

THE VOTER

October 2020



Letter from the President

The League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area expresses our condolences to the family of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and to all those for whom she was a friend, colleague or mentor. For many of us, Justice Ginsburg embodied the strategic brilliance of women across this country and across the world who have fought to be recognized as equals in our work, education, and under the law. She was a giant in her judicial prowess, courage, and tenacity. And she knew the value of dissent in a democracy, the importance of dissent to change things over time. As we march towards election day, and we focus on protecting the right to vote, one particular dissent comes to the fore. In *Shelby County v. Holder*, when the ruling of the majority gutted the Voting Rights Act, Justice Ginsburg wrote in her stinging dissent that throwing out the protections that had worked and were working to decrease discrimination in our voting systems was like "throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet." And she was right. We continue to fight the discriminatory voter suppression tactics that have rained down since.

Justice Ginsburg's intelligence, honesty and fearlessness in speaking truth to power, in fighting for equality and justice, is evident throughout her journey to and time on our country's highest court. It is our duty to carry her legacy of courage and strength forward as we continue to fight for the civil rights of others and work towards a more just and equitable society. Many of us are mourning, not only for her as an incredible role model and icon, but also for her judicial firewall against attacks on our most basic rights. It is up to us now to take up her torch and light a thousand more. May Ruth Bader Ginsburg's memory be an inspiration for what we all have to give to our community and our country – at the ballot box this year and beyond – to make it a more just a place.

*In League,
Lindsey Grove*





Monday October 5 is the **LAST DAY** to Register for the 2020 General Election

Spread the word and share the League's social media posts. Make sure your friends, family and neighbors are registered. It takes 5 minutes at www.RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov

Even if you're sure that you're already registered, double check your registration status and details! You can also do this at www.RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov

Already received your mail ballot? Remember to sign the ballot envelope and put your phone/email on it too, just in case there is an issue with your signature. And be sure it is returned to the Supervisor of Elections by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

From Sept. 29-Oct. 18, you can put your mail ballot in the U.S. mail (no stamp needed) or bring it to one of the three Supervisor of Election offices [Supervisor of Election Offices](#) during regular opening hours. And from Oct. 19-Nov. 2, there will be [25 ballot drop off locations](#) around Pinellas County!

Our Election and Voting Protection Team is here to answer your voting questions. Just email us at VotingQuestions@LWVSPA.org!

Check Out The League's Voter Guide!



**Inform yourself.
Know your options.**

[Pinellas Voter Guide](#) is LIVE with information about all the candidates and issues on your ballot!

Early Voting Starts October 19

[Early Voting](#) will be open from October 19 to November 1, from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at these five locations:

- 501 1st Avenue N, St. Petersburg
- 13001 Starkey Road, Largo
- 315 Court Street, Room 117, Clearwater
- The Centre of Palm Harbor, 1500 16th St., Palm Harbor
- SPC Allstate Center, 3200 34th St. S, St. Petersburg

Pinellas County residents can go to any early voting location in the county no matter where in the county they live! Photo and signature identification are required. Find the list of acceptable forms of identification [HERE](#)

Ballot Measures on the 2020 General Election Ballot

The League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area recommends voting YES on Amendment 2, YES for Schools, and NO on the rest.

Read [our positions](#) on this year's proposed Constitutional Amendments and Pinellas County School Board Referendum.

And you can [read an analysis](#) from the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas about the Clearwater Referendum on the Lease of Open Space for Light Industrial Use.



A Halloween-themed poster for a drag event. The title "A LITTLE HOCUS POCUS DRAG OUT THE VOTE" is written in a stylized font at the top. Below the title is a photo of three drag queens in elaborate costumes. To the right of the photo, the event details are listed: "FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 7-8 PM @LWVSPA FACEBOOK LIVE & YOUTUBE". Below that, the performers are listed: "STARRING DAPHNE FERRERO KATHRYN NEVETS CHI CHI LALIQUE". At the bottom right is the LWV logo and the text "LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA". The background is purple with yellow spider webs and a black cat icon on the left.



