

THE VOTER

February 2022



Letter from the President

Dear Leaguers,

I hope you join me in celebrating Black History Month this February! There are lots of different celebrations and educational events throughout the month--be sure to check your social media for more information.

Now that we're coming out of the holiday break and into the legislative session, many of us are feeling the call to action in different ways. With so many different causes and calls, it can feel overwhelming and disjointed.

Many people are looking for leadership to steer them in the right direction; a person to embody a movement and inspire. My call to you is to *be* that person. Be your own inspiration, motivator, and movement maker. I'm not asking you to start taking news interviews and start traveling on tour; I'm asking you to think about how you can be a leader in your neighborhood, prayer space, community, or friend's group.

Defending democracy cannot land on one person's shoulders; we have to bear the weight together to move forward.

In League,
Linsey



WELCOME! **New Staff! Susan Dickson:**

It is with great pleasure that we announce our new Communications and Administrative Specialist, Susan Dickson! Susan will be supporting our operations, membership, and communications.

We are so happy to add Susan to our LWVSPA team!



501c3 Transition:

As stated in the January Voter, the board has recommended the transition of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area 501c4 to a

501c3. We will be providing more information about this transition at the Program Planning Meeting on February 24th, 2022 at 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

Additionally, we will be holding a webinar in March for members who have questions and want more information about this transition. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me and refer to this helpful [FAQ document](#) developed by our consultant, Tom Carson.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CELEBRATE

100 MILES FOR
101 YEARS OF
SUFFRAGE

Century for a Century + 1

OUR HISTORY, OUR FUTURE

Our current fundraiser honors the courageous women who won the vote for us a century + years ago.

Right now a group of courageous participants have stepped up to the challenge of going 100 miles by February 14th. They are out there walking, running, biking and cross-training to reach their "century" which is also the name of 100 mile races. Healthy fun for participants to make healthier funds for LWVSPA.

You can still become a sponsor for this event!

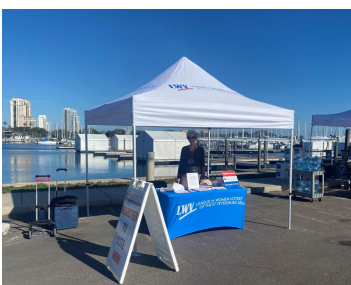
DONATE

PROGRAM PLANNING 2022/23

It's that time of year! Program Planning is our yearly meeting where members present what they feel the local chapter should adopt as our "program" for the new League year. This includes pitches from each established and new team and meeting attendee voting.

Thinking about starting your own team and pitching your issue at Program Planning? [See our blog post](#) on Program Planning here for more information and instructions:

VOTER SERVICES IN ACTION



One of the country's longest-running and largest MLK Jr. parades came back to full life in St. Pete this year! And LWVSPA members were proud to participate once again in the MLK Dream Big Weekend of events, both to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr., and also to support the protection of voting rights.

On Saturday, Jan. 15, our Voter Registration volunteers **Robin Davidov** (photo left) **Janice Drinkwine**, **Sue Griffin**, **Karen Knop**, **Vicki Smaridge** and **Betsy Wells** attended the Music Festival & Family Fun Day. They were featured on [Bay News 9](#)

Then on Monday's day of service, LWVSPA members (photo above L/R) **Jeanette Leehr**, **Sue Castleman**, **Ingrid Bredenberg**, **Berkeley Grimball**, **Betsy Wells**, **Lyn Dalzell**, **Karen Briskin**, **Maryellen Gordon** and **Martha Jacobs** came together to carry the flag for our chapter.

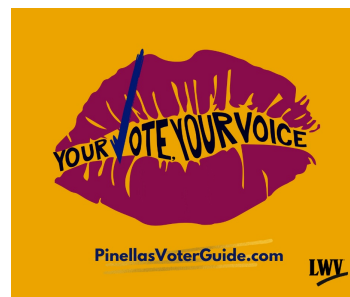
Thanks to the organizers and to the parade-goers who joined us in our "Get Out and Vote" chants!



Municipal Elections March 15th

Do you live in one of these municipalities?

Belleair, Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Clearwater, Madeira Beach, Oldsmar, Redington Beach, Redington Shores, St Pete Beach, or Tarpon Springs



Then get ready to vote in the upcoming municipal elections on March 15th! Be sure to [check your voter registration details](#) before the registration deadline on February 14th.

