



THE VOTER **LWV**

The official newsletter
of the League of Women
Voters North Pinellas

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May-June 2022

Motown in May



Karen Owen assists with voter registration at Motown in May, an event held on May 29th, 2022. For the full story, check out Voter Services update later in this issue.

2022 Race Amity June 12th

Heritage Village, 11909 125th St., Largo

Submitted by Tanya Landry



Thank You



Race Amity Day, a well-organized, new event brought together a variety of community groups from Pinellas County, all focusing on improving the lives of residents of Pinellas County. In addition to community groups there was an impressive lineup of musicians, dancers, and young performers. In a world where news events seem more dire every day, Race Amity Day provided a welcome opportunity to experience the commitment of community groups to improve, educate, and raise awareness on issues such as: affordable housing, voter education and voter registration, mental health awareness, disaster relief preparedness in the Latin community and the general community, and health and nutrition. There were also kids' activities and food trucks.

Race Amity is celebrated every second Sunday of June to focus on the friendships between people of different races. It is also a time to come together to share different cultural experiences and have fun while doing it. Four states - Alabama, Massachusetts, Maryland, and South Carolina - have established proclamations for Race Amity Day, for the second Sunday in June.

Kudos to the Race Amity group for a successful first-time event. It was worth attending and participating -- a wealth of information and positive energy. Thank you to these co-sponsors:

League of Women Voters North Pinellas League of Women Voters
St. Petersburg NAACP
Pinellas County Urban League Pinellas Community Foundation
Creative Pinellas Boricuas
Race Withoutism

NAACP

Thank you so much for supporting a great cause! Volunteers like you genuinely change the world, and we are forever grateful. We hope you will join us next time. We'd love to see you!

Special thanks to Diane Stephens, Fran Mitchell, Tanya Landry, Mike Hughes, and Cathy Protopapas for volunteering at Race Amity Day on Sunday, June 12, 2022. We shared a lot of information on how to check registration status, and we actually got a new registration! Thank you for participating in the joint voter registration effort between the NAACP Clearwater/Upper Pinellas County Branch and League of Women Voters North Pinellas County.

Special recognition to Sue Rishworth and Beth Hovind for inviting us and to Ruthanne Richwine, the first volunteer who couldn't participate due to illness. We look forward to seeing you at future events

More LWNPC Members in Action

Phil Stone and Jacqueline Farrell manned a joint voter registration table for the NAACP and the LWNPC at "Shopping with a Vibe" in Walter Campbell Park on April 23rd.

On May 14th, Beth Hovind and Tanya Landry gave a presentation on Redistricting and Why Your Vote Counts at Moriah AME Church in Tarpon Springs as part of their Women's Day Celebration.



Phil Stone and Christa Smith of the NAACP

Welcome New Members!

Kathleen & Bryan Beckman

Lorraine Kuenzel

Kristen Jenkins

Ernest and Penny Leslie

Doris Lindsay

Anne McGregor

Robert Siberski

Janet Skinner

Phil Stone

Sarah Wiand

We are thrilled to welcome you to your League and look forward to our first face-to-face meeting!



Julie Marcus

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
PINELLAS COUNTY

New precincts, polling places and district maps available on VotePinellas.gov

The Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections finished updating the county voter registration database to reflect the new precinct boundaries resulting from redistricting. Voters can now use the [Find Your Precinct](#) feature on VotePinellas.gov to check precinct and polling place information, as well as ensure their voter registration information is current for the upcoming primary and general elections.

The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the new precinct boundaries during its May 24, 2022, meeting. Voters, candidates, political parties, and committees can view maps on [our website](#) or can make a request for data by emailing SOEIT@votepinellas.gov.

The Supervisor of Elections' main objective during the reprecincting process was to provide voters with as much continuity as possible by minimizing the number of precinct and polling place changes. Approximately, 90 percent of all voters will continue to vote at their current polling place.

