



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY



Making Democracy Work

THE VOTER

November 2016

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

VOTE!

It is the civic duty of every registered voter.

Our democracy depends on the people exercising this sacred right.

Still unsure about some of
the candidates and issues?

Remember the League has provided just the
place for you to learn about them:

<https://vote.lwvspa.org/>

Be an informed voter!

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President's Message

Dear LWVNPC Members,



It's almost time for the elections, and we have been and will continue to be a presence! We worked up to the day before the extended last day with voter registrations. Now we move into our Observer Corps duties as we attend the canvassing board sessions at the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections office. These are open to the public. The schedule is found on the right side of the VotePinellas.org website. We've participated in quite a number of candidate forums around the county and will continue to do so for Dunedin, Tarpon Springs, and Safety Harbor.

The New Member Orientation will be held on November 1. Do you know someone that wants to make a difference? If so, please encourage that person to think about joining the League. We embrace "doers"!

Our upcoming Hot Topic is "Poverty in Pinellas" with two experts sharing their passions and work in this field. Plan to join us from 10:30-12:30 on Saturday, November 5 at the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Clearwater at 2001 Rainbow Drive.

- And to end our year on a festive note, join us at the entrance gazebo at 5:30 on Tuesday, December 6 for "Holiday Lights in the Garden" at 12520 Ulmerton Road followed at 6:30 with dinner at Olive Garden in the Largo Mall. Lights and laughter – what a marvelous way to bring this year to a joyful close!

Please call or email me if you would like to participate in such activities!

Karen Karinja, President, League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County

214.929.8984 karen.karinja@gmail.com

From 2nd Vice President & Chair of Poverty/Health, Beth Hovind:

The poverty/health committee has been looking at poverty and its impact in North Pinellas and Pasco counties, and yes, we do have work to do. Poverty is a serious threat to many people's existence. Two of the five poorest neighborhoods in Pinellas County are in Tarpon Springs and Clearwater. The United Way estimates that 33% of Pinellas County residents and 34% of Pasco County residents are economically distressed.

The first step will be to educate ourselves on the impacts of poverty so we can begin to advocate for solutions. These are our neighbors, our fellow citizens and workers, often, who are living **without** so many of the basics that most of us take for granted.

We will begin this effort on Saturday, November 5th, educating ourselves and learning what we can do for so many in our communities.

Bring your friends and neighbors to learn with us. We will be meeting at the Presbyterian Church in Clearwater so there will be plenty of room. More information is on the flyer on page 3.

POVERTY MATTERS

Its Impact on Us and the Health of Our Community



***Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016 at 10:30am
Trinity Presbyterian Church
2001 Rainbow Drive, Clearwater
(East side of Hercules,
one block north of Gulf to Bay Blvd.)***

Guest speakers: Norin Dollard, PHD, Asst Professor, USF,
who will discuss how poverty impacts families & kids in our county
and in Florida

and

Dr. Julie Kessel, President of the LWVSPA, who will address
the recent push to expand Florida Medicaid to cover 600,000
more citizens currently without any health insurance.

Sponsored by



For more information call Beth Hovind: 727-938-9809

www.lwvnorthpinellas.org

Copy this poster & post in your church, nearest library, clubhouse, etc.

JUST DAYS AWAY...DON'T MISS THIS!

Learn **MORE** about the League: Attend the **Member Orientation on Tuesday, November 1, 2016**

All members are invited to a LWVNPC Member Orientation. Yes, we especially encourage new members who have not yet been to an orientation meeting to attend, but all members, new and longer term, are invited. You might learn something new or meet some new friends.

Where: Clearwater East Library – 2251 Drew Street, Clearwater, FL 33765. The meeting room is right behind the checkout desk on the left when you walk inside.

Time: 5:30 – 7:00

There are three main goals for this orientation:

We want you to understand the organization of the League. What is advocacy vs education? What do we do? What do we stand for? Where did we come from? How are we funded?