Be an Election Protection Poll Monitor!

The Election Protection Coalition is gearing up for the General Election, and we need you! Previous Election Protection volunteers and new volunteers welcome! We have lots of



safe and socially distanced ways for you to help ensure every registered voter who wants to vote is able to do so and have it count.

We're recruiting non-partisan volunteers for Early Voting and on Election Day!

- Do you want to assist voters and monitor potential voting issues on the ground in Pinellas County?

Email us at:

VoterProtection@LWVSPA.org

- Are you social media savvy and interested in helping to combat mis/disinformation online?

Sign up here: <https://protectthevote.net/?source=lwvspa>

- Are you interested in taking part in phone- and text-banking efforts to make sure voters have the info they need?

Sign up here: <https://protectthevote.net/?source=lwvspa>

- Do you have a legal background?

Sign up here: <https://electionprotection.wetheaction.org/>



October Events - RSVP Today!

RSVP



**Tuesday, October 20
6-7:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting**

RSVP to receive a meeting link

LWVSPA ALL MEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Our General Meeting for members and prospective members is an opportunity to get the latest updates of the vital work being done by members so that you can best find your place as an active and involved member. In spite of meeting in a virtual space, you'll be able to communicate directly with League leaders and other members.

As one of the most active advocacy and policy education groups in Pinellas County, the League currently has teams working on the following:

- Voter Guide
- Voter Registration
- Voter Education and Outreach & Candidate Forums
- Census
- Election & Voter Protection
- Immigration
- National Popular Vote
- Food Politics
- Social Justice
- Environmental Sustainability

Get information on all the League's strategies to influence change. Discover how you can put to work your unique talents and skills. ***There is a job for everyone!***



RSVP

**Food Politics, Digital Dining
Thursday, October 22, 2020
6:30 pm - 7:45 pm
RSVP by Oct. 21st**

St. Petersburg City Councilwoman Gina Driscoll will join us to discuss the newly approved independent Food Policy Council and what's being done to address food insecurity in St Petersburg. Anyone interested in supporting a multipronged approach to solve food insecurity in St Petersburg will want to attend this event.

Community outreach partners include: Foundation for a Healthy St Pete, St Pete Free Clinic, One Community Grocery Co-op, Wunderfarms, Sustainable Urban Agriculture Coalition, and St Petersburg Plant Society.

As part of our event, we encourage everyone to move along in their journey to a plant-centered diet, so we've identified some terrific plant-based dining partners. Please choose an awesome dinner meal, call it in, pick it up, be safe, and head back home to share this digital dining adventure with us.

Baja's Southern Cooking and More
<http://bajassoutherncooking.com>

Orders must be made by 5:30pm, and picked up by 6pm. Curbside pickup and payment only.

Chief's Creole Cafe
<http://www.chiefscreolecafe.com/>

Left Bank Bistro
<https://www.theleftbankbistro.com/>

Lucy's Vegan Café
<https://www.lucysvegan.com/>

Orders must be made by 4:45pm, and picked up by 5pm.

Rain Japanese and Sushi
<http://rainsushi.com/>

Taquitos Mexican
<https://www.taquitosmex.com/>



Confused by Immigration Headlines and Posts on Social Media?

Be an informed voter. [Check-out our Team's Immigration Fact Sheets](#)

We provide authenticated and current information about topics such as the Border Wall with Mexico, DACA, Green Card Status, Refugees, Asylees and Temporary Protective Status.

And also mark your calendars to attend the monthly virtual Immigration work session.

**Monday, October 26th
1:30 p.m.**

Contact kcoale@tampabay.rr.com for code to join the Zoom meeting and/or if you have questions.

