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THE VOTER

September 2026

Making a Powerful Impact as Midterms Approach



Dear League Members, Supporters and Friends,

Election season continues! Our Voter Services team has been working tirelessly this year. Leading up to the August elections, we hosted 10 candidate forums, held 17 speaker events, and provided voter education at 76 community events. In other exciting news, Bay News 9 reported that [more than 100,000 mail-in ballots were cast in Pinellas County](#)—more than any other county in Florida! I am enormously proud of our voter services team and all they've accomplished to

educate and empower voters in our community.

As we look forward to the November elections, LWVSPA continues to do all we can to prepare voters in the St. Petersburg area to cast their votes. Remember that our [VOTE411](#) guide has personalized voter information 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. Our nonpartisan Voter Guide for the November elections will be live around September 14, so check back soon.

Now is the time to make your voting plan. Read on for tips, updates, and events to help answer your questions about elections this year. Check our [events calendar](#) for upcoming candidate forums and speakers events, including three "What's on the November Ballot" events. We hope that you'll be inspired to take steps to ensure your voice is heard and your vote counts, and that you'll help friends, neighbors, and family members to do the same.

Let's make democracy work—together.

In League,



Just in the past few days, LWVSPA Voter Services volunteers were on hand at more great events, engaging and helping register young voters...



USF Fall Student Engagement and Decision 2026



Pinellas County Urban League's inaugural Lead the Change summit at Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg

Key Dates for the November 3, 2026 General Election

Share these with friends and family, especially young voters!

- Voter Registration Deadline is October 5: registertovoteflorida.gov
- Already registered? Go to 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.
- Mail Ballots will be sent around October 1.

See the LWVSPA website voter guide for our [2026 Ballot Measures Guide](#). There are three Florida Constitutional Amendments and five St. Petersburg measures.

The comprehensive voter guide is coming September 14 on Vote411.org. Enter your address to view your candidates and ballot measures.

Vote411

Voters can use the “Where to Vote” feature on 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.

Reassuring News Flash:

Recent SCOTUS Vote On Mail Ballots Doesn't Impact Yours



While the Supreme Court ruling regarding voting by mail has caused some confusion and concern among voters, LWVSPA's Amy Keith, director of Common Cause Florida, reassures Floridians that our right to vote by mail has not been affected.

In a metaphor every Florida resident can relate to, she likens the ruling to a new spaghetti track in a hurricane forecast model—but, she emphasizes, "we are not in the cone."

"This ruling has not changed our ability to vote by mail in Florida at all," she says. "So request your vote by mail ballot, make a plan to vote, and remember that in Florida, voting in 2026 is exactly like voting in 2024. And remember that even after requesting a vote by mail ballot, you can always vote in person instead."

View Amy's Instagram post here!

Every Vote Really Does Count!

(in case you needed proof)

The margin in the August 18 Pinellas County School Board District 6 race between Nancy Bostock and Amanda Lord was truly razor-thin.

After a machine recount did not produce a clear winner, election officials conducted a manual recount. Bostock was eventually declared the winner by just seven votes.

"It just shows what we've been saying: Every vote counts," Heidi Davis, co-chair of LWVSPA's Voter Services team, told BayNews9.

While noting that primary voter turnout is usually lower than turnout during the general election, "Come November we don't want to see this low turnout," Davis said. "We want to see 80, 90 percent turnout."



[Watch the BayNews9 segment here!](#)

Opposing Amendment 3

While the League of Women Voters of Florida does not support any of the statewide constitutional amendments on the November ballot, Amendment 3 has drawn especially vigorous opposition from LWVFL and stakeholders around the state. Crafted to appeal to homeowners concerned about their tax bills, its language veils the devastating impact that the loss of billions of dollars in tax revenues would have on services provided by Florida's local governments.

LWVFL has created a series of informational slides (including those below) to increase understanding and awareness of the real-life costs 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.

The simple truth is that every Floridian, including the homesteaded homeowners that this legislation is targeted toward, will be negatively affected by passage of this amendment.

Help get the word out! [Find the shareable slide deck here.](#)

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

WHAT FLORIDIANS **NEED**

THE LEAGUE BELIEVES THAT **NO TAX SOURCES OR REVENUE** SHOULD BE SPECIFIED, LIMITED, EXEMPTED, OR PROHIBITED **IN THE CONSTITUTION**.