We want you to become involved to the extent that you want to and are able to. We will discuss volunteer opportunities. Some are committees with a specific focus (poverty, education, environment, voter registration, speaker's bureau, etc.), some are helpers at events (reception, organization, etc.), and some are writing articles for *The Voter* and/or helping the League historian. In addition, we need back-up people to help some of our volunteers. There are many more opportunities as well, so something will fit with your skills, interest, and time availability.

We want to meet each other and learn about each other and, maybe, make some friends. Yes, we are committed to serving our community, but we also want to have some fun and be social.

You do not need to RSVP – just show up. However, if you know you plan to attend, please send an email to Donna Sharpless, Membership Chair (dsharpless513@gmail.com). Just say “Yes, I will be there.” Thanks.



BEFORE NOVEMBER 8, GO H E R E !

Go to: <https://vote.lwvspa.org/>



Click on the menu on the top of the page for the following information:

2016 Elections: Nov. 8th Pinellas County General Election, Precincts by District & Municipality, Voting tips for students

Federal: Races for Federal Offices, Information on U.S. Government

State: State Offices Up for 2016 Election, Information on State Government

County: Pinellas County Offices Up for 2016 Election, Information on Pinellas County Government

Courts: Judge seats Up for 2016 Election, Information on Florida Courts

Ballot Initiatives/Amendments : Ballot Initiatives/Amendments Up for 2016 Election , Information on Ballot

Initiatives/Amendments

The Voter November 2016

Know your rights and help educate others about theirs!

Florida Voter's Bill of Rights

Each registered voter in this state has the right to:

1. Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted.
2. Cast a vote if he or she is in line at the official closing of the polls in that county.
3. Ask for and receive assistance in voting.
4. Receive up to two replacement ballots if he or she makes a mistake prior to the ballot being cast.
5. An explanation if his or her registration is in question.
6. If his or her registration is in question, cast a provisional ballot.
7. Written instructions to use when voting, and, upon request, oral instructions in voting from election officers.
8. Vote free from coercion or intimidation by elections officers or any other person.
9. Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.

(Section 101.031(2), Florida Statutes)

Source: Florida Division of Elections

Voter's Responsibilities

Each registered voter in this state should:

1. Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.
2. Maintain with the office of the supervisor of elections a current address.
3. Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation.
4. Bring proper identification to the polling station.
5. Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
6. Treat precinct workers with courtesy.
7. Respect the privacy of other voters.
8. Report any problems or violations of election laws to the supervisor of elections.
9. Ask questions, if needed.
10. Make sure that his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling station.

NOTE TO VOTER: Failure to perform any of these responsibilities does not prohibit a voter from voting.

(Section 101.031(2), Florida Statutes)

Source: Florida Division of Elections

VOTE!

LWVNPC PROVIDES SEVERAL VOTER SERVICES



Donna Sharpless and Valli Katzl registered voters on October 19, 2016 at Hillsborough Community College, Lois Ave., Tampa, at the request of staff there.

Candidate Forums: LWVNPC Does Great Job Moderating

On October 4, 2016, the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County moderated a forum of candidates for Dunedin mayor and council members at the Hale Center in that city. Donna Sharpless, former LWVNPC president, served as Moderator.



Mary Rao and Becky Snyder were timekeepers.



Commissioner Candidates (L-R): R. Hepburn, H. Gracy, M. Jones, M. Feaney; Mayoral Candidates (L-R): B. Livingston, J. Ward-Byalski; D. Sharpless at the podium



Gladys Garcia staffed the League table.

3rd DUNEDIN CANDIDATES FORUM was held at the Dunedin Country Club, 1050 Palm Dr., Dunedin, Florida, on October 21, 2016.

The LWVNPC also moderated that forum.

Did you know you could be a **Poll Watcher**? Such a person is there to monitor poll activities and report an untoward activities. It is a volunteer position and you must register if you are interested in doing this public service. For the form, go to:

- <http://www.voteinellas.com/Election-Information/Elections/Poll-Watcher>
- You must be a Pinellas County registered voter.
- The deadline for designating poll watchers is 14 days prior to early voting in a general election.

There are more guidelines. They are listed at the website above. **Deadline is NOON on October 25, 2016!**

Want more solar in the Sunshine State? Then vote "NO" on Amendment 1.

