



## THE VOTER

February 2019

### *Share the St. Pete Civic Health Survey!*



Engaged communities are healthier and better at fixing problems. But how is St. Petersburg doing when it comes to this?

That's why the League is conducting a [city-wide survey](#) to measure civic engagement – from voting to volunteering to connecting with neighbors. By understanding how people use their voice, community organizations across St Pete will be better able to support people to be heard and ensure that change reflects the collective input of the entire community.

**We need your help to ensure the results of this survey are diverse and representative.**

Here's how you can help:

- Share the League's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts on your own social media accounts.
- Post the survey on Nextdoor. [Click HERE](#) for a picture and description you can use.
- Include the survey in the newsletters and email lists of other groups you belong to. [Click HERE](#) for an email-friendly picture and suggested newsletter text.
- Do you know a local business that would put up a poster? Stop by the office to pick one up!
- Are you going to an event where you can hand out flyers? Stop by the office to pick some up!

And of course, we need you to take the survey yourself. Just go to [TakeThePoll.org](#) and let us see how you shine!



### *We Need You to Help Set LWVSPA's Program for 2019-2020!*



The Program Planning meeting is coming up, and we need as many League members as possible to show up. This is one of our most important meetings of the year, when League membership comes together to decide what initiatives we'll focus on for the coming year.

**This is some of the most important collective thinking we will do all year and we need your brain, vision, and creative energy.**

This year's Program Planning meeting will be held Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Empath, located at 3050 1st Ave. S in St. Petersburg. Food will be served! [Please RSVP as soon as possible](#) so we can get an accurate headcount of how many people will be attending.

And if you have an issue you'd like to present to the LWVSPA for consideration, this meeting is your chance to do it. Board leadership is available to help you develop your proposal. Just send an email to [office@lwvspa.org](mailto:office@lwvspa.org) and we'll help you get your proposal ready. But do it soon - you're running out of time!



## *Action Alert: Support Comprehensive Sex Ed in Pinellas Schools!*

The [Empowering Pinellas Youth Collaborative](#) needs your help letting the school board know that our kids deserve evidence-based, inclusive, medically-accurate, and developmentally-appropriate comprehensive sex ed!

You can:

- [Sign our petition here](#)
- Send a postcard to the Pinellas County School Board (you can find these at the office)
- Share our Facebook page: [facebook.com/WeAreEPYC](https://www.facebook.com/WeAreEPYC)
- Join us at the March School Board meeting to show your support



The EPYC is led by League members Julia Sharp and Linsey Grove, and was inspired by one of the LWVSPA Reproductive Rights Action Team's long-standing goals of getting Pinellas County schools to implement comprehensive sex ed.

For more information, you can contact [Linsey Grove](#) or [Julia Sharp](#).



## *Member Spotlight: February 2019*

*Name:* Linsey Grove

*WHAT is your favorite experience with the LWVSPA?*

My favorite moments are when you get to mix friendship, mentorship, and advocacy together in different League activities. I love the collaborative, supportive nature of the League -- it makes me feel like we can do anything and that we all support each other.

*WHERE do you find inspiration within the LWVSPA?*

It is so important to have an informed electorate that also feel empowered to become and remain active as participants in their government. We are fighting apathy and disenfranchisement fueled by misinformation, lack of access to factual information, and legislation that prevents people from being able to access their government through voter suppression, weakened consumer and citizen protection institutions, and campaign financing by special interests and big money donors.

*WHY did you join the LWVSPA?*

I was looking for an organization that was well-respected, used research to make decisions, and focused on civic engagement. When I joined, I was so happy to be around other passionate people that wanted to change our community for the better. I've been in love ever since.



## HOW are you involved with LWVSPA?

I dove right in very quickly! I started with the Reproductive Rights action team and now co-lead an initiative in that group to advocate for comprehensive sex education in Pinellas County. I am also a board director and provide grant writing and project leadership for the local League. This year, I have helped secure \$140,000 for civic engagement, voter education, and advocacy projects.

