

# THE VOTER

November 2025

## Stop Mid-Decade Redistricting!

By Jackie Azis, LWVSPA President



Dear Leaguers,

Our League doesn't shy away when our democracy needs defending. Right now, it surely does.

There's talk in Tallahassee about redrawing Florida's voting maps this upcoming legislative session in direct response to the President's call for more gerrymandering of districts nationwide to benefit his own party in the 2026 election. This is unprecedented.

Per the U.S. Constitution, redistricting is normally done every 10 years, following the U.S. Census. What is happening here is clear: Politicians want to pick their voters instead of letting voters pick them.

I am calling on each LWVSPA member to individually reach out to your FL House Representative and State Senator, as well as two other key leaders identified on our website's Action Page, in every way possible to object to mid-decade redistricting.

**We fought this battle before, and we won.**

Back in 2010, Floridians passed the Fair Districts Amendments with 63 percent of the vote. Those amendments are part of our Constitution now, and they make one thing crystal clear: Any attempt to draw voting maps to benefit a political party is illegal under Florida's Constitution.

Across party lines, people want fair maps, stability, and common sense from their elected officials. Recent polling from Common Cause shows that 66 percent of Florida voters still oppose partisan gerrymandering, and a solid majority reject mid-decade redistricting altogether.

Our League has been busy preparing for this moment. On October 4, we participated in the LWV Florida Statewide Day of Action. At our own LWVSPA Advocacy Training event on October 18, we formed an Action Team to focus on this urgent issue.

Each and every one of us now needs to take a few minutes to remind our own state legislators that they work for the people. Visit our [Stop Mid-Decade Redistricting Page](#) for guidance on calling, writing, or emailing your representatives and tell them: No to mid-decade redistricting. Yes to fair representation.

**Say NO to mid-decade redistricting**



**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF FLORIDA

Your message doesn't have to be fancy or lengthy. Use the points we've provided in this message or on our Action Page, or just speak from the heart. Tell them Floridians cared enough about fair voting districts to enshrine them in our state constitution, and we expect our elected officials to honor the intent of their constituents and obey what is now state law. Finally, please encourage everyone in your network—family members, friends, colleagues, and community members—to do the same.

Let's get to work.

In League,

Jackie



## Keynoted by LWV Florida President Jessica Lowe-Minor

More than 80 LWV members from sister chapters in North Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Manatee counties joined LWVSPA on October 23 at our Allendale, St. Petersburg, headquarters to share updates and draw inspiration from an array of dynamic activities, creative initiatives, and productive community collaborations.



Introduced by LWVSPA First Vice President Lindsay Polega, LWV Florida President Jessica Lowe-Minor shed light on the LWVUS [Unite and Rise 8.5](#) initiative. She also spoke eloquently on issues including the Florida legislature's mid-decade redistricting push and the vital importance of a strong showing by the state League presence at Lobby Days in Tallahassee on January 20 and 21.

Among many informative presentations, LWVSPA President Jackie Azis shared top-level takeaways from our chapter's recent Advocacy Training Day (see below), including key goals and next steps.

Read more [here](#). See a recording of the session on our [YouTube channel!](#)

---

## Unite and Rise: An Urgent Call to Defend Democracy



### Florida's League of Women Voters Is Rising to the Challenge

*By Amy Weintraub, LWVSPA Membership  
Chair*

Everywhere I turn, the signs are impossible to ignore. From the flagrant disregard for congressional authority to the open defiance of Supreme Court orders, one truth has become chillingly clear: our country is in a constitutional crisis.

Here in Florida, things are even more extreme. Gov. Ron DeSantis is weaponizing state power to silence opposition and limit fundamental rights, restrict voting access, censor classroom discussions, and punish dissenting voices in education, the press, and protest. When the very foundation of our democracy is cracking beneath us, silence is complicity. I refuse to be silent.

That is why I am such a believer in the League of Women Voters' [Unite and Rise 8.5](#) national campaign. Long respected for its steady, nonpartisan work in voter registration and education, the League of Women Voters has now been called to a new level of engagement...

