

THE VOTER

July 2025

LEAGUE UPDATES



St. Pete League takes Honors at State Convention



A delegation of twenty LWVPA members traveled to Orlando for the 2025 LWV Florida Convention on June 6 and 7.

At Friday night's gala, they stormed the stage to accept the **2025 President's Award for Excellence** in recognition of our work to connect with and educate citizens in our community.

When presenting the award, LWV Florida co-presidents, Cecile Scoon and Debbie Chandler, celebrated our work in 2024-2025 on voter registration, voter protection, and voter education, as well as our efforts to advance the ballot measure on abortion rights.





Call to Action

Our National League is asking that all members contact their congressional representatives and urge them not to make severe cuts to the Medicaid program.

You can read more about the budget proposal in the link below.

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/tell-congress-not-gut-medicaid>

Other aspects of the budget bill, which are of concern are as follows.

SNAP Cuts:

Estimated \$230 billion cut from SNAP food assistance

- o Shifts costs to states.
- o New work requirements for households with children over the age of 7.
- o increases the age of work requirements from 54 to 64.
- o Removes food assistance for refugees and people granted asylum.

Medicaid cuts:

Estimated \$793 billion cut from Medicaid

- o Shifts costs to states by limiting states' ability to raise the state share of Medicaid revenues through provider taxes.
- o Increases work requirements, including those caring for family members with disabilities.
- o Increases eligibility requirements' reporting from annual to every six months.
- o Introduces cost sharing for Medicaid expansion enrollees.
- o Changes to Affordable Care Act marketplaces would negatively impact enrollment.
- o These and other changes are estimated to dramatically increase the number of uninsured.

PELL Grant Changes

Estimated to impact 2/3 of recipients with reduced or eliminated funding

- o Places limits on awards for less than half-time enrollment.
- o Ends interest subsidies for undergraduates while they are in school.
- o Eliminates a loan program for graduate students.
- o Impacts concentrated on community college.

Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT). Nonprofits are subject to taxes on gross income for activities that constitute an "unrelated trade or business" (UBIT – e.g., parking lots)

- o Raises revenues to pay for tax cuts with estimated \$2.7 billion increase on taxes nonprofits pay.
- o Provision would increase taxes and administrative burdens on charitable organizations, diverting charitable dollars from core giving.

Climate Change:

- o The bill proposes rolling back clean energy tax credits established under previous legislation.

Tax Cuts:

- o The LWV is concerned that the budget bill includes tax cuts that

disproportionately benefit wealthy Americans and corporations.
o They believe that these cuts are being financed by reductions in essential social programs like Medicaid and SNAP, creating an imbalance that harms everyday Americans.

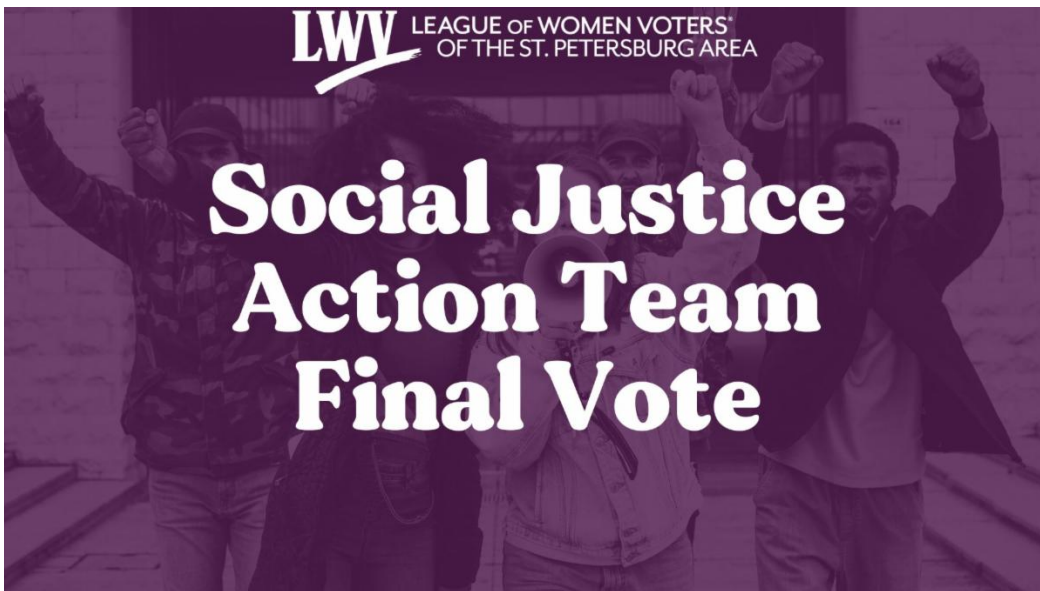
o The LWV also opposes proposed budget measures that would reduce funding for public education and expand funding for private education through voucher programs. They advocate for adequate and equitable funding for public schools and a curriculum based on broad standards developed by educational experts, encompassing topics like Holocaust, antisemitism, African American History, and civics.

