

## THE VOTER

January 2020

### *Letter from the President*

Happy New Year, Leaguers! 2020 is a big year for us and we're going to need each and every one of you to help us make it a memorable one.

This year marks 100 years of women's suffrage and the founding of the League of Women Voters. We've got some big events planned to celebrate both -- the first of which is our Suffragist Shuffle on Feb. 13, 2020 at the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Courts. This is our kick-off event for our centennial events and to make sure we start off this momentous year right, **I'm asking that all LWVSPA members attend the event and sell at least 3 tickets to non-League members!** This is a great opportunity to showcase the legacy of the League and to have some fun! Ticket prices will go from \$49 to \$59 on Jan. 13 so make sure to get them soon!



We also have Coffee in Common on Feb. 8 at the Enoch Davis Center from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. coming up with our partner, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Alumni Chapter. We will be talking about media literacy and the intersection of racism, politics, and journalism. Please join us for great conversation, coffee, and connection.

For those of you looking to get your feet wet in direct advocacy, our League Lobby Days are coming up on Feb. 5-4 in Tallahassee. We have some funding to send folks up to represent the St. Petersburg chapter and learn more about how we work at the state level, meet other Leaguers from across the state, and meet with lawmakers about our priorities issues. Please let me or the office know if you are interested in attending by Jan. 15.

I'm so excited for the year ahead of us--we have a lot of great events planned and are ramping up our Census and Voter Services teams to ensure that our community is counted and heard. Our foremothers would be proud of the work we've done over the past century--let's honor their hard work by making this year incredible.

We need all hands on deck this year, so please consider volunteering for an event or donating to keep our office and operations running this year. We can't do this without you.

In League,  
Linsey Grove



*Let's Do the Suffragist Shuffle!*



It's officially the League's centennial, and we're getting ready to celebrate in style! Join us on Feb. 13 for the Suffragist Shuffle for some live jazz, an open bar, a buffet, a photo booth, games and more!

**Where:** St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club

**When:** Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.

**Dress Code:** Your best vintage/flapper/Jazz Age attire

Tickets are now on sale! Buy them before Jan. 13 and get the early bird price of \$49 per person. After that, ticket prices go up to \$59. Your tickets will cover food, drinks and games.

We also offer a VIP package that includes admission and reserved seating for two and access to the ERA After Party for \$150.

[Click here](#) to buy your tickets now!

Please note that you must be 21 or older to attend this event.

Are you interested in sponsoring this event? Or want to volunteer? Contact [Ama Appiah](#) for more information.



## *MLK Day Parade: March with the LWVSPA!*



Celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by marching with the League of Women Voters in St. Petersburg's 34th annual MLK Dream Big Parade, the nation's longest-running parade honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.!

The parade takes place Monday, Jan. 20 in downtown St. Petersburg. We'd like as many marchers as possible to join us for this historic event. What a perfect way to kick off the League's 100th year!

We invite you to join the League of Women Voters' team as we walk in the parade, proudly holding signs about voting and democracy and promoting the League. Let's show the community how we work together to make democracy work!

**Where:** Station House, 260 1st Ave. S, St. Petersburg

**When:** Monday, Jan. 20 at 9:30 a.m.

**If you'd like to take part, please register at this link by Jan. 16.** Please note that we are asking everyone who marches with us to wear and hold nonpartisan gear and signs.

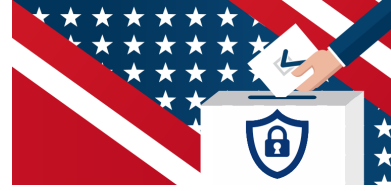
[Click here](#) for more information and to register to participate, or contact [Raechel Garafalo](#).



## Learn More About Election Security

Topics don't get much hotter than this in 2020!

Join us on Thursday, Jan. 23 for a panel discussion about election security in Florida with guest speakers Dan McCrea, President of the Florida Voters Foundation, and Candice Hoke, Founding Co-Director of the Center for Cybersecurity and Privacy Protection.



**Where:** Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 501 South Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa  
**When:** Thursday, Jan. 23 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Registration and refreshments will start at 6:30 p.m., with a social hour to follow.

This event is co-sponsored by the Leagues of Women Voters of Hillsborough and the St. Petersburg Area. [Click here to RSVP!](#)



## Stand Up for Roe v. Wade!



More than 200 members of Congress, along with the largest anti-choice advocacy group in the United States, filed amicus briefs on Jan. 2 urging the U.S. Supreme Court to use this spring's abortion rights case to end legal abortion.

With their aim being the 1973 case that has served as the foundation of reproductive freedom, it is more urgent than ever that we lift our voices in support of Roe v. Wade.

Please join LWVSPA, Pinellas NOW, and Planned Parenthood for our annual visibility event in downtown St. Petersburg. Bring your own sign if possible, but there will be some to borrow if you can't.