[Read more](#)

*This essay was recently published by the national GrassRoots Connector.*



**Pinellas County Courthouse  
14450 49th Street N. (corner of 144th Avenue N)  
Clearwater, FL 33762**

***Held in solidarity with Disappeared in America,  
this demonstration calls attention  
to the inhumane treatment of our immigrant neighbors—  
a collective stand for dignity, justice, and visibility***

Immigrant families are being torn apart — but together, we can demand human dignity, justice, and due process. This Sunday, Nov. 2, please join this vigil in front of the Pinellas County Courthouse in Clearwater—right next to the jail where immigrants are being held in custody—as part of the national Disappeared In America Day of Action.

Whether you've been involved in past actions or are newly joining our efforts, this is an opportunity to come together, honor those who have been silenced, and reaffirm our commitment to human rights.

Sponsored by Pinellas/Hillsborough Interfaith Coalition, co-sponsored by LWVSPA. The Florida Interfaith Coalition will lead vigil during this event.

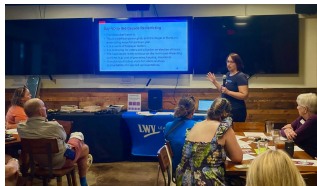
*Please do **not** park in the courthouse parking as towing may be enforced; please look for the sidewalk in front of Bayside High School as the meeting spot. Please also bring water.*

Registration and more information [here](#).

---

# ADVOCACY Training

Events provide tools to effectively address key LWVSPA issues



**Sipping & Strategizing:** LWVSPA Board Member and Common Cause Florida Executive Director Amy Keith led a learning and advocacy training session about state leaders' threats to further gerrymander Florida's congressional districts in the "Nook Room" at 3 Daughters Brewery. Amy also led members Voter Services Voter Registration Training in October, including key facts needed to pass the LWVFL Quiz and thus be certified to table at events.

**Strengthening Advocacy Know-How:** A robust, informative Advocacy Training brightened up the afternoon of October 18 at Allendale UMC. The first round of workshops was dedicated to tactics including engaging and influencing elected officials, using the press to influence change, online communications (led by Susan Dickson, Jackie Azis, and Kristen Ehrlich), and action in the public square. Six teams then huddled for breakout sessions on the specific mission-driven objectives below. For more information on all of these initiatives and how you can get involved, click [here](#).

**Issue:** Defending Democracy  
**Objective:** Stop Mid-Decade Redistricting  
**Target Audience:** Pinellas State Legislators

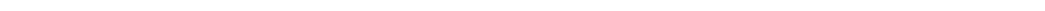
**Issue:** Historic Gas Plant District Redevelopment  
**Objective:** Create a Community Land Trust  
**Target Audience:** St. Petersburg City Council

**Issue:** Immigration  
**Objective:** Pinellas Law Enforcement: Stop Colluding with ICE  
**Target Audience:** Police chiefs, city councils, mayors

**Issue:** Voting Rights/Diversity, Equity, Inclusion  
**Objective:** Add Early Voting Site in South St. Petersburg  
**Target Audience:** Pinellas Supervisor of Elections

**Issue:** National Popular Vote  
**Objective:** Adopt the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact  
**Target Audience:** Pinellas State Legislators

**Issue:** Reproductive Rights  
**Objective:** Support HB 6001 to stop public funding of deceptive anti-abortion pregnancy centers  
**Target Audience:** Pinellas State Legislators





## ***Tell Congress to End the Shutdown!***

The current federal government shutdown, one month long and counting, has imminent consequences for the health and well-being of millions of Americans whose paychecks are being withheld, and food access is being threatened.

**More than one million federal employees are going unpaid**, including approximately 730,000 working without pay and 670,000 who have been furloughed. Missing paychecks could force people to cut into their savings, rack up credit card debt, work additional jobs, and/or struggle to meet their own and their family's basic needs.

**Some states are already indicating that benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) could be delayed.** Some 42 million people with low incomes rely on SNAP every month to afford food. Benefits through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) are also jeopardized.

**An estimated 7.3 million people could lose their health coverage;** 4.8 million of them could become entirely uninsured in 2026. Millions of others would have to pay more for insurance coverage.

