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THE VOTER

October 2026

Countdown to November 3 Elections

Election Day is just a month away!

LWVSPA is dedicated to helping our members, supporters, and allies be prepared to vote as the November 3, 2026, election approaches. Please read on for important information on voting and the candidates and issues that will be on the ballot. You'll also find tips, updates, and events to help answer your questions about elections this year.

Make your voice heard with your vote! Please share this information with friends, neighbors, and family members to help them do the same.

Making Your Plan to Vote

Voter Registration Deadline: October 5 - registertovoteflorida.gov
View our step-by-step guide here: **Step by Step Voter Registration Guide**

Already registered? Go to votepinellas.gov to check your status

Research your ballot: Enter your address at vote411.org or view our **PDF Voter Guide**

October 8 Candidate Forum for St Petersburg City Council:
<https://lwvspa.org/candidateforums/>

Recording of US House FL District 16 Candidate Forum: 2026 General Election US House Florida CD16 Candidate Forum

View our **What's on the Ballot presentation**

Vote by Mail

Mail ballots have been sent by the Supervisor of Elections; you can request one until 5 pm on October 22.

Mail Ballot Return: Sign the envelope. Allow 10 - 14 days to return by USPS or drop it off between October 19-November 1 at any secure drop location listed in the instructions. On November 2 and 3, drop only at a **Supervisor of Elections Office**. The deadline is 7 pm on November 3 and Postmarks don't count!

Click here to **Track Your Mail Ballot**

Early Voting is 7 am - 7 pm, October 19 - November 1, every day!

Bring your photo/signature ID. Vote at any of the three locations in the St. Petersburg area:
Gulfport Neighborhood Center 1617 49th Street S.

JW Cate Recreation Center 5801 22nd Avenue N.
Supervisor of Elections Office 501 First Avenue N.

There are four more locations in north Pinellas County. To find a site near you, click Early Voting at [votepinellas.gov](https://www.votePinellas.gov)

Voting in person on November 3: [Click here to check your polling place](#) and bring your signature/photo ID. If you hold your mail ballot until election day, surrender it at your polling place and vote in person or drop it at any Supervisor of Elections office before 7 pm.

Quick Links:

**[Register to Vote](#) | [Request Mail Ballot](#) |
Supervisor of Elections Office: 727-464-8683
Election Protection Hotline: 866-OUR-VOTE**

Key Dates at a Glance

Share these with friends and family, especially young voters!

- **Voter Registration Deadline is October 5:**
registertovoteflorida.gov
- **Already registered? Go to [votepinellas.gov](https://www.votePinellas.gov) to:**
 - **Check your registration status** and update your address
 - **Request a mail ballot** - deadline October 22
 - **View Early Voting locations** across Pinellas County
- **Early Voting: October 19 - November 1.** Voters may cast a ballot at any early voting location.

See the LWVSPA website for our **2026 Pinellas Voter Guide**.

Learn "What's On the Ballot" at presentations coming up this evening, October 1, at 6 p.m. at the Sunshine Senior Center and Saturday, October 3, at 11 a.m. at the James Weldon Johnson Community Library. Scroll down for details.

Vote411

Our Nonpartisan Voter Guide Is Live!

Our [VOTE411](#) guide has been updated for the upcoming election and is a "one-stop shop" for election information. Using VOTE411, you can see what's on your ballot, check your voter registration, find your polling location, and read candidates' unedited answers to our public policy questions.

Enter your address to view your personalized ballot, including all ballot measures, or download a [PDF](#) of our [2026 Pinellas Voter Guide](#), which includes all Pinellas County races.

Voters can use the "Where to Vote" feature on [votepinellas.gov](https://www.votePinellas.gov) to check precinct and polling place information, as well as ensure their information is current for the upcoming primary and general elections.

Have more voting questions? See our [FAQ](#) page. **Voters can use the "Where to Vote" feature on [votepinellas.gov](https://www.votePinellas.gov)** to check precinct and polling place information, as well as ensure their information is current for the upcoming primary and general elections.

If you would like a supply of our printed voter guides for your nonprofit, place of worship, or community organization, please let us know [here](#).

Have more voting questions? See our [FAQ](#) page.

Volunteer Opportunity

Canvassing Board Monitoring and Poll Monitoring Roles

Passionate about protecting the right to vote? Put your dedication to democracy into action this election season!

