



VOTER SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2017

Rita Garvey made a motion at our August 8, 2017 Board meeting to amend the by-laws, changes are in red. This change was voted on and approved.

ARTICLE V- OFFICERS

Sec. 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County shall be a President or Co-President(s), a First Vice President, a Second Vice President (**Membership Chair**), a Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected for terms of two (2) years, and take office immediately. The First Vice President and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The President(s), Second Vice President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Sec. 2. The President(s). The President(s) or Vice-president if so designated shall preside at all meetings of the organization, and, of the Board of Directors. The President(s) may, in the absence of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks or drafts or notes. The President(s) shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President(s), until such time as the Board of Directors decides, shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Sec. 3. The Vice Presidents. The two Vice Presidents, in the order of their rank, shall, in the event of absence, resignation, disability, disqualification or death of the President(s), possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the office of President(s), until such time as the Board of Directors shall select one of its members to fill the vacancy. **The second Vice President will serve as membership chair.** The Vice Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President and Board may designate.



FL Sun Solar Co-Op comes to N. Pinellas

September 25 – December 25, 2017

FL Sun, in partnership with the League of Women Voters and Suncoast Sierra Club,

Launch N. Pinellas Solar Co-op to Make Going Solar Easier & More Affordable Than Ever

The price of solar PV systems has fallen dramatically in the past few years and electricity from solar is now cheaper than power from the grid, and on September 25, 2017 the N. Pinellas chapter of the League of

Women Voters and FL SUN launched a solar cooperative to help homeowners and small businesses save significant money on solar PV systems through the power of competitive bidding and group purchasing. FL SUN - supported by D.C.-based Community Power Network (CPN) - will be the platform for the Solar Co-Op. Since its launch in 2016, FL Sun has formed 18 solar co-ops across the state, signed up 2800 co-op members, helped 500+ homeowners go solar at great prices, generated \$15 million in energy savings for members and over \$9 million in investment in local communities; as well as offsetting 178,177,313 lbs of CO2 [over the life of the solar arrays]. Nationally, CPN has formed 103 co-ops across six states and signed up 10,000+ co-op members since its beginnings in 2011.

FL Sun is working in partnership with the League of Women Voters, the Suncoast Sierra Club and a host of Community Partners on this important initiative. Joining the Solar Co-op is a great way to learn about solar power for your home or business, get assistance through the purchase process and save significant money on energy bills for decades! There is no cost to join the co-op, nor obligation to purchase a PV system.

What is a solar co-operative?

The FL Sun Solar Co-Ops are groups of community members going solar together, and by leveraging the power of competitive bidding and 'group-buying', are garnering significant discounts on residential and small commercial solar PV systems. In addition, FL Sun –

- Hosts a series of public Solar Information Meetings to offer a basic primer in solar technology and economics, as well as to answer questions and explain the advantages of buying through the co-op.
- Facilitates the bidding process and the evaluation of bids & installers, lending their solar expertise to give members confidence in a thorough vetting process.
- Other program aims include saving members money on electric bills, raising public awareness to the many benefits of going solar, moving FL towards a place of national leadership in this fast-growing industry, and broadening Florida's network of solar supporters to help strengthen solar policies.

Benefits to homeowners:

- Save on average 20% off retail prices on solar PV systems – sometime more
- Get support through the purchase process
- Save significant \$\$ on energy bills for decades and derive a handsome return on investment
- Add value to your home

Benefits to the area:

- Support our local solar industry and the good jobs they create Cleaner air
- Add resiliency to the grid: less wear & tear and maintenance; less need for 'Peaker' power (expensive stand-by generation used during max demand) and costly new power plants; downward pressure on fuel costs; less 'line loss' (power lost through transmission) by consuming power at the point of generation

Attend a Solar Information Session to learn the basics of residential solar and get your questions answered.

Upcoming Solar Information Sessions:

- Tuesday Oct 10th, 6:00 to 8:00 PM - Clearwater Public Library (main):
100 N. Osceola Ave, Clearwater, FL 33755
- Thursday November 9th, 6:00 to 8:00 pm – Tarpon City Hall Auditorium:
324 East Pine Street, Tarpon Springs, 34689
- Monday December 4th, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM - Safety Harbor Public Library:
101 2nd Street N., Safety Harbor, FL 34695

National Popular ote!

The Case for the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact *Elect the President by Direct Popular Vote*

How the Electoral College works:

Indirect election: the President and VP are chosen every 4 years by a small group of people referred to as 'electors'. Each state is entitled to as many electoral votes as the sum of its representatives (Senators + Representatives) in Congress. The number of Representatives is based on total state population (including non-citizens) from the most recent census.

- 435 Representatives
- + 100 Senators
- + 3 Electors for Washington DC
- = 538 electoral votes

A majority of Electoral College votes (270 votes of the 538) are required for election.
(Florida has 27 House members plus 2 Senators = 29 electoral votes)

How the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) works:

- NPVIC is an agreement among states to award all of their Electoral College votes to the candidate who wins the national popular vote.
- 10 states and the District of Columbia have signed on, representing 165 electoral votes.
- NPVIC goes into effect when states totaling 270 electoral votes have signed on.