**While Congress continues to get paid, the American people, including some of our most vulnerable community members, won't have their most basic needs met. This is simply unacceptable.**

Follow this link to learn more and tell Congress: [End the shutdown now!](#)

---

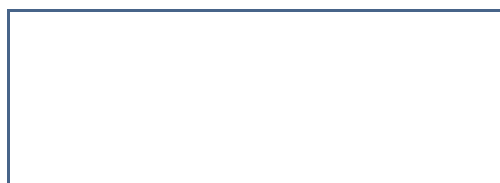
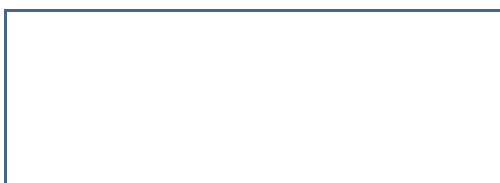
## *Historic Gas Plant District Redevelopment Project*



Our League has studied the Historic Gas Plant District Redevelopment Project for 18 months. We have serious concerns about this ongoing social justice issue that encompasses racial equity, housing, potential federal civil rights violations, environmental and sustainability concerns, and the lack of resident, taxpayer, and voter involvement in the process. Please [visit our page on the LWVSPA website](#) learn more about the issue and what you can do to help ensure a fair and equitable resolution.

---

## *Top-Flight and Not Too Spooky October Cocktails and Conversation*





*It's a plane...it's a witch...it's a League member or guest!* LWVSPA's Cocktails and Conversation event was held on October 28 at The Hangar at St. Pete's Whitted Airport. Members (including C&C organizer Shelley Manes, above left, and with Voter Services chair Laura Williamson and Membership Chair Amy Weintraub, above right) and not-yet-members enjoyed the aeronautical ambience and lively chats about League activities and life as we know it.

**The next Cocktails and Conversation is Thursday, November 20, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at The Study Wine & Bourbon Tasting Lounge, 3100 3rd Ave N, St. Petersburg.** (You can [RSVP right here!](#))



At that event, or leading up to it, please consider supporting the Feeding Tampa Bay food drive that new LWVSPA member Cassie Schwalm is helping organize.

As of November 1, 2.8 million Floridians lose their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits due to the ongoing government shutdown.

This will have a serious impact on many of our neighbors, and food insecurity is a very real threat in our local communities.

Feeding Tampa Bay serves ten local counties: Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Highlands, Hardee, Manatee, Pasco, Hernando, Sumter, and Citrus. With the holidays approaching, it's a great time to help ensure that our neighbors have access to nutritious food.

### **Here's how you can help:**

**Donate nonperishable items** that can help create a holiday meal. Cassie can pick up individual donations if needed.

**Host a donation box** in high-traffic areas, such as a local business, office, gym, or community space so others can contribute. Cassie will provide a decorated box and handle pickup.

**Donate monetarily** either via check (which Cassie will deliver along with the physical donations) or directly to [Feeding Tampa Bay](#).

The drive will officially run from **November 3 - 20**, with donations delivered to Feeding Tampa Bay on November 21.

Please spread the word! Every donation, big or small, helps ensure our neighbors stay fed, healthy, and safe this holiday season. If you're able to host a box or have any questions, please [drop Cassie a note](#).

---

### **New Member Orientation**

**Tuesday, December 2, 6 - 7 p.m.**  
**Allendale UMC**

LWVSPA is eager to welcome you to one of the most active advocacy and policy education groups in Pinellas County.



And we're eager to get to know you, introduce you to our many activities, and find

out what you're most passionate about. So please do join us at our orientation event, whether you're a new member or just thinking about joining and want to learn a bit more! [RSVP here!](#)

## Engaging With Our Community

### Unique LWVSPA Membership Events Offer Eye-Opening Experiences and Insights

The League of Women Voters of St. Petersburg Area (LWVSPA) hosted a private, members-only trolley tour of the St. Pete African American Heritage Trail on October 4. The tour provided an overview of African American history and influence in St. Petersburg, focusing on the historic Deuces neighborhood and its landmarks.



On October 21, LWVSPA members attended a special tour of the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Pete. Among the highlights: Thor, a 10-ton fishing boat that helped protect Jews by secretly transporting them from Denmark to safety in Sweden during the Nazi occupation in 1943. The boat, now in the museum's collection, was one of many vessels used in this effort, which saved more than 7,200 Jews.