Discover canvassing board monitoring and training opportunities, sponsored by All Voting Is Local, [here](#).

Learn about poll monitoring, sponsored by Common Cause and Election Protection, and register for training [here](#). (If you already completed training for the August election, no need to repeat.) Additional training dates will be added, including a refresher course.

U.S. Congressional District 16 Candidate Forum

2026 General Election US House Florida CD16 Can

League of Women Voters Manatee County



Watch on

LWVSPA and the [League of Women Voters of Manatee County](#) recently hosted a virtual [candidate forum](#) for candidates running in Congressional District 16. You can view a recording of the event at the above link.

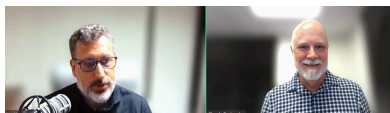
Redistricting has significantly reshaped this district, which now includes all of Manatee, DeSoto, and Hardee counties, as well as parts of Pinellas, Sarasota, and Polk counties.



To help ensure that all voters in this new district have access to reliable, nonpartisan information, the forum allowed voters to hear directly from candidates Mark Davis (NPA), Sydney Gruters (R), and Kelly Kirschner (D) about the issues that matter most to voters ahead of the November 3 election.



St. Petersburg voters will decide on a \$600 million **General Obligation (GO) bond referendum** on November 3, 2026, to fast-track city flood protection and water infrastructure. The bond would fund the **St. Pete Agile Resilience (SPAR)** program to accelerate stormwater, wastewater, and potable water projects. By front-loading funding for complex projects, the bond is intended to fast-track improvements that will benefit all residents, not just those in flood zones, and minimize the economic impacts of future inflation on construction costs.



During a livestreamed conversation about the GO Bond on September 29, organized by LWVSPA's Community-Centered Development team, Joe Hamilton, publisher of St. Pete Catalyst, talked about the initiative with Claude

Tankersley, public works administrator for St. Petersburg. Tankersley shared key facts about the initiative, which is supported by LWVSPA, and answered questions from Hamilton, LWVSPA members, and other attendees.

LWVSPA received numerous comments from attendees who found the discussion very helpful to their understanding of the initiative.

Click [here](#) or on the video thumbnail to view a recording of the conversation and [here](#) to read St. Pete Catalyst's follow-up article on the GO Bond initiative.

GO Bond Community Conversation

St. Pete Catalyst



Watch on

Immigration Justice Updates

Detention Extensions Scrutinized

Working collaboratively with the public database initiative Habeas Dockets, LWVSPA's Immigration Justice team contributed research toward a **ProPublica investigation** identifying cases in which people were held in Pinellas County Jail far longer than the 72-hour limit associated with the jail's 287(g) agreement with DHS/ICE.

The LWVSPA Immigration Justice team rallied more than a dozen citizens to attend and speak out at a recent Pinellas County Human Rights Board meeting on the issue.

"We definitely threw the Board for a loop, hopefully launching them into action," says team leader Courtney Prokopas said. "We will continue to organize and welcome any input, especially from members of the legal community."

Read the *Tampa Bay Times* article about the issue [here](#) and the *Creative Loafing* article [here](#).

Pinellas County Jail Tours

In July, members of the Immigration Justice Action Team toured the Pinellas County Jail to better understand how our local detention system operates. A second such tour will take place on October 15 and will be led by Sheriff Gualtieri.

Questions for the sheriff were solicited from League members and the public on immigration justice, ICE detention, and 287(g) agreements; allocation of local resources for federal immigration enforcement; conditions within the jail; and voting access and civic participation for detainees and inmates. Following the tour, we will share what we learn with the community.



LWVSPA's Amy Keith and Courtney Prokopas recently attended FLIC (Florida Immigration Coalition) Congress, as 500 advocates and allies united in Orlando to share knowledge, build skills, and strategize on how to protect immigrant rights across the state. Amy Keith led a session on election protection on behalf of Common Cause, and Courtney Prokopas led a session on faith-based organizing on behalf of the Interfaith Alliance of Florida. Learn more about FLIC [here](#).



Watch the BayNews9 coverage of the LWVSPA jail tours [here](#).

While the October 15 tour is full, you can add your name to the [waiting list](#) if desired.

To learn more about the work of our Immigration Justice team, email immigration@lwvspa.org.

