



# THE VOTER *LWV*

*The official newsletter  
of the League of Women  
Voters North Pinellas*

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## September-October 2023

### 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The League is a grassroots organization and as such, we focus on the issues that our members care the most about. Each year, the entire state membership is polled to see which issues are most important to them at that point in time. Every local League is given the opportunity to submit priorities. After the LWWNPC voted last month, the following legislative priorities were chosen:

1. Gun Violence Prevention
2. National Popular Vote
3. Home Rule/Preemption

Our issues were reported to LWVFL, and after tabulating each local League's submissions, the top four areas became priorities for the annual state legislative session. If a particular issue did not make it into the allocated legislative priority spots, it does not mean the issue is not monitored or acted upon by our state League.

# LWVFL Legislative Priorities 2024

Priorities have been edited for length. For full content, go to <https://lwwfl.org/legislative-session/>

## VOTING RIGHTS & ELECTION REFORM

- Remove the voter suppression elements from SB90
- Shorten the time between book closing date and an election to ten days
- Support automatic registration (opt-out system), same-day voter registration, and improved online voter registration
- Support automatic restoration of voting rights for former felony offenders after completion of sentence excluding any additional fines

## EDUCATION

- Promote adequate and equitable funding of public education and oppose use of public funding for the expansion of funding of private education, including through voucher programs.
- Support curricular framework that has broad common standards developed by educational experts that serves as a guide to local district, including the historic mandates to teach Holocaust, antisemitism and African American History

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND JUSTICE

- Defend against passage of any Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers laws singling out the medical practices of doctors who provide abortions and impose on them requirements that are different and more burdensome than those imposed on other medical practices.
- Defend against further taxpayer funding of anti-abortion women's health centers (also known as crisis pregnancy centers)
- Defend against passage of any barriers to abortion access efforts to remove abortion access protections for the Florida Constitution.

## GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- Support regulations concerning the purchase, ownership, safe storage for unattended guns and use of handguns and long guns that balance as nearly as possible individual constitutional rights with the general interest and welfare of the community.
- Support changes in law to allow local communities to enact ordinances for any type of gun safety measures in their jurisdiction.
- Support expansion of mandated background checks and three-day waiting periods for ALL gun sales or transfers, including gun shows and unlicensed gun sales, and ensure the state provides all relevant records to the FBI national Instant Criminal Background Check System.

## From Our President: Marti's



## Musings

Six words. We have said them often. But do we just say them by rote without seriously considering the implications? These words reflect our beloved country's soul and culture. The next time, and every time, you say the pledge of allegiance to the flag, think about the words for us as a people, as a democratic society...**WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.** Regardless of age, orientation, gender, economic status, race, or status.

Thank you to our members for your work in protecting democracy for all citizens.

Martha (Marti) Folwell, President, LWVNPC

## Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion Update

Submitted by Mina Harkins, Economic Equity Chair



Recent updates from Floridians Protecting Freedom (FPF) and the state League's reproductive rights action team are both hopeful and concerning. The LWVFL was commended for being the number one volunteer petition collector in the state with 98% of our submitted petitions being validated. (Excellent "Clipboard Quality Control!") The most frequent errors are missing dates, timeliness, and name changes. Once collected, the county Supervisor of Elections (SOE) has 90 days to verify the petitions submitted to them and the state may take another 30 days. This is why the push is to finish by November in order to have 900,000 validated by the 2/1/2024 deadline. While the threshold has been met for Pinellas County, additional petitions will count towards the total needed. In a sample of one million likely prochoice active voters, only 94,000 validated petitions are on record. The speculation is that there are approximately 400,000 voters in the same household as a voter with a validated petition who are potential signers, so we need to encourage voters to take petitions home with them for additional signatures.

The threshold has been met for the FL Supreme Court review of the Amendment language. In an October interview, it was obvious that Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody is seeking to block the measure from the 2024 ballot. She petitioned the court for a written opinion as to the validity of the petition to add the right to an abortion before the point of viability to the state's constitution if 60% of the voters approve the amendment. She argued the initiative "does not satisfy the legal requirements for ballot placement." While FPF campaign representative argues that "viability" is clearly when the baby can survive outside the uterus, Moody cites there is another understanding that it can mean "when the pregnancy can be expected to continue normally, about 12 weeks." The Florida Catholic Conference publicized her interview, urging Catholics not to sign the petition.