YOUR help is needed. Contact your State Representatives today!

Use this link to find your State Representative to contact:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

The League of Women Voters believes that keeping elected officials accountable is the duty of every voter.



Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025
Time: 5:00pm-5:20pm

LWVSPA Members only.

The Social Justice Action Team Proposal scored an average of 45 points at the 6/26 meeting – well above the 30 points required! 57 members voted.

The next step to adding this team is putting it to a final vote by LWVSPA members. In light of current events, we are doing this via a brief Zoom meeting with a yes/no vote instead of waiting until the next all-member meeting in September.

You can view a recording of the [Social Justice Action Team's presentation](#) (starts at 25 min 30 sec) and review

the [Social Justice Team Proposal](#).

Results will be announced in the Weekly Update on the Sunday after the meeting.

Please email office@lwvspa.org for the Zoom link. You must be a LWVSPA member to vote.

Thank you!



Virtual Legislative Debrief, hosted by Equal Ground

The **Equal Ground Legislative Debrief Tour** is a multi-city effort to bring legislative transparency and political education directly to communities of color across Florida, and we're coming to yours.

We invite you to join us on **Saturday, July 19th at 10 AM EST** ON ZOOM for a Virtual Legislative Debrief, hosted by Equal Ground in partnership with St. Pete NAACP. This important conversation will break down Florida's 2025 legislative session, what passed, what failed, and what it all means for our communities across the state.

From attacks on education and voting rights to inaction on economic policies that make Florida more affordable, we'll unpack the legislative trends that are shaping Florida's future and provide tools to help you stay informed and engaged.

During this session, you can expect:

- A comprehensive overview of major bills and policy changes
- Insightful discussion on political trends and their long-term impact
- Space for live Q&A and community reflection
- Tools and resources for continued civic engagement

RSVP today to reserve your spot. Once you register, you'll receive a confirmation email with additional event details.

Let's stay informed. Let's stay connected. Let's stay engaged. Please email me at justin@equal-ground.com if you have any questions or visit www.Equal-Ground.com

RSVP HERE



Voter Registration Certification Training



Voter Registration Certification Training

August 13, 2025 | 6:30 pm | Zoom

Amy Keith will lead us through the Voter Registration training, LWVSPA practices, and key facts needed to pass the LWVFL Quiz.

LWVSPA members who are interested in Voter Services must pass this quiz to be certified to table at events.

For our seasoned volunteers, LWVFL is not requiring everyone to retake the quiz, but join us anyway to share your experience!

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LWVSPA members who are interested in Voter Services must pass this quiz to be certified to table at events. For our seasoned volunteers, LWVFL is not requiring everyone to retake the quiz, but join us anyway to share your experience!

This date replaces the usual monthly meeting previously scheduled for 8/20.