**Where:** Downtown St. Petersburg at the corner of Central Avenue and 3rd Street  
**When:** Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 12-1 p.m.

Let's take our power back!



## Join Us in Tallahassee for Lobby Days



With the start of Florida's legislative session looming, it's time we focus on what is happening in Tallahassee. There is no better way to jump in than to join League

members from across the Sunshine State at the annual League Lobby Days, held this year on Feb. 4 & 5.

Having attended for the last three years, I can attest that this is the most important event that the League hosts and one in which the power of our combined efforts can be fully appreciated. It's such fun to take over the Florida Capitol as we advocate for the causes we believe in and defend our democracy.

Never lobbied before? Don't consider yourself a policy expert? Don't worry! The State League gives us all we need on-site to be an effective advocates.

Starting with comprehensive training that includes an update on the current climate of the Florida Legislature, they also offer insight on lobbying techniques and in-depth information regarding our 2020 legislative priorities. After the training, the LWVF staff and board gets us to pre-scheduled meetings with lawmakers.

Please note that LWVSPA is offering travel stipends for those of us traveling from St. Petersburg, but funds are very limited so act fast if you would like to take advantage of this. [Click here to register.](#)

Let [Julia in the office](#) know if you will attend. I'd love to know too; perhaps we can travel up together?

In League,  
Amy Weintraub, LWVSPA Member  
[amyw304@gmail.com](mailto:amyw304@gmail.com)



## *Save the Dates for These Important Events*

Make sure to mark your calendar for the following events, which will be coming up soon:

### **Program Planning: Thursday, Feb. 20**

This is one of our most important meetings of the year, as it's the meeting where we set our agenda for action for the coming year. Do you have an issue you'd love to see the League take on? This is your time to make your pitch!

Please note that more information will be available in the coming weeks to help you prepare for Program Planning, so watch your inbox.

### **Presidential Preference Primary and Municipal Elections: Tuesday, March 17**

These will be held March 17. If you're interested in getting involved, our Voter Services and Voter Protection teams will be doing a lot of work in the run-up to this election, so don't hesitate to reach out to the appropriate team leads.

### **Annual Meeting and Brunch: Saturday, April 18**

This will be held April 18. During this meeting, members will vote on the board of directors, the budget, the program/action issues and bylaws. We'll follow the meeting with a delicious meal and a great speaker, so make sure to save the date!



## *What's Happening Around LWVSPA?*

### **Education**

This cross-county action group is co-chaired by [Nikki Fleming](#) and [Barbara Meloche](#) of LWV of North Pinellas County. Their next meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 16 at 10:30 a.m. at 2642 Sabal Springs Dr in Clearwater. Contact the co-chairs if you are interested in working with this action group.

### **Election & Voter Protection**

The EVP action team has partnered with the LWV of Hillsborough County for a panel discussion about election security. The panel will take place Thursday, Jan. 23 in Tampa. More details can be found at [this registration link](#).

The team's next meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA office in the Sanderlin Center, located at 2335 22nd Ave S in St. Petersburg. Please contact [Caitlin Constantine](#), [Amy Keith](#) or [Stephanie Owens](#) for more information.

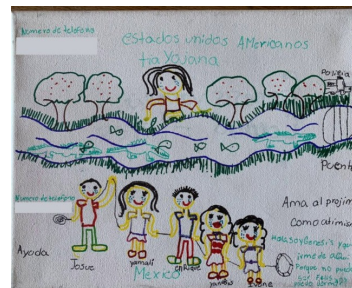
## Gun Safety

The team will be meeting on Jan. 27 at 7-8:30 p.m. in the Wesley Room, Allendale United Methodist Church. Agenda items include legislative advocacy, local action and state/federal gun safety legislative updates.

Want to learn more about gun safety? Visit our [Gun Safety Action Guide](#), which includes link to current status of 2020 FL proposed firearm-related legislation or contact team lead [Sharon Winters](#).

## Immigration

Join us for our next Immigration Conversation, about barriers to entry, as experienced by immigrants living here in Pinellas County. The conversation will be led by UNIMEX Director Erika Escamilla and a local resident who has been detained by ICE and at the border near Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Mexico, led by Wendy Snyder who has "witnessed" at this crossing.



The event will happen Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Hops and Props, located at 335 2nd Ave NE in St. Petersburg. For more information about this team, please email Team Lead [Karen Coale](#).

## Media/Publicity

The committee will meet Thursday, Feb. 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA office. Email chair [Amy Weintraub](#) for more information about joining this standing committee.

## Membership Services

The Membership Committee is meeting at the LWVSPA office on Jan. 9 at 6 p.m. Come join us as we discuss ways to enhance the membership experience. Contact [Stacey Jurewicz](#) at for more information.

