

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE
ST. PETERSBURG
AREA

PROGRAM PLANNING

Workbook

Proposed issues for the
2022-2023 League
Program

Meeting

FEBRUARY 24TH, 2022
6:00PM TO 8:00PM
Virtual Meeting

✉ president@lwvspa.org
🌐 www.lwvspa.org

📍 2335 22nd Ave. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

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PROGRAM PLANNING WORKBOOK

2022-23

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Program Planning

PROCESS

The Program Planning process is part of what makes the League a grassroots organization; each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the local, state, and national League will focus time, talent and money. Every year, local leagues solicit feedback and plans from their members to create the local League's **Program**. In League jargon, Program means *the issues that we choose for concerted study, education and action at local, state and national levels*. Program can include both education and advocacy work. League Principles and positions on public policy issues are included in Article IX of the LWVSPA Bylaws.

Art. IX, Sec. 2. Program. The program of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area shall consist of:

- (a) action to protect the right to vote of every citizen, and
- (b) those national, state, regional, county and municipal governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

The Program Planning Meeting happens two months ahead of the Annual Meeting. At the Program Planning Meeting, team leads and proposed teams “pitch” their issue and plans to be adopted as a part of the overall Program. This has been done in many different ways over the years; with the continuance of COVID-19 in our community, we will be taking Program Planning virtual for the first time in our League’s history. To ensure that members are able to adequately review each team’s “pitch,” we have created this workbook with information submitted by each team (new and established). We ask that members review this workbook, submit questions for each team ahead of the meeting using [this survey](#), and attend the virtual Program Planning Meeting to listen to presentations and ultimately vote on a proposed Program.

The proposed Program voted on by members at the Program Planning Meeting will be presented at the Annual Meeting in April for voting members to adopt for League Year 2022-23.

It takes the enthusiasm and interest of our members to keep our program vital. You’d never skip voting in an election; you shouldn’t skip the League’s equivalent. **The program planning process is your voice!**

Using the Program Planning Workbook

HOW TO REVIEW THIS WORKBOOK

There is a lot of information in this workbook so it is important to know what to look for when considering an issue for next year's program. Here are some questions to consider:

- Is the "pitch" of the team realistic? Can they achieve the activities and goals proposed for next year with the resources requested and partners involved?
- How well does the purpose of the team align with the positions of the National and State Leagues?
- How important are the issues for our community in the St Petersburg area? Will they support equity and inclusion in our community?
- Is LWVSPA well-placed to work with partners, community members, and decision-makers to make a meaningful local impact on the issues outlined in the pitch?

RESOURCES

- [League of Women Voters of the United States - Impact on Issues](#)
- [League of Women Voters of Florida - Study and Action](#)

Sustainability

TEAM LEAD

Laura Crabtree

TEAM PURPOSE

Our purpose is to improve the environmental quality and resiliency of our city and the surrounding areas by partnering with community leaders, businesses, and environmental groups. This includes long-term goals that involve supporting the City of St. Petersburg in its sustainability initiatives, including its roadmap to clean energy. Educating our members, and our citizens, regarding the actions of our political leaders on these critical issues, is the backbone of the Sustainability Team.

TOP THREE INITIATIVES OF 2021-22

1. Continued our support with Solar United Neighbors.
2. Joined area environmental groups to form Pinellas Conservation Coalition.
3. Formed a working group of team members who will make a bigger presence with city leaders and advocate for our initiatives.
4. Educated members about nutrient pollution and steps we can take to reduce it.

BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2020-21

We were awarded the Tampa Bay Estuary Program mini-grant to create a demonstration rain garden.

PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR 2022-23

1. Create and promote green infrastructure in the community through the creation of a demonstration rain garden at Sanderlin Family Center.
2. Become involved with St. Petersburg's HERS Committee and get to know city council members for the purpose of influencing them.
3. Join community partners in the campaign for reduced nutrient pollution through improvements in sewage and stormwater runoff; protection of our remaining green spaces; and promote clean energy which also affects water quality.

NATIONAL AND STATE POSITION ALIGNMENT

National

Natural Resources: Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

- **Climate Change.** Support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations
- **Water.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater, and drinking water, and set up a process to evaluate inter-basin water transfers.

State

Sustainability: The League of Women Voters of Florida supports governmental action that results in sustainability: meeting the needs of the present without endangering the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Environment, society, and the economy must be integrated and balanced to achieve a sustainable Florida.