Reprecincting efforts also resulted in the following:

- Maintained the same number of polling places (164)
- 51 percent (153) of the precincts have no boundary changes
- Only 15 precincts were consolidated, resulting in 286 precincts, down from 301

All registered voters in the county will be receiving new Voter Information Cards. The mailing will take place over three weeks. Voters who do not receive Voter Information Cards by July 11 or voters who have misplaced their card can call 727-464-VOTE to request a replacement card. Voter Information Cards are not required to vote and are for informational purposes only.

“Voters should carefully review the information on their new Voter Information Cards – including name, address and political party affiliation – to make sure it is correct,” said Supervisor of Elections Julie Marcus.

Voters who need to update their information are encouraged to call 464-VOTE (8683).

Visit VotePinellas.gov for OFFICIAL election information.

A Visit to the Supervisor of Elections

On May 20th, Ruthanne Richwine participated in a tour of the Supervisor of Elections office located at 13001 Starkey Rd, Largo. The tour was arranged by our community partner, the NAACP. Here are a few of her observations and recollections:



- The SOE building is HUGE. Stored there are all the ballots, mail and in-day of voting, from previous elections.
- In order to vote you need two forms of ID, photo ID and proof of mailing address at least one of which shows your signature. Without valid current ID, you will be issued a “provisional ballot, which will be presented to the Canvassing Board to determine eligibility. Provisional ballots are a long and complicated process, so make sure you take proper ID with you.
- The vote tabulation machines DO NOT have a direct connection to the internet.
- The website *Votepinellas.com* is updated after June 17th when the candidates are “certified” (until then they are pre-qualified but not all certified). This is the same website used to check to make sure you are registered to vote and also to check where your mail in ballot is in the process during the election. You can review candidates who are certified after June 17th at <https://www.votepinellas.com/Candidates-Committees/Candidates/Announced-Qualified-Candidates-2022>
- Signature Analysis: If you have concerns about changes in your signature since the last election, signatures can be updated by obtaining the form from the Supervisor of Election Office or printing it from the website and getting it to the Supervisor's Office. The signatures are analyzed by computer and by election workers who have taken a course in signature analysis. If there is a question, there is an attempt to contact that voter who may need to come in to provide a corrected signature. (Pinellas County has 0.9% of rejected signatures.) Notaries are needed for this “curing” process -- lots of them! So, if you would like to volunteer as a notary, contact the Supervisor of Election. The “curing” process has two days after the election to be completed.
- Two new early voting sites will be added. Anyone can vote at these sites -- whether one is in that precinct or not. If one goes to the wrong precinct to vote, the election worker will find the correct precinct and will give the voter a printout copy of the correct location at that time. (To avoid a situation where the precinct will close before a voter can get to it, check your precinct ahead of time on the votepinellas.org.)
- There are layers of duplication in the process deliberately. So, if one system fails, another one should pick up discrepancies prior to posting results.

Voting Surges In GA Despite Controversial New Law

The following article appeared in the Tampa Bay Times on Sunday, May 22, 2022, discussing voter turnout in the recent Georgia Primary. The article is included because, given the restrictive voting laws in place in Florida, it may provide hope and ideas for turning out the vote here!

Below is an edited version, to read the full article click on the link below.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/05/21/voting-is-surgin-georgia-despite-controversial-new-election-law/>

GRIFFIN, GA – When the Spalding County Board of Elections eliminated early voting on Sundays, Democrats blamed a new state law and accused the Republican-controlled board of intentionally thwarting “Souls to the Polls,” a get-out-the-vote program among Black churches to urge their congregations to cast ballots after religious services.

But after three weeks of early voting ahead of Tuesday’s primary, record-breaking turnout is undercutting predictions that the Georgia Election Integrity Act of 2021 would lead to a falloff in voting. By the end of Friday, the final day of early in-person voting, nearly 800,000 Georgians had cast ballots – more than three times the number in 2018, and higher even than in 2020, a presidential year.



Voting-rights groups and Democrats say they have changed their strategies to mobilize voters under the new rules. In Spalding County, for instance, local activists moved Souls to the Polls to a Saturday, and they defiantly promised that they would work twice as hard if that were what it took to protect voter access.

