

THE VOTER

February 2025

LEAGUE UPDATES



A Huge Thank You for Your Support!

Your support makes a real difference in getting voters the info they need.

Thanks to your generosity, **we raised \$11,250** during our annual appeal!

Your support fuels our mission to **empower voters and defend democracy.**

We couldn't do it without you! Thank you!



Remember: Every dollar you donated to our campaign stays right here in the St. Petersburg community!



Thank You to All Who Attended!



2025 Program Planning Meeting



Feb 01, 2025 10:00am - Feb 01, 2025 12:00pm



Allendale UMC
3803 Haines Rd N, St. Petersburg, FL 33703
[View on map](#)

Every year, we solicit advocacy and educational issues from our members to set our "Program", or priorities, for the next League year (May - April). This process happens during Program Planning, where teams present their issue, its importance, and their plan. Members vote on programs to be presented at our Annual Meeting. Light refreshments served.

[View 2025-2026 Program Planning Workbook](#)



Vote-by-Mail Ballot Requests

YOUR MAIL-IN BALLOT REQUEST EXPIRED AS OF DEC. 31, 2024!

To submit a new request, call (727) 464-8683
or go to VOTEPINELLAS.gov
It will be good through Dec. 31, 2026.



**RE-REQUEST YOUR
BALLOT**

Due to a change in law, all Florida voters who
vote-by-mail must submit a **NEW**
mail ballot request to their county
Supervisor of Elections.



Hey, Pinellas County Voters!

Are you planning on voting by mail in any of this year's municipal elections? How about in the 2026 midterm elections?

If you answered "Yes" to either of these questions, then you'll need to **submit a NEW vote-by-mail ballot request**. This is because Florida law now requires every voter who votes by mail to request a new mail-in ballot after each federal election cycle. So, whether you voted by mail before or not, if you want to keep VBM-ing, you **must** submit a new request this year!

To vote in any of the Pinellas County March 11, 2025, elections, you **must** request your ballot **by February 27, 2025**. Ballots start going out February 6 and our voter guide goes live the same day!

Elections are being held in Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Redington Beach, Treasure Island, St. Pete Beach, South Pasadena and Gulfport.

Don't miss the deadline: Make your voice count and request your ballot TODAY by visiting the link below or calling 727-464-8683!

[Visit Pinellas SOE Website Here](#)



2025 Legislative Priorities & Lobby Days



Registration is open for the League of Women Voters of Florida's annual League Lobby Days! This signature event is one of the most impactful each year. Please consider joining us on **March 11 & 12** as we mobilize to Tallahassee and push our state forward!

As determined by votes of more than 25 local Leagues, the League of Women Voters of Florida will have **four legislative priority issue areas** for the 2025 state legislative session:

- Voting Rights & Election Reform
- Education
- Reproductive Health & Justice
- Gun Violence Prevention

Lobby Days marks a unique opportunity to humanize our legislative priorities with our state lawmakers.

[Click Here to Register](#)

[Click Here to Book Hotel](#)

It is encouraged to register early and save! Consider pairing up with a member from your local League to save even more.



**MEMBERS MAKING AN IMPACT IN
THE COMMUNITY**

★

USFSP Center for Civic Engagement Fair



We had a great time at the **USF St. Petersburg Center for Civic Engagement Fair!**

The Center for Civic Engagement will be inviting our community partners to campus for a tabling event. Come find out about how you can make a difference!

Faculty: Please let the CCE know if you are sending your classes to the Fair so that we may provide assistance.

We will also be hosting a virtual Civic Engagement Fair that will be available online 24/7 via the QR code and the link: <https://padlet.com/usfspcce/cccecivicengagementfair>

For questions or accommodations, please contact CCE Staff Sabrina Shively at katherine72@usf.edu

SOUTH FLORIDA
Center for Civic Engagement - St. Petersburg

★

MLK Dream Big Band Showcase

Our voter registration/outreach volunteers were at the **MLK Dream Big Band Showcase at Gibbs High School** to remind voters they have to re-request their mail-in ballots as of this year (good thru 2026).

The best part? Running into good friend Mhariel Summers of Pinellas County Urban League.



★

39th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award Breakfast

League leaders attended the **National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section's 39th Annual Dr. Martin**



Luther King Jr. Leadership Award Breakfast.



Annual Roe v. Wade Visibility Event



We had a wonderful turn out at the annual visibility event in downtown St. Petersburg **to commemorate the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.** Hosted by Pinellas NOW (National Organization for Women) with LWVSPA as a co-host.

Thank you to everyone who came out, even in the frigid temperatures to support reproductive freedom!



