

# THE VOTER

October 2025

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Your local league is as busy as ever!

In September, we hosted a meeting with Pinellas County Schools Superintendent Kevin Hendrick and Board Chair Laura Hine, hosted an immigration panel with immigrants' rights experts and advocates from USF, ACLU of FL, and FL Immigrant Coalition, and we spoke publicly to our state elected officials at the annual Pinellas County Legislative Delegation meeting in favor of public schools and against mid-decade redistricting.

I invite you to join us this month for one of our many events. October is packed with opportunities for us to learn, connect, and take action together. In particular, I want to highlight three special events that you do not want to miss:

- **Sip & Strategize: Stop Mid-Decade Redistricting, this Saturday, October 4 from 12-2 p.m. at 3 Daughters Brewing:** Join us for a training on how we can stop mid-decade redistricting. Come ready to take action immediately after the training. Spots are limited, so [RSVP now!](#)
- **Advocacy Training (LWVSPA members only) on Saturday, October 18, from 1-5 p.m. at Allendale United Methodist Church:** This workshop will feature seasoned LWVSPA advocates and hands-on learning designed to strengthen advocacy skills across all of our local league's issues, including social justice, education, national popular vote, and reproductive rights. [RSVP here.](#)
- **All-Member Meeting: Tampa Bay Area Leagues with LWVFL President Jessica Lowe-Minor, on Thursday, October 23 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Allendale United Methodist Church:** Hear updates from our new LWVFL President, and more about the important work happening across our Tampa Bay Area leagues. [RSVP today.](#)

These events are an excellent opportunity to deepen your engagement and your knowledge, and to strengthen our collective impact as we continue to work tirelessly to defend democracy. I look forward to seeing you at one (or all!) of our special events this month!

In League,  
Jackie Azis  
League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area President

