

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



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

## VOTER October 2014

*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.*

### President's Letter



Julie Kessel  
President 2014-15

Hello to our League Community,

As the November election draws near, we have shifted our efforts from voter registration to educating and engaging voters on the state, municipal, and local races through distribution of our state and local voter guides, as well as the State Bar Judicial guide on merit retention.

We're taking our message to the streets, churches, and fairs in order to get out the vote, particularly in St. Pete's southside communities. To that end, we have partnered with some wonderful groups, the Deltas and the Links, as well as those from the *Grapevine* and *Power Broker Magazine*, in order to bring our message to a wider audience.

We've been working with churches, including Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist, Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist, Bethel Community Baptist, Greater Mt. Zion AME, St. Augustine Episcopal, Christ Baptist, and others. In the tradition of the League, we will continue this work right up until the election. This effort has resulted in the opportunity to educate thousands more citizens. Thank you to all of you who have worked with us in all of our Voter Service efforts. This is the League's banner work, and we are excited to see the level of participation in this year's election process.

On the advocacy front, the League endorses a vote of:

### Time for Action

### JOIN OR RENEW: WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Fall means the beginning of a new League membership year. We need your support as a member to continue our work.

We now offer five levels of membership:

- [Carrie Chapman Catt \(Gold\) for \\$250](#)
- [Susan B. Anthony \(Silver\) for \\$125](#)
- [Household for \\$78](#)
- [Individual for \\$52](#)
- [Student for \\$26](#)

It's easy to join or renew. To pay online using PayPal, just click on the link above for your membership level. Or, if you prefer, you may mail a check made out to LWVSPA to:

LWVSPA  
POB 11775

- **YES on AMENDMENT 1: Water and Land Conservation.** This amendment would direct funding towards the preservation of land and water in the state. Through Study, the League has determined that Florida is facing a crisis with quality and quantity of water. Amendment 1 will help to protect our springs, waterways, and drinking water, for now and into the future.
- **NO on AMENDMENT 3: Prospective Appointment of Certain Judicial Vacancies.** The League's long-standing position on the need for an independent judiciary to preserve democracy was the key factor in the organization's decision to oppose Amendment 3. Amendment 3 gives the outgoing governor the right to appoint Court of Appeals judges and state Supreme Court justices if the judicial vacancy occurs at the same time as the governor is leaving office.
- **The League has no position on Amendment 2, Medical Marijuana,** as we have not engaged in Study to address this amendment.

This month is also important because it is time for our local League to offer input to State regarding the legislative priorities we think they should focus on. These priorities are related to our [State Study and Action 2013-2015 Guide](#), and the resultant priority issues the State League has identified. The 2013-14 priority issues can be found on the [state website](#).

As an example, this year we focused heavily on Medicaid expansion, natural resources, judicial merit retention, education, and immigration. Issues where we are already invested going forward include voter suppression and equity, immigration reform, and Medicaid expansion. Our local League will submit our recommendations for State legislative action very soon. [Please consider offering your input to our Board](#).

This is also that time of the year when our local League begins to think about next year--program planning, board nominations and changing roles, and our general meeting (in April). This year efforts have focused on Universal Curbside Recycling, Medicaid expansion, and Voter Service. Please send us your thoughts on these topics, look out for "save the date announcements," consider what issues excite you, and where you would like to be more involved.

We are actively looking for folks with talents in a variety of areas, included below. If you have an interest in those areas, or others where we already have efforts in place, or want to introduce a new initiative, [please let us know](#).

- Communication
- Social Media

St. Petersburg, FL 33733-11775

A large percentage of what you pay for an individual membership goes to support our state and national Leagues. **By selecting the new Gold or Silver membership level, most of your dues will help support the work of our local League.**

## Save the Date: November 19th

Are you a new member--or do you just want to get more from your League membership? **Mark your calendar now for our next Member Orientation!**

This is the time to mingle with other League members and to learn more about what the League does. We guarantee learning and camaraderie!

**WHAT:** Member Orientation

**WHEN:** Wed., Nov. 19th, 6:30 PM

**WHERE:** [League Office Boardroom, 233 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg](#)

On street parking is available, and refreshments will be served.

## LWVSPA Leadership

### Officers:

Julie Kessel, President  
Raechel Garafalo, 1st VP  
Pat Wood, 2nd VP  
Kathy Arsenault, Secretary  
Caroline Bloodworth, Treasurer

### Directors:

Wendy Grassi  
Jane Harper  
Ayele Hunt  
Jim Jackson  
Karen Knop  
Jack McCullough  
Kathy Mossier

### Administrative:

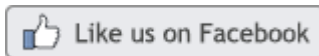
Susan Mayer, Information Manager  
and *Voter* Editor

Join Our Mailing List

- Fundraising
- Organizing

Our League is what we all make of it! Thank you for all that you do!