The League Supports the Freedom to Read!

We have a Little Free Library at the entrance to Allendale UMC, and we've stocked it with banned and challenged books.

If you'd like to donate books, we have a [wish list at the wonderful local bookstore, Tombolo Books](#).

HUGE THANKS to **Jean Johnston & Ellen Sullivan** for their generous donations to the league's little free banned book library.

If you have any questions, please email office@lwvspa.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION TEAM MEETINGS

Wednesdays from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Sundays from 8:00 am – 9:00 am
2335 22nd Ave. S.

The Sustainability Action Team is meeting to work in the Sanderlin Center Rain Garden.
Free food from the 360 Eats food truck on Wednesdays from 3:30–5:30!
Email lauracrabtree.league@gmail.com if you need more info.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

For more information about joining the Sustainability Action Team, click below to email Laura Crabtree:

[Click Here to Email Laura Crabtree](#)

Reproductive Rights Team Meetings

Meetings Held on the First
Monday of Each Month at
5:30pm via Zoom



Reproductive Rights Action Team Meetings

New Date & Time!

Date: Monday, February 3, 2025
Time: 5:30pm

Join us via Zoom! We meet monthly on the 1st Monday.

Email office@lwvspa.org with any questions.

[RSVP for Meeting Here](#)



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

National Popular **VOTE** Committee Meetings

Meetings Held on the First Tuesday of Each
Month from 5:00pm-6:00pm via Zoom

The background of the graphic features the word 'VOTE!' repeated in a light blue, sans-serif font within speech bubble shapes. A megaphone icon is positioned to the right of the word 'VOTE' in the main title.

National Popular Vote Committee Meetings

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

Join us as we talk strategy. First timers are welcome, and all levels of experience encouraged to join!

We will be discussing the legislative process and how we plan to engage the legislature this session, as well as how to engage League members and the public.

Meetings will be the 1st Tuesday of every month.

RSVP for Meeting Here



DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE FORUM

February 12, 2025, 6:00 PM
St. Pete Beach City Hall Commission Chambers
155 Corey Ave, St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

Hosted by The League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

The League is soliciting questions from residents prior to and at the event. Questions will be selected by the League and asked by the moderator. If you would like to submit a question, please send it to office@lwvspa.org no later than February 5, 2025.

Please put on the subject line: St. Pete Beach Candidate Forum.

Zoom option available to watch, no live online participation
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89528580521>



District 2 Candidate Forum

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Hosted By: The League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

Zoom option available to watch, no live participation.

Click button below to access.

The League is soliciting questions from residents prior to and at the event. All questions will be selected by the League and asked by the moderator.

If you would like to submit a question, please send it to

office@lwwspa.org no later than February 5, 2025. Please put on the subject line: St. Pete Beach Candidate Forum.

[Click Here to Access Zoom](#)

[Click Here to Submit Questions](#)

Candidate Forums are an important service provided by LWVSPA!

Volunteers are needed to help at two candidate forums this month. You do not have to be certified to register voters to help out at these events.

February 12 St. Pete Beach City Hall 5 pm - 7:30 pm
February 19 Indian Shores Town Hall 5 pm - 7:30 pm

Voter services team members can sign up on the team's google sheet.

If you don't have access to the google sheet, but want to sign up, please contact Robin rbdavidov@gmail.com



The poster features the LWV logo (League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area) in the top right corner. The main text reads "SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETINGS" in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, it states "Meetings Held on the Second Thursday of Each Month" and "7:00pm-8:15pm via Zoom". A small image shows a person holding a sign that says "FIGHT TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW".

Social Justice Committee Meetings

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025
Time: 7:00pm-8:15pm

[Click Here to Email for More Info](#)



Voter Services Committee Meetings

Join the Voter Services Leadership Team to hear about our Voter Guide, Candidate Forums, Voter Registration, & Election and Voter Protection.

Feb 19th, 2025 | 6:30 PM

(Zoom meetings held on the third Wednesday of each month)

For More Information Contact: Office@lwvspa.org

Voter Services Committee Meeting

Stay tuned for information regarding the upcoming Municipal Elections on March 11, 2025.

[Click Here to Email Voter Services](#)



Education Action Team Meetings

**Education Action
Team Meetings**

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

&

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY

The LWVSPA Education Action Team has partnered with the North Pinellas League's Education Team and will be meeting monthly the last Monday of each month.

February Meetings

[Joint LWVNC/LWVSPA Education](#)

[Pinellas School Board Meetings](#)

Meeting

February 24, 4:00-5:00 via Zoom.

For an invitation or to attend, contact lwnpc.info@gmail.com to receive an agenda.