The two requirements the Court will rule on are whether the language meets the "single-subject requirement" and that the proposed measure be printed in "clear and unambiguous language. Of note: another piece of state legislation is being floated to propose a 12 week ban and decriminalize self-managed abortions, perhaps anticipating better voter support could be garnered for legislators next election.

Most supporting organizations in the state are anxiously awaiting "Decision Day." This will be the Thursday that the Florida Supreme Court will hand down its ruling on the appealed decision that the 15-week legislative ban violates Florida's Right to Privacy. If the ruling is in the state's favor, look for events, e.g., marches and protests on the first Saturday following the decision.

Related Articles:

### **Florida could vote on abortion in 2024. Meet the group behind the push.**

"Floridians Protecting Freedom launched in May. The group says it's already gotten 700,000 Floridians to sign in support. Although it has so far raised nearly \$9 million, the chance that the proposed amendment will make it onto a ballot is far from certain. The state has made qualifying harder in recent years and requires signoff from Florida's Supreme Court. Also, the state's attorney general opposes the group's proposal."

Read the entire article at

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/florida-politics/2023/10/13/abortion-petition-florida-constitution-amendment-privacy/>



## Support for Fertilizer Rainy Season Bans Update

Submitted by Bryan Beckman, Natural Resources Chair

Earlier this year, the Florida legislature and Governor passed a law that prevents counties and municipalities from adopting or strengthening fertilizer-related ordinances that reduce nitrogen runoff into our waterways. The reasoning was that more study is needed to verify existing ordinances are working well. This approach is concerning, as the evidence is abundant that these ordinances have been highly effective in improving the health of our waterways.

For some background and history, over the last sixteen years, [eighteen counties and well over 100 municipalities](#) have adopted “strong” ordinances that include strict, no exemption, rainy season application bans, and a number of other protective provisions related to the content and application rate of fertilizer application.

These strong ordinances have been embraced because local economies depend on clean water, and strict urban fertilizer management is a cheap, easy way to stop pollution at its source. Landscape managers across the state have implemented new application schedules, and Florida-based fertilizer manufacturers have led the way in providing summer-safe products. Tackling the major sources of nutrient pollution (agricultural and wastewater) in most watersheds is more onerous and expensive, but for many water bodies, reducing the portion of pollution related to urban fertilizer can get them under the algae bloom tipping point.

The non-partisan effort to get strong ordinances adopted and protected has brought local governments, businesses, and civic and environmental organizations together across the state to fight preemption of local control of urban fertilizer since 2007. No further preemption of local urban fertilizer controls ever made it through the state legislative process until May 2023, including funding for an Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) “evaluation” of existing ordinances. Because IFAS has contradicted its own research by promoting state preemption since 2007 and has displayed close ties to the turfgrass and agrochemical industries, it will be difficult to trust IFAS to produce an unbiased evaluation.

The bottom line is that this new preemption effort is contrary to both a voluminous amount of science and common sense. Rainy season ban ordinances are no longer controversial, but rather a set of well-established practices, enabling local governments to reduce pollution borne by local stormwater runoff to our waterways.

Please show your support for our local (Pinellas) fertilizer rainy season bans, by contacting your county and/or municipal elected officials. Your voice can make a difference in this upcoming legislative session.

**VOTE 411**

**RE-REQUEST YOUR  
BALLOT**

Due to a change in law, all Florida voters who vote-by-mail must submit a NEW mail ballot request to their county Supervisor of Elections.

**LWV**





## Join with F.A.S.T. on Affordable Housing, Water Quality, & Criminal Justice Reform

By: Karen Owen and Jacqueline Farrell

F.A.S.T. ([Faith in Action for Strength Together](#)) is a county-wide social justice-focused group with representatives from 54 faith-based organizations of all denominations. Their members represent the faith community and citizens to advocate for needs with our elected officials via policy, legislation, and engagement. It is non-partisan and consensus based. Member organizations this year have selected 3 focus areas:

- Affordable Housing – Everyone has a story about rent increases, evictions and the exponential growth in the cost of housing. FAST has been closely following this issue see: <https://fast-pinellas.org/issue-work#/about> but the gist is that county and municipal policies need to change to enable all segments of society to afford to live here.
- Water Quality -- Working with local commissions and planning boards to make rain gardens mandatory for developers. Rain gardens use depressions in the ground filled with a combination of plants and natural materials to clean and filter run-off before the toxins that kill marine life and cause algal blooms are channeled into waterways and beaches. It is a way to clean pollution at its source.
- Criminal Justice-- Pressing the expansion of non-arrest and diversion programs for people who discover their drivers' licenses suspended for minor infractions, similar to the program instituted for juvenile offenders with minor offenses.