The Electoral College as now deployed is inequitable and outdated

The League of Women Voters believes the Electoral College, as now deployed, robs Americans of the "One-person, One-vote" fundamental principle of our democracy.

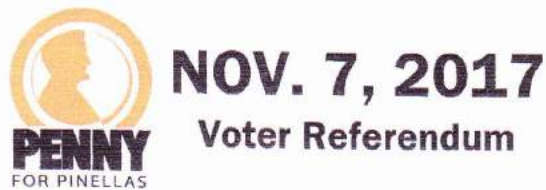
- Under current *Winner-Take-All* rules, a small vote margin gives all of a state's Electoral votes to the statewide winner. The winner of the national popular vote may not be elected President.
- Winner-Take-All results in candidates shaping their campaigns to win in only a few key "Swing" states and not heeding the voices of voters across the nation.
- The population-based Electoral College vote allocation system is outdated and no longer works well with our much larger nationwide populations:
- Your Florida vote is worth only 1/3 of a vote in a less populous state like Wyoming
- Wyoming and Delaware each get 3 Electors, but Delaware has nearly twice Wyoming's population
- The Electoral College system discourages voting.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

- Ensures direct popular vote for the President
- Makes every vote count equally
- Guarantees that the candidate with the most votes wins the election
- Encourages presidential candidates to adopt agendas that unite voters
- Retains the constitutionally mandated Electoral College
- Preserves state control of elections
- Re-engages voters and increases turnout for all elections

This is one of LWVUS/Florida Legislative Priorities

Support legislation necessary for Florida to join the at least 10 other states that are members of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC), so that Florida's Presidential Electors would be required to award all their votes to the candidate who wins the overall popular vote in the 50 states and District of Columbia.



www.pinellascounty.org/penny

How Would the Penny be Invested?

Examples of proposed Pinellas County Government projects to be funded by the **Penny for Pinellas** 1-percent sales tax:

Roads, Bridges & Trails

- Improve lanes and intersections for safety and capacity
- Restore or replace aging bridges
- Complete countywide Pinellas Trail loop
- Add sidewalks, ADA ramps and bike lanes

Water Quality, Flood & Sewer Spill Prevention

- Reduce sanitary sewer spills
- Prevent neighborhood flooding
- Replace aging pipes and infrastructure
- Enhance water quality

Safe, Secure Community

- Replace fire stations, law enforcement vehicles and public safety equipment
- Add emergency shelter space
- Replace emergency communications radio towers
- Improve animal shelter facility

Preserving Parks & Our Environment

- Acquire environmental land
- Expand and upgrade park facilities and amenities
- Renovate and replace park structures

Community Vitality

- Renovate and expand libraries
- Build community centers and recreational facilities
- Enhance government customer service centers
- Purchase land to develop housing that's affordable

The LWV of North Pinellas County encourages a YES vote on this referendum. All voters in Pinellas County can vote on the Penny for Pinellas. This a renewal of the extra penny tax, not a new tax.

PENNY FACTS

- **1% sales tax**; not a new tax
- **1/3 paid** for by visitors and tourists
- **Projects** do not rely on property taxes
- **Funds** long-term infrastructure projects
- **Shared** between the County and 24 cities
- **Funds** are collected and stay in Pinellas
- **Not collected** on groceries or medications

CONTACT OUR SPEAKERS BUREAU
(727) 464-4600

Calendar

October 21-Charlie Justice, the state of Pinellas County, Safety Harbor Library 10am-noon

November-Housing issues in Pinellas county, **November 4, 10:30-12:30**, Palm Harbor Library.

2-3 speakers, perhaps politician and someone from the ALICE project.

November 7-Municipal Elections and Penny for Pinellas Referendum

CRC COMMISSIONERS CONTINUE SPONSORSHIP OF PUBLIC PROPOSALS AND IDEAS REGARDING THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. –October 17. Today, the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) held its second and final full Commission meeting in which Commissioners could directly sponsor public proposals through the CRC process. Direct sponsorship of public proposals is one of several ways public input is considered through the CRC process. CRC Commissioners have also created their own proposals inspired by ideas submitted by Floridians.

CRC Chairman Carlos Beruff, said, "The CRC has received historic public input. More than 2,000 proposed revisions and thousands of comments were submitted by Floridians. As we review this public input, it clear that Floridians share many similar ideas and interests. In addition to Commissioners who chose to directly sponsor a public proposal, several Commissioners have created their own proposals inspired by public input. Floridians are encouraged to continue reaching out to Commissioners with ideas before October 31, which is the deadline for Commissioners to file proposals to be taken up during the CRC process."

