

THE VOTER

May 2025

LEAGUE UPDATES



**National Day of Action: St. Pete Rush Hour
#Resistance**

**ST PETE RUSH HOUR
#RESISTANCE
MAY 1 NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION**

**THURS MAY 1 4:30-6:00 PM
TWO OVERPASSES ON I-275**

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/STPETEMAY1](https://tinyurl.com/stpetemay1)

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

Date: Thursday, May 1st

Time: 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

This local LWV call to action on May 1 mirrors our national organization's stance. LWVUS has sounded the alarm: our country is in a full-on constitutional crisis. The foundational principles that have sustained our democracy — checks and balances, the rule of law, free and fair elections — are under direct and sustained

attack. Let's go, St. Petersburg!

This is a **VISIBILITY EVENT** to be staged on I-275 overpasses in St. Petersburg. We are asking that folks commit to a specific overpass on the registration form so that we can try to keep safe numbers in each location.

[RSVP TO ATTEND
HERE](#)

[VIEW EVENT DETAILS](#)



Town Hall Zoom Meeting

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT HOW YOUNG ADULTS VOTED IN 2024!

Join us at our Town Hall Zoom Meeting
for an in-depth look at the data around voting
during the 2024 Election! Find out what it will take to
engage youth voters in the next election!

Tues
May 6th
7:00 pm ET



LWV
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY

LWV
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ST. PETERSBURG AREA

Presented by:



CIRCLE

CENTER FOR INFORMATION & RESEARCH ON CIVIC
LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

Don't Miss It! Register:



Google Form
QR Code

Hosted by the
Education Committee of the
League of Women Voters of
Pinellas County



727-386-8525
727-295-5255



lwvnorthpinellas.org
lwvspa.org

Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Time: 7:00pm

Join us at our Town Hall Zoom Meeting for an in-depth look at the data around voting during the 2024 Election! Find out what it will take to engage youth voters in the next election!

This event is presented by Tufts Circle (Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Education) and co-sponsored by LWVNPC and LWVSPA.

[RSVP Here for Town Hall](#)



Lobby Days Report – Victoria Rexer

Wow what an experience and eye opener.

About two years ago I joined the League to become an active citizen, to no longer just sit on the sidelines. But my learning curve is steep. My background is not in law, government, civics or activism. Going to the state capital and participating in Lobby Days with some awesome (and more experienced) Leaguers gave me access to a world I thought was out of bounds.



To walk through the doors of the state capital, to meet and talk with my representatives, to spend two days in the frenetic, whirlwind process known as the 60-day legislative session, to try to cull through and comprehend the bills that pertain to the Leagues four legislative priorities was overwhelming, exhausting, exhilarating, maddening, frightening and an incredible learning experience. I went inside those hallowed halls and interacted with real people and saw that I could have hands on interaction and impact on my government.

The legislative session ends May 2nd. We have just two days to make sure that some of these truly dangerous bills do not pass.

Here's one that I am keeping my eye on. This bill is moving rapidly through the process and would have a very consequential impact on our right to vote.

Please join me and Take Action on House Bill 1381.

Here is why it matters:

We have heard much about the SAVE Act, and this bill (HB1381) is Florida's own SAVE Act. If passed, this voter suppression bill will severely limit tens of thousands of Floridians ability to vote in the same way that the SAVE act does; by demanding proof of citizenship to register, or make any change to one's voter record, even a simple change of address.

Amy Keith (Common Cause FL Executive Director and LWVSPA board member) says this bill is just as dangerous as the Save Act Bill. It demands our immediate attention. (FYI the SAVE Act just passed the US House 4/10/25)

Time is of the essence: Call/Write your rep today and demand that they vote "NO" on HB1381!

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/>



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!



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>



LWVFL State Convention 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 this event. The amount of that support will depend on the number of folks traveling as part of our delegations.

