

THE VOTER

February 2021

Letter from the President



Dear Leaguers,

Happy African American History Month and 101st Founding Day for the League of Women Voters (February 14)!

Just like our democracy, we've experienced extreme stressors over the past year and the past month. To witness an insurrection on our Capitol was a surreal experience that produced feelings of anger, sadness, fear, and frustration.

This prompted a historic decision by our [National League to actively call for the removal and impeachment of former President Donald Trump](#). Standing for democracy and calling for elected officials to be held accountable when engaging in acts of sedition is, and will always be, a nonpartisan stance.

We have a long road ahead of us. A nonviolent Inauguration reminded us that the peaceful transfer of power is a keystone of our democracy. There are still threats to democracy we must face as we advocate for free and fair elections, fight voter suppression tactics, and empower voters in our community to be actively engaged. I don't doubt that our League is up to the task; we have an active Legislative Session ahead of us here in Florida with our own Program Planning and Annual Meeting right around the corner.

I hope you find time to reflect and recharge; so much of the work we do can lead to burnout and compassion fatigue. We can't pour water from an empty well; let's take care of each other so we can keep working for our community and for voters.

In League,
Linsey



PROGRAM PLANNING IN PROGRESS!

Every year, our local League solicits advocacy and educational issues from our membership to set our *Program*, or priorities, for the next League year (May to April). This process happens during Program Planning, an event where advocacy and education teams present their issue, its importance to the League, and their plan for the next year. Members then vote on each issue to be presented at our Annual Meeting in April as our Program for the new League year.

This year, to keep our members safe, we are doing things a little differently. We have sent out a template for members and current team leads to fill out if they have an advocacy and/or education issue they would like to see in our Program. These documents will then be used to create a Program Planning Workbook for our membership to review ahead of the **Program Planning meeting on February 18th, 2021**.

A survey will also be sent out ahead of the Program Planning meeting for members to ask questions of each team. Answers to these questions and short presentations will be given at the Program Planning meeting; the meeting will culminate in a vote to add (or not to add) each issue to next year's Program at the Annual Meeting.

Keep your eyes out for the Program Planning Workbook and the survey to submit questions.

Questions about Program Planning and associated items should be directed to president@lwvspa.org.



Spend Valentine's Day with the ones that love you -- for us, that's our amazing volunteers and community! Weather disrupted our thank you in December for the hard work during this election season. Join us on **Sunday, February 14th, 2021 at 6 pm** for a drive-in movie on the Deuces (St Petersburg College, Johnnie Ruth Clarke parking lot at 1300 22nd Street South). **Movie: Hitch**

COVID SAFETY MEASURES

All participants will stay either in or on top of their cars. There will be food vendors, those that leave their cars to purchase food will be spaced 6 ft apart when purchasing food and required to wear masks if they venture outside of their car (including trips to the bathroom). All vendors will be requested to have hand sanitizer available on their table for customer use. By registering for this event, you are agreeing to adhere to the COVID-19 safety measures outlined above.

[Register Today!](#)

**THE VOTER GUIDE TO
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

When: Feb. 2, 2021



The March 9 municipal elections are almost upon us. (Yes, we're all still recovering from November, but democracy rests for no one!)

Voters in **10 cities and towns** will head to the polls to vote for mayors, city commissioners and city council members, as well as several charter amendments. These smaller elections draw less attention than larger ones, which means our **Pinellas County Voter Guide** is one of the few chances voters have to hear directly from the candidates themselves and to learn more about what's on their ballots.

The Voter Guide includes everything you ever wanted to know about voting in Pinellas County, including how to make sure your vote-by-mail ballot counts and what you should do if you're offered a provisional ballot.

IMPORTANT: We're in the process of transitioning our online Voter Guide to **Vote411.org**, so the Voter Guide will function a little differently than it has in years past. You'll still be able to view it using your mobile devices, and now you'll also be able to look up what's on your ballot by simply entering your address. We appreciate your patience with us as we make this transition!

KEY DEADLINES FOR MARCH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

If you're planning to vote in this election, here are some key dates you should be aware of:

- Feb. 2: Candidate forums for Kenneth City and Redington Beach
- Feb. 2: Mail ballots start going out to domestic voters
- Feb. 8: Voter registration deadline
- Feb. 27: Last day to request a ballot be mailed (you can still pick one up)

Please note that no early voting will be held for these elections



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

CENTURY
for a
CENTURY



Raegan Miller completed her century (100 miles) on January 20, 2021 to coincide with the inauguration of our first female VP!