“It was a direct way to send a message to the Black community that they’re in charge now,” said Elbert Solomon, vice chairman of the county Democratic committee. “But every day we get people walking through the door, white and Black. A lot of people are concerned about their democracy.”

The state’s GOP-controlled legislature became one of the first of dozens across the nation last year to approve restrictions on how ballots are cast and counted following the 2020 presidential election, when then-President Donald Trump attacked, without evidence, the validity of results in six states he lost, including Georgia.

The law imposes new identification requirements for those casting ballots by mail, curtails the use of drop boxes for absentee ballots, makes it a crime for third-party groups to hand out food and water to voters standing in line, blocks the use of mobile voting vans – as Fulton County did in 2020 after purchasing two vehicles at a cost of more than \$700,000 – and prevents local governments from directly accepting grants from the private sector for election administration.

But much of the rhetoric directed at the bill was actually based on draft legislation that was subsequently scaled back. Local and national organizations, including the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines, had put enormous pressure on state Republicans to strip out some of the more contentious provisions. Republicans agreed to drop, for instance, language barring most Georgians from voting by mail and curtailing early voting on weekends. They even expanded early-voting hours in the final bill.

“Contrary to the hyper partisan rhetoric you may have heard inside and outside this gold dome, the facts are that this new law will expand voting access in the Peach State,” Republican Gov. Brian Kemp said last March as he signed the bill, noting that every county in Georgia would have expanded early voting on the weekends for the first time in history.

Some voters interviewed at polling locations said they were unwilling to take any chances with the new ID requirement. They opted to vote in person this year because they were afraid their ballot might be rejected under the new ID requirements. With drop boxes now required to be inside of polling locations rather than curbside, and accessible only during voting hours, it’s just as easy to vote in person, they said.

“They made it hard,” said Preston Wallace, a retiree from Chamblee who voted by mail in 2020 but chose to do so in person this year. “I’m not certain about the drop-offs, or if the mail is going to get picked up on time. I just don’t trust it. I didn’t want to take any chances.”

Turnout numbers for early and mail voting in Tuesday’s primary show a dramatic drop in mail voting over 2020, when the primary was conducted during the early months of the coronavirus pandemic. One-third of early voters cast their ballots by mail that year, while this year that figure has dropped to 8 percent.

Have you looked at Vote 411 (Vote411.org)?

Brought to you by the LWV Education Fund State Election related information, Nonpartisan info, Register to vote, Candidate Information and more

Get Out the Vote Campaign (GOTV) in North Pinellas County

As reported in that last edition of The Voter, LWVNPC is pleased to partner with the NAACP Clearwater | Upper Pinellas County Branch on a Get Out the Vote campaign serving precincts in predominantly Black and brown neighborhoods with lower voter turnout rates than surrounding communities.

This nonpartisan campaign aims to register new voters as well as educate registered voters about how to protect their right to vote after the recent changes to Florida law. Our League has provided financial support and helps to coordinate League volunteers to assist with the effort. Other organizations, including some local churches, are also supporting this campaign.

To date, the League has supported the NAACP with tabling voter registration and education booths at community events such as Saturday Shoppes, Motown in May, and Race Amity Day. The NAACP-led task group is currently gearing up for an active summer and fall with community outreach through churches and neighborhood businesses, canvassing in targeted neighborhoods, and voter education tables at key events.

League members can support this important effort. There are three ways you can help:

- *Volunteer:* Would you like to table local events or help coordinate the delivery of materials to local businesses? These are just two of the volunteer opportunities available. If you would like to volunteer, contact Laurie Meggesin, the League’s liaison to the project, at laurie.meggesin@gmail.com.
- *Donate:* Individuals can donate to the GOTV Campaign through the NAACP’s website at <https://clearwaternaacp.com/donate-2022-gotv-campaign>.
- *Laptops needed:* Have an old laptop you don’t need anymore? There is a need for laptops to help older voters navigate the vote by mail process, as part of the campaign’s outreach through local churches.