**Register for Training
Here**



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

**TAKE ACTION TODAY!
AND GET YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
TO TAKE ACTION TODAY TOO!**

*Looking for ways to take action?
Calls are the best way to make your voice heard and
tell your representatives how you feel about issues.*

*There are tools available to make
calling your representatives as
easy as possible!*

The **SAVE Act** is a federal voter suppression bill that would **prevent millions of eligible American citizens from registering to vote** by requiring everyone to show up in person with a passport, birth certificate or other proof of citizenship. It would threaten voter registration drives as we know them, disproportionately harm communities of color, and make it harder for millions of married women who've changed their names to vote.

1) Several LWVSPA members have reported that they are finding the **5 Calls app** helpful for contacting their senators and representatives in congress on issues like reproductive rights, voting rights, and education. Download it here to give it a try: [Android / iOS](#)

2) Our partner organization, Common Cause, has an easy tool to find the phone numbers for your representatives at every level of government: <https://www.commoncause.org/find-your-representative/>

3) The League of Women Voters of the U.S. has a "Take Action" page where you can learn about priority League actions at the national level, like opposing the SAVE Act: <https://www.lwv.org/take-action>



MEMBERS MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY



June All-Member General Meeting



Thank you to our LWVSPA leaders and members for a successful All-Member General Meeting!

At the meeting, 80 League members gathered to learn about this past FL legislative session, discuss our member survey results, understand our strategic planning outcomes, recap from the LWVFL convention, and we voted on



forming a social justice team.



Our teams and committees tabled before and after the meeting so our members could join the teams they're interested in.

We also provided childcare for members who expressed a need for it.



[Watch All-Member Meeting Recap Here](#)



No Kings #Resistance Day of Action



When Democracy is under attack, what do we do? **Stand up, fight back!**

Thank you to all who came out for the St. Pete No Kings Protest. Protest is patriotic.



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.

A huge THANKS to Carolyn Curtin for her generous donation to our Little Free Banned Books Library!

If you'd like to donate books, we have a **wish list at the wonderful local book store, Tombolo Books.**

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



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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**

Date: Tuesday, July 1, 2025
Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

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

Meetings will be the 1st Tuesday of every month.

RSVP for Meeting Here

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

Paint 'n Sip Fundraiser!

Net Proceeds to benefit **TAMPA BAY
ABORTION FUND**

Monday, July 7th | 6:30–8:30 PM

@ The Hive in Saint Petersburg



"Breaking Free"

Scan to RSVP!



Seats are limited.

Enjoy fun & upbeat step-by-step instruction for a good cause! **No painting experience required**, and all supplies are provided.

\$45/per person also includes a glass of wine (21+) and hors d'oeuvres.



The Hive
559 49th St S, St. Pete, FL 33707
thehivecommunityclay.com

Art Den is a 501c(3)
nonprofit. Learn
more at artden.org



Date: Monday, July 7, 2025

Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Join **Art Den** for a fundraiser! Net Proceeds to benefit **Tampa Bay Abortion Fund**, hosted by the **League of Women Voters – Saint Petersburg**.

We will take you step by step to paint your own customizable masterpiece — choose your favorite color combo and make it uniquely yours! No experience? No problem. **Art Den** will guide you step by step in a relaxed, creative setting.

If you are unable to attend the event and still wish to donate, **[you can donate here](#)**.