Karen Coale, Immigration Action Team Lead
(727) 204 - 9141

October Committee Meetings

Fund Development

October 7, Wednesday -- 12pm – 1pm

Virtual Meeting Information:

<https://www.gotomeet.me/LWVSPA/office>

Social Justice Team Meeting

October 8, Thursday -- 7:00 – 8:00pm

Virtual Meeting Information meet.google.com/oqz-zbxn-mcp

Join by phone

(US) +1 508-835-8147 PIN: 523 548 931#

Food Politics

October 19, Monday -- 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Virtual Meeting Information <https://meet.google.com/ioc-atgf-jxb>

Immigration Action

October 26, Monday -- 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Zoom video conference. **Contact kcoale@tampabay.rr.com for code to join the meeting or questions**

Voter Services

October 27, Tuesday -- 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Conference Call 605-472-5621

Meeting Access Code. 555498

Membership

October 28, Wednesday -- 6pm – 7pm

Contact chair, Amy Weintraub at amyw304@gmail.com for meeting information

Mark Your Calendar

**NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE SUMMIT
December 8, 2020**

What's in Store for National Popular Vote?

Floridians for National Popular Vote are planning a virtual summit December 8 to strategize and prepare for the 2021 Legislative Session. The National Popular Vote guarantees the winner in all 50 states becomes president. It goes into effect when States have committed 270 electors (the majority of 538). We currently stand at 196. The NPV doesn't require a Constitutional Amendment and can be reversed the same way it is installed.....State by State. Legislators decide how their state directs their electors to vote. The current Winner-Take-All system disenfranchises 3/4 of all voters in 3/4 of all states.

For more information visit WWW.FloridiansForNPV.com or contact Deb@CoachMaz.com, T. 727.258.8015 M. 941.350.5723



Meet Your New Volunteer Services Co-Coordinator!

Greetings League Members,

You joined the League because you want to make a difference. Thank you! Let the new Volunteer Services Co-Coordinator, Gina Burchenal and Nita Carroll help find the perfect volunteer gig for you. Just a few options to put your skills to work while furthering the League's mission include: Writing postcards, texting, or phone banking from the comfort of your home; helping with social media campaigns; voter registration; poll monitoring; running video conferences and helping other members get logged in; and event coordination.

Email Gina and Nita at volunteer@lwvspa.org with the skills you'd like to offer and the amount of time you can commit. We'll get you plugged in to the League and the meaningful work that happens everyday thanks to volunteers like you. Stay tuned for more from your Volunteer Services Team



Nita Carroll

Nita is an attorney at DSK Law. She graduated from Stetson College of Law in 1995 and has practiced law locally (save a several year adventure to Austin, TX and Asheville, NC) since that time. Prior to law school, Nita graduated from USF - Tampa, HCC, and Hillsborough High School in Tampa. During her stays in Austin and Asheville, she



Gina Burchenal

For over 2 decades Gina has worked in almost every facet of the restaurant and catering profession while starting up her own business, Gina's Kitchen, a supper club, cooking commissary and catering company in Austin, Texas. She has been a member of Les Dames d'Escoffier since 2005, past President of the Austin

worked at several non-profits, including a domestic violence service provider as a Systems Advocate. In addition to her professional social justice work, Nita has been involved in the movement to end gender-based violence since her first year of law school. She has also volunteered as a literacy tutor for both children and adults.

Nita loves to create. Her current hobbies/interests include: painting, beading, sewing, embroidery, cooking. She loves a good spreadsheet and overall organizational tools too. She's learning to play Dungeons and Dragons, her character is Ha'zel, a Druid Wood Elf. She's also getting back to her family's roots in gardening, pun not intended but a happy accident.

Questions and/or additional information please contact Nita at shepherdnita@yahoo.com (727) 656-8545

chapter, and Co-Chair for the Austin LDEI Conference. Gina is also a founding member and past president of The Austin Food and Wine Alliance. Currently, Gina lives in Largo, Florida with her husband Ken and their Tibetan Spaniel, Lucca. She is working on a book and on the Advisory board for Andean Spirits, a new Ecuadorian liquor brand called Chawar.