The LWVNPC is pleased to support this important campaign. For more information, you can contact the NAACP GOTV coordinator directly at gotv5096@gmail.com.



Want to Help Register Voters?

It's an exciting time for League members. If you wish to become more involved, why not become League-certified to facilitate voter registration, VBM, (Vote by Mail) and getting-out-the-vote? One has to pass an 18-question quiz to become certified.

Go to <https://lwvfl.org/>

Scroll down the page to a box that looks like this:

LEAGUE MANAGEMENT

To obtain the password, please contact a League Board member. Click on the League Management box to enter a page that has lots of boxes including the Register Voters box.

Once the password is entered, one can read the three pages of training material and take the quiz repeatedly, if necessary, to score 100 percent on the quiz. Then you are good to register voters with a certified partner under the League auspices for the next year. See you in Voter Service soon!

REMINDER: Voter Registration Updates

At this time, LWVFL no longer has an obligation to issue any third-party voter registration warnings that were once required by Florida's Senate Bill 90 (2020), when registering voters that were once. Outside of this change, there are no other modifications to our established procedures.

LWV of Florida Urges State Legislators to Hold Special Session Regarding Gun Violence

On June 9, 2022, the League of Women Voters of Florida sent all members of the Florida Legislature a letter requesting they vote in favor of holding a special session to address the growing gun violence epidemic.

Since 1989, the League of Women Voters of Florida has supported regulations concerning the purchase, ownership, and use of guns that balance individual second amendment constitutional rights with the general interest and welfare of the community.

Although the move to hold the special session was defeated, the work goes on.

To read LWVFL's letter, click the link below:

<https://lwvfl.org/lwv-of-florida-urges-state-legislators-to-hold-special-session-regarding-gun-violence/>

Did You Know.....

Within three weeks of the Parkland shooting, The Florida Legislature implemented “red flag laws,” raised the age to own a gun to 21 and implemented a three-day waiting period to purchase most rifles.

AND

Since the implementation of red flag laws, Florida judges have acted more than 8,000 times to keep guns out of the hands of people authorities deemed a risk to themselves or others, according to data maintained by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/01/politics/florida-red-flag-law/index.html>

Florida's common sense gun laws have served as a model for the nation. Yet Gov. DeSantis says Florida Legislature will pass 'constitutional carry' gun law. What does constitutional carry mean?

Under constitutional carry legislation, a person who legally owns a firearm may carry it in public, visibly or concealed, at almost any time or place, without training, registration, or government licensing.

<https://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/politics/2022/05/02/constitutional-carry-florida-desantis-making-open-and-concealed-carry-firearms-guns-legal/9614391002/>

DON'T LOOK AWAY.

Tell the Senate to pass gun safety laws now.

Paid for by Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund | everytown.org

On 6/22/22, @LWVFL tweeted that “A bipartisan group of US Senators have released legislative text for a narrow set of gun safety measures, marking the most significant step towards toughening federal gun laws in decades. While only a start, it will undoubtedly save lives. It must pass. “

Recently member Barbara Letvin gave some great tips on how to communicate with your US Senator regarding your thoughts on Gun Control Legislation:

If you've been frustrated with the lack of legislation in the Senate to protect people from gun violence, contact Mr. Scott and Mr. Rubio. Aides to elected officials tally responses so it's important to register your feelings along with facts. You can leave messages on their voice mails or their web sites where you'll find the word 'contact.'

Tips: Use word(s) in the subject line that will encourage the aide to read your note. I once used 'Enough!' then realized the reader might not go beyond that one word. My key phrase now is Mental Health as that's what our senators use to legitimize attempts to address the problem. (Maybe it's *your* mental health at stake!) Make no more than one or two points, at least one fact, plus something personal. “I want to go to



Publix, my faith community, without fear of being gunned down.” “My children/grandchildren are afraid to go to school.” “Our armed services mandates hours of training for soldiers in the use an assault weapon but there’s no requirement for an 18-year-old.” Be brief.