FAST has had significant accomplishments in the past few years. In 2017, they advocated for the county to set aside a percentage of the Penny for Pinellas tax money into the affordable housing budget. It has spent the past four years making sure the county followed through on that promise. In 2019, FAST asked the Pinellas County administrator and two key funders to work together to create a central pathway for mental health and substance abuse so that people in crisis can call and get an immediate assessment and referral, rather than being given a list of providers. That system will be operational in the next few months.

At an assembly on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> at Holy Family Catholic Church in St Petersburg, FAST members voted to approve these aforementioned focus areas of criminal justice, water quality and affordable housing. Committee members will research and request specific actions to bring to our elected officials! The biggest event of the year will be the Nehemiah Action Rally on April 30, 2024, when local elected officials face the FAST assembly and give a yes or no response regarding their support for recommended actions within the three focus areas. Several of our League members are also FAST members and may ask you to attend. The more people in attendance, the bigger the impression on elected officials who see that people are serious about these issues. For more information, contact Karen Owen at [karen@owenta.com](mailto:karen@owenta.com) or Jacqueline Farrell at [Jacquelinefarrell20@gmail.com](mailto:Jacquelinefarrell20@gmail.com) or <https://fast-pinellas.org/who-are-we>

In case you missed these:

### How will we know if the Rays' \$1.3B stadium deal is a good one?

By League of Women Voters of St. Petersburg Area  
"On Oct. 2, 2025, St. Petersburg will make its last payment – \$1.4 million – of what it still owes on the current existing Tropicana Field stadium, and then



Tropicana Field the stadium will be debt-free. And, soon thereafter, demolished. We at the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area want voters to understand the risks and benefits of this deal, so they can have an informed understanding of how their money is being spent by the City and County and how their land is developed.”

[https://stpetecatalyst.com/how-will-we-know-if-the-rays-1-3b-stadium-deal-is-a-good-one/?fbclid=IwAR05uAU5QKz5uUeDY-mZx3-FOj524gK\\_D3m3e2zvaWhZVHsJ5yIP5MvLPAU](https://stpetecatalyst.com/how-will-we-know-if-the-rays-1-3b-stadium-deal-is-a-good-one/?fbclid=IwAR05uAU5QKz5uUeDY-mZx3-FOj524gK_D3m3e2zvaWhZVHsJ5yIP5MvLPAU)

## Homeless people were given lump sums of cash. Their spending defied stereotypes.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/08/31/homeless-spending-cash-study-canada/>

“Efforts to alleviate the growing crisis of homelessness typically avoid putting money directly in the hands of the unhoused, reflecting the stigma that it will be misused. But new research challenges that perception, suggesting that when some homeless people are given cash, they are likely to put it toward essentials such as housing, furniture and transportation.”

Related Article: <https://www.upworthy.com/study-shows-how-homeless-people-spend-cash>

## Is the US Headed Towards Another Civil War? | TED Talk

“Based on her work for a CIA task force aimed at predicting civil wars, political scientist Barbara F. Walter examines the rise in extremism and threats to democracies around the globe -- and paints an unsettling picture of the increasing likelihood of a second civil war in the United States.

...”<https://youtu.be/Yilgr2SJ3xQ?si=ZT9jTBSKV-O2Nvj7>

## LWVNPC Members in Action St Mark’s Village, Palm Harbor September 11, 2023

**Jacqueline Farrell** was invited to speak to the men’s prayer breakfast at St. Mark’s Village. The group was interested to know about the changes in voting laws, particularly with respect to mail-in ballots.

Here she is pictured with John Burlew, and LWVNPC member Betty Burlew.



## Pinellas County Council of PTA Fall Workshop September 16, 2023

Linda Metzkwow, Vivian Posey, Carolina Tave, and Nancy Sidrow.