Open to all current LWV members only.

Dates:
Tuesday, Feb 11 @ 10:30 am

*Tuesday, Feb 25 @ 5:00 pm
*Sue Castleman will be attending, if you want to join her, email her by clicking the button below.

Address: 301 4th Street SW,
Largo, FL 33770

To join the Education Action Team, email Sue Castleman by clicking below.

[Click Here to Email Sue Castleman](#)



Feb 24, 2025 06:00pm - Feb 24, 2025 07:00pm



Allendale United Methodist Church
3803 Haines Rd N, St. Petersburg, FL 33703
[View on map](#)

LWVSPA New Member Orientation

As one of the most active advocacy and policy education groups in Pinellas County, the League of Women Voters' current issues include voter engagement, education, and protection; environmental sustainability; social justice; reproductive rights; public schools/education; and the National Popular Vote.

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.

RSVP HERE



Feb 25, 2025 05:30pm



3 Daughters Brewing
222 22nd St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
[View on map](#)

February Cocktails & Conversation

We would love for you to join the League for Cocktails & Conversation, and invite a guest or two.

These happy hours are the perfect time to relax with (or without!) a drink and enjoy some great company.

The February event will be at 3 Daughters Brewing in St. Pete.

RSVP HERE

Membership Committee Meeting

Membership Committee Meetings



**Wednesday,
Feb 26th, 2025**

5:00 PM-6:00PM

Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

Contact chair, Amy Weintraub, for the teleconference link or for more info.

[Click Here to Email Amy Weintraub](#)



SAVE THE DATE: LWVSPA ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

**Sunday April 6, 2025
11:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Banquet Masters
13355 49th Street North
Clearwater**

Tickets available soon!



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS*
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA



DONOR THANK YOU!

**Thank you to the following who donated to the League
of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area during the
Annual Appeal between Giving Tuesday to the end of
January**

Jacqueline Azis & Zeke Zager
Dorothea Cappadona
Susan Castleman
Beverly Cohen
Lyn Dalzell
Deborah Darrah
Maureen Dobiesz
Barbara Donohue
Janice Drinkwine
Marie Ford
Gina Gallo & Cameron Carr
Deborah Gelch
Rogers Giving Fund
David Hirning
Carla Jimenez & James Freeman
Jean Johnston
Jan Lella
Patricia Lucas
Marilyn Maginley

Shelley Manes
Beate & Edward Marston
Keith Otten
Kathleen Passafiume
Susie Paterson
Sarah Peacock & Rich Cine
Alison Quinn
Melissa Reddington
Elena Ris
Charles Rodriguez
JoEllen Schilke
Stephanie Sembler
Suzann Smart
Kate Steinway & Paul Zolan
Rachana Suri
Jackie Swigler
Linda & Emily Tanner
Marguerite Thomer
Michele Tuegel
Ellen Weiner
Amy & Caroline Weintraub
Nancy Wildfeir-Field
Deborah Williams & Al Hanulik
Laura Williamson & Al Piscopo
Rebecca S Wilson
Sarah Wines
Sue H. Woolsey

Thank you to the following members who joined or renewed membership at the Silver and Gold Level

Sheila Barry-Oliver
June Bedford
Susan Castleman
Mardie Chapman
Kath Cote & Kim Cromwell
Micheline Everett & Farhan Malik
Guy & Susan Francesconi
Judy & Edmund Gallizzi
Gina Gallo & Cameron Carr
Linda Glod
Polita & Peter Glynn
Valerie Hyman & Jocelyn Howard
Kay Lahdenpera
Patricia Lucas
Karol Hitt Rowan
Barbara Steidemann
Lyn Taylor
Carla Vila & Justin McClain
Amy & Caroline Weintraub
Betsy Wells



FINANCE TIP FROM AVA

FEBRUARY TIP:

The estimated amount Americans have left in an old 401(k) plan is \$1.35 trillion. You have 4 options of what to do with a previous employer retirement plan – reach out to discuss the pros



and cons of each.

Ava Elkins, AAMS®, Financial Advisor and Investment Management Consultant,
Raymond James & Associates,
ava.elkins@raymondjames.com, 727.551.5254
raymondjames.com/avaelkins



LEAGUE ONLINE

- [February Calendar of Events/Meetings](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)
- [LWVSPA Store- LWVSPA Gear: Great Gifts for V-Day!](#)

SEND US YOUR MONTHLY NEWS

Please send your news and updates one week in advance of the 1st of the month directly to communications@lwwspa.org



League of Women League of 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.

LWVSPA | P.O. Box 11775 | St. Petersburg, FL 33733 US

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