Replies arrive in 2-3 days so address their excuses for inaction with a follow-up note. Present some new information like the almost daily occurrences of mass shootings or that we rank with Nicaragua with cases of homicides by guns. Use your voice, not just your vote.

Editor’s Note: The bill was signed into law the morning of June 25 by President Biden.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Congratulations to our New Board! 2022 - 2023

Marti Folwell- President
Gayla Larson - Secretary
Camilla DiLoreto - Treasurer
Jacqueline Farrell - Director
Bill Jonson - Director
Tanya Landry - Director
Laurie Meggesin - Director
Karen Owen - Director
Vivian Posey - Director

CONTACT US:
lwvnpc.info@gmail.com
-or-
(727) 386-8525

Board Meeting - members welcome!



The LWVNP Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4:30pm. Minutes for the May 2022 meeting can be found at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/11EI-MLRNB-IDM27y2awrrTi740Sp_L7Q/view?usp=sharing

Please [join us](#) for any upcoming Board meeting to learn how you can participate more fully. Contact Gayla Larson (nblarson@gmail.com) to obtain the link to join these informative and busy meetings.

Economic Equity Committee



Economic Equity Committee Updates

Submitted by Jacqueline Farrell

The Poverty, Health and Juvenile Justice Committee is undergoing a makeover and has been renamed the Economic Equity Committee. At this time, the committee is planning a hot topic seminar on October 6th, focusing on the Affordable Housing Crisis in Pinellas County. Some panelists have been secured, and it is promising to be

an interesting and informative event. Next committee meeting is September 27th at 10AM, via Zoom to discuss further arrangements. Anyone wishing to assist, please contact Jacqueline Farrell, at Jacquelinefarrell20@gmail.com. You do NOT have to be a League member to participate and may join anytime.

Education Committee



The Education committee is planning a Hot Topic Seminar on September 20th, 2022 “Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Voters: Preparing High School Students to Become Lifelong Voters.” Support from the District Social Studies Specialist has been confirmed, and additional members of the panel will be recruited in the coming weeks. The LWWNP has been asked to participate in a School Board candidate forum as co-hosts with the Pinellas Education Foundation, Pinellas PTA, and LWVSPA at SPC Clearwater on July 18th.

The Committee also discussed a League Whitepaper, published by the Education Committee of the State League. This paper includes an analysis of various pieces of legislation passed during the 2022 legislative session, potential consequences and solutions. Here is a snippet:

Schools are often at the center of community life. When a small minority of parents/ residents/activists belittle the work of the school, that center weakens. Mistrust develops, adversarial relationships flourish. Florida is one of the most diverse states in the nation, with 64% diversity. The number of white students had declined from 53.3% in 2000 to 38.7% in 2016, and it continues to decline in schools and in the workplace. Legislating that only one group’s ideas, history, culture should be taught in publicly funded schools and colleges is discriminatory. It ignores the reality of community diversity and denies large groups of individuals the right to be recognized. LWVFL believes that educational prohibitions on teaching complete truths and the attempt at homogenization of the school curriculum and instructional approach lead to community fractures where residents are unable to communicate with each other or appreciate how each contributes to the community’s wellbeing. Instead of working towards strengthening ties between schools and communities, legislators seem determined to cut them.

To read the entire paper: go to <https://lwvfl.org/league-whitepaper-tying-the-hands-of-district-public-schools/>

VOTER SERVICE



MoTown in May

–By Karen Owen, PhD, Director

Our League’s partnership began with a board agreement to donate \$1,000 to NAACP’s campaign to Get Out The Vote in historically low-turnout precincts (visit: <https://clearwaterNAACP.com/donate-2022-gotv-campaign>), which also have a high percentage of African American residents. The NAACP’s effort involves hiring young people to canvass those neighborhoods, speak directly with residents, understand their voting needs and eligibility, and register voters.

Now the League is regularly asked to participate in joint voter registration and education efforts. The latest was our participation in the “Motown in May” event held at Walter Campbell Park in Clearwater on Saturday May 28th. We count the event’s success by our networking, meeting elected officials from Clearwater to Indian Rocks Beach, enjoying soul food, and swaying to our favorite Motown hits. Would we do it again? Absolutely and many times over! We look forward to a rich partnership with NAACP in our shared goals of civic engagement and education of historically under-represented groups in Pinellas County.

