

THE VOTER

March 2025

LEAGUE UPDATES



URGENT
PROTECT FLORIDA'S BALLOT INITIATIVE PROCESS

**CALL REPRESENTATIVE
LINDA CHANEY ASKING HER
NOT TO SCHEDULE HB 1205
AND TO PROTECT THE
CITIZENS' INITIATIVE PROCESS**



850-717-5061

We are facing a new attack on the citizen-led amendment process.

HB 1205 aims to make the process even harder for everyday Floridians to participate in. This bill has been assigned its first committee in the Florida House of Representatives, and it **could be stopped if Rep Linda Chaney does not schedule the bill for a hearing.**

Right now, we need calls to Representative Linda Chaney

(850-717-5061) asking her NOT to schedule HB 1205 and to protect the citizens' initiative process.

Here is a sample phone script:

"Hello, my name is [INSERT YOUR NAME] and I am a Pinellas resident from [TOWN]. I am calling today to ask Representative Chaney NOT to schedule HB 1205 in the Government Operations Subcommittee. Through the citizen-led amendment process, Floridians have had the freedom to vote on the laws that govern their lives, even if we don't agree with every amendment on the ballot. Please do not limit the process, attacking our ability to participate."

More tools and actions are available here:

View More Ways to Help 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!*

A blue and white megaphone illustration pointing towards the right.

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>



March Municipal Elections

UPCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: MARCH 11, 2025

Deadline to request a ballot be mailed: February 27

Deadline to register: February 10

MORE INFO AT VOTEPINELLAS.GOV

- City of Gulfport
- Town of Indian Shores
- City of Indian Rocks Beach
- City of Oldsmar
- Town of Redington Shores
- City of South Pasadena
- City of St. Pete Beach
- City of Tarpon Springs
- City of Treasure Island



[View the District 2 \(St. Pete Beach\) Candidate Forum](#)



Two Big Statewide Events Coming Up!

**Planning to go as part of the St. Pete delegation?
We'd love to know!**

Attending events sponsored by the Florida League of Women Voters is a terrific way to deepen your understanding of League activities and priorities, engage in organizational capacity building, and get to know fellow League members.

LWVSPA will provide financial support to members attending these events. The amount of that support will depend on the number of folks traveling as part of our delegations.



**LWVFL LEAGUE LOBBY DAYS
March 11th & 12th, 2025
Tallahassee, FL**

Lobby Days mark a unique opportunity to humanize our legislative priorities with our state lawmakers at the State Capitol in Tallahassee on March 11 and 12. The League's reach has continued to grow and we're excited to show that off in the halls our state capitol. Attendance is open to all members. For more details:

- **[View a recording of the Feb. 14 Lunch & Learn Zoom with LWVFL leaders detailing this year's Lobby Days plan](#)**

[Click Here to Register/View Event Page](#)

Haven't been to Lobby Days before? Don't fret! Training is offered during the first day and talking points on priority issues are provided.

[Lobby Days marks a unique opportunity to humanize our legislative priorities with our state lawmakers.](#)



**LWVFL BIENNIAL STATE CONVENTION
June 6th & 7th, 2025
Orlando, FL**

The Biennial State Convention provides an opportunity to be part of the St. Petersburg delegation, participating in the LWVFL Convention Plenary and voting on things like:

- LWVFL's Program

- Budget
- Board of Directors and Nominating Committee
- submitted bylaws amendments.

Other Convention activities include a reception and dinner on Saturday night and a variety of breakout sessions and workshops hosted by members and supporters of all levels of the League. There will also be opportunities to network with fellow League members, participate in training sessions, and hear from dynamic speakers.

Registration and details for the State Convention will be available by mid-March at lwvfl.org.

Please fill out the LWVSPA form linked below if you intend to go to either or both of these events. We need to coordinate!

I Will Join the St. Pete Delegation at a 2025 Statewide Event



Annual Luncheon: Tickets Now Available & Keynote Speaker Announced!

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

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Sunday, April 6th, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Banquet Masters: 13355 49th St. N., Clearwater

**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER:
BACARDI
JACKSON**

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
AGLU
OF FLORIDA**



Business meeting: 11:00 AM

Luncheon: 12:30 PM

Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Bacardi Jackson, the newly-appointed executive director of the ACLU of Florida.