## WHEN not with the LWVSPA?

I love rock climbing, free diving, and enjoying the treasures of St. Petersburg. I also co-host a public health podcast called Viral!

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Thanks to Stacey Jurewicz for collecting and editing the answers to these questions! If you're interested in being featured as a League Member of the Month, [email her](#) and let her know!



## What's Happening Around LWVSPA?

### Gun Safety

As of Feb. 3, close to 20 firearm-related bills have been introduced for the 2019 FL Legislative Session. Legislation to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines (SB466, SB500 and HB455) and tighten licensing requirements (SB654, SB468 and HB135) have been introduced in both houses.



The majority of the Senate bills are "smart" legislation, including what appears to be an attempt to modify Stand Your Ground, making the burden of proof on the defendant more stringent (SB636). Most of the House bills take an ardent gun rights position: HB175 essentially guts last year's Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Act and HB6007 would permit campus and open carry.

In late January, our team had productive meetings with Rep. Ben Diamond, Rep. Jennifer Webb & Sen. Darryl Rouson to advocate for [LWV-FL's five gun safety legislative priorities](#).

Thanks to team member Kathy Phelan, we're tracking [all firearm-related bills](#) on our site, and we're updating it bi-weekly through the end of session in May. To learn more about the issues and how to take action, visit [lwwspa.org/gun-issues](http://lwwspa.org/gun-issues).

The next Gun Safety Action Team meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. at Allendale United Methodist Church. Contact Team Lead [Sharon Winters](#) for more information.

### National Popular Vote

The team is hard at work educating the public and local officials about the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which has been listed as one of LWVFL's legislative priorities. The team could use your help with making connections to journalists, officials, thought leaders and the like.

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

### Immigration

The action group's next meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 25 at 1:30 p.m. at a member's home. If you'd like to get involved with the Immigration Action Team, email Team Lead [Karen Coale](#) for more information.

### Sustainability

The Sustainability Action Group produced and submitted a video for the Sun Shot Solar in Your Community Challenge. You can [check out the excellent video here](#).

They're also working with Suncoast Rise Above Plastics Coalition to educate St. Petersburg businesses about the recently-passed regulations governing plastic straws and polystyrene. [Click here](#) to find out more about how to get involved with this effort.

The team's next meeting will take place Saturday, Feb. 9 at 1 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg. Email Co-chairs [Lisa Vanover](#), [Carol Marks](#) or [Jen Underhill](#) for more information.

### **Education**

The Education Action Group is preparing for 2019, as they anticipate the goals of Amendment 8 - removing local control in public education and dramatically expanding charter schools and tax-credit scholarships - will resurface this year. They are also monitoring the possibility that "school safety" (particularly legislation related to arming teachers) could be another dominant legislative issue. [Read more](#) about the action group's activities in December.

To find out more about how you can get involved with this action group, contact [Iris Yetter](#).

### **Reproductive Justice**

The Reproductive Rights Action Group is partnering with Pinellas NOW and Planned Parenthood for a screening of "Birthing: A War Story," which is a feature-length documentary that exposes the truth of how American women are being jailed, physically violated and even put at risk of dying as a radical movement tightens its group across America and allows states, courts and religious doctrine to govern when and how women will bear children. A discussion will be held afterwards.

The screening will be held Feb. 23 at 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the St. Petersburg Main Library.

The Action Group is also planning a members-only celebration for International Women's Day on March 8. Save the date, and watch your inboxes for an invite!

The team's next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 14 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.

### **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, Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Raechel Garafalo](#) for more information.