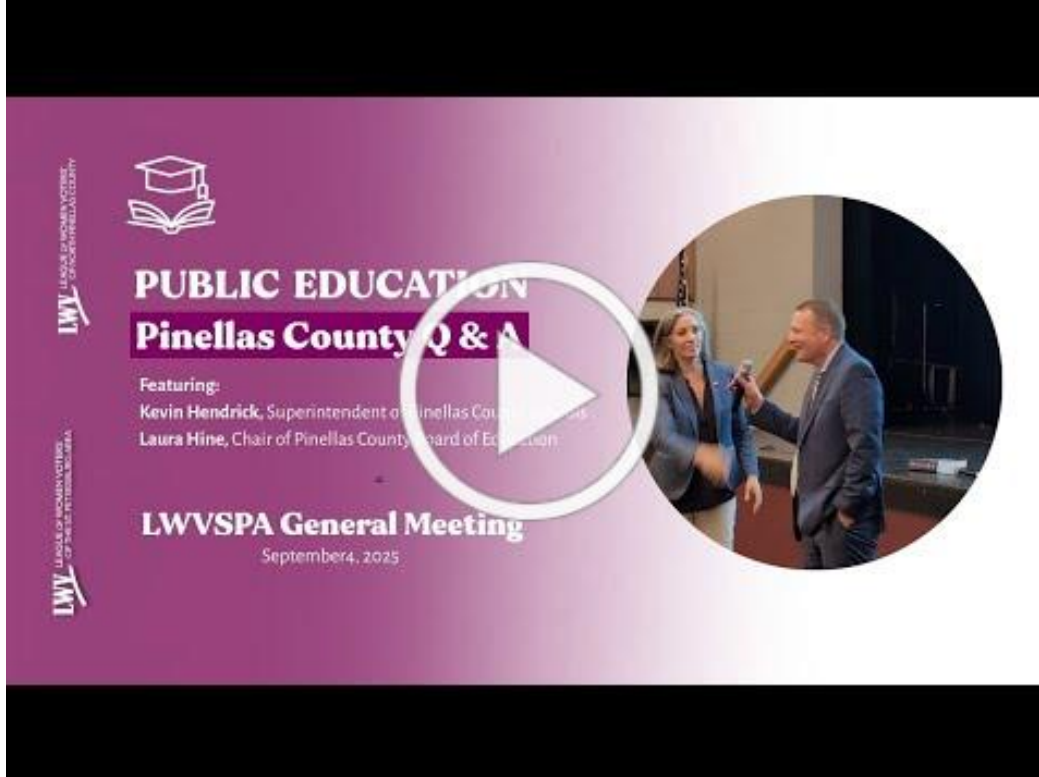
# LWVSPA IN THE COMMUNITY

## Univision's Coverage of the LWVSPA-Sponsored Labor Day Event



Check out Univision's coverage of the LWVSPA-sponsored event on Labor Day 2025, where we created GIANT HUMAN LETTERS as an aerial-viewed art installation. On Spa Beach at the St. Pete Pier, participants spelled out our message "**UNITE & RISE**" with their bodies.

## Recording of LWVSPA General Meeting: Focus on Education



For those unable to attend, we are able to provide video from our All-Member meeting! Hear Pinellas County Schools Superintendent, Kevin Hendrick, and School Board Chair, Laura Hine, answer questions from LWVSPA Focus on Education in Pinellas County Schools. [View his slide presentation here.](#)

## Recording of Yearning to Breathe Free: Updates on the Fight for Immigrants' Rights in Florida



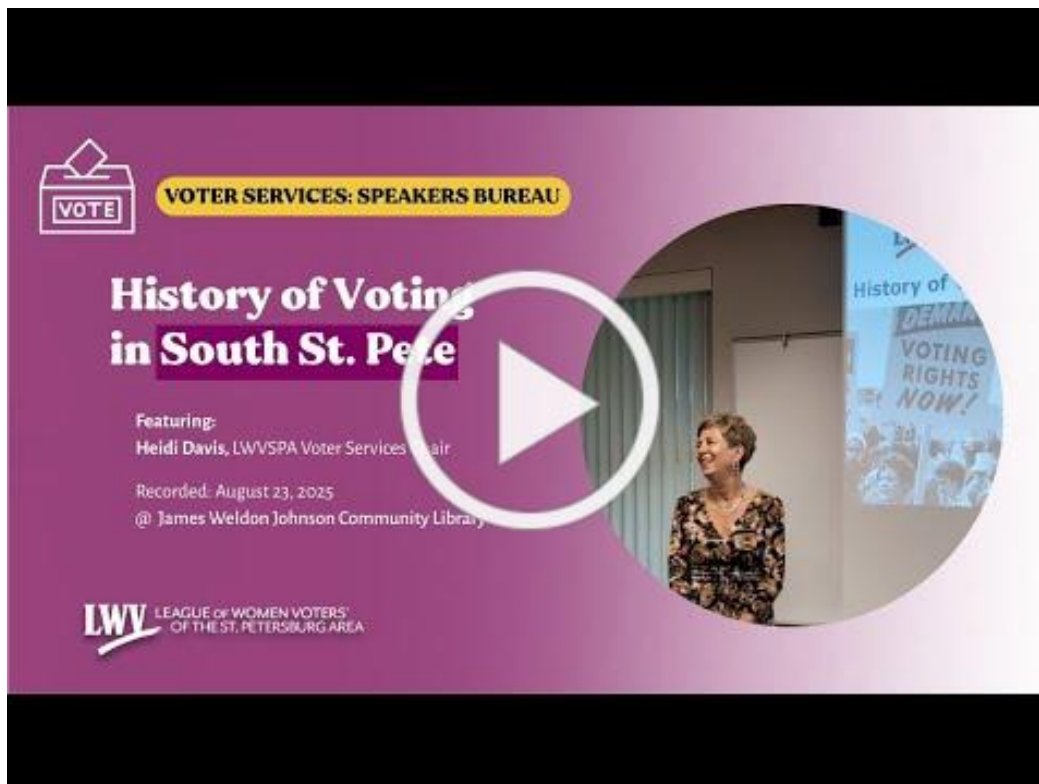
Florida's immigration landscape is rapidly shifting. On 9/9 we organized a timely conversation with advocates and community leaders as they broke down the latest policy changes, enforcement trends, lawsuits, and their real-life impact on immigrant communities. Whether you're an organizer, concerned citizen, or ally, this panel will provide the insights and tools you

need to stay informed and take action for a more just and welcoming Florida.

