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THE VOTER

July 2026

Protecting Our Voting Rights Together



One Quick To-Do Right Now: Help Protect Vote By Mail!

Deadline for Comments to USPS is July 2 at 5 p.m. ET

The U.S. Postal Service has proposed a new rule that would allow USPS to control who can receive and vote a mail ballot.

If the rule is implemented, eligible American citizens will be blocked from participating in our elections.

It's important that election officials hear from organizations and individuals who oppose these changes.

Please email a comment to PCFederalRegister@usps.gov as shown in the graphic. Please share!

Every comment helps demonstrate public concern and support for protecting access to ballot mail.

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

HOW TO SUBMIT A COMMENT

Email: PCFederalRegister@usps.gov

Subject Line: Ballot Mail

Include: Your name, address, and comment

Sample comment:

"I oppose any changes that could limit access to vote-by-mail or create additional barriers for eligible voters. Election mail should be handled in a way that protects voter participation and ensures ballots are delivered and counted fairly."



Redistricting Details Now Available at VotePinellas.gov

The Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections has finished updating the county voter registration database to reflect the new congressional lines

and precinct boundaries resulting from special redistricting. Its main objective during this process was to provide voters with as much continuity as possible. **Approximately 99 percent of all voters will continue to vote at their current polling place.**

Voters can use the "Where to Vote" feature on VotePinellas.gov to check precinct and polling place information, as well as ensure their information is current for the upcoming primary and general elections.

In Pinellas County, the previous Districts 13 and 14 are now Districts 13 and 16. The southern boundary line for District 13 also changed.

All registered voters in the county will soon be receiving new Voter Information Cards whether their district changed or not. Voters who do not receive their card by July 30 or who have misplaced their card can call (727) 464-VOTE (8683) to request a replacement. Voter Information Cards are not required to vote and are for informational purposes only; that said, they should be checked for accuracy.

The 2026 precinct/district map is available [here](#).

Read on below for more information on the upcoming August 18 election.

August 18 Election Update

The August 18 election is an important one, with multiple races in our city and county for the St. Petersburg mayorship, City Council seats, and judicial and school board officials.

To help educate and register voters, LWVSPA Voter Services Co-Chair recently told BayNews 9, "We're always out in the community at every event. We're about learning how to vote, where to vote, what's on the ballot."



LWVSPA's Voter Services Co-Chair Heidi Davis [speaks with BayNews 9](#) about voter engagement and education

While the U.S. Supreme Court just upheld Mississippi's late-arriving ballot law, a victory for millions of voters nationwide, Florida's mail-in ballot receipt deadline of 7 p.m. on Election Day remains unchanged. LWVSPA suggests voting by mail or voting early (between August 12-18) to avoid confusion and ensure your ballot is counted. Click [here](#) for more information on the August elections.

Remember: The deadline to register or select/change party affiliation is July 20. Some, but not all, of the August 18 races are primaries; remember that Florida is a closed primary state.

ALL voters, regardless of party affiliation, will be able to cast a vote in non-partisan races (e.g. County Judge, School Board, St. Pete Mayor).

For the partisan primary races (e.g. U.S. Congress, State House, Pinellas County Commissioner), the candidates running under a voter's chosen party will appear on their ballot. The deadline to register with a party is July 20, 2026, at RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov.

Get Election-Ready!

Check your voting status [here](#).

[Renew your vote-by-mail ballot request](#) and verify your mailing address

Visit vote411.org in early July to learn what's on your ballot.



Candidate Forums

LWVSPA hosted several well-attended candidate forums in June, and received media coverage including:

["Can St. Petersburg Balance Development and Charm? Mayoral Hopefuls Weigh In"](#) - Tampa Bay Times front-page article

["St. Pete Mayoral Candidates Trade Policy, Not Punches, In Second Forum"](#) - St. Pete Catalyst

["St. Pete Mayoral Candidates on Taxes and City Priorities"](#) - WMNF 88.5 Tampa

["St. Pete Forum Prioritizes Substance Over Rhetoric"](#) - PowerBroker News

Recordings of the forums are available at the links below.

[10th and 13th Judicial Circuit Candidate Forum \(Hillsborough\)](#) (held on July 11).