## *Upcoming Events*

### **Feb. 11: Advocacy Training for Community Activists**

6-9 p.m. @ Allendale United Methodist Church, 3803 Haines Rd., St. Petersburg  
[Facebook](#)

### **Feb. 20: Every Vote Counts (National Popular Vote Interstate Compact)**

*Hosted by League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County*

5:30-7:30 p.m. @ Children's Board of Hillsborough County, 1002 E. Palm Ave., Tampa  
[Facebook](#)

**Feb. 20: Cocktails and Conversation**

6-8 p.m. @ Callaloo, 642 22nd St. S, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

**Feb. 21: Program Planning for 2019-2020**

6:30-8:30 p.m. @ Empath, 3050 1st Ave. S, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

**Feb. 23: "Birthright: A War Story" Screening**

1:30-4:30 p.m. @ St. Petersburg Main Library, 3745 9th Ave. N, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

**March 4: International Relations Study Group: "Media and Foreign Policy"**

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

**March 9: Runaway Inequality Workshop**

9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. @ Imagine Integrated Therapy, McMullen Booth, Safety Harbor

[Facebook](#)



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.

**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!**

### **February 2019**

June Bedford  
Emily Bell  
Mary Berglund  
Caroline Bloodworth  
Mary Beth Bosco  
Susan Burr  
Gregory Carlin  
Dave Coale  
Caitlin Constantine  
Loren Corrieri  
Kathleen Cote  
Kim Cromwell  
Robin Davidov  
Meg Ebner  
Mary Fahy & Roy Gardner  
Linda Fife  
Judy Gallizzi  
Gina Gallo  
Kathy Gustafson-Hilton  
Harry Harvey  
Susan Hofstader  
Susan Holderness  
William Israel  
Sally Israel  
Robin Jones  
Amy Kamradt  
Amy Kedron  
Robert Kerstein

Karen Knop  
Kate Lamb  
Dwight Lawton  
Bruce LeBaron & Kathi Grau  
JoAnne Lehrfeld & Carrie Goldberg  
Christopher Lerbs  
Cynthia Lippert  
Doris & Kaitlin Lovering  
Marilyn Maginley  
Mary Ann Marger  
John Mason  
Linda McGeehan  
Lois Milne  
Beth Murphy  
Janet Murphy  
Mal Needle  
Nancy Parker  
Karen Raihill  
Armana Rehman  
Darden Rice  
Margaret Siembieda  
Carolyn Sinclair  
Debbie Terhune  
Lisa Vanover  
Charles Vanover  
Jeffrey Villet  
Deborah Williams  
Livia Zien

### **January 2019**

Cecilia Allen  
Eric & Judy Blackledge  
Donna Brewer  
Matt Broerman  
James Clapp  
Gina Driscoll  
Abby Fogarty  
Linsey Grove  
Stacey Jurewicz  
Cora Kostka  
Misty & Edward Landers  
Judy Lybrand-Kuhn  
Michelle Maccini  
Fred McKay

Maria McKay  
Kathleen Mossing  
Shari Oster  
Gerni Oster  
Elizabeth Reynolds  
Karol Rowan  
James Schultz  
Corrine St. Jean  
Gerald Tuite  
Charles Voirin  
Holly & James Wainwright  
Lydia Walter  
Linda Welsh

### **December 2018**

Cheryl Carson  
Meghann Carson

Rhonda Carson  
Susan Tuite



## *2018-2019 League Leadership*

#### **OFFICERS**

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

#### **EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY LEADS**

Gun Safety: Sharon Winters  
Immigration: Karen Coale  
Health Care: Julie Kessel  
Reproductive Rights: Stacey Kroto  
Campaign Finance Reform/Social Justice:

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Caitlin Constantine  
Amanda Dodge  
Raechel Garafalo  
Stephanie Owens  
Ken Wrede

Julie Kessel, Karen Lieberman  
Education: Iris Yetter, Robin Jones  
Voter Service: Raechel Garafalo  
Sustainability: Lisa Vanover, Carol Marks, Jen Underhill  
National Popular Vote: Deb Mazzaferro, Marty Shapiro  
International Relations: Judy McSwine  
Media/Publicity Lead: Amy Weintraub  
Office Administrator: Julia Sharp

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

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



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.**