Mail ballots will be arriving in mail boxes on or around February 10th, and our nonpartisan voter guide will be LIVE by then at [PinellasVoterGuide.com!](#)

Here's what will be on the ballot:

- Mayoral elections in Belleair Beach, Oldsmar, and Tarpon Springs
- Council Members/Commissioners in Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs,

- Clearwater, Madeira Beach, Oldsmar, Redington Shores, St Pete Beach, and Tarpon Springs
- City Charter Amendments in Belleair, Madeira Beach, Oldsmar, and Redington Beach
 - Referendum Questions in Madeira Beach and Redington Beach

As always, if you face any problems with voting-by-mail or voting in-person, call the nonpartisan election protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE!



Redistricting

LWVFL is actively following up in Tallahassee to fight for Fair Districts. Read the recent press release [HERE](#).

In addition, LWVFL has indicated that "a preliminary review of the governor's redistricting plan for congressional maps seems to give inadequate adherence to the Fair Districts created by Floridian Citizen Initiative in 2010 and the VRA of 1965. The Governor's plan seems to violate both the mandatory non-partisan fairness requirements of Tier 1 of Fair Districts and it seems to make light of the Tier 1 and VRA requirement that districts be drawn to give opportunities for racial and language minorities to select a representative of their choice. On initial review, the governor's map seems to provide one less African American coalition district than the Senate plan. The League will continue its review and analysis and will provide updates as the review is completed."

Keep an eye out for LWVFL Capital Reports and Action Alerts to stay up to date. Want to learn more? There's more [information about the redistricting process](#) on the LWVFL website

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New LWVSPA Communication Committee forming!

**Thursday, February 10
5:00 PM
via [Zoom](#)**



- Do you have an interest in putting your social media know-how to good work for our League?
- Want to sharpen your skills in working with the Press?
- Ready to dip your toe in helping with a League function and getting to know fellow Leaguers?

If any of those are true, this new team is for you! **Click on ZOOM** above and join our first discussion in developing a more coordinated approach to internal and external communications with the formation of a new Communication Committee. This first meeting is being coordinated by Membership Chair Amy Weintraub with the hopes of a new chair or co-chairs quickly getting into place. Questions: Contact Amy Weintraub amyw304@gmail.com

FOOD POLITICS COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



Food Politics Action Team Invites Your Participation

Three years ago, The League of Women Voters of the St Pete Area launched a Food Politics Action Team as part of its annual program. Their mission is to empower people to make more informed food choices for their health, the environment and democracy.

Since it's inception, the group has formed important and strong community partnerships to move forward the mission.

NOW, the Food Politics Action Team invites you to be a part of one (or more) community conversations that include:

- The relationship between nutrition, food access and health
- Steps toward equitable food policy;
- Programs past, present and future opportunities.

Will you step up and add your voice to the conversations?

[READ MORE](#) and/or contact Dr. Julie Kessel jbkessel@verizon.net

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION



St. Petersburg Structural Racism Study Presentation

**February 10
7:00 – 8:30 pm**

The League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area Social Justice Team is proud to host Dr. Ruthmae Sears and her study committee members as they present the findings of the St. Petersburg Structural Racism Study for participation

REGISTER

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE INTERSTATE COMPACT

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill ensures that every vote, in every state, will matter in every presidential election.

[Read More](#)



LWVSPA member Deb Mazzaferro (left) believes the NPVIC is the best way to ensure every vote counts in electing the president and vice-president. Since 2017 she has been an advocate, Subject Matter Expert and founding member of Floridians for NPV. Following is Deb's update of activities in our area to educate and form community partnerships to advocate for NPVIC.

March 8, 2022 Floridians for the National Popular Vote will participate in a panel discussion (virtual) with students in the American Constitution Society chapter at Stetson Law School in St. Petersburg, FL. Deb Mazzaferro will represent League of Women Voters St. Petersburg Area on this panel.

March 21, 2022, Dr. Marty Shapiro will be making an NPVIC presentation at the Pinellas Educational Employees Retired (PEER) monthly meeting. This meeting will be available to PEER members in-person, as well as on Zoom.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



Beth Settle, from the Radical Gratitude Squad, LWVSPA Membership Committee, is seeking your nomination for outstanding volunteer(s) to recognize each month. If you have someone you'd like to nominate, please contact Beth at samster1212@hotmail.com

[READ MORE](#)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- [February calendar of Events/Meetings](#)
- [Meet our Board](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)



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.