



## THE VOTER

October 2018

### *Get Educated About the Constitutional Amendments*

Mail ballots will be landing in our mailboxes soon, which means it's finally time to vote on all of those constitutional amendments you've been hearing about for the past several months. But what do they actually mean? What impact will they have if they're passed - or if they fail?

**Election 2018**  
what's at stake?

Amendments!



Our [Voter Guide](#) can help you make sense of the constitutional amendments. You can read a synopsis of each amendment, find out what will happen if the amendment is passed or if it fails, and see who supports and opposes each amendment. The League has also taken positions on the amendments, and we've posted [those positions - and the League's reasoning behind each position - on our site.](#)

Finally, you'll have the opportunity to attend one of three educational events coming up next month that are focused around the amendments. If you've read through our materials and you still have questions, these events are a great opportunity to get them answered.

- Sunday, Oct. 14 @ 1-2 p.m., St. Petersburg Public Library, 3745 9th Ave. N, St. Petersburg
- Monday, Oct. 15 @ 5:30-6:30 p.m., James Weldon Johnson Branch Library, 1059 18th Ave. S, St. Petersburg
- Tuesday, Oct. 23 @ 7-8:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg, 100 Mirror Lake Dr. N, St. Petersburg



### *Help Protect the Vote on Election Day*



The LWV is a national partner in the non-partisan Election Protection Coalition, which focuses on election protection education and poll monitor recruitment for Election Day.

The initiative is led by Common Cause and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Pinellas County is one of the targeted counties in Florida.

The coalition is mobilizing thousands of volunteers to assist voters who encounter problems at the poll. Poll monitors will be the first line of defense to help people overcome any barriers to casting their vote.

Volunteers will receive a two-hour in-person Election Protection training and are asked to volunteer for at least one 4-hour shift on election day. Volunteers will distribute "Know Your Rights" cards to voters, answer basic voter questions and help resolve any problems that occur. Poll monitors will be supported by skilled legal professionals in county command centers.

The Election Protection program also provides Floridians with voting information and resources including a voter helpline: 866-OUR-VOTE and digital tools [866ourvote.org](http://866ourvote.org), [@866ourvote](https://www.facebook.com/866OurVote) and [facebook.com/866OurVote](https://www.facebook.com/866OurVote). For more information, please contact [Stephanie Owens](#) or [Caitlin Constantine](#).



## *Are You Ready to Vote?*

It's a little over a month before Election Day, so it's time to make sure that you and everyone you know are registered and ready to vote. Here's what you need to know:

- **The last day to register to vote is Oct. 9.** You can register online at [registertovoteflorida.gov](http://registertovoteflorida.gov) or by going to the [Supervisor of Elections offices](#).
- If you need to update your address or your signature, you have until Oct. 9 to do it.
- You can request a vote-by-mail ballot until Oct. 31. [Here's how to get one.](#)
- Early voting starts Oct. 22 and ends Nov. 4.
- There are 12 forms of identification you can use when you cast your vote; [here's the list.](#)
- Worried your vote-by-mail ballot might not count? Take these [4 simple steps](#) to make sure it does.

If you have any other questions that aren't addressed here, you can check out our [Voter Resources section](#) on the Voter Guide or contact us at the League office.



## *Upcoming Events*

### **Oct. 9: General Meeting**

6:15-7:45 p.m. @ Main Library, 3745 9th Ave. N, St. Petersburg  
[Facebook](#)

### **Oct. 16: Gun Safety and the Election**

7-8:30 p.m. @ Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg, 719 Arlington Ave. N., St. Petersburg  
[Facebook](#)

### **Oct. 16: St. Pete Autumn Solar Co-op Info Session**

6-7:30 p.m. @ Gladden Park Rec Center, 3901 30th Ave. N., St. Petersburg  
[Facebook](#)

### **Oct. 17: Cocktails & Conversation**

6-8 p.m. @ TBA

### **Oct. 19: Ben & Jerry's Amendment 4 Tour**

TBA @ Williams Park, 350 2nd Ave. N, St. Petersburg

### **Oct. 21: Solar: What, How and Why**

2-3:30 p.m. @ Sunshine Center, 330 5th St. N., St. Petersburg  
[Facebook](#)