In League,  
Julie



Stay informed about what's  
going on at the LWVSPA!

St

## Volunteers Needed Immediately Please Read

It is predicted that the margin of victory for some races in the upcoming election will be razor-thin, making local canvassing boards' decisions critically important and heightening the need for some outside observation.

If you are available to attend a canvassing board meeting as an OBSERVER, please [email Rachael Garafalo](mailto:Rachael.Garafalo@lwvspa.org) or call her at 727-527-2309. All canvassing board meetings will take place at: [Election Service Center, 13001 Starkey Road, Largo](#).



Our most critical needs begin at **10:00 AM, Nov. 3rd and 4th**, and at **7:00 PM on Nov. 4th**. We also need volunteers from **Nov. 5th - 7th starting at 10:00 AM**. **When attending a meeting, please be sure to wear your League button.** [Click here](#) for a complete schedule of canvassing board meetings.

[This article by Steve Bousquet](#) provides some additional information regarding the need for our volunteer work following the election.

## Hot Topics Luncheon Coming Up Don't Miss It!

Our sister League, the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County, invites you to their November Hot Topics Luncheon on **Saturday, November 8th**.

The presentation begins at 10:00 AM, followed by lunch.

**Make your reservation by November 4th**

**ADMISSION:**

**\$17 League member (any League)**

**\$20 Guest**

To reserve, [click here](#), or call Ashley Pimley at 727-692-8450.

**Featured Speaker:**

[Susan Glickman](#), Florida Director, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

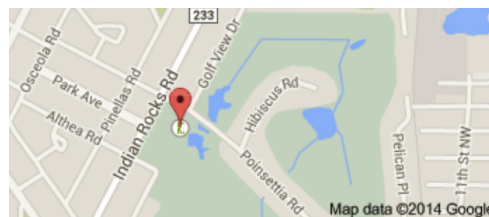
**Topic:**

**The Clean Energy Revolution: Solar Sidelined in Florida**

**Location:**

[Bellevue Biltmore Golf Club](#)

1501 Indian Rocks Road, Belleaire



## Voter Service...It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

### Down to the Wire

by Rachael Garafalo, Voter Service Chair

With the election just a few days away, I'm reflecting on the major efforts of the LWVSPA Voter Service Team volunteers, who've worked tirelessly to register, educate, and engage voters in the political process this season.

In this photo you see our Voter Registration guru, Karen Knop, setting up to register voters at the "Diversi-Tea: Writing Women Back Into History," luncheon hosted by the Business and Professional Women of St.Pete/Pinellas. What better venue to promote participation in democracy than at this annual Equality Day Tea event at which women exchange ideas on issues of equity!



Karen and her team have dedicated themselves to Voter Registration at dozens of events this season, resulting in the collection of 134 voter registrations, many from young people who will be voting for the first time in this election. Many thanks to these fantastic volunteers for their hard work.

The Voter Service team has also collaborated with several community organizations to bring about School Board, Legislative, and Municipal candidate forums this season. Some of our collaborative partners and cosponsors include Pinellas County Council of Parent Teacher Associations, Pinellas Education Foundation, St.Petersburg College, *Tampa Bay Times*, Bay News 9, Florida Nurses Association and the City of Seminole, to name a few.

Our crack website team of Ruth McCullough and Edie LeBas spent countless hours creating the totally web-based [LWV 2014 Pinellas County Voter Guide](#). Viewed close to 30,000 times since its inception, this site provides a wealth of information on judicial, county, state, and federal candidates and ballot measures. We've also distributed over 6000 printed versions of the non-partisan voter guides produced by the LWV of Florida as well as the *Florida Bar Association's Judicial Election Information* brochures.

Our education also extends to speaking engagements at which we clarified the ballot language and discussed the pros and cons of the three State Constitutional Amendments appearing on the 2014 general election ballot.

On a final note, as you know, there are many critical choices to be made in this mid-term election. The question is, will these decisions fall to the traditional few who turn out and vote or, can we make a difference by combining our efforts to increase voter turnout? Whether you volunteer to drive people

to the polls, take one friend to vote, or simply wear your ***I Voted*** sticker, let's work together to GET OUT THE VOTE in 2014!!!

If you'd like to participate in the LWVSPA's Voter Service committee activities, [please email me](#).