**NO WALK-INS ACCEPTED – ADVANCE REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

Buy Paint N' Sip Tickets Here



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

BOXING & SELF DEFENSE

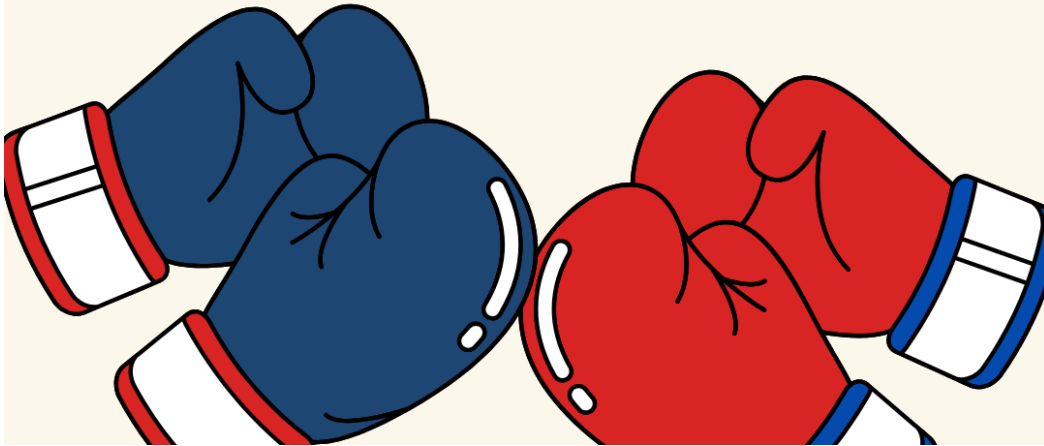
JULY 12, 2025 @ 1:00 PM

1MR ONE MORE ROUND: 2626 CENTRAL AVE, UNIT A, ST. PETE

Every level, including beginners, welcome! Cost is \$15 at the door.

Please arrive 15-30 minutes early,
with an earlier arrival time if you are new to the sport.

Open to family, spouses, and friends (ages 8+)



Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025

Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm

Every level, including beginners, welcome!

Cost is \$15 at the door.

Please arrive 15-30 minutes early, with an earlier arrival time
if you are new to the sport.

Open to family, spouses, and friends (ages 8+)

RSVP HERE





Jul 15, 2025 05:30pm



The Casual Clam
3336 Dr M.L.K. Jr St N, St. Petersburg, FL 33704
[View on map](#)

July 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 July event will be at the Casual Clam in St. Petersburg.

[RSVP HERE](#)



Voter Services Committee Meetings

Zoom meetings held on the third
Wednesday of each month

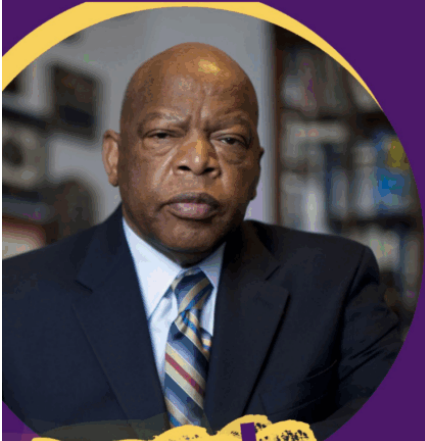
For More Information Contact: Office@lwgspa.org

Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025
Time: 6:30pm-7:30pm


In addition to current events, this agenda features new LWVSPA partnerships with USF: the launch of LWVUSF and a Returning Citizens research project co-sponsored by LWVFL.


Please contact office@lwgspa.org for info on joining our meetings via Zoom.

[Click Here to Email Voter Services](#)





ST. PETE #RESISTANCE DAY OF ACTION

 WILLIAMS PARK
350 2ND AVE N, ST. PETE

 THURSDAY, JULY 17
4:30-6:00PM

FOR DETAILS ON THIS
#RESISTANCE VISIBILITY
EVENT VISIT:
TINYURL.COM/STPETEJULY17



**Good
Trouble
Lives On**

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025

Time: 4:30pm-6:00pm

Our nation is in a constitutional crisis. Now more than ever, it's critical that League members have mobilize in our communities to defend our democracy.

Another **#Resistance** DAY OF ACTION with Pinellas NOW and LWVSPA! We will be sign-waving & chanting around the perimeter of Williams Park and surrounding intersections against the attacks posed on our civil and human rights by the Trump administration and to remind them that in America, the power lies with the people.