### **Oct. 23: Amendments and the Election**

7-8:30 p.m. @ Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg, 719 Arlington Ave. N.,

St. Petersburg

**Oct. 25: Immigration Info Night**

6:30-8 p.m. @ LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg

**Oct. 30: St. Pete Votes: Early Voting Celebration**

4-8 p.m. @ St. Pete Shuffle, 559 Mirror Lake Dr. N, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

**Nov. 6: Party at the Polls**

4-7 p.m. @ The Artisan + Art & Food Collective, 2832 Beach Blvd S, Gulfport

[Facebook](#)



## *Action Alert: Single-Use Plastics Ordinances*

The City's Health, Environment, Resiliency & Sustainability (HERS) committee is meeting on Oct. 11 to discuss three ordinances involving single-use plastics in St. Petersburg.

The Sustainability Action is asking members to help by doing the following:

- Write or call HERS members asking them to support the plastics ordinances
- Attend the meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 11 at City Hall - and make sure to wear blue!

You can read more about [the ordinances](#) on our site.



## *Calling All Emerging League Leaders!*

Do you like interesting and interested people? Are you into engaging, rewarding initiatives? Want to be part of powerful and forward-looking strategies?

The Nominating Committee is currently looking for people who will make up the the 2019-2020 LWVSPA Board of Directors.

Board members do a lot, including:

- build leadership skills
- make things happen for the League and for the greater community
- set the direction of the LWVSPA
- expand their commitment to the League
- raise their individual visibility and influence in the St. Pete area

If this sounds like something you or someone you know might like to pursue, please contact Nominating Committee Chair [Amy Weintraub](#) to talk about the opportunity. LWVSPA elections are in April 2019.



## *What's Happening Around LWVSPA?*

The LWVSPA action teams and committees are hard at work on several issues that are of critical importance to our community.

Check out the updates below; **if you see something you're interested in, don't hesitate to reach out.** The action teams and committees can use all the help they can get.

**Sustainability**



The [Sustainability Action Team](#) is continuing to educate the community about the St. Pete Autumn Solar Co-op, with the next info sessions happening [Oct. 16](#) and [Nov. 15](#).

The team's next meeting will take place Monday, Oct 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Allendale UMC, 3803 Haines Rd, St. Petersburg. Email Co-chairs [Lisa Vanover](#), [Carol Marks](#) or [Jen Underhill](#) for more information.

### **Reproductive Rights & Justice**

Email Team Lead [Stacey Kroto](#) for more information about getting involved with this action group.

### **Education**

Email Team Leads [Robin Jones](#) or [Iris Yetter](#) for more information about getting involved with this action group.

### **Gun Safety**

The Gun Safety Action Team has developed its list of legislative priorities for submission to the state League. They're also getting ready to publish candidate positions & voting records on gun safety issues, which should be available next week at [lwvspa.org/gun-issues](http://lwvspa.org/gun-issues). In addition, they're working to build a coalition to address gun safety at a local level and studying best practices in preventing gun violence.

The next Gun Safety Action Team meeting will be held Monday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at Allendale United Methodist Church. Contact Team Lead [Sharon Winters](#) for more information.

### **Immigration**

The Immigration Action Team will be tabling and distributing immigration fact cards at the Saturday Morning Market on Oct. 20. The [information cards](#) aim to educate the public about the reality - not the myths - surrounding immigration in the U.S.

The action group will be holding its first quarterly Immigration Info Night on Oct. 25 at the LWVSPA office. If you'd like to get involved with the Immigration Action Team, email Team Lead [Karen Coale](#) for more information.

### **Membership Services**

If you're interested in helping out with the Membership Committee, contact Chair [Melanie Sheehan](#).

### **Media/Publicity**

The Media & Publicity committee is ramping up our efforts to increase our reach on social media! They're also working to get the word out about all of the League events and activities that are taking place.

This committee meets monthly on the 1st Thursday @ 5:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Amy Weintraub](#) for more information.