## Universal Curbside Recycling



### Time to Get Involved

by Karen Coale, LWVSPA Member of the People's Trash Coalition

On October 2nd, the St. Petersburg Sanitation Department presented a thorough report to City Council outlining our city's new Universal Curbside Recycling (UCR) service, including its timetable and the long term goal of achieving once weekly pick-up of trash and recyclable waste. This is a major milestone, and one that many of you helped to accomplish. I thank you.

As a follow up to that report, Kathy Mossing and I met with the city's Public Works Administrator, Mike Connors, on October 16th to discuss next steps.

**As we move into the next phase, we need your help.** First, to attend two upcoming City Council meetings, the first on **November 6th** where the proposed new city ordinance regarding UCR service will be read, and then again on **November 24th** when City Council will vote on that ordinance and the purchase of the associated trucks and recycling containers. Your presence matters. We will email and initiate a phone tree once we get the specific times on those dates, but **please put a hold on those dates now.**

Now is the time for all of us to increase our understanding of UCR's potential for our city. Then we will be better prepared to participate in and support the city-wide education efforts required to make this project a success.

If you have any questions, I would be delighted to hear from you at [recycling@lwwspa.org](mailto:recycling@lwwspa.org).

## Immigration Reform Update

### Back in Action After Our Summer Break

by Karen Coale, Immigration Working Group Chair

This working group recently met and defined our advocacy and educational focus for this League year.

With no movement at the federal level, we decided to look into state legislation regarding drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants. Our first step is to gather and analyze information from those states that have passed or are exploring such legislation. We would like this issue to be on the LWVF legislative agenda and will pursue that possibility via the LWVF immigration Committee, which I co-chair.

There is considerable misinformation regarding refugees, especially the unaccompanied children arriving at our southern borders from Central America. We are planning an educational event on the topic of refugees in the late January timeframe. looking at it from global, national, and local levels.



**There is a lot of exciting work associated with these activities, and we could use some additional help.** This working group has a lot of fun while becoming more informed on topical issues and attempting to make a difference in the lives of many who do not have the tools to advocate for themselves.

Our next meeting will be on November 19th at 10:00 AM , but do not wait until then. Email me now at [immigration@lwvspa.org](mailto:immigration@lwvspa.org).



## Some Thoughts About Voting

"Anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'" ~Isaac Asimov

"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting." ~Franklin D. Roosevelt

"The most important political office is that of the private citizen." ~Louis Brandeis

"Mankind will never see an end of trouble until... lovers of wisdom come to hold political power, or the holders of power... become lovers of wisdom." ~Plato

"The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all." ~Dwight D. Eisenhower

"This morning, we affirm that this struggle must, and will, go on in the cause of our nation's quest for justice - until every eligible American has the chance to exercise his or her right to vote, unencumbered by discriminatory or unneeded procedures, rules, or practices." ~ Eric Holder

"Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do." ~Wendell Berry

"In politics we presume that everyone who knows how to get votes knows how to administer a city or a state. When we are ill...we do not ask for the handsomest physician, or the most eloquent one." ~Plato

"In reality, there is no such thing as not voting: you either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and tacitly doubling the value of some Diehard's vote." ~David Foster Wallace

"The job facing American voters... in the days and years to come, is to determine which hearts, minds, and souls command those qualities best suited to unify a country rather than further divide it, to heal the wounds of a nation as opposed to aggravate its injuries, and to secure for the next generation a legacy of choices based on informed awareness rather than one of reactions based on unknowing fear." ~Aberjhani



[Check our calendar](#) for the latest schedule of League events.

**Monday, November 3rd, 2:00 PM**

International Relations Group Meeting

[Pinellas Park Library](#)

7770 52nd Street North

**Saturday, November 8th, 10:00 AM**

LWVNPC Hot Topics Luncheon

Guest Speaker, Susan Glickman, Florida Director, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

[Belleview Biltmore Golf Club](#)

1501 Indian Rocks Road, Belleaire

[Reservations required by Nov. 4th](#)

**Wednesday, November 12th, 6:30 PM**

Member Orientation

[League Office Boardroom](#)

233 3rd Street North

**Wednesday, November 19th, 10:00 AM**

Immigration Group Meeting

Home of Mary Berglund

[email for address and directions](#)

**Monday, December 1st, 2:00 PM**

International Relations Group Meeting

[Pinellas Park Library](#)

7770 52nd Street North



Caught on Camera...  
Candidate Forums--the League at Work



**LWVSPA Contact Information**

For further information, questions, or concerns, please contact us at 727.896.5197.  
League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area  
PO Box 11775, St. Petersburg, FL 33733  
office@lwvspa.org  
www.lwvspa.org



10/9/2020

Constant Contact : Emails : Details

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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#).

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [office@lwvspa.org](mailto:office@lwvspa.org) powered by