Good Trouble Lives On is a national day of nonviolent action on the anniversary of Congressman John Lewis's passing. This event is in solidarity with sister events being held across the nation on July 17th to defend our democracy and carry forward his legacy of Good Trouble.

Please register using this link: <https://mobilize.us/s/NBIFXM>

For more event information, visit: tinyurl.com/StPeteJuly17



HELPING THE HELPERS: SHOWING UP FOR YOURSELF WHILE STANDING UP FOR OTHERS

This will be an interactive panel involving a discussion, psychoeducation, and action items. Topics will include: radical hope, burnout and self-care, and navigating feelings of guilt.

Monday July 21st, 5:00 PM via Zoom

LWVSPA members only



Jessica Klein,
LMHC
It Begins Within
Healing Center



Meredith Mechanik,
RCSWI
Mosaic
Wellness Collective



Kayla Rosenkrans,
LMHC
Solace
Counseling Center

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

LWVSPA members only.

This will be an interactive panel involving a discussion, psychoeducation, and action items. Topics will include: radical hope, burnout and self-care, and navigating feelings of guilt.

Jessica Klein, LMHC, works at It Begins Within Healing Center in St. Petersburg. She specializes in couples and adults. Her areas of interest/specializations are: life transitions, interpersonal challenges, and deepening self-understanding.

Meredith Mechanik, RCSWI, is a therapist at Mosaic Wellness Collective in Tampa. She works with teens and adults, with a focus on college students, parents, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. In addition to addressing anxiety, depression, and life transitions, Meredith supports clients through concerns related to identity development, neurodivergence, and perfectionism.

Kayla Rosenkrans is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) in the state of Florida. She has worked in the mental health field for nearly seven years in private practice, residential treatment, crisis response, and in domestic violence/homeless shelters. Currently, Kayla runs her own therapy practice called Solace Counseling Center, based in St. Petersburg, FL. She works with individuals navigating anxiety, trauma, codependency, and relationship challenges.

[Register for Zoom Here](#)



Membership Committee Meetings



**Wednesday,
July 23rd, 2025**

5:00 PM-6:00PM

Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

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

[Click Here to Email Amy Weintraub](#)



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

Education Action Team News

Oversight For [Pinellas County Schools Referendum](#)

The League of Women Voters has been a member of the [Independent Citizens Referendum Oversight Committee](#) (ICROC) for 21 years.

[Read about their visit to schools in June.](#)

July Meetings

[Joint LWVNC/LWVSPA Education Meeting](#)

Date:
Monday, July 28 @ 3-4:30 via
Zoom

For an invitation or to attend,
contact treasurer@lwvspa.org
to receive an agenda.

Open to all current LWV
members only.

[Pinellas School Board Meetings](#)

Save the Date:
Thursday, September 4 @ 6:00-
7:30 PM

All Member Meeting-Focus on
Education

Kevin Hendrick, Superintendent,
Pinellas County Schools

Laura Hine, School Board Chair,
Pinellas County Schools

Gibbs High School, Grand Theatre

Details to come

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

[Click Here to Email Sue Castleman](#)



DONOR THANK YOU!

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

Grimball Bredenberg Charitable Trust
Julie Davis
Meggie Francisco
Gina Lang
Karen Marder
Sue Rosenbluth
Alexandra Thackrey
Shelley Valeri
Denise & Chris Woods



FINANCE TIP FROM AVA



JULY TIP:

Money market mutual funds are an investment product, not to be confused with money market accounts, which are bank deposit accounts similar to savings accounts. When you invest in a money market fund, your money buys a collection of high-quality, short-term government, bank, or corporate debt.

Ava Elkins with Raymond James manages the LWVSPA accounts.

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



LEAGUE ONLINE

- [July Calendar of Events/Meetings](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)
- [LWVSPA Store- Get Your LWVSPA Gear!](#)

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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