Advocacy Spotlight: Opposing Amendment 3

NO **PROPERTY TAX**? HERE'S WHAT YOU REALLY LOSE

PROPERTY TAXES ARE NOT JUST A LINE ON A BILL. IT'S YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FIRE STATION. YOUR LOCAL COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE LIKE ROADS, BRIDGES, AND STORMWATER DRAINS. LIBRARIES. POLICE SERVICES. YOUR COMMUNITY'S SENIOR CENTER.

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN LOCAL TAX REVENUE WILL HAVE TO BE REPLACED TO MAINTAIN BASIC SERVICES, AND THERE IS NO EASY WAY TO DO THAT UNLESS NEW FEES ARE IMPOSED OR TAX RATES ARE INCREASED.



LESS FIRST RESPONDERS = LONGER RESPONSE TIMES. EVERY SECOND COUNTS DURING AN EMERGENCY.

LESS FUNDING = ROADS CRUMBLE, LIBRARIES SHUT DOWN, AND PARKS CLOSE.



THE STATE LEGISLATURE WILL DICTATE HOW LOCAL TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT, NOT LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR LOCAL VOTERS.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA

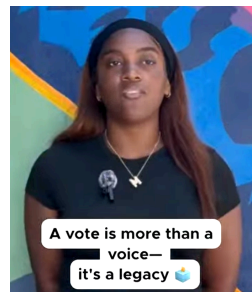
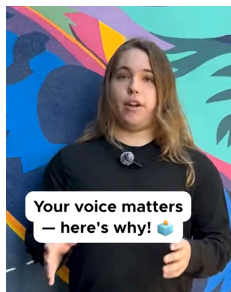
Crafted to appeal to homeowners concerned about their tax bills, Amendment 3 has drawn vigorous opposition from LWVFL and stakeholders around the state.

In direct contrast to the principle of home rule, a key value of the League, the legislation identifies a limited number of services that state lawmakers deem "core," while a vast array of local services, identified and provided by the communities themselves, would be drastically reduced or completely cancelled due to the loss of billions of dollars in funding.

LWVFL has created an [informational presentation](#) to increase understanding and awareness of the impact to communities that passage of Amendment 3 would bring about. **We urge you to get informed and share these facts with friends and family members.**

Students Use Their Voices to Champion Voting

LWVSPA's Voter Services team recently spoke with several St. Petersburg College students about the importance of voting, and the thoughts they shared were truly inspiring and galvanizing. Take a moment to enjoy the highlight reel posted by Voter Services Co-Chair Heidi Davis on Facebook [here](#), and please feel free to share!





LWVSPA Aces Statewide Membership Drive

In the League of Women Voters of Florida's membership challenge to Leagues around the state, League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area won first place among large leagues, as well as the most new members added overall! We are not only basking in the honor, but gratified by the award funds we received to help advance our work.

A huge thanks to all members who invited friends to join the League. And the warmest of welcomes to our new members. We look forward to championing democracy and advancing the civic causes dearest to your heart alongside you.

If you have a friend who has been thinking of joining, or if YOU are a non-member reader of this newsletter who admires all we do, it's never too late to [join](#) and lend your ideals, energy, and talents to the cause!



WHAT'S ON THE 2026 BALLOT NON-PARTISAN COMMUNITY SPEAKER EVENTS

October 1 @ 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm (doors open 5:30 pm)
The Sunshine Senior Center Auditorium
330 5th St. N., St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Heidi Davis, co-chair of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area's Voter Services Committee, will review:

- The ballot measures, and the meaning of a Yes vote and a No vote.
- The federal, state, and local races on the ballot.

Parking available at Sunshine Senior Center and Coliseum parking lots on 4th Avenue N. at 5th St. N. as well as street parking

Free to attend; **pre-registration is required** due to limited seating. The presentation will be live streamed, recorded, and posted to LWVSPA's [YouTube channel](#) and shared via the other sponsoring organizations.

Seating is first come, first served; overflow seating will be available. Heidi Davis will again present on the same topic at an October 3 event, as per below.

October 3 @ 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
James Weldon Johnson Community Library
1059 18th Avenue S.

Heidi Davis, co-chair of LWVSPA's Voter Services team, will review the ballot measures, and the meaning of a yes vote or no vote on each; and the federal, state, and local races on the ballot. **No RSVP required** for this October 3 event.