Amendment One is a wolf in sheep's clothing!



VOTE NO ON 1.ORG

WANT MORE SOLAR IN THE SUNSHINE STATE?
VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 1

Floridians should **VOTE NO** on Amendment 1 for three reasons:

Amendment 1 is funded by Florida's big utilities to protect their monopoly markets and limit customer-owned solar.

Amendment 1 paves the way for barriers that would penalize solar customers.

Amendment 1 misleads Florida voters by promising rights and protections that Florida citizens already have.

FACT 1 Amendment 1 is funded by Florida's big utilities to protect their monopoly markets and limit customer-owned solar.

Follow the money: Florida Power & Light (FPL), Duke Energy and other big power companies want to maintain their monopoly control on profits from electricity sales and limit customer-owned solar. Solar power is poised to grow in the Sunshine State, which would allow customers to generate their own power and buy less from the electric utilities. To date, the monopoly utilities have contributed the majority of the \$20 million collected to promote this Amendment to protect their power sales all the while claiming they are "pro-solar." In reality, utilities only support limited amounts of solar power they own and from which they can profit. No non-utility solar company supports Amendment 1.

FACT 2 Amendment 1 paves the way for barriers that would penalize solar customers.

The utility-backed Amendment 1 would add to the State Constitution the false assumption that solar customers are "subsidized" by non-solar customers & that non-solar customers are in need of additional protections. In fact, reputable studies in 10 states show that solar customers provide a net-benefit for the utility and all electricity customers. The large monopoly utilities are looking for ways to limit customer-owned solar and will use this false claim as a justification to implement unfair fees and discriminatory penalties for solar customers. Restrictions and unfair fees would make solar more expensive, limit the expansion of solar, & hurt consumers by denying a cost effective way to lower power bills.

FACT 3 Amendment 1 misleads Florida voters by promising rights and protections that Florida citizens already have.

The monopoly utilities wrote Amendment 1 to sound good by promising that it would add new solar rights and consumer protections. Floridians already have the right to purchase or lease solar equipment and are already fully protected under Florida's existing consumer protection laws. The false promises of additional rights are designed to gain support for the Amendment, not to grow the solar market in Florida.

LEARN MORE AT VoteNoOn1.org

Pol. Adv. paid for by Floridians for Solar Choice, Inc.
120 E. Oakland Park Blvd, Suite 105, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334

October 1, 2016 the LWNPC sponsored a well attended meeting with Jono Miller, a well-respected naturalist, who spoke on the assaults on Florida State Parks. Representatives of several environmental groups attended. The meeting was held at Brooker Creek Nature Preserve, a perfect spot to talk about our precious natural resources.



An attentive audience



Mr. Miller made these final points:

1. Resist efforts to advance multiple use, especially exploitative uses in state parks.
2. Support the last year's Amendment One spending consistent with its mission of the Land Acquisition Trust Fund.
3. Involve the public early; support real hearing for Unit Management Plan Updates.
4. Science, not politics, must be the basis for management.
5. Boost staffing levels at Florida state parks.



Ashley Pimley, LWNPC Board member, Jono Miller, Speaker, Karen Karenja, President of LWNPC, and Judy Ramsey, LWNPC Board member, pose for a picture at the Oct. 1 event.



Education members at their October 17 meeting. L-R: Mary Rao, Pona Piekarski, Joy Comstock, Delia Hancock, Sue Rishworth. Photographed by Lois Rogers-Watson, also a member. Absent that day was Mary Schoonover.

LWNPC Education Committee meets regularly

Chaired by Pona Piekarski, the Education Committee of the LWNPC meets bimonthly to examine educational issues in Pinellas County. Some of its members attend School Board meetings. The Committee has offered to help review any new applications for charter schools. The School Board will be communicating whether or not it will accept this offer. Leagues in some other counties in the State have found that School Boards welcome their input.