- 1** LOCAL DECISIONS: THE LEAGUE BELIEVES LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE THE ONES TO ADMINISTER LOCAL ISSUES. A ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL APPROACH DOES MORE HARM THAN GOOD.
- 2** LOCAL IMPACTS: LOCAL TAX AUTHORITIES MUST LISTEN TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND ADJUST LOCAL TAX RATES ACCORDINGLY.
- 3** FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY: FLORIDIANS NEED A STATE FISCAL STRUCTURE THAT IS EQUITABLE IN ITS DISTRIBUTION OF THE TAX RESPONSIBILITY AND IS RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC NEEDS.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA

WHAT'S ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 BALLOT

FREE, NON-PARTISAN COMMUNITY SPEAKER EVENT

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

ECKERD COLLEGE
ACADEMY OF SENIOR PROFESSIONALS

SEPTEMBER 16 @ 4 p.m.

The Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College (ASPEC) is hosting this free non-partisan presentation by LWVSPA Voter Services co-chair Heidi Davis about what's on the ballot for the upcoming election, including:

- The ballot measures, and the meaning of a yes vote or no vote on each
- The federal, state, and local races on the ballot.

In-person attendance, including an after-talk social, is available to LWVSPA members; due to space limitations, interested non-members should plan to attend via Zoom. Register [here](#).

Heidi Davis will be presenting at two additional events on the same topics in early October; see below.



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 projects to compress a multi-decade buildout into a shorter timeframe, the bond is intended to minimize the economic impacts of future inflation and escalating construction costs.

LWVSPA's Community-Centered Development team is organizing a live-streamed community conversation to help clarify the issues around the GO bond on November's ballot. Claude Tankersley, public works administrator for St. Petersburg, will be featured in this special event, to be moderated by Joe Hamilton of St. Pete Catalyst. A recording will be available to view on LWVSPA social media channels. For details, visit [St. Pete Catalyst](#). To submit questions, click [here](#).

The Quest for Immigration Justice

Habeas Dockets

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



Legal experts have raised concerns that repeated rebooking may circumvent limits on immigration detention. The Immigration Justice team rallied citizens to speak out at the Pinellas County Human Rights Board meeting this morning and will be monitoring the situation.

Habeas Dockets is seeking volunteers of any backgrounds, legal or lay.

Pinellas County Jail Tours

In July, as part of our commitment to immigration justice and civic understanding, members of the Immigration Justice Action Team toured the Pinellas County Jail to better understand how our local detention system operates, especially in connection with local 287(g) agreements. A second tour of the jail on September 23 is already full; if interested, you can have your name added to the mailing list.

LWVSPA participates in the Sunday afternoon Vigils for Immigration Justice at the Pinellas County Courthouse, which have gone on for 45 weeks now. For more information on these events, see below.

Reach out to team leader Courtney Prokopas with an email to immigration@lwvspa.org. Interested in volunteering? Learn more and [sign up](#)

[here.](#)



SUMMER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Ends 9/4!!

Join or renew today!

As Joan Baez said, action is the antidote to despair. And one great way to TAKE ACTION is to help LWVSPA achieve a 10 percent increase in membership by Labor Day, September 4!

If your membership is up for renewal and you let it slip by, PLEASE don't delay in making your renewal. [Click here for the membership form](#)

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 there's never been a better time to join and be part of our mission!

The \$500 cash prize from the League of Women Voters of Florida, which is sponsoring the contest, could help support our efforts to defray travel costs to the state convention next year, printed materials for Voter Services and other teams, and many other vital projects. **So please don't delay...join or renew today!**

MIX, MINGLE, & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

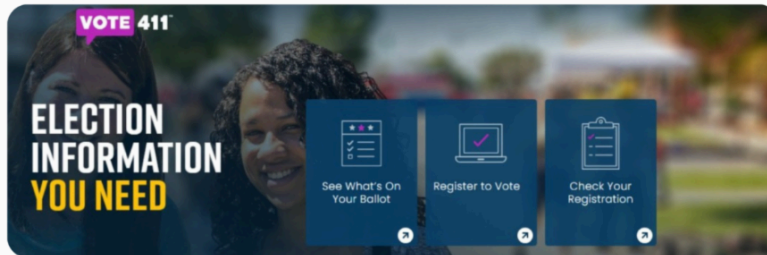
Family-Friendly Edition!