## National Popular Vote

If you have a local group who would like a speaker, contact [Marty Shapiro](#). If you are interested in learning more or joining the local committee, please reach out to [Deb Mazzaferro](#) or [Marty Shapiro](#).

## Nominating

Membership on this committee is set by conditions in LWVSPA bylaws (election or Board appointment). Email chair [Amy Weintraub](#) for more information about this standing committee.

## Plant Power

The Plant Power team will hold its next meeting on Monday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Sanderlin Center. For more information, email [Julie Kessel](#) or [Jen Underhill](#).

## Reproductive Rights

A new [community calendar](#) dedicated to tracking all upcoming meetings and events in Tampa Bay related to Reproductive Rights has been produced. Advocates can now easily find ways to get plugged into the movement. LWVSPA members are helping to update this new calendar, which you can find [here](#).

The action team is also co-sponsoring the annual Roe v. Wade Visibility event, which will happen Jan. 22 in downtown St. Petersburg.



The action team will meet for its monthly meeting on Thursday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office in the Sanderlin Center. Email Team Lead [Stacey Kroto](#) for more information about getting involved with this action group.

## Sustainability

The Sustainability team has undergone a change of leadership. Laura Crabtree will now be chairing this team. Please [contact her](#) with any questions about this action team.

## Voter Service

This team's next meeting will be held Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Allendale United Methodist Church, located at 3803 Haines Road in St. Petersburg.

Email [Raechel Garafalo](#) for more information regarding candidate forums & the Voter Guide, [Robin Davidov](#) regarding voter outreach and [Maryellen Gordon](#) regarding voter registration.



## Upcoming Events

### Jan. 6: International Relations Study Group: The Rise of Populism in Europe

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

[Facebook](#)

### Jan. 15: New and Prospective Member Orientation

6-7:30 p.m. @ Sanderlin Center, 2335 22nd Ave S, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

### Jan. 22: Roe v. Wade Anniversary Visibility Event

12-1 p.m. @ 277 Central Ave., St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

### Jan. 23: Hot Topics: Election Security

7-8:30 p.m. @ Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Driscoll Hall, 501 South Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa

[Link to RSVP](#)

### Feb. 3: Barriers to Entry: An Immigration Conversation with the League

6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Hops and Props, 335 2nd Ave NE, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

### Feb. 8: Coffee in Common: Media Literacy: Racism, Politics & the News

5-7 p.m. @ Enoch D. Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave S, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

### Feb. 13: Suffragist Shuffle: Celebrating 100 Years of LWV

7-10 p.m. @ St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club, 559 Mirror Lake Dr. N, St. Petersburg

[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:

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

\*Includes two members residing at the same address.

**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 3-month span. We invite you to [renew today!](#)

### December 2019

Bokulic, Karen  
Clarke, Dianne  
Falkenberry, Rebecca  
Glod, Linda

Griffin, Becky  
Hubbard, Connie  
Marzilli, J James  
Shulman, Marsha

### November 2019

Andresen & Christine Cargo, Theodor  
Barbera, Katherine  
Barry-Oliver, Sheila  
Blackledge, Eric & Judy  
Bultmann, Lisa  
Cicchino, Christine  
Dieterle, Ann  
Donovan, Jack  
Douglas, Nicole  
Drake, Hunter  
Fixsen, Roxanne  
Fling, Pat  
Francesconi, Guy  
Francesconi, Susan  
Gillock, Stephanie  
Grove, Linsey  
Kaplan, Annette  
McKenna, Kelly  
Millichamp & Terry Perkins, Nancy

Montante, Sheila  
Moore, Kelly  
Peltier, Donna  
Pringle, Eddie  
Qualles-De Freece, Sheena  
Riedel, Jess  
Robb, Claire  
Schultz, James  
Scott, Sharron  
Sells, Margaret  
Smolenyak, Megan  
Somerville, Margaret  
Stoddard, Kim  
Tuite, Gerald  
Tuite, Susan  
Walter, Lydia  
Ward, Betty  
White, Terry



## 2019-2020 League Leadership

### OFFICERS

President: Linsey Grove  
First Vice President: Robin Davidov  
Second Vice President: Maryellen Gordon  
Secretary: Ken Wrede  
Treasurer: Caroline Bloodworth

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ama Appiah  
Caitlin Constantine  
Amanda Dodge  
Raechel Garafalo  
Stephanie Owens

[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  
Reproductive Rights: Stacey Kroto  
Census: Gina Gallo  
Plant Power: Julie Kessel, Jen Underhill  
Election Protection: Caitlin Constantine, Amy Keith, Stephanie Owens  
Voter Service: Raechel Garafalo  
Sustainability: Laura Crabtree  
National Popular Vote: Deb Mazzaferro, Marty Shapiro  
International Relations: Judy McSwine  
Media/Publicity Lead: Amy Weintraub  
Membership: Stacey Jurewicz  
Office Administrator: 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.**