[St. Petersburg Mayoral Candidate Forum](#) (held on June 18)

[U.S. House District 16 Democratic Candidate Forum](#) (hosted by LWV Manatee; held on June 18)

[St. Petersburg City Council District 2 Forum](#) (held on June 23)

Recordings of 6th Judicial Circuit (Pinellas) Candidate Forum on June 18 and Pinellas County School Board Candidate Forum on June 29 are not yet available; we'll share them when ready.

Upcoming Candidate Forum

U.S. House District 16 Republicans – Zoom: July 9 @ 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Recent redistricting has significantly reshaped Congressional District 16, adding the southern tip of St. Petersburg, all of Manatee, DeSoto and Hardee Counties, and part

of Sarasota County. Recording will be available. [RSVP Here](#) / [email candidate questions here](#)

Immigration Justice Update

In June, LWVSPA's Immigration Justice team was featured in a [Mother Jones article](#) regarding our organizing efforts against 287(g) agreements. We held two simultaneous vigils last month to shine a light on immigration detention in Florida. Members stood outside the Pinellas County Jail, where individuals arrested under 287(g) agreements are detained.

Outside the gates to the Everglades detention center known as "Alligator Alcatraz," LWVSPA members joined nearly 100 advocates, tribal members, former detainee Justo Betancourt, and his activist daughter Arianne Betancourt in a peaceful vigil calling attention to the ongoing detention of nearly 60 men without due process.

["Alligator Alcatraz" is now officially shut down](#) thanks to the relentless action of thousands of people who refused to stand by in the face of its cruelty. Unfortunately, by and large, those detained have not been released, but simply transferred to other detention camps. That said, noted Immigration Justice team leader Courtney Prokopas, "Our work continues, but this development is wind in our sails."

Vigils and organizing efforts, coordinated among hundreds of faith leaders and community organizers, will continue until all detention facilities holding people without due process are shut down and immigrant communities are treated with dignity, transparency, and humanity. The weekly [Vigil for Immigrant Justice](#) takes place every Sunday outside the Pinellas Justice Center (14250 49th St N, Clearwater) from 5 to 6 pm.

Passionate about immigration justice? Learn more about LWVSPA's Immigration Justice team [here](#). We meet on Zoom on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 5:30–6:30 p.m.



Election protection efforts are being run by the Florida Election Protection Coalition, Common Cause, and All Voting is Local. All League members and friends are welcome to join this effort as volunteers.

Election Monitoring training will start in July. These positions are part of a network of local poll watchers and state-wide election monitors.

[Election Monitoring Training Signup](#)

Canvassing Board Meeting Monitoring Training signup is live now!

The Supervisor of Elections' Canvassing Board meets before the election to test the logic and accuracy of scanners. They then meet after the election to review mail and provisional ballots. There is training for each of these monitoring roles. This is a great way to observe behind the scenes of how elections operate. Sign up to learn how to volunteer for this effort below.

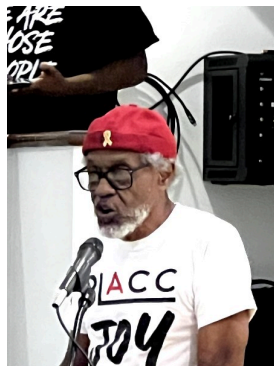
Honoring Juneteenth

On June 6, LWVSPA Voter Services volunteers attended the Juneteenth celebration at the Enoch Davis Community Center, helping community members register to vote and renew mail ballot requests.



Celebrating Father's Day in the Community

Christian rapper Nobility joined LWVSPA volunteers helping attendees prepare and register to vote at a June 21 Father's Day Event at Enoch Davis Community Center. The event was organized by activist, advocate, and community father figure J. Carl Devine.



A Super Cool Look at Geothermal Cooling

On the sweltering summer day of June 25, LWVSPA's Community-Centered Development (CCD) team joined the Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club and Egg Geo for a guided tour of one of the region's most successful geothermal cooling systems at the Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center ("the Center") in Largo.



The heart of the geothermal system comprises a series of pumps and tanks that efficiently cycle groundwater in an immaculately clean building. Groundwater is returned to the aquifer only a few degrees warmer and without any added chemicals or contaminants; the system is also remarkably quiet.

As system engineer Jay Egg explained, Pinellas County officials chose geothermal over conventional cooling for its critical advantages such as lower maintenance, protection from storm damage, and greater reliability. The tour vividly conveyed the benefits of geothermal technology and its strong potential for use in future public projects. Click [here](#) for a more detailed event recap.

Want to know what else the CCD team is up to? Check out the upcoming [Zoom meeting](#).