LWVSPA's Sustainability Committee was honored on October 24 by the City of St. Petersburg City Beautiful Commission as the winner of the "Best Yard and Garden In Transformation" City Beautification Award. The Sustainability Committee devoted extensive time and resources to the project over several years. With features including a pollinator garden and demonstration rain garden, the project was lauded by the judges as "the perfect representation of the spirit of the awards."



## Just Say No!

"NO KINGS" is more than just a slogan—it's the foundation our nation was built upon. LWVSPA was out in force for the national "No Kings!" day of peaceful protest on October 18. Here, Membership Chair Amy Weintraub and President Jackie Azis rally the troops.



## Helping Voters Get Election-Ready

Our Voter Services team is always out and about helping register and inform voters. Here, volunteer Kris Hoagland offers voting materials to a community resident at St. Pete's Willis S. Johns Recreation Center.



## Restoring the Vote

*Restoration of Rights After Completion of Felony Sentence Update*

Helping returning citizens regain their right to vote is one of the key goals of LWVSPA's Voter Services committee. So it's great news indeed that a CLE (Continuing Legal Education) training for Florida attorneys who wish to help these citizens navigate the process was highly successful.



The State of Florida is now also taking steps to make it easier for returning citizens to learn their voting status. This has unfortunately been an extremely byzantine process for several years, despite a solid majority of Floridians having approved a 2018 referendum to reinstate the voting rights of people who have completed felony sentences and were not convicted of violent crimes.

According to Cecile Scoon, former president of LWV Florida, an attorney herself who is spearheading these efforts for the state league, the October 29 in-person event at the USF campus in Tampa drew about 25 attendees, while another 20 or so attended digitally. "The speakers were well informed and had interesting stories to share that made learning interesting," Scoon says. "The lawyers gave us high marks and had great questions. One lawyer joined the league during the CLE and wants to get involved with the restoration of rights project."

Another CLE session on this topic was held the following day at the Orange County Bar Association Office in Orlando. LWVSPA will be closely involved in upcoming efforts to reach returning citizens with information about restoring their voting rights.

Click [here](#) to learn more about this effort and other LWVSPA Voter Services initiatives.

# Nov. 4 Mayoral Election Reminder for Seminole Residents!

*Polls Are Open 7 am to 7 pm*

## HOW TO RETURN A MAIL BALLOT

Mail Ballots must be **received** at one of the Supervisor of Elections Offices by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Postmark date does not count!

By US Mail: Voters are advised to allow at least 10 days for delivery.  
OR: Drop off at any Supervisor of Elections Office. See your mail ballot instructions for hours and locations.

**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!*

1) Several LWVSPA and community 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 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>**

---

★

## 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 Carolyn Curtin for her 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.**

Questions? Please email [office@lwvspa.org](mailto:office@lwvspa.org).



---

★

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Reproductive Rights Action Team Meeting: November 3 @ 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

Join us via Zoom! We meet monthly on the 1st Monday. Email [office@lwvspa.org](mailto:office@lwvspa.org) with questions. [RSVP for Zoom](#)

### **National Popular Vote Committee: November 4 @ 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](#)

### **Social Justice Action Team Meeting: November 6 @ 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm** [RSVP for Zoom](#)

### **Education Committee (With LWNPC): November 11 @ 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

We have combined the October / November meetings into this one in-person meeting. We will meet at the Chili's located at the corner of East Bay Dr. and US 19. Please email [office@lwvspa.org](mailto:office@lwvspa.org) to RSVP if you wish to attend.

### **Voter Services Committee: November 19 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

Join the Voter Services Leadership Team to hear about our Voter Guide, Candidate Forums, Voter Registration, & Election and Voter Protection. Please contact [office@lwvspa.org](mailto:office@lwvspa.org) for info on joining our meetings via Zoom.

### **November Cocktails & Conversations: November 20 @ 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

Enjoy a casual evening out with your League friends! Our November event will be at The Study Wine & Bourbon Tasting Lounge. There will be no C&C in December, but we will resume in the new year. [RSVP here.](#)

### **New Member Orientation, December 2, 6 - 7 p.m., Allendale UMC**

Whether you're a new member or just thinking about joining and want to learn a bit more, please join us! [RSVP here!](#)

---

★

## LEAGUE ONLINE

- [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](mailto: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 | 3803 Haines Rd. N. | St. Petersburg, FL 33703 US

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



Try email marketing for free today!