Are you a member of a community organization that would like to schedule a "What's On the Ballot" presentation for your group? Request one [here!](#)



SUNDAY OCTOBER 4th, 2026
4:00–6:00 PM

GRAND CENTRAL BREWHOUSE
2340 CENTRAL AVE, ST. PETE

Join us for a democracy-themed trivia night!
No politics, no candidates. Just a chance to win
prizes and free drinks by showing off your civics
knowledge! No RSVP required.



St. Petersburg City Council
Districts 2 and 6
October 8 @ 6 pm - 7:30 pm
President Barack Obama Library

3745 9th Avenue N.

Join LWVSPA for this joint forum for candidates running in this citywide election. Submit questions in advance [here](#).

Candidates are:

District 2: Courtney Bermudez and Gabriel Hament

District 6: Linsey Grove and Trevor Mallory

Co-sponsored with CONA, The Council for Neighborhood Associations; ample free parking.

MIX, MINGLE, & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

October 8 @ 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

**Sip Shop Hooray
2053 Central Ave.**

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. For this month's C&C, you'll find us at this trendy boutique with a full-service bar! [RSVP here](#)

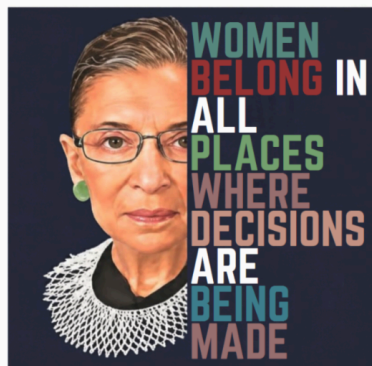


2026 – 2028 Community Impact Program: Elect Her

**Wednesday, October 21, 2026
3:30 PM – 6:30 PM**

**St. Petersburg College
2465 Drew St
Clearwater FL 33765
Room LA 151**

A light supper will be provided to attendees



Women remain underrepresented in elected leadership, with fewer than one in four elected leaders being women. Yet research shows that when women run for office, they win at rates comparable to men.

To encourage more women to enter the political arena, the GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club and the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County present Elect Her, a one-day, nonpartisan training that offers practical campaign and leadership skills, from public speaking to networking and campaign strategy. For additional information and to register, click [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Zoom Events in Black
In-Person Events in Red
(in St. Petersburg unless otherwise noted)**

**What's On the November 3, 2026 Ballot
October 1 @ 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm (doors open 5:30 pm)
The Sunshine Senior Center Auditorium
330 5th Street N.**

Heidi Davis, co-chair of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area's Voter Services Committee, [will review](#) the ballot measures, and the meaning of a yes or no vote on each; and the federal, state, and local races on the ballot.

Free to attend; pre-registration is required due to limited seating. [RSVP here](#)

What's On the November 3, 2026 Ballot

October 3 @ 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

**James Weldon Johnson Community Library
1059 18th Avenue S.**

Heidi Davis, co-chair of LWVSPA's Voter Services team, will review the ballot measures, and the meaning of a yes vote or no vote on each; and the federal, state, and local races on the ballot. No RSVP required.

Hopped Up on Democracy: Trivia Night!

October 4 @ 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**Grand Central Brewery
2430 Central Avenue**

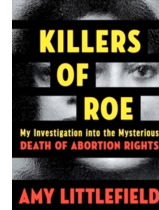
Join us for a democracy-themed trivia night. No politics, no candidates. Just a chance to win prizes and free drinks by showing off your civics knowledge! [RSVP on Facebook](#)

Reproductive Rights Action Team Meeting, Book Club Edition

October 5 @ 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**Tubman Room, Allendale UMC
3803 Haines Road N.**

Join us for a discussion of *Killers of Roe: My Investigation into the Mysterious Death of Abortion Rights* by investigative journalist and abortion access correspondent Amy Littlefield. Email office@lwvspa.org with questions.