Featuring Panelists:

Amy Godshall, Staff Attorney, ACLU of Florida Immigrants' Rights Campaign  
Renata Bozzetto, PhD, Deputy Director, Florida Immigrant Coalition  
Professor Elizabeth Aranda, University of South Florida, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Immigrant Well-Being Research Center  
Rev. Brittany Leclair, Pastor, First United Methodist Church of Pinellas Park

## Recording of the History of Voting in South St. Pete with Heidi Davis



Heidi Davis from our Voter Services team presents the History of Voting in South St Pete, focusing on voting history, important moments, and the people who worked to expand voting rights for everyone. Learn more about the journey of democracy in St. Pete and why your participation truly matters.

**Subscribe to our YouTube for More LWVSPA Videos!**



Voter Services volunteers have been out in the community sharing information about Renewing Vote By



Voter Services volunteers Martha Lenderman, Laura Williamson and David Westmark attended the

Mail requests and talking with residents about voting resources:

On September 5, volunteers met with Seniors in Service volunteers at the Sunshine Center.



Elevance Health Community Resource Fair at the Sanderlin Center in South St. Petersburg on Sept 11.

Lots of voters came by to renew their vote by mail requests.



On September 19, Voter Services volunteers tabled at the Westminster Health Fair.

LWVSPA volunteers Flora Maria Garcia and Mary Russell (pictured) were with Laura Williamson at SPC Gibbs for their Constitution Day Preamble Party sharing voter education materials.

In addition to the lively trivia competition, lots of 16 year olds learned that they can register to vote!



LWVSPA volunteers at a fun National Voter Registration Day event led by Government Professor, Tara Newsom at the SPC Downtown campus. First, the students each got up and presented a piece of art or poem they wrote about democracy. Then, they played a game of Jeopardy with questions about our Government and democracy.

Great turnout for LWVSPA volunteers Kristen Ehrlich, Emily Fletty, Mary Hanrahan and Laura Williamson. Joining them were LWVSPA volunteers Haley Fletty and Laurie Lahey, who are the on-campus sponsors for the future USFSP LWV league. Students stopped by for donuts, to register or check their registration status, and indicate their interest in the USFSP chapter. We had great conversations with students who weren't aware they could register in FL. A great morning for all.



The Parent Advocacy League met up at the Pier on 9/22.



Voter Services volunteer Ruth Barrens talked with an event attendee about vote by mail requests at the Tampa Bay Times Spotlight event at the Palladium on September 24, 2025.



Pinellas League Leaders spoke up against gerrymandering at the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation! [Read the article here](#)

*in the*  
**NEWS**

WFLA covered LWVSPA's panel on immigrant's rights. [Read here](#)



## REMINDERS

# UPCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

on November 4, 2025



## ELECTION DEADLINE

### APPROACHING

Take action today

**For the City of Seminole (Mayoral Election)**

**Registration Required by October 6, 2025**

**Visit our “[Get Election Ready](#)” link to check your registration status.**



Election Day is November 4, 2025, and will be held ONLY in the City of Seminole (Mayoral Election).

The St. Pete Beach for District 4 has been CANCELED.

#### **Key Deadlines:**

- Register to Vote: October 6th
- Mail Ballot Request Deadline: 5 pm October 23rd
- Mail Ballot Return Deadline: 7 pm on November 4th (postmark date doesn't count)
- Polls Open November 4th: 7 am to 7 pm

To request a mail ballot, visit [VotePinellas.gov](http://VotePinellas.gov), or call (727) 464-VOTE (8683).

You can also visit our “Get Election Ready” link [here](#).

#### **HOW TO RETURN A BALLOT**

Mail Ballots must be received at one of the Supervisor of Elections Offices by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

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.

## 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 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>**

### **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.**  
If you have any questions please  
email [office@lwvspa.org](mailto:office@lwvspa.org).