Raffle: We're having a fun raffle which will offer a variety of gift cards and other items from generous area restaurants and shops. All proceeds will go to the League's operating fund and to our efforts to make democracy work.

You can pre-purchase raffle tickets here, or with cash/check/card at the Luncheon.

NEEDED: GREAT STUFF

In addition to being a fun and informative event for members and supporters, the Annual Meeting & Luncheon is our most significant fundraiser each year. As part of the event, a raffle will offer unique opportunities to support our League. If you have items to be considered for the raffle, **please click the button below to let us know.**

**RSVP & Purchase
Luncheon Tickets**

**Donate Items for Luncheon
Raffle**



Nominations Needed!

The graphic features a dark blue background with a bokeh effect of light circles. In the center is a circular emblem with a gold laurel wreath border. Inside the circle, the text reads "SUBMIT YOUR AWARD NOMINATIONS" in white and gold. Above the circle is a gold crown with three stars. Below the circle are three white stars. In the top right corner, the LWV logo is displayed with the text "LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA".

Nominate outstanding League members and volunteers who have gone above and beyond for the following awards:

- Virginia Burnside Award (5 years or more of service to LWVSPA)
- Making Democracy Work Award

Please submit all award nominations to Jackie and Susan (office@lwvspa.org) via email by Friday, March 14

It's time for us to reflect back on our work during the last League year and nominate outstanding League members and volunteers who have gone above and beyond.

We have two awards that we give annually at our Annual Luncheon-- the Making Democracy Work Award and the Virginia Burnside Award for Long-term Service.

Please submit all award nominations to Jackie and Susan (office@lwvspa.org) via email by Friday, March 14.



Proposed 2025 Election Slate



The Nominating Committee's proposed slate for Membership is linked below.

[View 2025 Election Slate Here](#)



**MEMBERS MAKING AN IMPACT IN
THE COMMUNITY**



Program Planning Success!



Thank you to everyone that participated in Program Planning! We had 59 members in attendance!

Here are the scoring results:

Voter Services: 43 Average

Reproductive Rights: 44 Average

Education: 39 Average

National Popular Vote: 37 Average

All four Action Teams cleared the required 30 point average to go to a vote at the Annual Meeting on April 6th. Great work!

If you want to get involved with these action teams, their monthly meetings are [listed on our calendar](#).

Reach out to office@lwvspa.org with any questions!



Repro Rights Co-Chair

Voter Services Co-Chair
Maryellen Gordon



Education Co-Chairs
Joni Jonas and Sue Castleman

Sarah Terry



National Popular Vote Co-Chair
Sarah Peacock



Parent Advocacy League Members



Voter Services at The Tampa Bay Collard Green Festival



Voter Services volunteers Pat Lucas and Janice Drinkwine getting the word out about mail ballot requests at the Tampa Bay Collard Green Festival.



University of Tampa's 2025 Leadership Summit



League Leaders at the University of Tampa's 2025 Leadership Summit.



Meet the Candidates Forum: Indian Shores

Municipal Election



To help citizens make an informed decision on who they will potentially vote for in the March 11, 2025, Indian Shores Municipal Election, the LWVSPA held a Meet the Candidates Forum.

This event was open to the public and took place in the 4th Floor Community Center of Town Hall.



A Busy, Busy, Busy Time for NPV!



Sarah Peacock (2nd VP and NPV co-chair, LWVSPA) and **Kathleen Crampton** (Floridians for National Popular Vote founder and LWVWPB member) met with our new **NPV Senate sponsor Kirsten Arrington** (Osceola and Orange Counties). While we have been greatly saddened by the passing of Senator Geraldine Thompson, who filed our bill, we



Sarah Peacock (2nd VP and NPV co-chair, LWVSPA) and **Kathleen Crampton** (Floridians for National Popular Vote founder and LWVWPB member) met with our **2016 sponsor and stalwart cosponsor, Darryl Rouson** (Pinellas County). Senator Rouson has been a long time advocate of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and we

are nonetheless grateful for the enthusiastic support and guidance of Senator Arrington moving forward.

appreciate his continued support.



Sarah Peacock held a seminar in conjunction with LWVNPC on the current electoral system and how the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) would affect our political landscape!

