Bob Devin Jones
Doreen DiBiagio
MaryEllen Doak
Maureen Dobiesz
Gail Dold
John Donovan
Kristie Dowling
Kim Drake
Victoria Dunn
Linda Edington
Micheline Everett
Jennifer Findley-Fox
Kirsten Fisher
Rene Flowers
Roderick Fludd
Holly Fossen
Brigitte Foster
Beth Fountain
Maria Fox
James Fox
Mary Franklin
Carolina Freitag
Mary Fulton
Gypsy Gallardo
June Gannon
Tracey Gannuscio
Diane Gardner-Rhoden
Rachel Gelbmann
Kali Gillespie
Rebecca Gilmore
Linda Glod
Joelle Godwin
Sylvia Gold
Sharon Goldberg
MaryAnn Goodrich
Evyann Gordon
Roslyn Graham
Wendy Grassi
Geraldine Gray
Becky Griffin
Ann Haendel
Teresa Hall
Cathy Hansen
Esther Happle
Sommer Hartman
Caitlyn Heidenreich
Lynn Carol Henderson
Wilma Henriksen
Gwen Hinchey
Donna Holloway
Curtis Hollowman
Melissa Hopkins
Connie Hubbard
Helen Igar
Consuelo Ingledue
Norman Jaeger
Flame James

Kay Paul
Traci Pichette
Ronnie Pollack
Suzanne Pomeroy
Barbara Poore
Sandee Potter
Janet Prueitt
Sheena Qualles-De Freece
Janelle Quinn
Elizabeth Rashbaum
Lydia Rector
Steven Redisch
Tania Reed
Doris Reeves-Lipscomb
Susan Reid
Jon Reynolds
Vollie Riskin
Kathleen Robinson
Kyesha Robinson
Debra Rose
Sharon Rose
Veda Roubideaux
Lisa Rowan
Lucille Ruga
Lucille Ruga
Ann Sackett
Deborah Sanders
Sally Latrelle Sasser
Beverly Sauls
Katharine Saunders
Sherry Sexton
Barbara Shannon
Julia Sharp
Christian Sharp
Jenny Shea
Pamela Sherwin
Sandy Shuler
Judy Sivigny
Jessica Slaton
Denise Smith
Fracia Smith
Zayne Smith
Megan Smolenyak
Laura Sosa-Cook
Gwyne Spinale
Barbara Spofford
Peter Stanhope
Mary Stephens
Sunny Stewart
Christine Stockholm
Madeline Streilein
bob strieder
Barbara Sullo
Cher Tanner
Laurie Teppert
Donna Terrence
Ahna Thaxton
Theresa Timmick
Jamie Title
Mimi Toelle
Lucy Trimarco
Susan Wagner
Yvonne Walden
Jean M Walder

Margaret Joffe
Dianne Johnson
Gail Johnson
Lucinda Johnston
Theresa Jones
Wes Kempfer
Sonia King
Susan King
Sara Knotts
Kathy Kulaas
Sheila Lamb
Caroline Lanford
Dena Lebowitz

Kerry Walia
Carol Wasinger
Korinne Wasinger
Patricia Weller
Jil Wenner
Rita Wesley
David Westmark
Ann White
Scott Willis
Becky Wilson
Denise Yettaw
Susan Yormark



2017-2018 League Leadership

OFFICERS

President: Julie Kessel
First Vice President: Linsey Grove
Second Vice President: Lisa Vanover
Secretary: Susan Mayer
Treasurer: Caroline Bloodworth

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Caitlin Constantine
Amanda Dodge
Raechel Garafalo
Stephanie Owens
Ken Wrede

[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
Health Care: Julie Kessel
Reproductive Rights: Stacey Kroto
Campaign Finance Reform/Social Justice: Julie Kessel, Karen Lieberman
Education: Marty Shapiro
Voter Service: Raechel Garafalo
Sustainability: Lisa Vanover, Carol Marks, Jen Underhill
International Relations: Judy McSwine
Media/Publicity Lead: Amy Weintraub
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.