## UPCOMING ALL-MEMBER EVENTS

### Keyboard Warrior Day of Action “No” to Redistricting



Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025  
Time: All day

Across Florida, Leagues are united: No mid-decade redistricting because voters should choose their elected officials, not the other way around.

The LWVSPA Communications Team is developing a social media toolkit for use on the statewide **LWV Day of Action** this coming Saturday to **stop mid-decade redistricting**. On Friday, a toolkit will land in your email inbox full of graphics and captions to choose from. On Saturday, you will post on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, BlueSky, or anywhere you roam online. Please sign up now to do your part. From Pensacola to Miami, Leagues are raising our voices against gerrymandering.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



## Historic Trolley Tour of the St. Pete African American Heritage Trail



Oct 04, 2025 10:00am - Oct 04, 2025 12:00pm



Tropicana Lot 4  
198 17th St S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
[View on map](#)

Join us for the African American Heritage Association's trolley tour of the historic Deuces neighborhood. Open to LWVSPA members only.

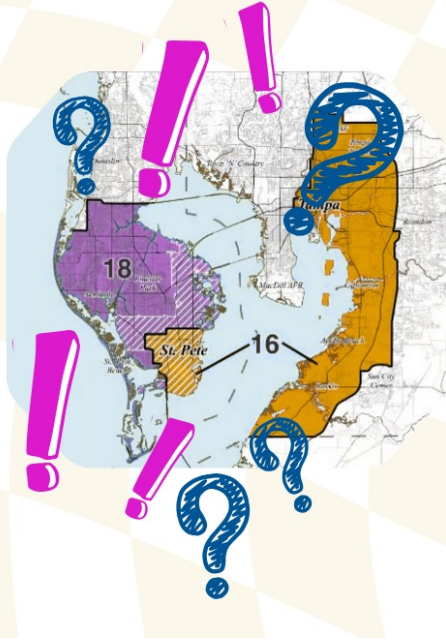
The tour meets at Tropicana Field's Lot 4.  
Parking is available in Lot 1.

Please show up about 10-15 minutes early to sign in. The trolley will leave promptly at 10:15am. The tour lasts about 1 hour and 30 minutes. The trolley will return to Lot 4 after the tour is complete.

Please note that there are no restrooms available on the trolley or at any of the tour stops.

[RSVP HERE](#)

# SIP & STRATEGIZE: STOP MID-DECADE REDISTRICTING



**Saturday 10/4, 12 - 2 PM**

**3 Daughters Brewing in  
The Nook Room: 222 22nd St. S.**

**Come ready to learn about state  
leaders' threat to further  
gerrymander Florida's congressional  
districts, and be prepared to take  
action immediately to stop mid-  
decade redistricting!**

**LWVSPA and Common Cause will  
provide one drink ticket per attendee  
and light appetizers.**

**RSVP: [lwvspa.org/events](http://lwvspa.org/events)**

Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025  
Time: 12:00pm-2:00pm

Please join LWVSPA Board Member and Common Cause Florida Executive Director Amy Keith to "Sip & Strategize":

- Learn more about state leaders' threat to further gerrymander Florida's congressional districts, in violation of the Florida Constitution.
- Take immediate action to influence our local legislators to oppose mid-decade redistricting.

LWVSPA and Common Cause will provide one drink ticket per attendee and light appetizers. We will be in the "Nook Room."

Come ready to learn and take action immediately to stop mid-decade redistricting!

**RSVP HERE**

# Voter Registration Volunteer Training **MEMBERS ONLY**

**Wednesday 10/15**

**6:30 PM**

**Zoom**

**Registration**

**Required**



Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025  
Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

Amy Keith will lead us through Voter Registration training, LWVSPA practices, and key facts needed to pass the LWVFL Quiz. LWVSPA members who are interested in Voter Services must pass this quiz to be certified to table at events. For our seasoned volunteers, LWVFL is not requiring everyone to retake the quiz, but join us anyway to share your experience!