She was joined by Dr. Marty Shapiro and Beate Marston.



Sarah Peacock and Jacqueline Farrell, Vice-President LWVNPC



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 Jean Johnston and her book club for their 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.



UPCOMING EVENTS



This group provides an opportunity for parents to get involved in the League in a **kid-friendly** environment!

Come learn about the League, how to get involved, meet other parent advocates, and bring your little ones!



Please register in advance. League members are free. Prospective League members must pay the Run+Play admission fee.

**Sunday,
March
2nd**

**4:00 PM
TO
6:00 PM**

**Run+Play Kids Cafe
3950 Central Ave,
St. Pete, FL 33711**



www.lwvspa.org



Mar 02, 2025 04:00pm - Mar 02, 2025 06:00pm



run+play kids cafe
3950 Central Ave, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
[View on map](#)

March Parent Advocacy League Meeting

This group provides an exciting opportunity for parents to get involved in the League in a kid-friendly environment!

Come learn about the League, how to get involved, meet other parent advocates, and bring your little ones.

Please register in advance. League members are free. Prospective league members must pay the Run+Play admission fee.

RSVP HERE



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.

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

[Click Here to Email Laura Crabtree](mailto:lauracrabtree.league@gmail.com)



Reproductive Rights Team Meetings

Meetings Held on the First
Monday of Each Month at
5:30pm via Zoom

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



Date: Monday, March 3, 2025
Time: 5:30pm-6:30pm

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

Email office@lwvspa.org with any questions.

[RSVP for Meeting Here](#)



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, March 4, 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](#)





**International Women's Day St. Pete - Unite &
Resist: A Reproductive Freedom Visibility
Event Saturday March 8th**

**LWVSPA is co-sponsoring this Pinellas NOW event
Corner of Central & 3rd Ave. N. in downtown St. Petersburg
Saturday, March 8th
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

On International Women's Day, join Pinellas NOW (National Organization for Women) and LWVSPA to raise your voice against the attacks on reproductive freedom. Join us for sign-waving and protest in defense of our rights, our bodies, and our future. Bring signs, if you can. Otherwise, extras will be on hand.

[**Click Here to Learn More/RSVP**](#)



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

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2025
Time: 7:00pm-8:15pm

[Click Here to Email for More Info](#)

A banner for Voter Services Committee Meetings. It features the LWV logo at the top, followed by the title "Voter Services Committee Meetings" in large red font. Below the title, it says "Zoom meetings held on the third Wednesday of each month". At the bottom, a black box contains the contact information "Office@lwvspa.org". The background is light yellow with decorative blue and red curved lines and small orange dots.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

Voter Services Committee Meetings

Zoom meetings held on the third
Wednesday of each month

For More Information Contact: Office@lwvspa.org

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2025
Time: 6:30pm-7:30pm

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

[Click Here to Email Voter Services](#)



Education Action Team Meetings



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

March Meetings

[Joint LWVNC/LWVSPA Education Meeting](#)

Date: TBA; via in person

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](#)

Date:
Tuesday, Mar 25 @ 10:30 am

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](#)





Hawthorne BOTTLE SHOPPE



Mar 25, 2025 05:30pm



Hawthorne Bottle Shoppe
2927 Central Ave, St. Petersburg, FL 33713
[View on map](#)

March 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 March event will be at Hawthorne Bottle Shoppe in St. Pete. Food is available here <https://www.hbsforlife.com/menu>

RSVP HERE



Membership Committee Meetings



**Wednesday,
Mar 26th, 2025**

5:00 PM-6:00PM

Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025
Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

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

[Click Here to Email Amy Weintraub](#)



DONOR THANK YOU!

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

Deborah Darrah
Dorothea Cappadona
Beverly Greene
Nancy Wildfeir-Field
Iris Yetter



FINANCE TIP FROM AVA

MARCH TIP:

The balance sheet is the foundation of a healthy, achievable financial plan. Do you know your assets versus liabilities? What you own versus what you owe? What you're putting away versus what you'll need? Reach out for a budget worksheet.

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

- [March Calendar of Events/Meetings](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)
- [LWVSPA Store- LWVSPA Gear: The Pot of Gold at the End of The Rainbow!](#)

SEND US YOUR MONTHLY NEWS

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

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