Natural Resources

Resource Management: Promote an environment beneficial to life through the Protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationship of air quality, energy, land use, waste management, and waste resources. Promote resource conservation, stewardship, and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Support public policies that provide for cooperative, coordinated planning for and decisions about land use in Florida including methods for resolution of conflicts.

- Support the preparation and implementation of a new state growth management plan that addresses current needs.
- Support the implementation of the Water and Land Legacy Amendment consistent with the intent of the adopted language.

Florida Freshwater Resources: Support public policies that promote conservation of freshwater and its availability for environmental, public supply, agricultural, industrial, and mining uses on a priority basis.

- Support the protection of freshwater resources

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Tampa Bay Watch
- Keep Pinellas Beautiful

- Tampa Bay Estuary Program
- Sierra Club

- Eckerd College PIRG
- Rise Above Plastics - Surfrider Foundation

BUDGET INFORMATION

\$300

Food Politics

TEAM LEADS

Jen Underhill & Julie Kessel

TEAM PURPOSE

Our purpose is to empower people to make better food choices for their individual health and the environment, expose the corrupting influence of corporate money on our food and health systems, and to advocate for more equitable food access and public policy in St. Petersburg.

TOP THREE INITIATIVES OF 2021-22

1. Digital dining educational events
2. Establishment of St Pete Food Policy Council
3. Support for Urban Agriculture

BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2021-22

1. Held 5 digital dining events with over 100 unique participants and 4 partners
2. Supported the establishment of, and became a permanent member of, the St Pete Food Policy Council, with a principal role to engage the community
3. Established a strong relationship with Gina Driscoll regarding food policy issues interfacing with St Pete City Council
4. More than doubled our team membership
5. Developed robust website content.
6. Added content to the legislative delegation letter reflecting our interests in increasing food access, nutrition security, and urban agriculture
7. Integrated technology (GoToMeeting, Zoom, SurveyMonkey, swift polling) into our events.

PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR 2022-23

Food Policy Council

1. **Engage the community to provide input on policy.**
Action(s): Town halls and other measures to ensure outreach.

Meatless Monday Campaign

2. **Get the Mayor to support a proclamation in the city.**
Action(s): Advocacy, work with Mayor and delegates.
3. **Introduce an advocacy campaign to push city council to entertain a resolution for meatless Mondays.**
Action(s): Find a city council rep champion; Advocacy work with residents.

Urban Agriculture

4. To advocate and support policies to support urban ag in St. Petersburg.

Action(s): Advocacy work, a letter-writing campaign, educational events.

Educational Events

5. Continue our work to educate on food politics issues including impacts to health, climate, and democracy.

Action(s): Digital Dining; Panel moderation; Food tour; Advocacy training; Work more closely with City Depts. (sustainability, health, waste).

NATIONAL AND STATE POSITION ALIGNMENT

National

Healthcare Affordability

Basic Level of Quality of Care: Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health).

Money in Politics

Representative Government, the election process, money in politics (formerly campaign finance): The League believes that political corruption includes the following: A candidate or office holder agrees to vote or work in favor of a donor's interests in exchange for a campaign contribution; an officeholder or staff gives greater access to donors; an officeholder votes or works to support policies that reflect the preferences of individuals or organizations in order to attract contributions from them; a candidate or office holder seeks political contributions implying that there will be retribution unless a donation is given; and the results of the political process consistently favor the interests of significant campaign contributors.

Natural Resources

Climate Change, Agricultural Policies: LWVUS believes that federal agriculture policies should promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers, farms that are economically viable, farm practices that are environmentally sound, and increased reliance on the free market to determine prices

State

Healthcare Affordability

Social Policy, Financing and Delivery of Health Care: Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. Support

measures to implement Florida health care in a manner consistent with the LWVUS position on Healthcare reform.

Natural Resources

Agriculture: Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices, and increased reliance on the free market.

Money in Politics

Government in Florida: Support the abolishment of Super PACs, the elimination of foreign money investment in US elections, reducing dollar contributions to campaigns and limiting carryover funds from campaigns to PACs.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Foundation for a Healthy St Pete
- St Pete Free Clinic
- Sierra Club
- Sustainable Urban Agriculture Coalition (SUAC)
- Ruth Eckerd Clarke
- Food and Water Watch
- One Community Grocery Co-op
- Wunderfarm
- 3 Black Vegan Girls
- The Well
- Florida Food Advisory Council

BUDGET INFORMATION

\$750

National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC)

TEAM LEADS

Deb Mazzaferro, Marty Shapiro & Pat Fling

TEAM PURPOSE

Our team's goal this year is expand community understanding of what NPVIC is and prepare our state legislators to be able to support NPV in the 2023 legislative session.