Contact our League's liaison Laurie Meggesin laurie.meggesin@gmail.com for more information about the partnership. To learn more about participating in upcoming Voter Registration events, contact League-elected director Karen Owen at karen@owenta.com.



Janet Skinner, Janet Sanaker



Mike Hughes, Karen Owen, Linda S. of the NAACP



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Recently, member Barbara Letvin attended a town hall hosted by US Representative Gus Bilirakis. The Speaker was Marcy Esbjerg, Director of Community Development of Pasco. While our focus is Pinellas, she pointed out some familiar facts and new information, adding that she works with those in her position in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties as well.

Some of Marcy's points:

1. Florida leads the nation in rent increases at 24%. She emphasized that incomes have not increased.
2. In April the median price for a house in Pasco was \$355K.
3. Some landlords, like some homebuyers, are cashing out and selling their properties, straining the availability and affordability of rentals.
4. The average rent for a one-bedroom home in older New Port Richey is \$1200. In Wesley Chapel it's \$1900.
5. Their goal is to help homeowners remain in their homes. Her staff addresses needs of both the homeless and those seeking affordable housing.
6. I didn't catch the title of the federal program, probably the American Rescue Plan, where millions have been allocated to each state and county to rehab owner-occupied homes that meet income qualifications. One person is eligible for a rehab application if they have an income below \$46K. A family of 4 is eligible with an income below \$66K. Candidates must have owned their homes 2 years.

7. People behind in paying taxes on their homes have options to apply for no-interest loans. This becomes a lien so money is returned to the government when the house is sold or when the owner can repay. There are eligibility requirements.
8. Renters financially affected by the pandemic, including those who have not have COVID, can apply for up to 18 months rental help if they can prove they were impacted by the pandemic -- lost wages, lost work, higher prices for food, gas. Back rent is available and rent for coming months. There are eligibility requirements.
9. The office keeps a list of affordable housing units, though they may not be available.
10. She specified where Pasco is building new units, short- and long-term.

Recently one of our members suggested this article by Eckerd Professor William Felice, which has been edited for length but may be viewed complete by clicking this link:

<https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2020/12/24/is-there-a-long-term-solution-to-americas-housing-crisis-column/>



Housing affordability is generally determined by the ratio between housing costs and household income. Housing is often deemed “affordable” when a household spends less than 30 percent of its income on housing-related expenses (including rent, taxes, insurance and so on). The Harvard Joint Center for Housing reported in 2018 that about 20.8 million renter households paid more than 30 percent of their incomes for housing, with more than half of these households paying over 50 percent of their income for housing. With job losses and disappearing incomes due to the current economic crisis confronting America’s workers, these figures are undoubtedly higher today.

There are actions the government can take to address this national emergency. The government could, for example, finance a 10-year-long low-interest rate loan program for tenants to be able to pay accrued back rent. Such a program could be progressively subsidized based on tenant’s incomes and could include negotiating stabilized rents with landlords. Since most rental units are owned by individuals with their own mortgages and bills, this program would protect both the landlord and the tenant.

However, a more long-term, stable solution could be through the creation of a strengthened National Housing Voucher Program designed to help poor families meet their housing needs. How would a national program work? The United States currently addresses the “right to food” through the SNAP (food stamps) program, which gives the poor access to food.

A U.S. housing voucher program could operate in a similar manner and guarantee help with housing costs to all Americans who suffer hard times. When a U.S. citizens’ income drops below a determined, appropriate level, he or she could become eligible for a housing voucher. The current, restrictive U.S. Section 8 voucher program only reaches about 17 percent of poor renters, and most housing authorities across the country have long Section 8 waiting lists. A national voucher program, on the other hand, could be open to all who are under the poverty line. These poor individuals would be allowed to use the voucher to rent on the private market.