Congratulations, Raegan!

To register and/or donate to a team or individual participating in



Raegan's daughter, Lane, completed 65 miles hiking, jogging, biking in January.

We're so proud of

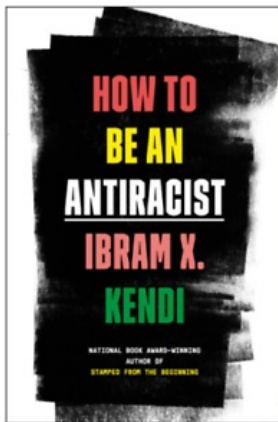


Resources for Members from Coffee in Common :

Last month, we had a wonderful Coffee in Common, discussing Performative Allyship with the amazing Hillary Van Dyke!

Hillary offered some great resources for folks wanting to dive into racial justice and equity issues. Here are the links:

- Padlet with Articles, Books, and information
<https://padlet.com/vandykehillary/lwvdst>
- Police Brutality Information: <https://8cantwait.org/>
- A comprehensive package of urgent policy solutions - informed by data, research, and human rights principles - can change the way police serve our communities
<https://www.joincampaignzero.org/solutions#solutionoverview>
- Support black-owned businesses and organizations in Tampa Bay by using the Green Book of Tampa
<https://greenbooktampabay.org/about-us/>



Social Justice in Action Book Club

The Social Justice Action Team book club is reading its second book, **How to be an Antiracist** by Ibram X. Kendi.

Our next book club will be **Sunday, February 7th 12pm -1:30pm**. We will be discussing Chapters 3 and 4. If you have read this book, but maybe missed our first discussion no worries.

Please [follow this link to sign up](#) for future notices as we work through this book together.

JOIN THE SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM!

The February meeting of the Social Justice Action Team will take place on **Thursday, February 11th at 7pm**.

If not already a member and interested in joining this team, please contact Stacey Kroto at enhancedvibes@gmail.com or Linsey Grove at linsey.grove@gmail.com to be added to our email list so you will get an invite with the meeting link.

We look forward to seeing you virtually!

Sept2019. Participants raise a glass during The **Grand Central Plant-Based Tapas Food Tour**.

The Food Politics team is looking forward to the days ahead when they can gather in person, learn and enjoy great meals together.



Hopped Up on Democracy, March 7, 2020, a few days before we all shut down for Covid!!

Some of the initial members of the Food Politics team,

(left to right) Laura Crabtree, Wendy Wesley, Jen Underhill and Julie Kessel. Several new members have been added since this photo was taken.

The Food Politics Team is co-chaired by Jen Underhill and Julie Kessel. The eight-member team includes an educator, an organic farmer, a registered dietician, a marine biologist, an engineer, a chef, a physician & policy consultant, and a public health information specialist. Together they form a dynamic team that is making an impact, enjoying food and fun along the way.

The League's mission is to Defend Democracy and Empower Voters. For The Food Politics Team, that means empowering people to make better food choices for their individual health and the environment, exposing the corrupting influence of corporate money on our food and health systems, and advocating for more equitable food access and public policy in St. Petersburg.

In the face of the pandemic, the team launched a new online event series called Digital Dining. During the 2020/21 program year, the team hosted five Digital Dining events, featuring subject matter experts and elected and non-elected public officials. More than 100 people attended and four partner organizations were engaged in the series.

The Food Politics Team played a key role in establishing the city's new Food Policy Council and supports the urban agricultural policy movement in St. Petersburg. As a founding member of the council, The Food Politics Team is excited about the opportunity to advocate for policy that address nutrition insecurity and equity in food access. The Food Politics Team's role on the council will be to facilitate citizen input.

Jen Underhill says, "Individually all of us can improve our own health and the health of the planet by making different food choices.

Only collectively, however, can we combat the undue influence of big money in politics.

Helping people to understand how food shapes their destiny and empowering them to make healthier decisions regarding food is a critical cog in the wheel of an engaged citizenry, and helps to reduce health and economic disparity and create a more participatory democracy."

The Food Politics Team is always looking for new team members. The team needs help specifically with social media, publicity, community outreach, and technology, but welcomes anyone who is willing to lend a hand in any way! **Want to get involved? Contact Jen Underhill for more information jaybirdjerome@gmail.com**



LWVSPA IN ACTION!