LWVFL BIENNIAL STATE CONVENTION

When: June 6th & 7th, 2025

Location: 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



Take Action: Protect Direct Democracy and Citizen-led Amendments

Gov. DeSantis and his allies in the Florida Legislature are pursuing a massive power grab that undermines people-powered policy-making and our democracy.

Thanks to citizen-led amendments to the state Constitution, Florida voters have raised the minimum wage, enacted term limits for politicians, protected environmental treasures, legalized medical marijuana, established a taxpayer bill of rights, created universal voluntary pre-kindergarten for children, and passed many other reforms when politicians in Tallahassee have refused to act.

But DeSantis is pushing for legislation designed to make it nearly impossible for citizens to get future initiatives on the ballot.

Urge your state representative and senator to oppose this legislation.

Send Your Letter Today

Read More About HB 1205



Voter Registration Certification Training

SAVE THE DATE

LWVSPA MEMBERS
ONLY



Voter Registration Certification Training

July 16, 2025 | 6:30 pm | Zoom

The LWVFL Training is **Required** Before
you can Assist with Voter Registration

All Voter Services volunteers **must** renew their training. Amy Keith will lead us through the LWVFL material with additional info pertinent to SPA.

This will prepare everyone for the quiz required by LWVFL.
Stay tuned for more details.



Learn More About the League's Priorities
this Legislative Session

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA

Learn about our specific legislative goals pertaining to our various areas of focus

[Review the LWVFL Priorities Here](#)

Additional resources for information on legislative priorities during this session:

The ACLU-FL Legislative Hub:

<https://www.aclufl.org/en/2025-florida-legislative-hub>

Common Cause Florida Legislative Advocacy Page:

<https://www.commoncause.org/florida/work/legislative-advocacy/>



MEMBERS MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY



News from our Annual Meeting & Luncheon Sunday, April 6th!



To all that attended, we are so grateful for your presence and participation. To all that donated, your generosity helps us to keep our work going! Thank you for your unwavering support of our

local League.

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our incoming League leadership team:

Lindsay Polega: 1st Vice President 2025-26

Gerni Oster: 2nd Vice President 2025-26

Stephanie Sembler: Secretary 2025-27

Rachel Kent: Director 2025-27

Rachana Suri: Director 2025-27

Stacey Campo: Director 2025-27

Laura Williamson: Nominating Committee Chair 2025-26

Shelley Manes: Nominating Committee 2025-26

Maryellen Greer: Nominating Committee 2025-26

Laura Williamson: Voter Services

Heidi Davis: Voter Services

Amy Keith: Voter Services

Stephanie Sembler: Reproductive Rights Co-chair

[You can read their bios here](#)

A thank you to our continuing leaders:

Jackie Azis: President 2025-26

Sue Castleman: Treasurer 2024-26

Amy Keith: Director 2024-26

Jean Johnston: Director 2024-26

Lindsay Polega: Reproductive Rights Co-chair

Sue Castleman: Education Co-chair

Joni Jonas: Education Co-chair

Sarah Peacock: NPV

Marty Shapiro: NPV

Amy Weintraub: Membership Chair

And a HUGE THANKS to our outgoing board members and leaders:

Nancy Wildfeir-Field: 1st Vice President 2024-25

Sarah Peacock: 2nd Vice President 2024-25

Susie Paterson: Director 2023-25

Stacey Kroto: Director 2023-25

Sarah Wines: Director 2023-25

Beate Marston: Nominating Committee Chair 2024-25

Caprice Edmond: Nominating Committee 2024-25

Pat Lucas: Nominating Committee 2024-25

Maryellen Gordon: Voter Services

Robin Davidov: Voter Services

Betsy Wells: Voter Services

Sarah Terry: Reproductive Rights Co-chair

Laura Crabtree: Sustainability Chair

Stacey Kroto: Social Justice Chair

The dedication, effort, and time our all-volunteer leadership team devotes to the League allows us to continue our mission: empowering voters, defending democracy.