This event provided information and ideas for parents and schools on how to access educational services and have a successful year. LWWNPC was there to provide voter education and voter registration materials.



Vivian Posey and Carolina Tave



Linda Metzkwow

## National Voter Registration Day September 17, 2023

Voter Chair **Linda Metzkwow** manned a Voter Education table at SPC Clearwater Campus. Joining her are Mary Ellen Gordon, from LWWSPA, and Clarence, an employee of SPC.





## Pinellas Trail Adopt A Mile September 23, 2023

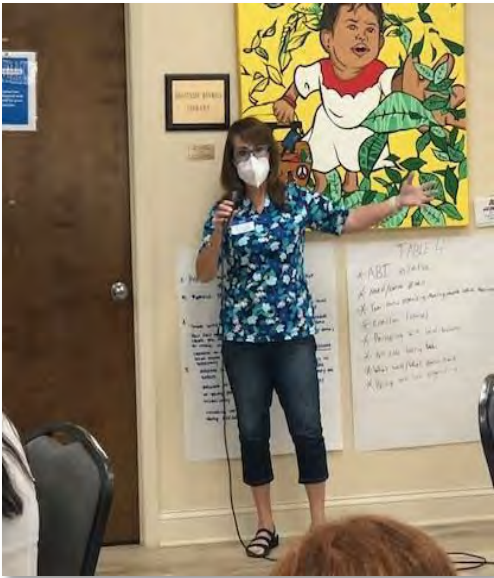
We had great weather and turnout for the LWVNPC inaugural *Keep Pinellas Beautiful Adopt A Mile Cleanup* of Union Street from Powderhorn Drive to Douglas Avenue. We gathered 15 bags of trash and litter that weighed nearly 50 pounds. There will be three more opportunities for this event. Join us next time. Many thanks to **Tanya Landry** for making this happen and all those who gave of their time!





## People Powered Elections September 21, 2023 at Unitarian Universalist Church, Clearwater.

Fifty people from across Pinellas County (and beyond) attended this inaugural, cross-organizational meeting to talk about the 2024 elections in Pinellas County. This was a non-partisan, non-endorsement event to discuss and strategize the following shared goal: "What do we need to do to be more effective in our outreach and engagement to encourage voting, especially from young voters (18-25yo), BIPOC communities, and working families?"



Evy Bernstein



*Pictured here: Linda Metzkw, Jacqui Farrell, , Evy Bernstein, Nancy Sidrow, Tanya Landry. Not Pictured: Phil Stone and Eliseo Santana*

Attendees spanned 28 different organizations; including, Indivisible; Indivisible North Pinellas; Indivisible Florida 13; Indivisible Action Tampa Bay; Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church Clearwater; UU Tarpon Springs; Florida For All; Common Cause; Dream Defenders; Equal Ground; Equality Florida; Faith in Florida; Families for Strong Public Schools; Florida Retired Educators' Association; Florida Rising; League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); League of Women Voters (LWV) St. Pete; LWV North Mommasanna; Moms Demand Action; National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF); National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Pinellas Democratic Socialists of America

(DSA); Pinellas Classroom Teachers' Association (PCTA); Pinellas Education Service Professionals' Union (PESPA); Service Employees International Union (SEIU); St. Pete for Change; Suncoast Sierra Club; Unimex.

Jasmine Burney-Clark with **Equal Ground** shared important information about Black Voters Matter Capacity Building Institute v. Byrd, a case now being heard in the state appellate court. The LWVFL is a co-plaintiff in this case, which addresses redistricting maps in North Florida which diminish the ability of Black voters to elect candidates of their choice.

To read more about it, go to <https://lwvfl.org/league-victory-court-strikes-down-floridas-congressional-map/>



Jacqui Farrell, Jasmine Burney-Clark, Tanya Landry



## Membership: Cocktails and Conversation

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, eight LWVNPC members, including four new members gathered at Grillsmith to get to know each other better and learn what the League is doing right now. We met interesting new members with diverse talents. Many thanks to Linda Metzkwow, Judson Cahill, Terrie Byrne, Jacqueline Farrell, Marti Folwell, Diana Carsey, Carolyn Sorice, Mina Harkins, and Tanya Landry for attending. We look forward to more social events in the future!