This date replaces the usual monthly meeting previously scheduled for 10/15.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED – LWVSPA members only.**

[RSVP HERE](#)



**10.18.2025**  
9:30 - 11am

**WE SAY  
NO KINGS**

From one of the largest days of protest in US history to the daily act of organizing in every congressional district in this country, Americans are standing up against authoritarianism.

**Join St Petersburg to  
TAKE A STAND**

**Tyrone Square Mall:  
66 St & Tyrone Blvd  
and 66 St & 22 Ave N**

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2025  
Time: 9:30am-11:00am

Our peaceful movement is only getting bigger and stronger. "NO KINGS" is more than just a slogan—it's the foundation our nation was built upon. Born in the streets, carried by millions in chants and on posters, it echoes from city blocks to rural town squares, uniting people across this country to fight dictatorship together.

The president thinks his rule is absolute. But in America, we don't have kings, and we won't back down against chaos, corruption, and cruelty. Grow our movement and join us.

Where: Tyrone Mall along 66th Street (outside) – Tyrone Blvd and 22nd Ave at 66th Street.

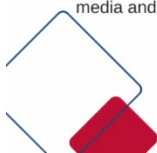
[REGISTER HERE](#)



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

# ADVOCACY Training

Turn policy ideas into skillful advocacy and organizing. Learn best practices in influencing change with elected officials, while engaging the media and the general public.



*LWV members only*

**SAT, OCT 18**

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM | Allendale UMC | Registration required

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2025

Time: 1:00pm-5:00pm

Hear from seasoned LWVSPA advocates and engage in hands-on learning to build and strengthen skills for issue advocacy — particularly issues in the LWVSPA Program. Whether someone is new to advocacy or has years of experience, they will leave the workshop with messages, step-by-step tools, and the practice they need to feel ready to make a difference.

In addition to whole-group plenaries and action team meetings, break-out sessions will include these workshops on tactics:

- Engaging and Influencing Elected Officials
- Using the press (Getting in Print, media events)
- Online Communications (Effective action alerts, social media)
- Action in the Public Square (Hosting powerful events: protests, panel discussions, town halls, webinars)

We will meet at Allendale United Methodist Church.

**Open to LWVSPA Members only.**

[RSVP HERE](#)

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS\*  
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

**Parent Advocacy League**

**PUMPKIN  
DECORATING**

*For Democracy*

**SUN OCT 19, 4-6 PM**  
ST. PETE PIER  
(PLAYGROUND PICNIC TABLES)

Buy pumpkins at the Pier Pumpkin Patch  
or BYOP • Kid-friendly • Decorating  
supplies provided • Open to All

## Pumpkins for Democracy: PAL Interest Meetup



Oct 19, 2025 04:00pm - Oct 19, 2025 06:00pm



St. Pete Pier (playground picnic tables)  
600 2nd Ave NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
[View on map](#)

Join the League of Women Voters' Parent Advocacy League (PAL) for a relaxed, family-friendly meetup at the Pier. Start at the St. Pete Pier Pumpkin Patch where pumpkins of all sizes are available for purchase or BYOP—bring your own pumpkin. Then meet us at the playground picnic tables to decorate your pumpkin with pro-democracy messages using the art supplies we'll provide (we'll have sample phrases to spark ideas).

It's a fun way to meet PAL families and League members, learn what PAL does, and find simple, doable ways to get involved. All are welcome: League members and non-members.

Cost: Free to attend; decorating supplies provided and pumpkins available for purchase at the patch next door (no admission fee).

Accessibility: Outdoor picnic tables; restrooms on site.

**RSVP HERE**

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



## Florida Holocaust Museum

Join LWVSPA's Social Justice Action Team as we tour the newly renovated FHM. Space is limited - RSVP is required.

**Tuesday 10/21**

**5:30 pm**

**55 5th St. S., St. Petersburg**

### Florida Holocaust Museum Tour



Oct 21, 2025 05:30pm



The Florida Holocaust Museum  
55 5th St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
[View on map](#)

Join LWVSPA's Social Justice Action Team as we tour the newly renovated Florida Holocaust Museum. Space is limited - RSVP is required.