Congratulations to our Award Winners!

Lindsay Polega: Making Democracy Work award for her Reproductive Rights work

Maryellen Gordon: Virginia Burnside Award for Long-Term Service for her Voter Services work

Robin Davidov: Virginia Burnside Award for Long-Term Service for her Voter Services work

Betsy Wells: Virginia Burnside Award for Long-Term Service for her Voter Services work

Rock Star Volunteers: for Being All-Around Excellent!

Sue Castleman
Laura Crabtree
Heidi Davis
Janice Drinkwine
Caprice Edmond
Michelle Emerson
Peter Emerson
Gina Gallo
Jessica Garvin
Mary Hanrahan
Jean Johnston
Joni Jonas
Nicole Jones
Amy Keith
Stacey Kroto
Pat Lucas

Shelley Manes
Beate Marston
Dr. Susie Paterson
Sarah Peacock
Christine Poff
Alison Quinn
Amanda Rao
Victoria Rexer
Terry Rimer
Stephanie Sembler
Sarah Terry
Drea Thew
Amy Weintraub
Nancy Wildfeir-Field
Laura Williamson
Sarah Wines



Our Parent Advocacy League Met for Some Kid-Friendly League Work!



Huge thank you to **Run+Play Kids Cafe** for letting us use their beautiful space! It says a lot when we can meet for two hours and our kids had so much fun that they wanted to keep playing. Our community is lucky to have you.

We love the beautiful chaos of our Parent Advocacy League meetings. Join us for our next one in May!



Leaguers Turned Out at the April 19th Day of Action in St. Pete





Florida League Leadership Program - 2025 Cohort Graduates!



LWVFL has proudly wrapped up the second year of its League Leadership Program —an initiative designed to cultivate future leaders from across the state. Our new LWVSPA Vice President Lindsay Polega participated.

Participants not only gained valuable leadership skills but also built lasting connections with fellow League members across Florida. In turn, the League continues to benefit from a growing bench of talented, committed leaders ready to drive our work forward.



Earth Day in the Garden



The Sustainability Action Team hosted five 2nd grade classes from James B. Sanderlin school, along with teachers and parent chaperones to explore the rain garden and the new pollinator garden. They also collected seeds and learned about native plants and wildlife.

The garden was teeming with hundreds of bees and butterflies which most of the kids loved - and the few who were scared learned that the bees were too busy to take notice and would move out of the way to let us by. Seed collection (scavenger hunt) was also a big hit!



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

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.



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

[Click Here to Email Laura Crabtree](#)



Reproductive Rights Team Meetings

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



Date: Monday, May 5, 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

The banner features a repeating pattern of 'VOTE!' in speech bubbles and a megaphone icon.

Date: Tuesday, May 6, 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](#)



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings Held on the
Second Thursday of
Each Month

7:00pm-8:15pm
via Zoom

The banner includes a small image of a person holding a sign that says 'FIGHT TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW'.

Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025

Time: 7:00pm-8:15pm

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

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

**NATIONAL POPULAR
VOTE COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY
CRAFT NIGHTS**

We're curating leave-behind materials for
your next legislator meeting!
Meet committee members, talk shop,
practice your talking points, hear about
Lobby Days, and learn about your legislators.

**April 10th
May 8th
May 22nd
4 - 6PM**

LWVSPA Office
3803 Haines Rd. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

www.lwvspa.org · office@lwvspa.org

Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025 & Thursday, May 22, 2025
Time: 4:00pm-6:00pm

Join the National Popular Vote Committee as we curate leave-behind materials for your next legislator meeting!

Meet committee members, talk shop, practice your talking points, hear about Lobby Days, and learn about your legislators.

We will meet at the LWVSPA Office.