*Tanya Landry, Linda Metzkwow, Judson Cahill*

*Tanya Landry, Diana Carsey*



## Welcome New Members

Pamela Chapin  
Mary Giordano  
Dianne Hall  
Julie Hudson

Susan Powell  
Richard Ross  
Cara Paitsel  
Sophia Phillips



# COMMITTEE UPDATES

## Board Meeting - members welcome!



The LWVNP Board meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 4:00pm. Minutes for the September 2023 meeting can be found at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q7ejJdhtljqW2fw8UcLgNN1MRO\\_LuaNK/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q7ejJdhtljqW2fw8UcLgNN1MRO_LuaNK/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](mailto:nblarson@gmail.com)) to obtain the link to join these informative and busy meetings.

## Economic Equity Committee



**Chair Mina Harkins** reported that she is suspending her Zoom committee meetings because of low response. She will communicate via email issues with the members who have expressed interest.

Last month the FL Supreme Court began review of the case on 15-week abortion ruling to determine if this rule violates the state constitution's right to privacy. If they decide that it doesn't, within 30 days the 6-week abortion ban will go into effect. This began on September 8th, but no ruling has come down yet. Mina will get information out to everyone when the decision is made. Ms. Harkins continues to maintain the inventory of LWVNPC materials at her home with easy access in her garage.

## Education Committee



Submitted by **Vivian Post**, Education Committee Chair. The committee met virtually on Monday, September 25 at 4:30 pm, and included guests **Linda Metzkwow**, Voter Service Chair, along with new committee members **Tanya Landry**, **Evvy Bernstein** and **Bonnie Whitehurst**.

My Vote Counts Project: On Wednesday, September 20, the League hosted a table at Eckerd College Service-Learning Fair. The purpose of this event was to engage student volunteers for community organizations. **Vivian Posey** received applications from several students who would like to volunteer for the Education Committee and become student members of the League. Additional communication with Eckerd College staff for the purpose of initiating a collegiate chapter of the League is anticipated. The Pinellas County College and Career Fair was held at Countryside High School on October 2. Volunteers for this event included **Tanya Landry**, **Miriam Benitez**, and **Joe Nixon**.

Pinellas County School Board Meeting Report: Vivian attended the first portion of the September 12th Board meeting and presented information regarding the issues discussed. She was unable to attend the Budget Review portion of the meeting or hear the presentation by the remaining 40 speakers, most of whom were Pinellas County educators. **Jeanne Reynolds** reported that the vote to pass the 2023-24 budget was 5-2. **Debbie Entreen** attended the September 26th meeting, and **Jeanne Reynolds** will attend the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Jeanne**



Reynolds will also investigate the process for making a presentation by the League rather than signing up to be a public comment speaker.



Voter Service: Chair **Linda Metzkw** reported on the committee's activities. She reported on the recent League Zoom meeting regarding "Know Your Rights" regarding the new legislation. The link for the recorded meeting is

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zpjAtpn-WVoftRsnU9LQpR52cvcFqtu/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zpjAtpn-WVoftRsnU9LQpR52cvcFqtu/view?usp=drive_link)

There are three events taking place. North Pinellas County Indivisible is sponsoring an event for GOTV at the Universalist Unitarian Church on October 21, 2023, from 11 am to 2 pm. Four of our members will be attending. The ESOL community fair is scheduled for October 12, and **Carolina Tave** and **Linda Metzkw** will be attending. On October 14, 2023, the Clearwater Bar Association will be hosting an event at St. Pete College. Returning citizens will be included. **Linda Metzkw** needs all League members who are handing out voter registration information to complete the form she sent via email last month.



With input from others, Chair **Bryan Beckman** is working on potential Hot Topic events, and he is working with his contacts from the Sierra Club to get this moving. A pause has been placed on any new fertilizer bans, and a committee is working to see that preemption pulling back on fertilizer bans does not occur. Counties are including this as a part of their legislative priorities this year. He is presenting to the Clearwater Advisory Board on this topic later this month. He feels this is a topic the LWWNPC should support.



### Voter Services:

Needed: **Candidate Forum chairperson**. Responsibilities include working with the municipality and/or local chamber of commerce; filling positions such as timekeeper, moderator; assisting in developing questions if needed, and being familiar with procedures, which are documented.