**RSVP HERE**

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ALL-MEMBER MEETING FOR TAMPA BAY AREA LEAGUES

WITH LWV OF FL PRESIDENT  
JESSICA LOWE-MINOR

Get updates on the League's work at the state level from LWV of FL President Jessica Lowe-Minor, and learn about the important work that your local Tampa Bay area leagues are doing!



**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD**

Doors open at 5:30  
Program is from 6:00-7:30  
Light refreshments will be provided.

A recording will be posted to YouTube for those unable to attend.

Allendale UMC Sanctuary  
3803 Haines Rd. N.  
St. Petersburg FL 33703



Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025  
Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm

Get updates on the League's work at the state level from **League of Women Voters of Florida President Jessica Lowe-Minor** and learn about the important work that your local Tampa Bay area leagues are doing!

We will meet in the Sanctuary of Allendale UMC.  
A recording will be posted to LWVSPA's YouTube for those unable to attend.

Childcare will be available during the meeting; if you need that service, please fill out the form that appears on the RSVP confirmation page.

RSVP HERE



## October Cocktails & Conversation



Oct 28, 2025 05:30pm



The Hangar Restaurant & Flight Lounge  
540 1st St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

[View on map](#)

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.

Our October event will be at the Hangar Restaurant & Flight Lounge.

If you're feeling festive or spooky, feel free to wear something Halloween-y for our Oct. 28 Cocktails & Conversation — strictly voluntary!