### **Voter Service**

The Voter Service team continues to be very active, educating voters about the constitutional amendments and tabling at events. They need lots of help, so if this is something you're interested in, now's the time to get involved!

The committee is meeting Tuesday, Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233



## *LWVF & LWVSPA in the News*

- [League of Women Voters warns against Amendment 5](#) (Florida Phoenix)
- [Florida politicians ducking debates, dodging questions in increasing numbers](#) (Orlando Sentinel)
- ['Trouble in Paradise' recommends protecting Florida's resources](#) (The Ledger)
- [Florida governor's push to name justices challenged in court](#) (Associated Press)
- [Gulfport Votes 100% encourages locals to hit the polls](#) (Gulfport Gabber)
- [Charter school backers sought to change Florida's constitution. The state's high court just knocked the effort off the ballot.](#) (Washington Post)



## *Community Events*

### **Oct. 7: Solar Tour**

9 a.m.- 1 p.m. @ St. Pete Ecovillage, 302 15th St. N, St. Petersburg  
[RSVP at the link](#)

### **Oct. 8: Climate, Health and Wellbeing Conference**

6:30-8 p.m. @ SPC Midtown Campus, 1300 22nd St. S, St. Petersburg  
Hosted by: Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions & Physicians for Social Responsibility  
[Facebook](#)

### **Oct. 12: 2018 Sunshine Seminar**

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. @ Poynter Institute, 801 3rd St. S St. Petersburg  
Hosted by: LWV Florida, SPJ Florida and First Amendment Foundation  
[Facebook](#)

### **Oct. 21: Communities Rising for Action: An Evening with Shannon Watts**

6-8:30 p.m. @ Temple B'nai Israel, 1685 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater  
Hosted by: The Women of Temple B'nai Israel  
[Facebook](#)

### **Oct. 25: Free MediaWise Workshop for Teens**

5:30-7:30 p.m. @ Poynter Institute, 801 3rd St. S, St. Petersburg  
Hosted by: The Poynter Institute  
[Facebook](#)



For Other  
Upcoming Events

Click here to visit our website for the latest updates on action group meetings and other events.



## *Membership: Are You Up for Renewal?*

**Join us. Renew your membership. We make a difference.**

*We need your support to continue our work in the community and at state and national levels. Whether you want to be an active member or a supporting member, your dues help advance the League's mission.*

We invite you to [renew today!](#)

[Renew / Join Now](#)

**We 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

\*Includes two members residing at the same address.

**Only \$6 of your basic membership goes to support the activities of the local league; a large percentage of what you pay for an individual membership goes to support our state and national Leagues. By selecting the Gold or Silver membership level, most of your dues will help support the work of our local League.**

You can also offer your financial support by upgrading your membership, offering an additional monthly, quarterly or annual donation, and encouraging others to do the same.

**Please also consider including the League in your estate planning.** Your gifts allow us to continue our education, advocacy and leadership programs to forward our mission in Making Democracy Work in the St Petersburg area. If you would like to discuss an estate planning contribution or other gift, please [contact our office](#).



## *2017-2018 League Leadership*

### **OFFICERS**

President: Julie Kessel

Second Vice President: Lisa Vanover

Secretary: Susan Mayer

Treasurer: Caroline Bloodworth

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Caitlin Constantine

Amanda Dodge

Raechel Garafalo

Linsey Grove

Ken Wrede

[Visit our website](#) for more information about our local leaders.

[Click here](#) for more information about our education and advocacy groups.

### **EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY LEADS**

Gun Safety: Sharon Winters

Immigration: Karen Coale, Lydia Castle

Health Care: Julie Kessel

Reproductive Rights: Stacey Kroto

Campaign Finance Reform/Social Justice:

Julie Kessel, Karen Lieberman

Education: Robin Jones, Iris Yetter

Voter Service: Raechel Garafalo

Sustainability: Lisa Vanover

International Relations: Judy McSwine

Media/Publicity Lead: Amy Weintraub

Office Administrator: Julia Sharp



League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

[Email](#) | [Website](#)

Telephone: 727-896-5197



**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.**