September 25 @ 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Paloma House
10787 Oak Street NE, St. Petersburg 33716

Join LWVSPA for this family-friendly edition of Cocktails & Conversation, hosted by the Parent Advocacy League. Bring the kids! An on-site food truck will feature great options for kids and adults. With a cash bar and plenty of indoor and outdoor space, this is a wonderful opportunity to mingle with League friends as well as friends you haven't met yet. [RSVP here](#)



WHAT'S ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 BALLOT FREE, NON-PARTISAN COMMUNITY SPEAKER EVENT



LEAD
SPONSORS:



CO-
SPONSORS:

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC. ®
ZETA UPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER



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 [You Tube 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.

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** for this October 3 event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Zoom Events in Black **In-Person Events in Red**

National Popular Vote Committee
September 1 @ 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Join us as we talk strategy about how to help ensure one person, one vote for our nation's most important election. First-timers are welcome and all levels of experience are encouraged to join. [RSVP](#)

CANCELED Reproductive Rights Action Team Meeting
September 7 (Labor Day holiday)

Voter Services: Speakers Bureau Training
September 9 @ 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Voter Services is seeking members for the Speakers Bureau to present What's On the Ballot for the November 2026 Ballot Amendments. This will include the 3 Florida amendments and local amendments. Each speaking event will run one hour and speakers will be paired with a partner to field questions. Training on the presentation, for presenters and partners to assist with questions, will take place via zoom. [Register Here](#)

LWVSPA Board Meeting
September 14 @ 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

If any LWVSPA member wishes to address the board, they should email the president at president@lwwspa.org to get on the agenda and receive Zoom log-in link.

Communications Committee Meeting
September 15 @ 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

What's on the November 3, 2026 Ballot
September 16 @ 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm (also available via Zoom)

The Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College (ASPEC) invite League Members to join their members for a free, non-partisan presentation about what's on the ballot for the upcoming election. Voter Services co-chair Heidi Davis will be speaking. This event is offered both in-person for LWVSPA members and virtually for the interested public. [RSVP](#)

CANCELED: Voter Services Committee: September 16

Committee on Membership
September 23 @ 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

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

Immigration Justice Action Team Meeting
September 23 @ 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Join us on Zoom to get plugged in to the Immigration Justice Action Team's work! [RSVP](#)

Unite & Rise: Defending Democracy Action Team Meeting
September 23 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Unite & Rise 8.5, an 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. [RSVP for Zoom](#)

Family-Friendly Cocktails & Conversation

September 25 @ 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Paloma House

10787 Oak Street NE, St. Petersburg 33716

Our family-friendly September event is hosted by the Parent Advocacy League. Bring the kids! An on-site food truck will feature great options for kids and adults. There will be a cash bar, and plenty of indoor and outdoor space. [RSVP here](#)

Education Committee (With LWVNPC)

September 28 @ 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Monthly LWVNPC/LWVSPA Education Committee Meeting via Zoom. For an invitation or to attend, contact lwvnpc.info@gmail.com to receive an agenda. Open to all current LWV members only.

St. Petersburg GO (General Obligation) Bond:

A Community Conversation

September 29 @ 7:00 pm (Live-streaming)

Helping to clarify the issues around this item on November's ballot, Claude Tankersley, public works administrator for St. Petersburg, will be featured in this special event, hosted by LWVSPA's Community-Centered Development team. Joe Hamilton of The Catalyst will moderate; the event will be recorded and available for viewing on LWVSPA social media channels. For details, visit [St. Pete Catalyst](#). To submit questions, click [here](#).

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 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 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. See additional details in feature item above.

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.**

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 August:

Susan & Paul Antoinette
Kathleen & Ray Arsenault
Brianna Figgins
Polita Glynn
Jennifer Griffith
M. Diane Hodson
Kenneth Jones
Diane Lajoie
Kathleen Passafiume
Victoria Rexer
Naomi Rutenberg
Debie Scurr

Lyn Taylor

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

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- [Check Out Our Blog Archives](#)
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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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