

THE VOTER

January 2025



Letter from the President



Hello League Members and Supporters,

The League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area is asking for your financial support during our January Annual Appeal. **While last year's elections are behind us, our work to defend democracy continues – and is more important than ever.**

This year, **the goal is \$14,500** to meet our annual budget and continue our vital work.

We Still Need Your Help to Reach Our Goal

The work to protect democracy doesn't end after an election - it begins anew. Protecting democracy is an ongoing process, and we are steadfast in our commitment to defend democracy in the next election and every election thereafter.

Please consider making a generous tax-deductible donation this month.

Click below to make your donation today!



In League,

Jackie Azis
President, League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

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

DONATE TO LWVSPA HERE

LEAGUE UPDATES



Vote-by-Mail Ballot Requests

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

HEY PINELLAS VOTERS!

All Mail Ballot requests expire
after every General Election

You **MUST** re-submit your
Mail Ballot request

Visit
VotePinellas.gov/VoteByMail
To Resubmit Your Request

As a reminder, you **MUST** resubmit your request for a mail ballot after every General Election, as the requests do expire.

Beginning January 1st, 2025, please visit the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections website to submit your new request.

Visit Pinellas SOE Website Here



Seeking Board Members & Leadership

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

Interested in Leadership?

The Nominating Committee is seeking members who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors

For More Info Contact:

Beate Marston

Nominating Committee Chair
beatemarston654@gmail.com



As we are getting more involved in speaking to interested Members and getting ready to set up interviews for leadership positions, we would like to share with you what motivated a young mother to join our League and to get involved.

In her own words, here is Nicole Jones co-founder of our Parent Advocacy League:

"I joined the League nearly two years ago, but this year, with so much at stake, I felt a deeper calling to get involved. Balancing work and raising a toddler can be a challenge, but finding kindred spirits in the League, especially other parents who care passionately about reproductive rights, environmental protection, and voter rights, has been inspiring. With support from our League President, Jackie Azis, we launched the Parent Advocacy League, creating a space where parents can connect, learn, and take action while our kids have fun. Meeting monthly at the family-friendly Run+Play Kids Cafe, we're building a community of engaged, proactive moms who believe in shaping a better future for our children. If you're a parent looking for a way to get involved in a supportive, kid-friendly environment, come join us!"

This is just one example of how "taking a leap of faith" in our organization can have an impact on your ability to make a difference while keeping LWVSPA vibrant and relevant.

Are you motivated to become a bigger part of our continuing mission to protect voters and defend democracy by becoming a leader in that endeavor? Then please take a look at this link to the Board Position descriptions that can give you an idea about the scope of the various board positions:

[View Board Position Descriptions Here](#)

If you decide to apply for an upcoming position, please contact Beate Marston, Nominating Committee Chair, at beatemarston654@gmail.com



MLK DAY PARADE	
MARCH WITH US!	
Sign-Up Today to March with the LWVSPA in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade!	Parade Vehicle Needed The League is in search of a vehicle to be volunteered for use during the parade. If interested, please let us know on the sign-up form!
Date: Monday, January 20th, 2025	

March With Us: MLK Jr. Day Parade

Join the League as we help our community celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the MLK Dream Big Parade!

This is a great opportunity for us to remind the community to resubmit their vote-by-mail ballot requests while simultaneously honoring the achievements of Dr. King. The parade route travels through the heart of Downtown St. Petersburg on 1st Avenue South.

The League is in need of a vehicle to use during the parade. If you are able to provide one, please let us know on the sign-up form.

More information will be provided as we get closer to the parade.

[Sign-Up to March Here](#)



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.



This article by local journalist Craig Pittman has a great summary of recent environmental legislation in Florida - check it out! <https://floridaphoenix.com/2024/12/19/dear-santa-please-bring-these-gifts-to-help-floridas-environment/>

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

[Click Here to Email Laura Crabtree](#)



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

Reproductive Rights Team Meetings

Meetings Held on the First
Monday of Each Month at
6:00pm via Zoom



Reproductive Rights Action Team Meetings

New Date & Time!

