

June 2023
President's Message



Dear League Members,

Hello all! I'm Jackie, your new President of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area. I am honored to take on this role, and am inspired and in awe of the hardworking and dedicated members, team leads, board members, and volunteers we have within our league.

I believe our work is most impactful when the needs of the community are our first priority, and I believe our teams operate under that same principle.

Our main priorities this year include voter protection, social justice, sustainability, and reproductive rights.

There is no shortage of work to be done in any of these areas, and I encourage each one of you to pick an issue area (or two!) you care deeply about and get involved with the League today. [\(Continue Reading\)](#)

THANK YOU! MORE THAN \$5,000 RAISED

At the April 29 Annual Meeting Amy Weintraub announced her family would be donating \$500 to the LWVSPA to support the ambitious and vital work ahead, **And**, Amy invited others to join her!

Five League members matched her gift; 28 more members made a gift, resulting in \$5,493 to begin the 2023-24 year. Members are stepping up with energy and commitment at a critical time leading up to the 2024 elections. **Thank you!**

Treasurer, Sue Castleman



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ACTION TEAM

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(Above) Sarah Terry & Amy Weintraub (Below) Kelly Aronoff (daughter) & Debbie Lynch (mom)



Forty-three eager supporters attended the first meeting. As of 5/28/23, 80 people have joined the team. All are welcomed!!



The newly (re)formed LWVSPA Reproductive Rights Action Team, led by Sarah Terry and Amy Weintraub, met on Tuesday, May 23 at 6pm at the Unitarian Universalist's classroom building downtown.

The teams' urgent priority is to join with partners across the state in getting a constitutional amendment on the 2024 ballot, guaranteeing abortion rights. To get on the ballot, more than 900,000 petition forms will need to be completed

by Florida voters. LWVSPA is now a "Hub" collection and distribution point in Pinellas County for these petitions.

Co-Team Lead Amy Weintraub says, "Thank you to those who were able to attend our first meeting. Forty-three people attended and everyone is very excited to learn about how to get plugged in to the effort to gather petitions for the abortion right ballot measure."

Numerous polls show that the majority of Floridians support such a measure. If successful, this campaign will protect access to abortion care for current and future generations and ensure our personal medical decisions are ours and ours alone to make.

The Reproductive Rights Action Team will meet monthly (every other month will be online). To learn more about getting a constitutional amendment on the 2024 ballot, guaranteeing abortion rights, and how to **GET INVOLVED.**

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Wednesday, June 7, 6-7pm

Orientation for New & Prospective League Members

Get Connected to the League's Work!

As one of the most active advocacy and policy education groups in Pinellas County, the League's current issues include voter engagement, environmental sustainability, social justice, reproductive rights, and the National Popular Vote. Come learn about the League's strategies to influence change and how you can join in!

Our in-person New Member Orientation on Wednesday, June 7, at 6pm, is designed to orient folks who are curious about the League, as well as those who've been members for less than a year.

Our hope is that everyone will find what interests them and get involved as expediently as possible.

We will meet in the Sunday School building of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 100 Mirror Lake Dr, St. Petersburg

REGISTER



Tuesday, June 27 LWVSPA General Meeting followed by "Taking it to the Streets" Center for Health Equity, 2333 34th St S



5-5:45 PM LWVSPA General Meeting

The General Meeting is a great opportunity to meet your fellow Leaguers and have two-way communication with League and Action Group leaders. Membership is not required – if you have a friend that's curious about the League, bring them!

(photo above) Featured Speaker: Sarah Jane Vatelot, 2021 "40 Under 40 in Tampa Bay" honoree, local architect and author of "Where Have All the Mangoes Gone?"

Vatelot explains the story behind the construction of the stadium and the destruction of several neighborhoods that comprised the heart of the African American community in St. Petersburg. ([Read More](#))

Register General Meeting



**BUILDING BRIDGES &
SUPPORTING RACIAL EQUITY**
IN ST. PETERSBURG FLORIDA

5:45 - 8 PM "TAKING IT TO THE STREETS: How to Combat Structural Racism in St. Petersburg" (Directly following the LWVSPA General Meeting)