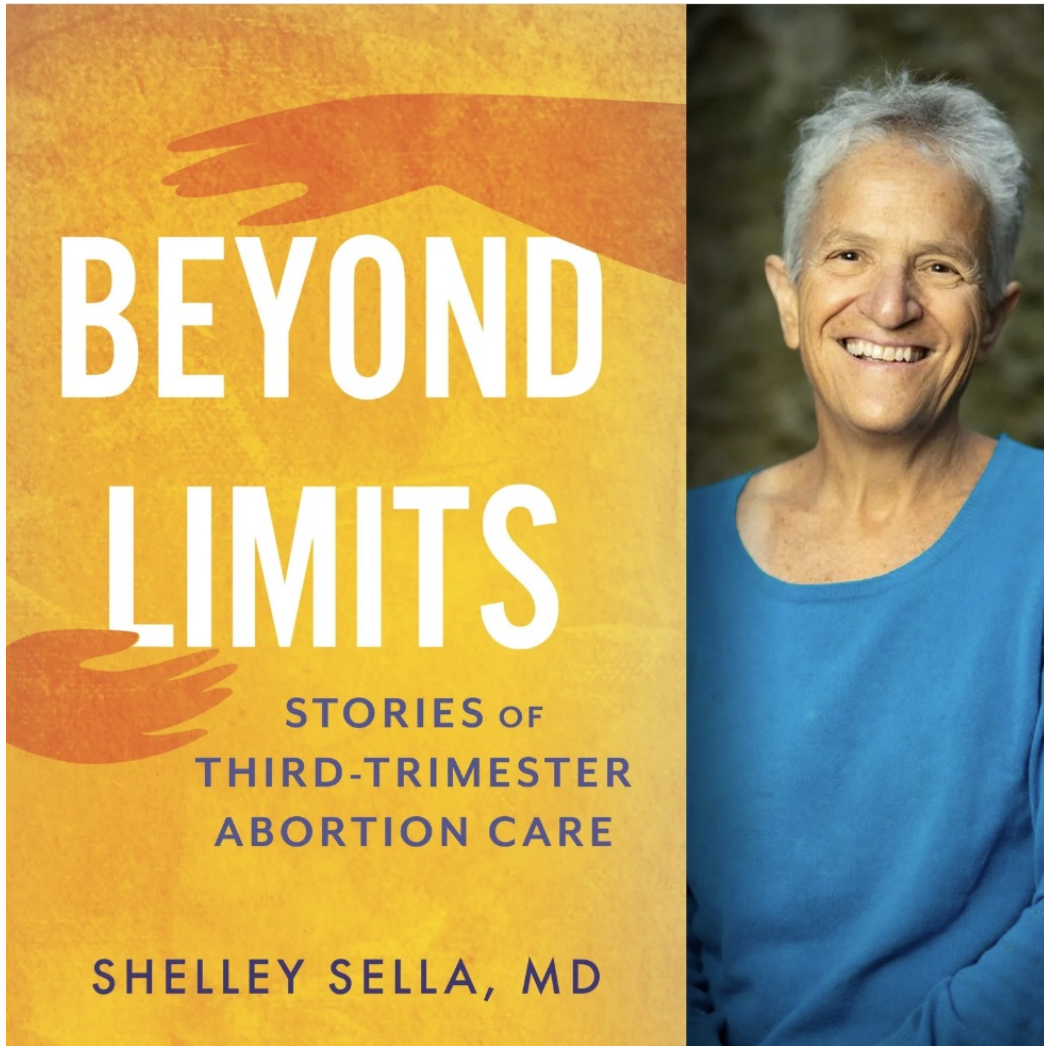
RSVP HERE



## TEAM / COMMITTEE MEETING & EVENTS

### Social Justice Action Team Meeting **CANCELED**

We will not meet on 10/2/2025 due to the Yom Kippur holiday.



### Reproductive Rights Book Club



Oct 06, 2025 06:30pm - Oct 06, 2025 08:00pm



Stephanie Sembler's house - address will be provided

We hope you'll join us for a thoughtful conversation.

About the book:

Beyond Limits is Dr. Sella's firsthand account of her path to becoming one of the only third-trimester abortion providers in the United States. It's an illuminating, deeply human look at abortion care.

Discussion highlights:

- What compassionate care looks like in complex cases
- Ethics, autonomy, and the real-world impact of policy
- Provider narratives and patient experience

We will meet at Stephanie Sembler's house – the address will be provided to registrants beforehand.

**RSVP HERE**



## National Popular Vote Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 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**



## Communications Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 9, 2025

Time: 6:00pm-7:00pm

The LWVSPA Communications Committee meets on the second Thursday of every month via Zoom. Email [office@lwvspa.org](mailto:office@lwvspa.org) for the link if you'd like to get involved.

## Upcoming Board Meeting

Date: Monday, October 20, 2025

Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

If any LWVSPA member wishes to address the board, they should email the president at [president@lwvspa.org](mailto:president@lwvspa.org) to get on the agenda and to receive meeting info (such as location or Zoom login).

## Membership Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

Contact chair, [Amy Weintraub](#), for the teleconference link or for more info.

## Education Action Team Meetings

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

### October Meetings

#### Joint LWVNC/LWVSPA Education Meeting

Date:  
Monday, Oct. 27 @ 4-5:00 via  
Zoom

For an invitation or to attend,  
contact [treasurer@lwvspa.org](mailto:treasurer@lwvspa.org)  
to receive an agenda.

Open to all current LWV members  
only.

#### Pinellas School Board Meetings

Date:  
Tuesday, Oct 14 @ 10:30 am

Tuesday, Oct 28 @ 5:00 pm

Address: 301 4th Street SW,  
Largo, FL 33770L

To join the Education Action Team, [email Sue Castleman](mailto:sue@lwvspa.org).



## DONOR THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following who donated to the League  
of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area in  
September:

Laura Angelides  
Annette Baesel  
Evelyn Baran & Daniel Hoekenga  
Suzanne Courtney  
Taylor Fallas  
Sara Flaherty  
Linda Gelinas  
Tanya Gogue  
Mary Ann Holtz  
Mary Anna Murphy  
Naomi Rutenberg  
Rachana Suri  
Laura Williamson

## FINANCE TIP FROM AVA



### OCTOBER TIP:

If you're one of the many investing for retirement without access to an employer sponsored retirement account like a 401(k), you can invest for retirement in an individual retirement account (IRA), like a traditional or Roth IRA.

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](mailto:ava.elkins@raymondjames.com),  
727.551.5254 office  
[raymondjames.com/avaelkins](https://www.raymondjames.com/avaelkins)

# 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@lwwspa.org](mailto:communications@lwwspa.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

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