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## THE VOTER

March 2026

### Energy, Engagement, Impact

By Jackie Azis, LWVSPA President



Dear Leaguers and LWVSPA Friends,

As you know, 2026 is a busy election year, and we have wasted no time getting into action.

Our Voter Services team was a whirlwind of activity in February. In addition to tabling at various community events and hosting a well-attended voter registration training, they organized and moderated a record-setting **five candidate forums** for municipal elections around the St. Petersburg area.

Through our innovative "**Hot Girls Walk**" event, we raised awareness of reproductive rights issues in downtown St. Pete.

Our own Lindsay Polega **talked with Ty Russel of WFLA** on the SAVE America Act, which threatens to disenfranchise several groups of U.S. citizens, as well as HB 991/SB 1334, similar Florida legislation that was recently passed by the state's House of Representatives.

We participated in successful efforts to encourage our city's government to **prioritize planning** as Historic Gas Plant redevelopment options are considered.

At our **program planning** event held on February 7 at the President Barack Obama Library, seven teams presented their purpose and proposed initiatives and activities, which will be moving on for final approval at our April 18 **annual meeting**. Tickets for that festive and productive gathering are now on sale, and we are thrilled that Dianna Wynn, president of the League of Women Voters of the U.S., will be our keynote speaker.

In this important election year, as always, we look forward to continuing to work with you on behalf of voter education, engagement, and empowerment.

In League,

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In several Pinellas municipalities...

## Election Day is March 10, 2026!

### *Got questions?*

Click [here](#) for information about the March elections in Pinellas County, answers to frequent voting questions, links to videos of LWVSPA's recent candidate forums, and more. Check out the League's [Vote411](#) website for personalized voter resources.



Voting FAQs



LWVSPA pulled off an amazing five municipal candidate forums in just 12 days, from the January 29 event in Gulfport to the final St. Pete Beach forum on February 9. Residents of Indian Shores, Kenneth City, and Madeira Beach also had the opportunity to hear candidates' views on the issues that matter most to their communities ahead of the upcoming **March 10** municipal elections. All followed a nonpartisan, unbiased, and impartial format, in keeping with League principles. Voters were invited to submit questions in advance of the forums and during the events.

The forums were recorded and are available for viewing on our [YouTube channel](#).



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## Education on the Docket

The LWVFL Education Action Team is monitoring education bills in the 2026 Florida Legislative Session that will shape the future of public education.

Some proposals would weaken local control and destabilize public school funding, while others strengthen traditional public schools through greater accountability, transparency, and stability. [Here are the bills we oppose - and the ones we support.](#)



LWVSPA's Reproductive Rights team had a very successful "Hot Girls Walk" event in downtown St. Pete on February 21. Eighteen attendees walking along three routes spoke with business proprietors, patrons, and passersby to provide updates on repro rights bills, ACLU pocket constitutions, and information on their constitutional rights when engaging in the community amid potential law enforcement actions.

"To say we were met with open arms would be an understatement," said LWVSPA member Stephanie Sembler. "People were THRILLED to talk to us about their concerns and learn how to get involved. We very much made an impact and difference that day!"

Supportive businesses include Sip Shop Hooray, Valkyrie Donuts, Good Intentions, Tombolo Books, Right Around the Corner Bar, Astra and Friend, St. Pete Strength Club, Full Court St. Pete, and Coffee Station.



## Voter Services: Tabling Around Town

On February 25, LWVSPA's Voter Services team attended St. Petersburg College's Downtown St. Pete Cookout. Students enjoyed a live band and free barbecue. While team members tabled, the Campus Vote Project engaged students with rock painting and t-shirt tie-dyeing.



LWVSPA member? Want to help register voters, inform them about upcoming elections, and help them check their registration status? It's a fun and rewarding way to interact with our community and help our neighbors learn how to use their voice as voters.

[Email](#) us to find out about upcoming trainings and how you can join the Voter Services team!





**When authoritarian efforts escalate, we must organize to stop them.**

The No Kings Coalition is acting RIGHT NOW, continuing to mobilize across the country for our next historic day of action on March 28. Join us in St. Petersburg - LWVSPA is co-leading this event.

