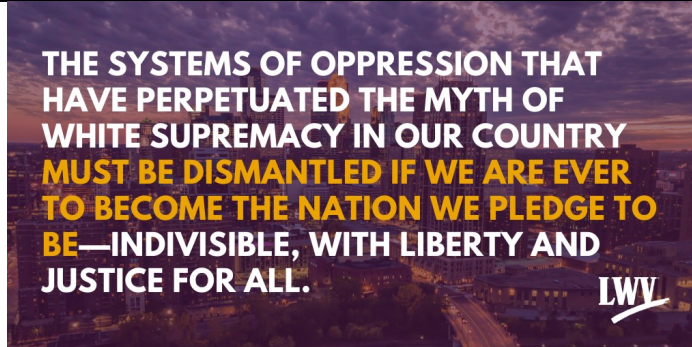


THE VOTER

June 2020



Letter from the President

Dear Leaguers,

The past few weeks have been full of grief, anger, and frustration. Leagues across the United States are standing in solidarity with black communities as they mourn the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor amongst countless others and protest police violence and systemic racism.

I encourage Leaguers to do what they can to support these peaceful protests while being safe. You can donate to numerous bail funds and educate yourself about the history of white supremacy in our country and how to be a better ally and anti-racist.

I urge you to take the time to read, listen, and reflect on your experiences, feelings, and biases. The Social Justice team is starting a reading club for League members to do just this: create spaces for learning and listening.

We also have another **Coffee in Common** coming up on June 20 to talk about interracial allyship and friendship. Please take these opportunities to enrich yourself and our work fighting the systems of white supremacy that create barriers to democratic participation and civic engagement.

As we celebrate Pride month, it's important for us to recognize the intersectionality of all civil and social justice movements; we are stronger when we recognize our commonalities and stand together. Historic movements started with courageous demonstrations and protests which put many at great risk and resulted in greater sacrifices. We can continue to honor their fight by recognizing our common goals and values with movements fighting today.

At the end of the day, protests are just the beginning. Getting our community to vote with confidence and vote for the vision of the community they want to live in is the next step. It is our duty to empower voters and defend democracy for everyone in our community.

In League,
Linsey



Get Informed: Anti-Racist Resources

Here are some resources you can use to educate yourself on anti-racism and white supremacy. We encourage you to use these resources, regardless of your political affiliation or how long you've been politically engaged.



Scaffolded Anti-Racist

Resources: This document categorizes books, articles, thought work, documentaries and podcasts according to where a person might be in their anti-racism process.

75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice: This comprehensive list touches on everything from government agencies you can contact to educational materials to social media practices.

The Green Book of Tampa Bay: This guide will help you identify black-owned businesses in a variety of industries throughout the Tampa Bay area.

If you want to learn more about St. Petersburg's black history, these resources are a good place to start:

- **[Dr. Carter G. Woodson African-American Museum](#)** (temporarily closed)
- **[The African American Heritage Trail](#)** (temporarily closed)
- **[St. Petersburg's Historic 22nd Street South](#)** by Rosalie Peck and Jon Wilson
- **[St. Petersburg's Historic African American Neighborhoods](#)** by Rosalie Peck and Jon Wilson
- **[Where Have All the Mangoes Gone](#)** by Sarah-Jane Vatelot

If you plan to attend a protest, here are two things you should check out beforehand:

Know your rights as a protester: The ACLU created **[this video](#)** that details your rights when it comes to protesting. This video is also on **[Instagram](#)** and **[Facebook](#)**.

Protesting during a pandemic: The COVID-19 pandemic is not over. If you choose to protest in person, following **[these safety guidelines](#)** can help limit the potential spread of the virus. If you choose to attend, please wear a mask and use hand sanitizer, and if you are feeling unwell at all, please stay home.



Join the Food Politics Team for Digital Dining!

The Food Politics team is hosting its first-ever Digital Dining event!. Join us for this fun social gathering as we share a plant-based meal together - online!

The team has a surprise guest

speaker you won't want to miss!

- **When:** Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Your dining room!

The team is asking those who attend to pick up a meal at one of our local plant-based partner restaurants, and let them know you'll be dining with the League's Food Politics team.

JOIN THE
FOOD
POLITICS
TEAM FOR
A VIRTUAL
MEAL



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

- [Love Food Central](#)
- [Golden Dinosaurs Vegan Deli](#)
- [Valhalla Bakery](#)
- [Rollin' Oats Market & Cafe](#)

RSVP required: Only those who register will get a link to the meeting!

Everyone's welcome, even if you are not enjoying a meal from one of these restaurants!



Amendment 4 Ruling: A Big Win for Voting Rights!



Florida's returning citizens and voting rights advocate had a big win last month!

A federal judge ruled that the law requiring returning citizens to pay fees, fines and restitution before their voting rights could be restored was unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle called the law a "pay-to-vote system" and ordered state officials to adopt a new process to determine whether returning citizens are eligible to vote. More information about the ruling can be found at the [Tampa Bay Times](#).

Several of us were able to hear from Sean Morales-Doyle, the senior attorney for the Brennan Center for Justice, discuss this case during one of the weekly Lunch and Learns put on by the League of Women Voters of Florida. If you missed his presentation, you can still read his analysis [here](#).