The Committee has invited recently elected School Board Member, Eileen Long, to meet with them and that meeting will be on October 27, 2016. An invitation has been made to Antonio Burt, hired to oversee the "Failure Factories," to speak in a public meeting in January. An answer from Mr. Burt is expected in early December. Watch *The Voter* for news!

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

2016-2017

Lively discussions on timely global issues

Meetings are the first Monday of the month

2 p.m.

Pinellas Park Library at 52nd St. & 78th Ave.

Pinellas Park

This is a joint project of LWVSPA & LWVNPC

ALL are welcome for stimulating and informative gatherings
on global issues.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SCHEDULE

November 7	Shifting Alliances in Mideast	Vollie Riskin
December 5	International Migration	Dwight Lawton
January 9	Cuba and the United States	Kay Lahdenpera
February 6	Climate Geopolitics	Joe LeBas
March 6	United Nations Post 2015	Linda McGeehan
April 3	Rise of Isis	Judy McSwine
May 1	Korean Choices	June Bedford

Questions? Email Judy McSwine at judymcswine@gmail.com

NOVEMBER HOT TOPIC

Poverty in North Pinellas County: Why This Matters to You

Saturday, Nov. 5– 10:30-12:30

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2001 Rainbow Dr., Clearwater

FYI: School referendum Tuesday, November 8, 2016
APPROVAL OF CONTINUATION OF ONE-HALF MILL AD VALOREM TAX FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING EXPENSES. See <http://www.citizensforpinellaschools.com>

Now You Can Join the League Online

JOIN/RENEW MEMBERSHIP

PAYMENT METHOD

JOIN

Just Go to our Website

We have recently added PayPal payment services for your convenience. Choosing this online option, you can become a member using your credit or debit card.

Just go to the [LWVNPC Website](#), select **Payment Method**, and follow the instructions.

NOTE: There is no extra charge to you for the PayPal service when you use your credit or debit card to pay LWVNPC membership dues.

League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NEW MEMBER? PREVIOUS MEMBER? WHERE? _____

Annual membership is \$55. Household memberships are \$85 (2 people). Student membership is \$30. Cornerstone membership is \$110. Household Cornerstone is \$140. After LWV membership for 50 years, dues are waived.

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 & payment to: LWVNPC, P. O. Box 6833,

Clearwater, FL 33758 OR Join online at [LWVNPC!](#)

Find your place within our expanding League activities to focus your passions.

Choose an area of interest and contact the team leader

Advocacy issues such as

Health (Chair position is currently vacant.)

Education (Pona Piekarski, pona-piekarski@gmail.com, 816.289.9218)

Pinellas Poverty (Beth Hovind, bethse@gmail.com, 727.938.9809)

Environment and Transportation (Peggy Toohey, ptoohey2@tampabay.rr.com, 727.786.3457)

Constitutional Revision (Ellen Siegman, ellensiegman@gmail.com, 727.422.2879)

Stop Campus Carry (seeking team leader)



Mary Rao & Becky Snyder
Timekeepers at a Forum



Donna Sharpless registering voters.

Management areas such as

Membership (Donna Sharpless, dsharpless513@gmail.com, 727.286.7684)

Publicity/PR (seeking team leader, contact Karen Karinja)

Social Media (Facebook – Candy Ryan, candyculpt@hotmail.com, 727.789.7157)

Technology (seeking team leader, contact Karen Karinja)

Development (Ashley Pimley, ashley7276928450@gmail.com, 727.692.8450)

Event Planning (Judy Ramsey, pookiejune.jr@gmail.com, 727.504.8922)

Voter Service (Karen Karinja, Karen.karinja@gmail.com, 214.929.8984)

Informed and Active Citizen Participation

Visit us on the web at
www.lwvnorthpinellas.org

LWVNPC

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President: Karen Karinja

1st Vice President: Vicki Adelson

2nd Vice President: Beth Hovind

Secretary: Anne Decker

Treasurer: Marti Folwell

Directors

Rita Garvey

Judy McSwine

Ashley Pimley

Judy Ramsey

Lois Rogers-Watson

Donna Sharpless

Peggy Toohey

Webmaster: Kay Pitchon

Speak up for Democracy.

Join the League!