Cocktails & Conversation



At June's Cocktails & Conversation at Red Mesa Mercado West, in addition to convivial imbibing, nibbling, and chatting, we wrote postcards to lapsed League members to let them know we want them back! Please join us for the [next C&C gathering](#) at The Study on July 16.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Zoom Events in Black In-Person Events in Red

National Popular Vote Committee

July 8 @ 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Meeting moved from July 7 to July 8. Join us as we talk strategy. First timers are welcome and all levels of experience are encouraged to join. [RSVP for link](#)

Community-Centered Development Team Meeting

July 8 @ 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Smart development centers people and planet at the heart of city planning, managing growth sustainably and equitably to put the public good over narrow individual benefits for any one stakeholder group, geographic area or private business interest or sector. [RSVP for Zoom](#)

Candidate Forum: U.S. House District 16 Republicans – Zoom

July 9 @ 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Recent redistricting has significantly reshaped Congressional District 16, adding the southern tip of St. Petersburg, all of Manatee, DeSoto and Hardee Counties, and part of Sarasota County. Recording will be available. [RSVP Here](#) / [email candidate questions here](#)

**Repro Rights Action Team Advocacy and Empowerment
July 13 (replaces July 6 meeting) @ 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm**

Cohosted with Progress Florida

This info session is intended for advocates interested in understanding publicly available reproductive health information and for people seeking information on pregnancy termination options. [RSVP](#)

Voter Services Committee

July 15 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Join the Voter Services Leadership Team to hear about our voter guide, candidate forums, voter registration outreach, and election and voter protection. [Join via Zoom](#)

Cocktails & Conversation

July 16 @ 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

The Study, 3100 3rd Ave N.

Join us at this beautifully chill wine and bourbon tasting lounge to relax with (or without!) a drink and enjoy some great company. Bring a friend! [RSVP](#)

Board Meeting

July 20 @ 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

If any LWVSPA member wishes to address the board, they should email the president at president@lhwspa.org to get on the agenda and to receive meeting info (such as location or Zoom login).

Communications Committee Meeting

July 21 @ 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

The LWVSPA Communications Committee meets monthly via Zoom. Email office@lhwspa.org for the link if you'd like to get involved.

Committee on Membership

July 22 @ 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Contact chair, [Amy Weintraub](#), for Zoom teleconference link or more info.

Immigration Justice Action Team Meeting

July 22 @ 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Join us on Zoom to get plugged in to the Immigration Justice Action Team's work! We meet on 4th Wednesdays. [RSVP Here](#)

Education Committee (With LWVNPC): July 27 @ 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

For an invitation or to attend, contact lwnpc.info@gmail.com to receive an agenda. Open to all current LWV members only.

St. Petersburg Chamber Meet the Candidates, Presented By Tampa Bay Rays and Spectrum

August 6 @ 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

This event gives voters an opportunity to meet candidates for all elected positions in the St. Petersburg region, from federal seats to school district and city council. [Buy tickets at St. Pete Chamber of Commerce Website](#)

More events at www.lhwspa.org/events

NEW TIME !!



TODOS LOS DOMINGOS! EVERY SUNDAY!

VIGILA por la JUSTICIA para los IMMIGRANTES
VIGIL for IMMIGRANT JUSTICE



Pinellas County Courthouse
14250 49th Street N (corner of 144 Ave N &
49th St N), Clearwater, FL 33762



5 PM - 6 PM



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS*
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

*Register
Now*



Join LWVSPA, the Pinellas/Hillsborough Interfaith Coalition, and community allies for our weekly [Vigil for Immigrant Justice and To End 287\(g\) for Immigrant Justice and to End 287\(g\)](#) as we stand in solidarity with immigrant families and demand an end to the detention and deportation of our nonviolent, law-abiding immigrant community neighbors, siblings, and friends.

[Join our Immigration Justice team](#) for updates on this and other urgent issues. Your involvement can help make a difference!



**Thanks to the following generous supporters who
made gifts to LWVSPA in June:**

Gina Burchenal
Barbara Donohue
Jacob Ehrlich
Greta Finney

Meggie Francisco
Judy Kuhn
Gina Lang
Stephanie Nase
Melissa Reddington
Julia Sharp
Jeffrey Swartz
Alexandra Thackrey
Livia Zien

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LEAGUE ONLINE

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Have news to share?

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



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.

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