Guidelines for how to proceed with registering returning citizens are in the works. If you're interested in learning more, get in touch with the Voter Services team (information below)



Judicial and School Board Candidate Forums

The Voter Services team is getting ready to hold online candidate forums in the coming months. First up: circuit court judges and school board candidates.

The candidate forum for the Sixth Circuit Court judicial candidates will be held on July 13 at 7 p.m. on the League's Facebook page.

The candidate forum for the Pinellas County School Board will be held later in July.



More details about both candidate forums will be available in next month's Voter. We'll also let you know when the Voter Guide is available ahead of the August primary.



Updates from the National Popular Vote Team



You'll soon have the chance to learn more about the National Popular Vote directly from the NPV Director of Grassroots thanks to two upcoming webinars.

Introduction to the National Popular Vote
Thursday, June 18 @ 7 p.m. ET

How to Debunk the Most Common Myths About NPV
Tuesday, June 9 @ 3 p.m. ET

[Sign up here](#) to attend these webinars. If you aren't able to attend but would still like to watch, all previous recordings are archived on that page.

In addition, the League of Women Voters of the United States recently released a re-commitment to supporting this compact between the states to ensure that the winner of the most votes in all 50 states becomes the president. You can read more about the task force [here](#).

To stay informed of upcoming events, both online or, in the future, in-person, sign up at [Floridians For NPV](#).



What's Happening Around LWVSPA?

Education

- **Co-chairs:** [Nikki Fleming](#) and [Barbara Meloche](#)

Gun Safety

This team is on hiatus through the 2020 election season.

Food Politics

- **Next Meeting:** Monday, June 15 at 7 p.m.
- **Location:** Conference call (605-472-5621; code: 555498)
- **Co-chairs:** [Julie Kessel](#), [Jen Underhill](#) and Wendy Wesley

Immigration

Florida's farmworkers have finally received 1,000 COVID-19 tests, thanks in no small part to the efforts of immigration activists around the state, including our own members.

The Immigration team wants to thank everyone who called Gov. DeSantis to ask for accessible testing and personal protective gear. More than 200 organizations - including our state and local Leagues - joined together on this effort.

- **Next meeting:** Monday, June 29 @ 1:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Conference call, contact [Karen Coale](#) for information
- **Chair:** [Karen Coale](#)

Media/Publicity

The Media and Publicity team is looking for content creators to help amplify our social media and website presence. If you've been looking for a way to share your writing, graphic design, or media engagement skills with the world, now is the time!

If you're interested in helping out with this, contact [Lisa Yacso](#). Volunteers will be joining Lisa for a group project focused on learning the Hubspot marketing method, which means you'll have an opportunity to learn a new skill while volunteering for the League!

- **Next meeting:** TBD
- **Location:** Virtual conferencing
- **Chair:** [Lisa Yacso](#)

Membership Services

- **Next meeting:** Thursday, June 11 at 6 p.m.
- **Location:** Virtual conferencing
- **Chair:** [Stacey Jurewicz](#)

National Popular Vote

- **Co-chairs:** [Deb Mazzaferro](#) or [Marty Shapiro](#)

Nominating

Membership on this committee is set by conditions in LWVSPA bylaws (election or Board appointment).

- **Chair:** [Amy Weintraub](#)

Reproductive Rights

This team is on hiatus through the 2020 election season.

Social Justice

- **Next Meeting:** Thursday, June 11 at 7 p.m.
- **Location:** Conference call
- **Co-chairs:** [Linsey Grove](#) and [Stacey Kroto](#)

Sustainability

This team is currently on hiatus.

- **Chair:** [Laura Crabtree](#)

Voter Service

- **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, June 23 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Conference call
- **Co-chairs:** [Robin Davidov](#), [Maryellen Gordon](#), [Caitlin](#)



Upcoming Events

June 11: Digital Dining With the Food Politics Team

6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Online video session

[Facebook](#)

June 19: Gulfport Votes & Gulfport Historical Society Porch Party

6:30-10 p.m. @ Gulfport History Museum, 5301 28th Ave S, Gulfport,

[Register](#)

June 20: Coffee in Common: Interracial Friendship & Allyship

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. @ Online video session

[Facebook](#) | [RSVP](#)



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!**



2019-2020 League Leadership

OFFICERS

President: Linsey Grove
First Vice President: Robin Davidov
Second Vice President: Amy Keith
Secretary: Ken Wrede
Treasurer: Gina Gallo

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ama Appiah
Nita Carroll
Ann Dieterle
Beate Marston
Stephanie Owens

[Visit our website](#) for more information about our local leaders.

[Click here](#) for more information about our education and advocacy groups.

EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, COMMITTEE LEADS

Voter Service: Robin Davidov, Maryellen Gordon, Caitlin Constantine, Amy Keith, Stephanie Owens
Gun Safety: On hiatus
Immigration: Karen Coale
Reproductive Rights: On hiatus
Census: Gina Gallo
Food Politics: Julie Kessel, Jen Underhill, Wendy Wesley
Sustainability: Laura Crabtree
National Popular Vote: Deb Mazzaferro, Marty Shapiro
International Relations: Judy McSwine
Social Justice: Linsey Grove, Stacey Kroto

Media/Publicity: Lisa Yacso
Membership: Stacey Jurewicz
Nominating: Amy Weintraub
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.