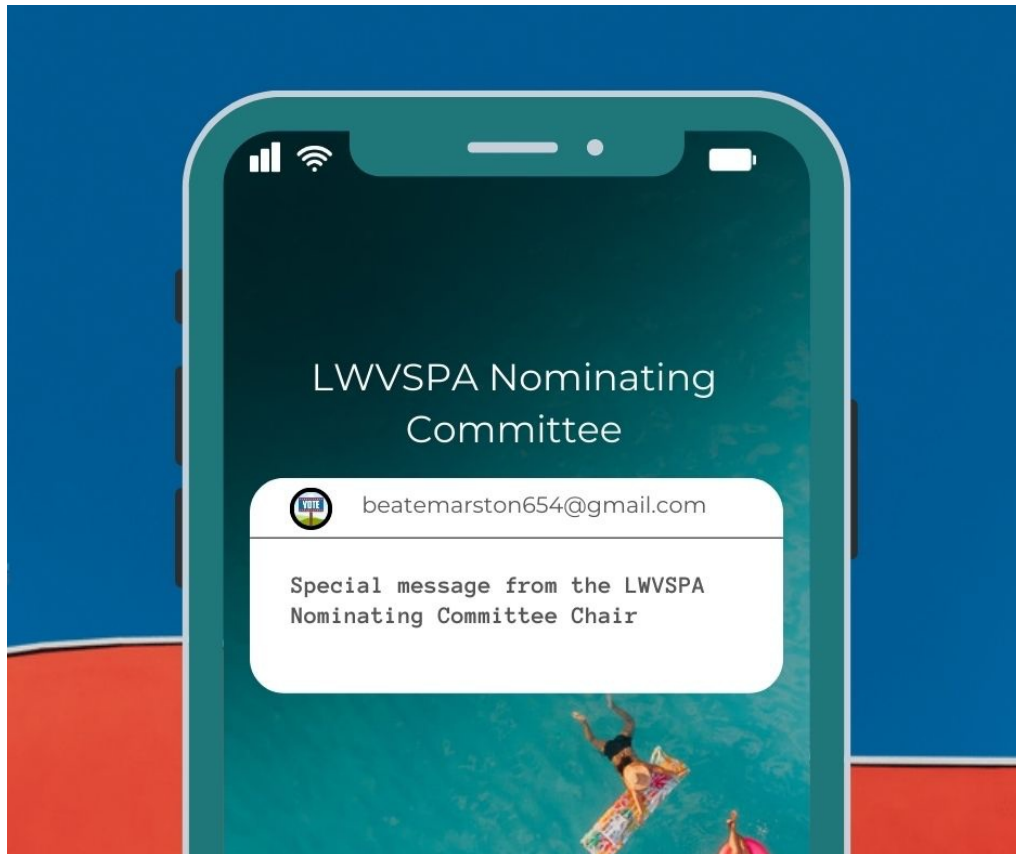
The League's Social Justice Team is partnering with Gwendolyn Reese, African American Heritage Association of St. Petersburg (AAHA) President, on a project called "Taking It to the Streets."

This project is funded by the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg to educate residents and

community groups about the Structural Racism study that the City of St. Petersburg funded and conducted. Rees will provide an overview of the study and facilitate a community discussion on experiences with structural racism.

This meeting is open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

Register "Taking it to the Streets"



Appeal from Nominating Committee Chair Beate Marston

As the first month of our new League year comes to an end I want to send out an appeal to our leadership and members:

Leadership: Please consider that now is the time to start approaching and mentoring individuals you recognize in our membership ranks as those who are willing and able to step up into a leadership role next year. Additionally there are many individuals in our community partner organizations who, with intentional encouragement from our leadership, might be willing to join our ranks to make our League even richer and more diverse.

Membership: Please consider that you have the power to make this League the best it can be. If you feel you are "too new" or you are not familiar enough with what the League does, there are a few things you can do to remedy that.

First, commit to really reading the emails coming into your inbox from office@lwvspa.org (also check our FB page) and look for ways you can

contribute time and effort to whatever degree you are able to. Secondly, do start considering your capacity for stepping into a directors position on our Board next year, it is a great opportunity for you to contribute what you are passionate about, and to get a first hand inside view of the League's inner workings.

And lastly, do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. You can reach me at beatemarston654@gmail.com, if I don't have an answer for you I will gladly connect you with the right resource.

VOTER SERVICES



Voter Services Committee Meeting (In-Person)

Wednesday, June 21
6:30 - 7:30 PM

National Council
of Negro Women

SPMS Council House
1835 9th Avenue South

Join with the Voter Services Action Team to hear about our Voter Guide, Candidate Forums, Voter Registration, & Voter Protection. Find out how you can help by attending this meeting. Registration not required.



NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE IN THE NEWS



Minnesota has passed the National Popular Vote bill. There are now 16 states plus DC totaling 205 Electoral Votes of the 270 needed for the bill to go into effect. There are several other states considering the bill. Read **the whole story here.**

To get involved, contact LWVSPA NPV Team Lead Deb Mazzaferro Deb@CoachMaz.com



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- [June Calendar of Events/Meetings](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out our Blog Archives](#)

- [Engage!](#)



League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

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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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