National Popular Vote Committee

October 6 @ 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](#)

October Cocktails & Conversations

October 8 @ 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

**Sip Shop Hooray
2053 Central Ave.**

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. [RSVP here](#)

District 2 and 6 St. Petersburg City Council Candidate Forum

October 8 @ 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

**President Barack Obama Library
3745 9th Ave. N.**

Parking is free. No registration required. [Submit candidate questions here.](#)

Allendale UMC Children's Play Day

October 10 @ 9:00 am – 10:30 am

Hands-on Arts & Crafts • Paint the Nomad Art Bus • Mock election & civics play • Instrument Petting Zoo • Free event For Kids of All Ages and their families! Hosted by Allendale UMC, Girls Rock St. Pete, NOMAD Studio, Wonder Studio, and LWVSPA. [RSVP here](#)



Community-Centered Development Team Meeting

October 14 @ 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Smart development centers people and planet at the heart of city planning, managing growth sustainably and equitably to put the public good over any one stakeholder group, geographic area, or private business interest or sector. It's a great way to strengthen democracy and public participation where it affects us most – our own backyards. [RSVP for Zoom](#)

Pinellas County Jail Tour

October 15 @ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (moved from September 23)

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has invited the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area to tour the facility, led by Sheriff Bob Gualtieri himself. Understanding what happens inside the jail—and how immigration enforcement intersects with local jail operations—is an important part of understanding our role as community members and civic advocates. [Tour is full - join the waitlist!](#)

No Kings: VOTE EARLY Giant Human Letters

October 17 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Join us to create a large visual display using human lettering to spell out VOTE EARLY on Spa Beach (St. Pete Pier). [RSVP here](#) | [More event details here](#)

LWVSPA Board Meeting

October 19 @ 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Any LWVSPA member who wishes to address the board, email president@lwvspa.org to get on the agenda and to receive meeting info (such as location or Zoom login).

Communications Committee Meeting

October 20 @ 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

The LWVSPA Communications Committee meets monthly via Zoom. Email office@lwvspa.org if you'd like to get involved.

ELECT HER (LWVNPC / GFWC Community Impact Program)

October 21 @ 3:30 - 6:30 pm

St. Petersburg College

2465 Drew Street, Room LA151, Clearwater

Have you ever thought about running for elected office? ELECT HER is nonpartisan training to run for office, from Student Council to the U.S. Senate. [Registration and more info here](#)

Unite & Rise 8.5: Defending Democracy Action Team Meeting

October 21 @ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

This LWVUS-led initiative aims to build a movement of 8.5 million individuals to unite and rise up against the anti-democratic actions of the current Presidential administration. [Register for Zoom](#)

Voter Services Committee

October 21 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

LWVSPA members are invited to join the Voter Services leadership team to learn about our voter guide, candidate forums, voter registration assistance, and election and voter protection. Email office@lwvspa.org for more information.

Education Committee (with LWVNPC)

October 26 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

For an invitation or to attend this monthly meeting, contact lwvnpc.info@gmail.com to receive an agenda. Open to all current LWV members only.



TODOS LOS DOMINGOS!
EVERY SUNDAY!

VIGILA por la JUSTICIA para los IMMIGRANTES
VIGIL for IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

 **Pinellas County Courthouse**
14250 49th Street N (corner of 144 Ave N &
49th St N), Clearwater, FL 33762

 **5 PM - 6 PM**

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

Register Now 

Join LWVSPA, the Pinellas/Hillsborough Interfaith Coalition, and community allies for our weekly [Vigil for Immigrant Justice and To End 287\(g\) for Immigrant Justice and to End 287\(g\)](#), as we stand in solidarity with immigrant families and demand an end to the detention and deportation of our nonviolent, law-abiding immigrant community neighbors, siblings, and friends.

[Join our Immigration Justice team](#) for updates on this and other urgent issues. Your involvement can help make a difference!

More events at www.lwvspa.org/events



Thanks to the following generous supporters who made gifts to LWVSPA in September:

**Janet Blair
Loren Corrieri
Sara Dubbeld
Marsha Ferree
Claudette Fornuto
Bonnie Freeman and Stephan J. Freeman
Melissa Gallivan**

Ellen Goldberg Weiner
Kathleen Hanrahan
Lois Milne
Michele Tuegel
David Westmark
Raymond Wise

If you find our local forums, voter guides, and other resources to be useful, please consider donating to and/or joining the League! (People of every gender welcome.)

Donate to LWVSPA

Join LWVSPA!

LEAGUE ONLINE

- [Calendar of Events and Meetings](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out Our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)
- [Get Your LWVSPA Gear!](#)



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Reading *The Voter* via a link or forwarded email?
Sign up to get your very own subscription [here!](#)

Have news to share?

Send your news and updates one week in advance of the 1st of the month directly to communications@lwwspa.org.



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.

LWVSPA | 3803 Haines Rd. N. | St. Petersburg, FL 33703 US

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