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 :

- Gold for \$250*
- Silver for \$125*
- Household for \$78*
- Individual for \$52
- Student for \$26

*Includes two members residing at the same address.

Note that LWVSPA keeps only about \$7 (!) of your basic dues paid at the Individual (\$52) or Household (\$78) levels. The rest goes to LWV-FL and LWV-US. Your local League has to raise almost all of its funds with voluntary contributions.

If you join at our Gold level (\$250) or Silver level (\$125), all the extra dues stay with our local League and we will recognize your

generosity at our Annual Meeting.

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.

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.**

The following memberships are up for renewal during this 4-month span. We invite you to **renew today!**

October 2020

Faith Alford
Kelsey Anderson
Celia Dunn Clarke
Robin Connearney
Caitlin Crowley
Robin Ferguson
Kathy Forde
Joanne Friedland
Lynn Fruit
Kimberly Gillespie
Corey Givens Jr.
Linnea Goodwin
Susan Griffin
Jenna Hart

M. Diane Hodson
Jessica Jones
Bilan Joseph
Meaghan Keeler Pettigrew
Rita Knorr
Deb Mazzaferro
Rhyia Miller
Marilyn Pocius
Sue Price
Kendall Reid
Sydni Ann Shollenberger
Wendy Snyder
Jane Weagle
Wendy Wesley
Sharon Winters

September 2020

Sylvia Babus
Meryl Blackman
Justine Blake
Derya Dolan
Michael Finnerty
Rene Flowers
Jan Hager
Jessica Hagewood
Diana Hammer
Jordan Johnson
Karen Lieberman
Dina May

Anysia McDowall
Gerald McPherson
Rebecca Nero
Bruce Nissen
Stephanie Owens
Alison Quinn
Baron Reichenbach
Sara Smith
Maria Celia Villac
Sarah Willford
Sheree Wysocki
Laurel Zimmer

Sylvia Babus
Meryl Blackman
Justine Blake
Derya Dolan
Michael Finnerty
Rene Flowers
Jan Hager
Jessica Hagewood
Diana Hammer
Jordan Johnson
Karen Lieberman
Dina May

Anysia McDowall
Gerald McPherson
Rebecca Nero
Bruce Nissen
Stephanie Owens
Alison Quinn
Baron Reichenbach
Sara Smith
Maria Celia Villac
Sarah Willford
Sheree Wysocki
Laurel Zimmer

August 2020

Marsha Baker
Suzanne Dudley
Amy Durand
Sydney Frasca
Laura Myerson
Leigh Parks
Naya Payne
Bailey Peterson

Ann Rascoe
Lena Rogachevsky
Rachel Stanger
Patricia Talmadge Brewer
Carol Ulmer
Kimberly Walker
Lola Ward
Cassandra Williams

July 2020

Evelyn Baran
Elinor Bonanni
Jennifer Boyd
Theresa Darlington
Celia Fite

Lisset Hanewicz
Daniel Hoekenga
Stacey Kroto
Molly Nelson



2020-2021 League Leadership

OFFICERS

President: Linsey Grove
First Vice President: Robin Davidov
Second Vice President: Amy Keith
Secretary: Ken Wrede
Treasurer: Gina Gallo

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ama Appiah
Nita Carroll
Ann Dieterle
Beate Marston

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

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

EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, COMMITTEE LEADS

Voter Service: Robin Davidov, Maryellen Gordon, Caitlin Constantine, Amy Keith
Gun Safety: On hiatus
Immigration: Karen Coale
Reproductive Rights: On hiatus
Census: Gina Gallo
Food Politics: Julie Kessel, Jen Underhill, Wendy Wesley
Sustainability: Laura Crabtree
National Popular Vote: Deb Mazzaferro, Marty Shapiro
International Relations: Judy McSwine
Social Justice: Linsey Grove, Stacey Kroto
Media/Publicity: TBD
Membership: Amy Weintraub
Nominating: Amy Weintraub
Office Administrator: Julia Sharp



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.