TOP THREE INITIATIVES OF 2021-22

1. During the 2021 legislative session, we wrote Florida legislators and their staff weekly to demystify the NPV.
2. A current initiative is to educate law students before they get into government positions so they understand NPV is constitutional and feasible.
3. We are speaking to the American Constitution Society at Stetson Law School on March 8, 2022. We had 13 Op-Eds published throughout Florida in 2021 and continue writing editorials and LTE for the TBT.

BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2021-22

Op-Ed published in the TBT, Meeting set to be a virtual panelist (Deb Mazzaferro) presentation to the Stetson Chapter of the American Constitution Society.

PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR 2022-23

Educational Outreach

1. **Action:** Educate legislators and their staff, to avoid unfounded misinformation.
2. **Action:** Educate the general public so that when the law goes into effect (270 electors are committed) there won't be a backlash in Florida.

Influencer Development

3. **Action:** Develop Influencers: journalists, lawyers in government, donors, political science educators, etc.

NATIONAL AND STATE POSITION ALIGNMENT

National

Voting Rights

Selection of the President: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.

State

Election Law

Support measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise and to advocate fair methods of financing political campaigns including public financing.

- Support the election of the President and Vice president by direct popular vote.
- Support the National Popular Vote Compact (LWVUS).

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Floridians4NVP
- Common Cause

BUDGET INFORMATION

\$100

Social Justice

TEAM LEADS

Linsey Grove & Stacey Kroto

TEAM PURPOSE

The Social Justice Team invites the public to engage in and become more educated on the prescient issues of the day. We seek to expand the imagined possibilities of progress for all people and voices. We advocate safe, open-minded discussions in the community around the intersections of economics, history, politics, privilege, and race. We also house the Reproductive Justice and Gun Safety issues within this team.

TOP THREE INITIATIVES OF 2021-22

1. Passing a Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis in the City of St. Petersburg in partnership with the Black Health Equity Alliance and the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg.
2. Starting and maintaining a Social Justice Discussion Club for LWVSPA members.
3. Being present at other organizations and initiatives that are aligned with our social justice principles and initiatives.

BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2021-22

4. On August 5th, 2021, we successfully advocated for the passage of the resolution to Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis, making St. Petersburg the first city to pass such a resolution in the State of Florida.
5. We are working with the Pinellas County Commission to pass a resolution to Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis at the county level.
6. We supported the adoption of the Structural Racism Study in St. Petersburg and its associated resolution. This passed in December 2021.
7. We have completed two books in our Social Justice Discussion Club *How to Be an Anti-Racist* and *One Person, No Vote*.
8. We have been actively involved with the Community Remembrance Project Coalition in Pinellas. Gretchen Johnson serves as our liaison.

PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR 2022-23

Issue 1: Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis at county-wide levels

Activity 1: Build media awareness of the resolution to garner support for the resolution and educate the community about its importance and need in Pinellas County.

Continuing Activity: Maintain a coalition of organizations to support a resolution to declare racism a public health crisis at the county level.

Issue 2: Provide DEI Training for League Leadership and Membership

Activity 1: Identify and apply for grant funding to pay for external consultancy to provide DEI Training for League Leadership and Membership

Activity 2: Implement DEI training

Activity 3: Follow up with DEI training participants to track changes over time (6- and 12-months post-training surveys)

NATIONAL AND STATE POSITION ALIGNMENT

National

Core League Principles

The League of Women Voters believes every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.

Equality of Opportunity

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment, and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Employment opportunities in modern, technological societies are closely related to education; therefore, the League supports federal programs to increase the education and training of disadvantaged people. The League supports federal efforts to prevent and/or remove discrimination in education, employment, and housing and to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems.

Equal Rights

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all regardless of sex. The League supports action to bring laws into compliance with the ERA: a) to eliminate or amend those laws that have the effect of discriminating on the basis of sex; b) to promote laws that support the goals of the ERA; c) to strengthen the enforcement of such existing laws. The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of

marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.

Representative Government

Public Policy on Reproductive Rights: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Healthcare

Basic Level of Quality of Care: Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care, and mental health care.