**NO THRONES.  
NO CROWNS.  
NO KINGS.**

Register [here](#) and select your preferred spot in the Tyrone area.

Follow this [link](#) for event details, which are updated as developments evolve.

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## **LWVSPA Annual Meeting and Luncheon Saturday, April 18**

Our fun and inspiring luncheon includes keynote speaker **Dianna Wynn**, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

During our Annual Meeting, held just prior to the Luncheon, League members conduct business including:

- Program Adoption
- State of the League
- Officer and Board Director Nomination Slate
- Bylaws Adoption
- Yearly Budget Adoption

[Buy Luncheon Tickets](#)

# ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

**Saturday, April 18th 2026, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**Banquet Masters: 13355 49th St N, Clearwater**



**KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER:**

**DIANNA  
WYNN**

**PRESIDENT  
LWV OF THE  
UNITED STATES**

## **Members - Get Your Favorite Local Vendors Involved Our Raffle and Silent Auction!**

Have a favorite restaurant, salon/spa, boutique, museum, or entertainment venue? Please consider chatting them up for a donation to the raffle we'll hold during our annual meeting.

[Here's a PDF statement](#) about the League that will answer the most common questions about the League and our raffle. This is a great conversation opener when you request the donation of a raffle item.

Be sure to request a logo or photo from the vendor. [Use this form](#) to send the prize info and attach a logo.

The absolute **deadline** to provide items and information is **Friday, April 10**, but sooner is better! Items can be dropped off at the LWVSPA office.

If you are considering asking for a **Silent Auction** type of donation, contact Shelley Manes or Gina Burchenal at [raffle@lwvspa.org](mailto:raffle@lwvspa.org) for important guidance BEFORE you make the request.

**Thank you!**

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## **Proposed LWVSPA Bylaws Amendments**

At the Annual Meeting on April 18th, LWVSPA members will vote on proposed changes to the LWVSPA bylaws. [View the proposed changes here.](#)



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



### PRIVATE TOUR OF



Join LWVSPA for a private tour of the Embracing our Differences art exhibit!  
Suggested donation of \$10.  
More info on the exhibit at [embracingourdifferences.org](http://embracingourdifferences.org)

**3/10**  
**5:00 PM**

Poynter Park  
3rd Street S. &  
9th Avenue S.  
St. Petersburg FL  
(USF Campus)

## *Embracing Our Differences - Private Tour*

Join us for a one-hour guided tour designed to explore powerful themes of kindness, respect, and inclusion. Suggested donation \$10.

Walk through the exhibition with a docent guide who'll facilitate a meaningful conversation about the ways we can recognize and value our different backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints in everyday life. This is a chance to connect with others, challenge your perspectives, and celebrate the richness that a wide array of human experiences brings to our world.

Exhibit is in Poynter Park.  
3rd Street S. & 9th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, 33701  
(USF St. Pete Campus)

Register



# 2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION

*women unite & rise*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *of* THE UNITED STATES

## Registration for LWVUS 2026 National Convention is now open!

Save the Date: The 57th Biennial League of Women Voters National Convention will take place in June 25-28, 2026!

Join us in Columbus, Ohio, or virtually, for this powerful multi-day event where League members from across the country come together to network, learn, and chart the course for the next biennium.

National Convention is a League experience unlike any other, as delegates representing state and local Leagues attend dynamic presentations, practical trainings, and receive inspiring content that supports our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. Attendees will also vote on the LWVUS Board of Directors, Nominating Committee, bylaws amendments, budget, and League priorities.

In-person attendees will have full access to plenary sessions, trainings, and networking opportunities. Virtual attendees can fully participate in live-streamed plenary sessions from anywhere.

[Register here](#)

[Let LWVSPA know you're going](#)



## 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!*



Several LWVSPA members find 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: [Android](#) / [iOS](#)

Our partner organization, Common Cause, offers an easy [tool](#) to find the phone numbers for your representatives at every level of government.

