

**We're back! Yes, there was no Voter in July and August but the work continued. Read about it here.**



**Sept 13: A DOUBLE BILLING!**

First enjoy a short (15 minutes) presentation on the three amendments that will be on the November 4 ballot i.e.

“Yes on 1”: Land and Water Conservation, Medical Marijuana, and Judicial Appointments.

Then...

**Money and Politics**

Initially prepared by the LWV Massachusetts, this interesting and informative presentation covers campaign finances. *Does money = speech??* Do campaign finance laws need to be reformed?

Presented by Judy McSwine

When: Saturday, September 13 , 2014 at 9:30 a.m. for greetings, presentations at 10.

Where: Dunedin Library, Room A, 223 Douglas Avenue, Dunedin, FL 34698

Cost: FREE

**DOOR PRIZES!**

**Bring a friend!**

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**VOTE!**

**Aug. 26**



**Donna's Doings**

Boy, it has been hot this summer. I was able to escape the heat for a few weeks up in the mountains of Georgia. I hope all of you could escape somewhere, as well.

Although our League didn't meet much as a group during the summer, some of us have been very busy. I hope everyone received information about the *Voter Guide* for the primary election (August

26) that we put together along with the St. Petersburg Area League. Many thanks to Rachael Garofolo of the SPA League for her leadership in completing the *Voter Guide* and for Marti Folwell of our League for providing me with invaluable help on the project. If you haven't seen the *Voter Guide*, go to our website ([www.lwvnorthpinellas.org](http://www.lwvnorthpinellas.org)) and click on the link to it.

And, I am looking for a few special members to volunteer to help me with the *Voter Guide* that we will put together

for the November 4 election. People are needed to help contact candidates, look up information about the races, and with publicity/distribution of the *Voter Guide*. Contact me ([dsharpless@verizon.net](mailto:dsharpless@verizon.net)) if you are able to help. The time frame will be September – early October-ish.

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## Donna's Doings—Continued

Remember that the primary election has something for everyone to vote on. There are plenty of nonpartisan races, such as school board, judges, and a local referendum. Use the [Voter Guide](#) to help you understand the candidates and referendum, as needed. And, pass the [Voter Guide](#) along to your friends.

We also have been busy putting together “**Hot Topic**” presentations for the upcoming year. On September 13, there will be a short presentation on the three amendments which will be on the November ballot. They are Land and Water Conservation, Medical Marijuana, and Judicial Appointments. The Board wants to make sure all of our members understand these amendments so you can make an educated vote and can answer any questions your friends and family have on them. Then, the main topic on that day will be “Money and Politics” presented by our own Judy McSwine. Sure to be an interesting topic! See more about this date elsewhere in this Voter. And please, bring a friend! The presentation is FREE and open to the public. After the presentations, those that want to will walk across the parking lot to have lunch at Marquarite’s on a “dutch” basis (*i.e.*, pay for your own).

And, look for information on our October 18 “Hot Topic” about the pros and cons of [GreenLight Pinellas](#). This is in conjunction with the American Association of University Women.

National Voter Registration Day is September 23. It would be wonderful if our League had multiple voter registration sites. If any of you are interested in putting together a voter registration table, please contact me.

Finally, another goal of mine is to have a member orientation – probably at our December holiday party. It will be for **all** members – new and long term. We want to update everyone on what we are up to now and, maybe, get a little history of our League. Don’t forget that holiday time might mean gifts!!! (Well, for some, anyway.)

Donna Sharpless  
President



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE RESUMES on September 8

TOPIC: **Turkey’s Challenges**

Presenter: **Judy McSwine**

Location: **Pinellas Park Library**, 7770 52nd Street  
Pinellas Park, FL 33781 Corner of 78th Ave & 52nd St

Time: **2 p.m.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



September 13 meeting—continued:

After the presentations, about 11:30, those who want will walk across the parking lot to lunch at Marguerite’s Catering and Café for lunch. Everyone will buy his/her own lunch.

Looked at our website lately? Webmaster Kay Pitchon is doing a terrific job and welcomes your suggestions. Do you have some pictures that need posting? Please contact Kay at [kpitchon@gmail.com](mailto:kpitchon@gmail.com)



[www.lwvnorthpinellas.org](http://www.lwvnorthpinellas.org)

**There's something for every voter in the August 26<sup>th</sup> primary election!**

This election is more than just a primary election, in which voters will decide on a number of races based on their party affiliation. It will also be the only opportunity for all voters to cast their ballots in the nonpartisan races for School Board and 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court Judge. In addition, voters will determine the outcome on a county referendum.