Social Policy

Gun Control: Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

- The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semiautomatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.
- The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education, and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.
- The League supports a ban on “Saturday night specials,” enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

LWVUS 2020 Racial Justice Resolution:

<https://lww-va.org/2020/07/30/racial-justice-resolution-passed-at-lwvus-convention-june-2020/>

State

Social Policy

Gun Safety: Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. Support regulations concerning the purchase, ownership, and use of handguns that balance as, nearly as possible, individual constitutional rights with the general interest and welfare of the community.

Financing and Delivery of Health Care: Support the Constitutional right of women to make reproductive choices, have privacy and have availability of services.

Healthcare and Kid Care: To improve the quality of life for children and their families and thereby to combat problems of poverty, discrimination, youth crime and related problems, LWVFL reaffirms its support of equal access to education, employment and housing and support of ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Black Health Equity Alliance
- Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum
- African American Heritage Association of St. Petersburg
- St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter
- of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.
- Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg
- Unite Pinellas
- Allendale Methodist Church
- Community Remembrance Project Coalition of Pinellas
- Community Development and Training Center
- The Deuces Live!
- The Sanderlin Family Center
- Operation PAR
- Planned Parenthood
- National Organization of Women (Pinellas Chapters)
- Progress Florida

BUDGET INFORMATION

\$100

Voter Services

TEAM LEADS

Maryellen Gordon, Robin Davidov, Heidi Davis, Amy Keith & Caitlin Constantine

TEAM PURPOSE

To register, educate, mobilize, and protect voters so that every eligible voter in Pinellas County has the opportunity to cast an informed ballot that counts.

BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2021-22

1. **Voter Guide:** The Voter Guide committee revamped the Voter Guide website, migrated the Voter Guide to Vote411 and produced three Voter Guides: August and November 2021 and February 2022.
2. **Candidate Forums:** The candidate forum committee organized and put on 7 candidate forums, all of which were streamed and posted online. Two of the forums provided Spanish-language translation.
3. **Voter Registration/Get Out The Vote:** The Voter Registration committee attended 49 events last year, where they registered dozens of voters and handed out voting information materials to hundreds of community members to stimulate voting in local elections. The committee also continued to cultivate relationships with more than 30 community partners.

PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR 2022-23

Midterm elections will be coming up in August and November, so we are focused on our core activities:

1. Producing Voter Guides at a local level for March, August and November while also contributing expertise to the state- and national-level Voter Guides.
2. Putting on candidate forums for local races.
3. Voter registration efforts coupled with GOTV and voter education messaging; the VR team has found that most of the people they encounter are already registered to vote, so they have begun focusing on getting out the vote and educating people about the most updated voting processes.
4. Working with the Florida Election Protection Coalition to revamp Election Protection and roll out new, streamlined programs to other local Leagues.
5. Organizing and operating Election Protection efforts in Pinellas County for the August and November elections.

NATIONAL AND STATE POSITION ALIGNMENT

National

Representative Government

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.

- **Citizen's Right to Vote:** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.
- **Redistricting:** Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.
- **Voter Representation/Electoral Systems:** Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters.
- **Citizen's Right to Know/Public Participation:** Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making.

State

Election Law

- Support automatic restoration of voting rights for former felony offenders.
- Support notifying voters if their absentee ballot has been accepted or rejected and provide a remedy for ensuring the vote of those whose ballots have been rejected.
- Support Florida's participation in the Electronic Registration Information Center.
- Support implementation of Election Day Registration as soon as administratively possible.
- Support implementation of automatic voter registration of eligible voters.
- Make election voting portable within the county to enable the broadest voter access.
- Support retention of 1968 Florida Constitutional Amendment for home rule by municipalities and counties in the administration of local issues.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| ● Allendale United Methodist Church | ● Banyan Tree Project | ● Daystar Life Services |
| ● Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta sororities | ● Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum | ● Deuces Live |
| | | ● Feeding Tampa Bay |

- Florida Election Protection Coalition
- Job Corps
- Midtown Rotary
- Mi Familia Vota
- Mt Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church (and other churches)
- NAACP St. Petersburg branch
- National Council of Negro Women
- Neighborhood Associations
- Pinellas Ex-offender Re-entry Coalition
- Pinellas County Urban League
- St. Petersburg College
- St Petersburg Free Clinic
- University of South Florida St. - Petersburg Campus
- VoteRiders Tampa Bay

BUDGET INFORMATION

\$7000.