Outgoing chair **Ellen Siegman** will train replacement. Contact: [ellenisiegman@gmail.com](mailto:ellenisiegman@gmail.com)

Are you tech savvy? Like to do Graphic Design? Chairperson Linda Metzkw is in need of someone to help with creating QR Codes, flyers, brochures and graphics for the Voter Services Committee. Contact: [lindametzkw@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:lindametzkw@tampabay.rr.com)

## Wanted: LWV Members



For: Sharing What You Know and Love!

Do you have a special skill or talent? Did you travel to a unique location this summer? Are you engaged in community service or have an occupation that teens will find interesting? If so, the Take Stock in Children virtual mentoring program is a great place to share what you know with some exceptionally talented students in Pinellas County schools.

The Take Stock in Children (TSIC) Scholarship is a statewide program supported by the Florida Department of Education that awards college scholarships to qualified, often first in the family to attend college, Pinellas County students. The program is funded through the Pinellas Education Foundation. The students who are accepted into TSIC attend weekly 30-minute virtual meetings to learn about their community, careers, and future opportunities to help others.

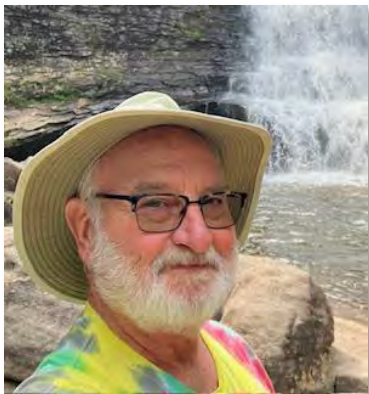
Requirements Include:

- ✓ 30 minutes of your time
- ✓ A computer, phone, or tablet with internet access
- ✓ An engaging presentation or “story”
- ✓ An interest in helping teens prepare for life after high school

You can schedule your 30-minute presentation on a day and time that is convenient for you. To find out more about the program, and to schedule a time to speak with a group of TSIC students, contact Elizabeth Muscaro (727-588-4816), or [Elizabeth.Muscaro@pinellaseducationfoundation.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Muscaro@pinellaseducationfoundation.org).

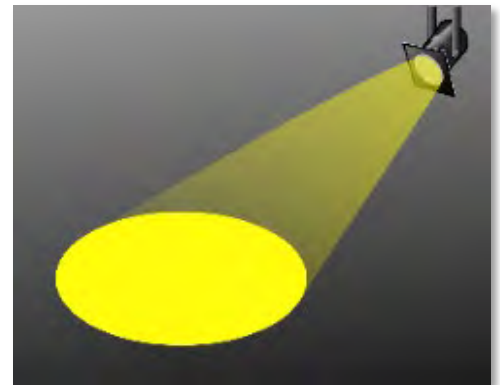
Your time and expertise will be most appreciated by the Pinellas Education Foundation and these very deserving students!

## Spotlight: Introducing Greg Hietpas



Hiker, camper, bicyclist, kayaker, walker, lover of music festivals. **Greg Hietpas** has many interests, most centered on enjoying the natural environment. Among all the activities he engages in, there's one more of which he's proud. He's "The Trash Man." As a county volunteer, twice a week he's out walking, bicycling, or using a Park's Department cart picking up trash as he goes on patrol for five to six hours on the Pinellas & Duke Energy Trails. Once or twice a week, he's also out kayaking picking up trash on our waterways. In addition, he also volunteers for Keep

Pinellas Beautiful and participated with the LWNPC during the Adopt A Mile activity on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Greg is a native of Appleton, Wisconsin. He earned an undergraduate degree in Education, and a graduate degree in Counseling Psychology. In 1985, he moved from Colorado to Dunedin where he raised his family. During his professional years, he was a licensed mental health counselor, and worked in multiple settings: hospitals, psychiatric centers, substance abuse programs, was in private practice, and worked with healthcare insurance companies. He spent years advocating for mental health counselors at the local, state, and national level.

Greg came to the LWVNPC in 2018. What motivated him to join was his concern that changes in voting policies and procedures in the last fifteen years are erecting barriers to voting, especially for disenfranchised citizens. He sees a need for voter registration advocacy and education, which makes him a faithful LWV and AARP supporter.