For an entertaining, yet informative discussion on the Affordable Housing Crisis, checkout
“Rent,” Last Week with John Oliver
at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4qmDnYli2E&t=168s>

WARNING: EXPLICIT LANGUAGE

PINELLAS COUNTY TRANSIT SERVICES



Free Community
Guide Created by
LWVNPC!

GUÍA DE TRÁNSITO DEL CONDADO DE PINELLAS TRANSPORTATION GUIDE FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

By Kathy Smith

The Transit Guide for Pinellas County is now available in Spanish AND English in both digital and printable formats.

[\(Spanish printable version\)](#)

[\(Spanish digital version\)](#)

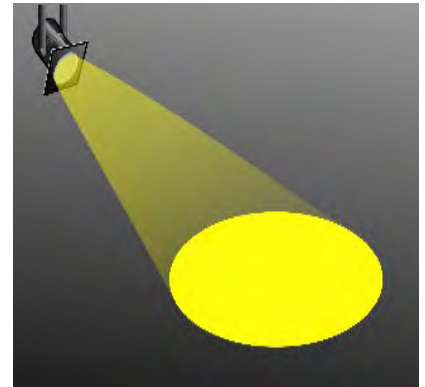
[\(English printable version\)](#)

[\(English digital version\)](#)

Spotlight Series: Introducing Tanya Landry



Tanya Landry is new to Florida, but she is already a very familiar face to the LWVNP. Tanya was born in Rhode Island, but spent most of her life in Capitol Heights, Maryland, close to Washington, DC. She earned a bachelor's degree in Health Education and a master's degree in Health Administration from the University of Maryland. Tanya worked in Health Care Administration for non-profit organizations before joining her husband in their own business. After 20 years, she and her husband sold their software development business and moved to Florida, where she has been a resident for three years.



While living in Maryland, Tanya was also very active in an organization called Girls on the Run, which develops leadership skills in girls through running. Tanya, a former half marathoner, served as a coach, mentor, retail manager and board member.

Before she moved to Florida, Tanya had always been curious about the League of Women Voters, but never had time to join. She was aware of the League's mission to "get out the vote and their role in Presidential Debates. Shortly after joining, she was recruited to work on The Voter Guide. Although she had little experience with local politics, she quickly learned about candidates and their positions. She is now a director on our board. As a member, Tanya remarked that she is impressed with the "smart, dedicated men and women who are committed to democracy and using their voices. "

Tanya is married and has an adult son. She loves being in Florida because of its natural beauty, slower pace, and diversity. She also enjoys Pilates, and pickleball. You might just see her on the beach in the early morning enjoying the sunrise or cycling the Courtney Campbell Causeway.

Editor's note: If you or anyone you know would like to be featured in our Spotlight series, please contact jacquelinefarrell20@gmail.com. We love to know more about our members!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 30, 2022 The Next Gen Strategy for Educational Equity
A roundtable discussion with Superintendent Kevin Hendrick & key school district leaders
Allendale UMC, 3803 Haines Rd N, St. Petersburg
Register at: <https://form.jotform.com/221637766817164>
Hosted by NAACP (St. Petersburg & Upper Pinellas Branches)
- July 13, 2022 LWVNPC Board of Directors Meeting
Via Zoom
4 – 5 pm
- July 18, 2022 School Board Candidates Forum
SPC Clearwater Campus
Co-hosting with Pinellas Education Foundation, Pinellas County PTA, & LWVSPA
- July 21, 2022 Domestic Vote by Mail Ballots Mailing Date
July 25, 2022 Voter Registration Deadline for Primary Election
August 13-21, 2022 Early Voting for Primary Elections
August 13 Monday – Friday: 8am – 6pm
Saturday – Sunday: 8am – 5pm
- August 23, 2022 Primary Election
- September 20, 2022 **HOT TOPIC**
“Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s voters: Preparing High School Students to Become Lifelong Voters”
- October 6, 2022 **HOT TOPIC**
Affordable Housing (with a focus on low-income housing in North Pinellas County) – Location TBD