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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Zoom Events in Black** **In-Person Events in Red**

#### **Reproductive Rights Action Team Meeting**

**March 2 @ 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

Join us via Zoom! We meet monthly on the first Monday of each month. [RSVP for Zoom](#)

#### **National Popular Vote Committee**

**March 3 @ 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

Join us as we talk strategy. First-timers are welcome and all levels of experience are encouraged to join. [RSVP for Zoom](#)

**New Member Orientation**  
**March 4 @ 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**  
**Allendale UMC**

This event is designed for folks who are curious about the League, as well as those who've been members for less than a year. Our aim is for everyone to find what interests them and get involved expediently. [RSVP](#)

**Social Justice Action Team Meeting**  
**March 5 @ 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

We believe in secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. We promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. [RSVP](#)

**Embracing Our Differences – Private Tour**  
**March 10 @ 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**  
**Poynter Park, 3rd St S and 9th Ave S (USF campus)**

Join us for a one-hour guided tour designed to explore powerful themes of kindness, respect, and inclusion. Suggested donation \$10. Walk through the exhibition with a docent guide who'll facilitate a meaningful conversation about the ways we can recognize and value our different backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints in everyday life. [RSVP](#)

**Pinellas County School Board Meeting**  
**March 11 @ 10 am and March 31 @ 5 pm**  
301 4th St. SW, Largo, FL

**Special Edition "March Mocktails & Conversation"**  
**March 12 @ 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Grassroots Kava House, 957 Central Ave**

We are adding an ACTION to this month's Cocktails & Conversation! Our Social Justice Action Team will provide a collection box for non-perishable items to support the Hispanic Outreach Center. Please help if you can, and join us for a good time! [RSVP here.](#)

**LWVSPA Board Meeting**  
**March 16 @ 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**  
**Allendale UMC Hybrid Room**

If any LWVSPA member wishes to address the board, they should email the president at [president@lwvspa.org](mailto:president@lwvspa.org) to get on the agenda.

**Communications Committee Monthly Meeting**  
**March 17 @ 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

[Email](#) if you'd like to receive the Zoom link and get involved.

**Voter Services Committee**  
**March 18 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

Join our leadership team and fellow volunteers to hear about our voter guide, candidate forums, voter registration, and election and voter protection. [Join via Zoom](#)

**Education Committee (With LWVNPC)**  
**March 23 @ 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

[Email](#) for agenda information or an invitation. Open to all current LWV members only.

**Committee on Membership**  
**March 25 @ 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm**

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

**No Kings St. Petersburg**  
**March 28 @ 10:00 am – 11:30 am**

When authoritarian efforts escalate, we must organize to stop them. The No Kings Coalition is continuing to mobilize across the country.

[Register here and select your preferred spot in the Tyrone area](#)  
[Follow this link for event details, which are updated as developments evolve](#)

**Parent Advocacy League**  
**March 30 @ 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

### St. Pete Pier

The Parent Advocacy League (PAL) is a family-friendly space for parents and caregivers to connect, learn, and engage with the LWVSPA. [RSVP here](#).

### Social Justice Action Team Meeting

**April 2 @ 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

We believe in secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. We promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. [RSVP for Zoom](#)

### Vigils for Immigrant Justice

**Every Sunday @ 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Pinellas County Justice Center**

**14250 49th St. N.**

**Clearwater, FL 33762**



Join LWVSPA, the Pinellas/Hillsborough Interfaith Coalition, and community allies 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 Social Justice team](#) for updates on this and other urgent issues. Your involvement can help make a difference!

**Discover more events at [www.lwvspa.org/events](http://www.lwvspa.org/events).**



## Thanks to the following generous supporters who made gifts to LWVSPA in February.

Karen Cremins

Maryellen Gordon

Beverly J Greene

David Hirning

TOP Jewish Foundation

Mary Ann Renfrow

Dana Robertson

Kenneth Stern

Sally Wallace

Betsy Wells

[Donate to LWVSPA](#)

## LEAGUE ONLINE

- [Calendar of Events and Meetings](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out Our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)
- [Get Your LWVSPA Gear!](#)



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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](mailto: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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