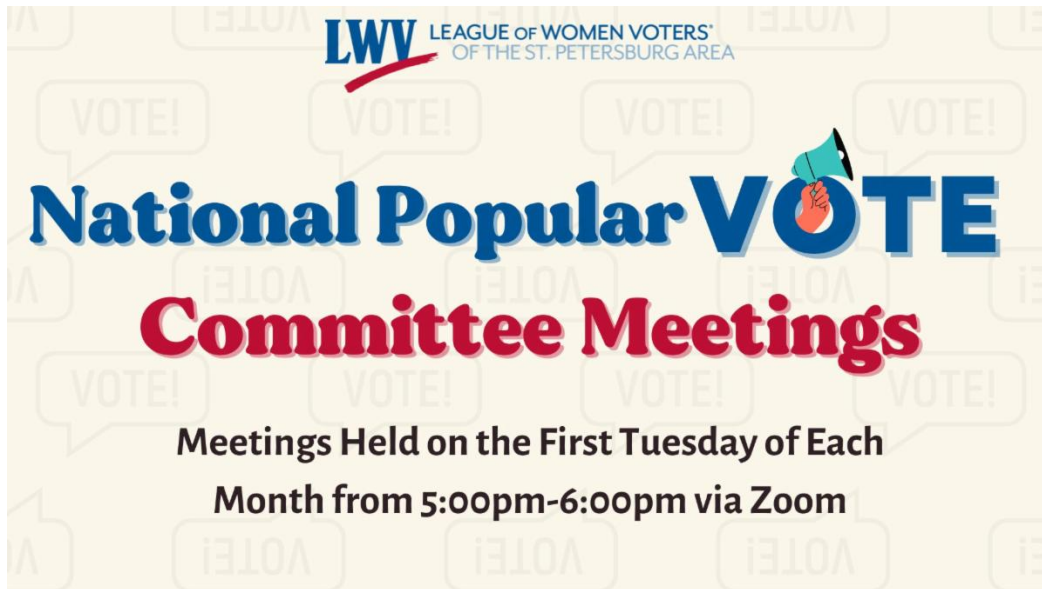
Date: Monday, January 6, 2025

Time: 6:00pm

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

Email office@lwvspa.org with any questions.

[RSVP for Meeting Here](#)



National Popular Vote Committee Meetings

Date: Tuesday, January 7, 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](#)



SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA



Meetings Held on the
Second Thursday of
Each Month

7:00pm-8:15pm
via Zoom

Social Justice Committee Meetings

Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025

Time: 7:00pm-8:15pm

Email office@lwvspa.org for more info.

[Click Here for More Info](#)



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

Voter Services Meetings Return

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

Jan 15th, 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](#)



Jan 23, 2025 05:30pm



Pierogi Bar St Pete
6661 Central Ave, St. Petersburg, FL 33710
[View on map](#)

January 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 January event will be at the Pierogi & Martini Bar in St. Pete.

It is a Ukrainian restaurant with plenty of plaza parking. We will have a room to ourselves. Happy Hour prices run until 6:00 p.m. - food and drinks are available for purchase.

[RSVP HERE](#)



Education Action Team Meetings

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.

January Meetings

Joint LWVNC/LWVSPA Education Meeting

January 27, 4:30-5:30 via Zoom.

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

Open to all current LWV members only.

Pinellas School Board Meetings

Dates:
January 14, 10:30 am

January 28, 5 pm

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](#)



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.

[RSVP](#)



SAVE THE DATE: LWVSPA ANNUAL MEETING

2025 Annual Meeting & Luncheon
Sunday April 6
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Banquet Masters
13355 49th Street North
Clearwater

DONOR THANK YOU!

**Thank you to the following who donated to the
League of Women Voters
of the St. Petersburg Area in December**

Jacqueline Azis & Ezekiel Zager
Dorothea Cappadona
Susan Castleman
Deborah Darrah
Janice Drinkwine
Deborah Gelch
Rogers Giving Fund
David Hirning
Jean Johnston
Jan Lella & Rita Kroeber
Marilyn Maginley
Shelley Manes
Beate & Edward Marston
Keith Otten
Kathleen Passafiume
Sarah Peacock & Rich Cine
JoEllen Schilke
Stephanie Sembler
Kate Steinway & Paul Zolan
Marguerite Thomer
Michele Tuegel
Ellen Weiner
Amy & Caroline Weintraub

Deborah Williams & Al Hanulik
Laura Williamson & Al Piscopo
Rebecca Wilson
Sarah Wines

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

Sheila Barry-Oliver
June Bedford
Kath Cote & Teresa Kim Cromwell
Judy & Edmund Gallizzi
Barbara Steidemann
Amy Weintraub & Caroline Weintraub
Betsy Wells



FINANCE TIP FROM AVA



JANUARY TIP:

Women tend to live longer in retirement, so it's important to make sure the numbers align with that longer lifespan. Do you have enough to thrive during retirement? Reach out to discuss.

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



LEAGUE ONLINE

- [January Calendar of Events/Meetings](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)
- [LWVSPA Store- New Gear for the New Year!](#)

SEND US YOUR MONTHLY NEWS

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