Roe v. Wade, January 22, 2021 Downtown St. Petersburg

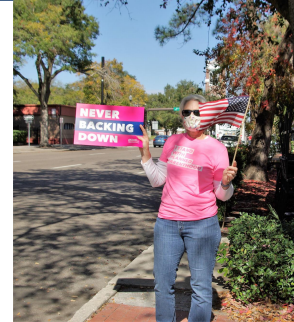


(Left to Right) Amy Weintraub, Carol Marks, Ruth Whitney, Diane Lebedeff, Joan Thurmond, Marilyn Hafling. Photo credit Mark Ferrulo, Progress Florida.

Amy Weintraub was there!

"This was my sixth year attending the downtown St. Pete visibility event, and I know it's more important than ever to keep standing up. With new anti-abortion majorities now on the U.S. Supreme Court and on the Florida State Supreme Court, access to abortion is threatened like never before.

The first year I moved to Florida, Sue Price, an old friend from Charleston, WV who'd moved to St. Pete a few years before, suggested we should attend the Roe visibility event together. I look at photos from that 2016 event and see women with whom I've become great friends and co-conspirators in the Florida reproductive rights movement. At Sue's urging, I joined the St. Pete League soon after and later went on to chair LWVF's statewide Reproductive Health & Justice Action Team."



Carol Marks was there!

"I participate in this event each year in support of Roe v. Wade and those who made it happen in 1973. Coming of age in the 70's and 80's, this law made it possible for me and my friends to make our own health care decisions and chart our own lives. I acknowledge and stand with the women who sacrificed so much before that time. I will continue to show up and, as the sign says: "Never Backing Down" or giving up the rights for women to be in control of our own medical care."

let's chat

*Conversation Centered Around
A Local Leader or Theme*



**Thursday, February 11, 2021
6-7 p.m.**

Let's Chat!
A League event with Judge Liz Jack

Join the LWVSPA for the second of a new monthly series of interactive videoconferences, hosted by the Membership Committee, to allow members to get to know one another and the League. Liz Jack, judge on the Florida 6th Circuit Court, will be our guest for February.

Membership Chair, Amy Weintraub, will pepper Judge Jack with prepared questions about #WhyCourtsMatter and her experience of judicial elections. Participants will feed more questions via chat.

Zoom features will be put to use to make this hour of conversation as interactive as possible, including the use of breakout "rooms" for small group discussion, as well as the use of the poll feature for trivia questions and opinion sharing.

Note: This is an event for members only.

RSVP



**New & Prospective Member
Orientation**

**Tuesday, February 16, 2021
6:00-7:00 pm**

[Register here](#) for Zoom link

Our New Member Orientation 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.



VOLUNTEER!

The League of Women Voters St. Petersburg Area is a dynamic group of volunteers offering their talents and



Volunteer Corner Opportunities for You!

Gina Burchenal, Nita Shepherd

treasures to accomplish league goals.

Following are opportunities that may be perfect for you.

Finance Committee

We are looking for members to join our new Finance Committee. The Committee's role is to help ensure the

financial health of LWVSPA and provide recommendations to the board about financial health and goals. Members should be familiar with financial statements, corporate/nonprofit budgets, and financial control procedures. If you should have any questions and to join this committee, **please email League Treasurer Gina Gallo, ginamgallo@gmail.com.**

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is looking for volunteers who are willing to be part of our Radical Gratitude Squad. Individual tasks could include collecting information from League leaders, letter writing, making deliveries, and proving info to the Newsletter team. You can commit for one month or longer-term. All help welcome!

Contact Membership Chair, Amy Weintraub, if you are interested at amyw304@gmail.com.

Voter Services Committee

Do you have a legal background? Are you passionate about election protection and voting rights? Then the Voter Services Team needs YOU! We are seeking a legal volunteer to help us track and interpret election-related legislation. **Please email voting@lwwspa.org if you are interested.**

General

Zoom Manager: We need a volunteer with experience in setting up, running, recording, and posting zoom meetings. Must be experienced with Pro Zoom. **Contact Robin, rbdavidov@msn.com.**



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Nancy Tait

I take great pride in being part of, and promoting, our impactful League. Following the 2016 Presidential election I was delighted to see outstanding new members arrive with energy and ideas to continue and grow our work as one of the strongest Leagues in Florida.

I joined LWVSPA in 2005. New to St. Pete, I heard grassroots activist Winnie Foster speak at our Quaker Meeting House and immediately had an idol. I asked Winnie what organizations she would recommend I join; she suggested the League and the effort to restore voting rights to returning citizens.