**MAKING  
DEMOCRACY WORK®**

**Get the information you need to make informed choices on your primary election ballot. Check out the**

**League of Women Voters 2014 Pinellas County Voter Guide**



to learn more about judicial, county and state candidates and read their verbatim responses to questions on current issues facing Florida and Pinellas County. The Voter Guide also includes pros and cons on the ballot referendum (*Economic Development Property Tax Exemptions for New Businesses and Expansions of Existing Businesses*) as well as links to other useful voter resources.

Find the Voter Guide online at [vote.lwvspa.org](http://vote.lwvspa.org)

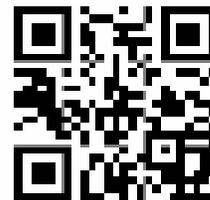
-- OR --

Link to it on our websites:

[www.lwvspa.org](http://www.lwvspa.org) or [www.lwvnorthpinellas.org](http://www.lwvnorthpinellas.org)

--OR--

Scan here on your mobile device.



*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.*

## Don't Let Summer Doldrums Keep You from the Polls!

It's the time of year we see multi-colored campaign yard signs popping up like overnight mushrooms. An election is coming up! But when exactly is it?

Florida's August primary has had a history of lateral movement. As recently as 2012, the Legislature moved the primary to Aug. 14 – the earliest it had ever been. This year's primary election date is Tuesday, Aug. 26, a week before Labor Day.

Sample ballots are already available online. Twenty-two of Florida's 61 appeals court judges are on the ballot along with many county and circuit court judicial races. The primary will determine the winner in races with only two judicial candidates.

Traditionally, Florida's voter turnout has been dismal - 18 to 22% of registered voters. For a county the size of Orange, that's roughly 150,000 voters, or less than all voters registered as NPA, "no party affiliation". Independent voters can in fact vote in the August primary for nonpartisan races like judges, school board and county commission, depending upon your jurisdiction. There's something for every voter on the primary ballot. NPA voters can also vote on countywide ballot initiatives. Orange County has two – the sick leave amendment and renewing the half-penny sales tax for school construction.

Early voting centers will be operating for the primary so you can cast a ballot in the county where you live, including on weekends. Sunday Souls to the Polls is back in most counties!

Still at the beach, in the mountains, scalloping on the Gulf Coast, or coordinating your child's new school year, vote by mail.

Florida is one of several states that offer no-excuse vote-by-mail. Think of it as convenience voting. Request a ballot by calling your Supervisor of Elections. As Seminole Supervisor Mike Ertel says: "there's never a line in your kitchen". In most counties you can now track your returned ballot on line.

Concerned that your vote-by-mail ballot might not be counted? Actually your vote will be first in line. The absentee ballots are taken out of the envelopes and queued up to run through the tabulator in the elections office right after the polls close. Voted by mail?

Congratulations, that's your vote up on the screen at 7:01 pm.

So make the evening news. **Your vote counts!**



Charley Williams is Voter Services Chair, League of Women Voters of Florida

**LWVNPC**

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Phone: 727-447-1564



**Informed & Active Citizen  
Participation**



**Officers 2014-2015**

President: Donna Sharpless  
1st VP: Tamsen Martin  
2nd VP: Vacant  
Secretary-Kay Pitchon  
Treasurer-Marti Folwell

**Directors**

Joy Comstock-Publicity  
Rita Garvey  
Ashley Wilson Pimley  
Lois Rogers-Watson-Newsletter  
Peggy Toohey-Transportation  
Carolyn Underwood

**Nominating Committee Chair**

Margaret Heveran

**Webmaster**

Kay Pitchon

**LWV MISSION  
STATEMENT**

*“A non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.”*

**Become a member! Membership/Membership Renewal Application:**

**League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
NEW MEMBER?  PREVIOUS MEMBER?  WHERE? \_\_\_\_\_

Annual membership is \$50. Household memberships are \$25 for each additional member residing at the same address. **Until 6/1/2014, persons age 30 or younger can join at \$25 and enjoy full privileges of membership.** Student membership is \$25. Cornerstone membership is \$100. After LWV membership for 50 years, there are no dues.

Dues are payable to the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County on \_\_\_\_\_ or before May 1 of each year.

**Please mail the membership application and payment to:  
LWVNPC,  
P.O. Box 6833  
Clearwater, FL 33758**