Greg takes full advantage of the natural attributes of Florida, but spends part of his time in Thailand, where one of his children lives. He loves to explore Thailand's street life, cityscapes, national parks, and mountain villages, all within a convenient distance of where he stays in Chiang Mai. He also uses this opportunity to provide childcare for his grandchildren and travel to neighboring countries such as Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

The well-loved Mr. Rogers advised us to "look for the helpers," so, look for "The Trash Man" on the trails or the Intercoastal waterway. Greg is one of them.

## My Civil Rights Tour



Here is day 4 of 5 of LWVNPC member **Beth Hovind's** civil rights tour, featured in installments in each Voter issue.

To read the entire account, go to:

Friday, January 13: Fourth Day: Selma to Montgomery Freedom March

Out today at 9 am for a three-hour tour with Jake Williams of Montgomery Tours. Jake begins with a half hour history lesson on Montgomery. He grew up 25 miles from here and as a 12-year-old child (from a family of 16), he and a few sisters had joined the Selma to Montgomery Freedom March. He drives us through the area



of Montgomery they marched through and to the final camping spot where they stayed the night before the final Martin Luther King speech at the Capital. The eve of the March was referred to as "the night the stars came out in Montgomery" as Belafonte, Sammy Davis, Peter, Paul, and Mary, and others put on a show for the marchers who started at 300 and numbered 25,000 by the end.



The start of the protest was the shooting of Vietnam veteran James Bonnard Fowler on Feb. 18, 1965 by a state trooper as James was trying to shield his mother. On March 7, John Lewis and Rev. Hosea Williams led 600 people



to confront Gov. George Wallace, leading to Bloody Sunday “and a severe beating of protesters. The march took 5 days and included 4 nights of camping sites. 3 of the 4 campsite owners suffered retribution for allowing the marchers to rest there. A store owner found she was unable to get products delivered and lost her store. Others suffered similar consequences to continue their trades. The Catholic Church St. Jude, hosting the final night, lost their hospital on site when white doctors left. All who assisted except one person connected to wealth, were punished by the white community.

We tour through the broken Black community, destroyed by the building of an interchange of 2 major interstates, an all-too-common story. Boarded houses, stores and other buildings show the depth of impact. People are still living there in a few apartment buildings. We see the outside of the unit Rosa Parks lived in, but there are acres of very distressed buildings. There is only one store left and young people are not returning to the area, according to Jake.

We view the store where Rosa Parks worked as a seamstress and hear her story. Apparently, she was taking the bus home, sitting just at the start of the Black section of the bus, and was told to move when there was not enough seating for white riders. She refused and was arrested for disorderly conduct. Since she was in the black section of the bus, she could not be arrested for anything else. A bus boycott was arranged for the next day with 50,000 flyers spread throughout the Black community. The result was so successful that the leaders decided that night to continue it. So, for the next 381 days, Blacks stayed off the bus. The impact was great as they were the major users of the system. A ride-sharing program, run by Dean’s Drugstore, connected drivers and riders. Over 150 vehicles were used. When the city declared it illegal to pick up walkers on the street, Dean’s put in a large lot next door where drivers and riders could meet. The boycott was a success and Blacks no longer had to give up their seats to whites. The final legal case was brought on behalf of 5 other women, not Rosa. But her actions incited the organizing.



## New Member Orientation

Whether you’ve been a member for a few days or a few years, LWVNPC invites you to join us for our “new member orientation.” We’ll discuss how to best utilize your membership, who to contact, how to network, and much more.

Please join us on **Monday, November 13, 2023, at 5:30pm** for a *Zoom* orientation presentation on your League. We will present a PowerPoint “class” to give you a better picture of what the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County does and how **YOU** fit in.

Please plan for a one-hour presentation to be followed by Q&A and suggestions you might have for how we can all work together in a more productive way.

We look forward to greeting you and spending a little time together. Don’t miss this opportunity.

RSVP to [nbslanson@gmail.com](mailto:nbslanson@gmail.com) so we can send you the link and reminder for this meeting.

**ALICE:** Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)

## A Data Walk About Living Paycheck to Paycheck

November 14, 2023 – 9:30am-12:30pm

Hosted at the Center for Health Equity: Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg, 2333 34th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711

What's the status of ALICE households, those who stand just one unexpected expense from dire circumstances? Difficult and growing. Join United Way Suncoast and the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg to gain a greater understanding of the plight facing ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families and community members living paycheck to paycheck.