Over the years, I have been delighted to participate in voter registration at a number of events and now cheer our work in restoring the vote to returning citizens. I served as Membership Chair or Co-chair for several years, receiving state awards for new members! I fit the position because I believe in the League and still find myself recruiting.

I respect and enjoy LWVSPA membership and activities. Although not as active as previously, I serve on the Nominating Committee and find it a rewarding way to know some of our strong and committed newer members.

FEBRUARY TEAM MEETINGS

Food Politics

February 1, 2021 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

[Google Meet](#)

Fund Development

February 3, 2021 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

[Google Meet](#)

Social Justice

February 11, 2021 @ 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

[Google Meet](#)

Immigration

February 22, 2021 @ 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Zoom video conference.

Contact kcoale@tampabay.rr.com for code to join the meeting or questions.

Voter Services

February 23, 2021 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Conference Call 605-472-5621

Access Code. 555498

Membership

February 24, 2021 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Contact chair, [Amy Weintraub](#), for teleconference link or for more information



Welcome New Members

Our League is proud to welcome these newest members!

Kaleigh Little
Anna Broshears
Tracey Wiseman
Samantha Flanagan
Stephanie Cox

Mardie Chapman
Sandra Sandoval Chavarria
Suzanne Gentes
Bonnie Hough
Laura Hensley

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

We offer five levels of membership :

Gold for \$250*
Silver for \$125*
Household for \$78*
Individual for \$52
Student for \$26

*Includes two members residing at the same address.

[Renew / Join Now](#)

Note that LWVSPA keeps only about \$7 (!) of your basic dues paid at the Individual (\$52) or Household (\$78) levels. The rest goes to LWV-FL and LWV-US. Your local League has to raise almost all of its funds with voluntary contributions.

If you join at our Gold level (\$250) or Silver level (\$125), all the extra dues stay with our local League and we will recognize your generosity at our Annual Meeting.

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

February 2021

Diana Acostandei
Megan Albertson
June Bedford
Mary Bumgarner
Kurt Calderone
Jeanne Coleman
Caitlin Constantine
Loren Corrieri
Kathleen Cote
Kim Cromwell
Robin Davidov
Mel Donovan
Brenna Dukes
Tim Dutton
Caprice Edmond
Jabaar Edmond
Megan Firestone
Beth Fountain
Lisa Foushee
Vilma Fry
Judy Gallizzi
Laura Green
Kathy Gustafson-Hilton
Darby Hall

Susan Holderness
Jane Holloway
Bill Israel
Sally Israel
Claire Karas
Christopher Lerbs
Marilyn Maginley
Ekta Mangat
Mary Ann Marger
Linda McGeehan
Lois Milne
Kathleen Mossing
Beth Murphy
Janet Murphy
Kathy Parker
Nick Pavonetti
Susan Puntillo
Karol Rowan
Mary Sinclair
Donna Starr
Lupe Torre
Lizzy Wells
Deborah Williams
Lisa Yacso

January 2021

Mary-Sue Beeler
Nichole Blaquiére

Diane Krajcik
Sheila Montante

Sharon Bonnem
Connie Bruce
Carmen Bruner
Yvette Butler
Christine Cicchino
Ann Dieterle
Pat Fling
Ann Fuentes
Stephanie Gillock
Annette Kaplan

Christina Paylan
Sheila Penrose
Sheena Qualles-De Freece
Mary Russell
Amy Sauers
Margaret Sells
Lydia Walter
Terry White
Ruth Whitney
Lisa Zawistowski

December 2020

Rebecca Falkenberry
Becky Griffin

Mildred Turley



2020-2021 League Leadership

OFFICERS

President: Linsey Grove
First Vice President: Robin Davidov
Second Vice President: Amy Keith
Secretary: Ken Wrede
Treasurer: Gina Gallo

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ama Appiah
Nita Carroll
Ann Dieterle
Beate Marston

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

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

EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, COMMITTEE LEADS

Voter Service: Robin Davidov, Maryellen Gordon, Caitlin Constantine, Amy Keith
Gun Safety: On hiatus
Immigration: Karen Coale
Reproductive Rights: On hiatus
Census: Gina Gallo
Food Politics: Julie Kessel, Jen Underhill
Sustainability: Laura Crabtree
National Popular Vote: Deb Mazzaferro, Marty Shapiro
International Relations: Judy McSwine
Social Justice: Linsey Grove, Stacey Kroto
Media/Publicity: Natasha Samreny & Patti Myers
Membership: Amy Weintraub
Nominating: Amy Weintraub
Operations Director: Julia Sharp



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.