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



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

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, May 18th	4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM	Run+Play Kids Cafe 3950 Central Ave, St. Pete, FL 33711
---------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--

→ www.lwvspa.org ←



May 18, 2025 04:00pm - May 18, 2025 06:00pm



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

May 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



May 20, 2025 05:30pm



The Wine House
2813 Beach Blvd S., Gulfport, FL 33707
[View on map](#)

May 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 May event will be at the Wine House in Gulfport. The Wine House features a funky selection of wines from vineyards that practice organic, sustainable or biodynamic farming practices, no added sugar, and minimal intervention. Other hard and soft drinks, but not really a beer joint.

Menu includes BBQ, charcuterie, and a wide selection of other tasties. Tuesdays are BBQ Taco Tuesday.

RSVP HERE



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, May 21, 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



**Education Action
Team Meetings**

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

&

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY

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

May Meetings

[Joint LWVNC/LWVSPA Education Meeting](#)

Date: TBA; via in person

For an invitation or to attend, contact treasurer@lwgspa.org to receive an agenda.

Open to all current LWV members only.

[Pinellas School Board Meetings](#)

Date:
Tuesday, May 13 @ 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](#)



May 27, 2025 06:00pm - May 27, 2025 07:00pm



Allendale United Methodist Church
3803 Haines Rd N, St. Petersburg, FL 33703
[View on map](#)

LWVSPA New Member Orientation

As one of the most active advocacy and policy education groups in Pinellas County, the League of Women Voters' current issues include voter engagement, education, and protection; reproductive rights; public schools/education; and the National Popular Vote.

New Member Orientation 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.

[RSVP HERE](#)



**Membership
Committee Meetings**



**Wednesday,
May 28th, 2025**

5:00 PM-6:00PM

The graphic features a central illustration of three stylized human figures in orange, blue, and yellow. Below them are four hands in purple, white, yellow, and red, with a plus sign in a purple circle. To the left is a checkmark in a white circle. The background is a light yellow with diagonal lines.

Date: Wednesday, May 28, 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 April:

Barbara Baccari
Shana Bedi
Patti Blair
Katie Bryant
Gina & Ken Burchenal
Cindy Campbell
Stacey Campo
Deborah Darrah
Greg Davidson

Janice Drinkwine
Kristen Ehrlich
Michelle Emerson & Peter Emerson
Marsha Ferree
Meggie Francisco
Judy & Edmund Gallizzi
Tanya Gogue
Maryellen Greer
Linsey Grove
Kristine Hoagland
Jean Johnston
Joni Jonas
Nicole Jones & Pascal Azocar
Jessica Keith
Rachel Kent
Stacey Kroto
Kay Lahdenpera
Diane Lajoie
Kristen Lansang
Karen Lieberman & Patricia Ramaeka
Shelley Manes
Beate & Edward Marston
Gerni Oster
Sarah Peacock & Rich Cine
Lindsay Polega & Tyler Quigley
Melissa Reddington
Mary Ann Renfrow
Victoria Rexer
Lindsay Rosegger
Stephanie Sembler
Beth Settle
Suzann Smart
Rachana Suri
Alison Swift
Jacqueline Swigler
Jessica Terrence
Sarah Terry
Alexandra Thackrey & Giordano da Silva
Millie Tibma
Amy Weintraub
Laura Williams
Laura Williamson & Al Piscopo
Rebecca Wilson
Paul Wyness
Livia Zien & Greg Carlin



FINANCE TIP FROM AVA

MAY TIP:

Continuously identify your sources of income, and reevaluate their reliability (investments, employment, social security, pensions, passive income, business income). Do you need to



convert less reliable income streams to reliable income? Reach out for an evaluation.

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

- **[May Calendar of Events/Meetings](#)**
- **[Explore Issues](#)**
- **[Check Out our Blog Archives](#)**
- **[Engage!](#)**
- **[LWVSPA Store- Get Your LWVSPA Gear!](#)**

SEND US YOUR MONTHLY NEWS

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

LWVSPA | P.O. Box 11775 | St. Petersburg, FL 33733 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!