At this event, participants will engage in a hands-on exercise that will illuminate the difficult monthly decisions facing real families. Participants will also learn about the financial challenges in our region, get a first-hand look at the latest United For ALICE data, and engage in discussions about how to move families forward. This is a chance for nonprofit leaders, policy makers, key stakeholders, elected officials and community leaders to delve into the specific needs of South St. Petersburg, Pinellas County and Tampa Bay families while weighing in on the opportunities for improvement. Doors open at 9:30am. Program begins at 10:00 AM

Click Here  
[REGISTER](#)

## You're Invited

### Have you been to the new website?

Did you even know that we have a new website? We'd like to share the features of this new site with you and get your feedback.

To do this, we will be hosting a Zoom presentation on navigating our website on **Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 5:00 pm**. If you would like to join us, please **rsvp** to [nbslarson@gmail.com](mailto:nbslarson@gmail.com) so that we have you in our count and can send you the link (Zoom invitation).

Tanya Landry will be the moderator of this meeting, and you will be sent a complete outline of the new website prior to this meeting. Please review the packet before the meeting and come prepared with questions and feedback.

Thank you for your participation.  
LWVNPC Membership Committee



## Want to leave a Google Review for LWVNPC?

Go to <http://search.google.com/local/reviews?placeid=ChIJW4V5OYDxwogRIIzWPBfytgg> and look to the LWVNPC description on the right side of the page. Look toward the bottom of the page to: "Reviews."

## Holiday Planning



You're Invited  
LWVNPC Holiday Party  
Friday, December 9, 2023  
3 – 5 pm

Chateaux de Bardmoor Condo Association Clubhouse  
8345 Bardmoor Blvd., Seminole, FL 33777

BYOB. Coffee, Tea, Water Available  
There will be Holiday Music and  
Lots of Good Conversation.

Invite a guest(s) and have a good time.

Please RSVP to  
[nbslarson@gmail.com](mailto:nbslarson@gmail.com)

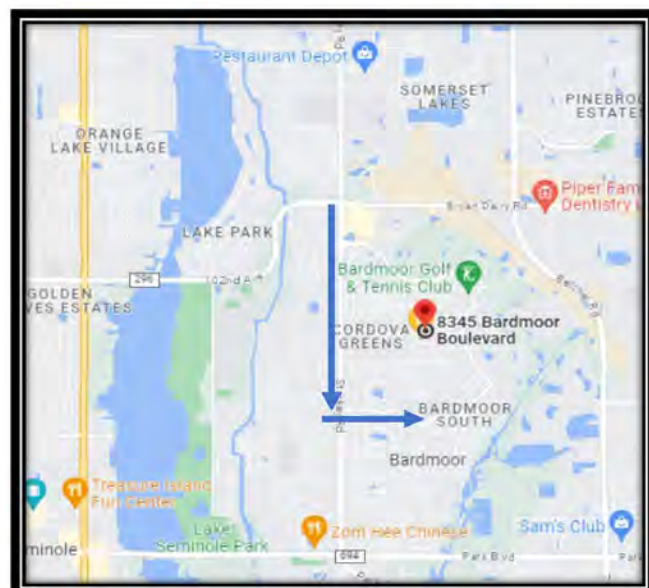
From the north, head south on  
S. Keene / Starkey Road

Turn left on Bardmoor Blvd.

Follow Bardmoor Blvd. and turn  
left on Berkshire Lane.

The Clubhouse is located on the  
left

Park in parking lot located there.





# DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, October 30, 2024, 4:30pm	Education Committee Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 4pm	LWVNPC Board Meeting Via Zoom
Monday, November 6, 2023, 6:30pm	LWVNPC Environment Committee via Zoom
Monday November 13, 2023, 5:30pm	New Member Orientation via Zoom
Tuesday November 14, 2023, 9:30am - 12:30pm	ALICE: (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) A Data Walk About Living Paycheck to Paycheck
Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 5pm	Navigating Our Website Orientation via Zoom
Monday, November 20, 2023, 6 pm	Voter Services Meeting Via Zoom
December 9, 2023, 3pm-6pm	LWVNPC Holiday Open House, Chateaux de Bardmoor Condo Association Club House.

*For Zoom links to meetings, please contact Gayla Larson at [nblarson@gmail.com](mailto:nblarson@gmail.com)*