A summary of public proposals directly sponsored by Commissioners, and proposals created by Commissioners that were inspired by public input, is provided below. Nineteen proposals have been filed by CRC Commissioners to date and are available for review on flcrc.gov/Proposals/Commissioner:

Public Proposals Directly Sponsored by CRC Commissioners (6 Total)

Commissioner Proposal 11 (Public Proposal 700396) "SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS, Primary, general, and special elections" – Sponsored by Commissioner Sherry Plymale; (Co-Introducers) Commissioners Carolyn Timmann ; Hank Coxe ; Roberto Martinez
Similar to nearly 20 other public proposals received by the CRC; in addition to comments received by email and at CRC public hearings.

Commissioner Proposal 12 (Public Proposal 700202) "MISCELLANEOUS, repeal s. 19" – Sponsored by Commissioner Carolyn Timmann

Public Proposal 700661 "The Right to Earn an Honest Living" – Sponsored by Commissioner Erika Donalds

Will be assigned commissioner proposal number.

Public Proposal 700540 "Right to a Clean and Healthful Environment " – Sponsored by Commissioner Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch

Will be assigned commissioner proposal number.

Public Proposal 700598 "Homestead Exemption Addition" – Sponsored by Commissioner Don Gaetz
Will be assigned commissioner proposal number.

Public Proposal 700698 "ARTICLE I: DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Section 23. Right of privacy." – Sponsored by Commissioner John Stemberger

Will be assigned commissioner proposal number.

Commissioner-Filed Proposals Inspired by Public Input (9 To-date)

Commissioner Proposal 1 "JUDICIARY, Eligibility" - Proposal by Commissioner Bobby Martinez; (Co-Introducer) Commissioner Don Gaetz

This proposal is similar to approximately 10 proposals received by the CRC; in addition to comments received by email and at CRC public hearings.

Commissioner Proposal 2 "SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS, Disqualifications" - Proposal by Commissioner Bobby Martinez; (Co-Introducer) Commissioner Anna Marie Hernandez Gamez
This proposal is similar to more than 10 public proposals received by the CRC; in addition to comments received by email and at CRC public hearings.

Commissioner Proposal 3 "DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Basic rights" - Proposal by Commissioner Bobby Martinez; (Co-Introducer) Commissioner Belinda Keiser

This proposal is similar to more than five public proposals received by the CRC; in addition to comments received by email and at CRC public hearings.

Commissioner Proposal 4 "DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Religious freedom" - Proposal by Commissioner Bobby Martinez; (Co-Introducer) Commissioner Anna Marie Hernandez Gamez
This proposal is similar to approximately 10 public proposals received by the CRC; in addition to comments received by email and at CRC public hearings.

Commissioner Proposal 7 "SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS, Disqualifications" - Proposal by Commissioner Chris Smith; (Co-Introducer) Commissioner Arthenia Joyner

This proposal is similar to more than 10 public proposals received by the CRC; in addition to comments received by email and at CRC public hearings.

Commissioner Proposal 8 "JUDICIARY, Eligibility; Vacancies" – Proposal by Commissioner Don Gaetz

This proposal is similar to more than five public proposals received by the CRC; in addition to comments received by email and at CRC public hearings.

Commissioner Proposal 13 "LOCAL GOVERNMENT, Counties; Schedule to Article VIII"– Proposal by Commissioner Carolyn Timmann; (Co-Introducer) Commissioner Chris Nocco

This proposal is similar to four public proposals received by the CRC.

Commissioner Proposal 14 "EXECUTIVE, Secretary of State" – Proposal by Commissioner Don Gaetz

This proposal is similar to two public proposals received by the CRC.

Commissioner Proposal 15 "DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Basic rights" – Proposal by Commissioner Anna Marie Hernandez Gamez

This proposal is similar to more than five public proposals received by the CRC; in addition to comments received by email and at CRC public hearings.

Additional Commissioner-Filed Proposals

Commissioner Proposal 5 "DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Rights of accused and of victims" – Proposal by Commissioner Chris Nocco; (Co-Introducers) Commissioners Carolyn Timmann ; Patricia Levesque ; Sherry Plymale ; Darlene Jordan ; Timothy Cerio ; Brecht Heuchan ; John Stemberger

Commissioner Proposal 6 "JUDICIARY, creates s. 21" – Proposal by Commissioner Roberto Martinez

Commissioner Proposal 9 "EXECUTIVE, Department of Veterans' Affairs" – Proposal by Commissioner Carolyn Timmann

Commissioner Proposal 10 "EDUCATION, Civic literacy in public education" – Proposal by Commissioner Don Gaetz

All public proposals received by the CRC are available on the CRC website at flcrc.gov/Proposals/Public.

All proposals filed by CRC Commissioners are available at flcrc.gov/Proposals/Commissioner.

Public hearing transcripts are available at flcrc.gov/Meetings/Transcripts.

LWVNPC

P.O. Box 6833

Clearwater, FL 33758

Phone: 727-447-1564

www.lwvnorthpinellas.org

Informed and Active Citizen
Participation

OFFICERS

President: Karen Karinja

1st Vice President: Beth Hovind

2nd Vice President: Eliseo Santana

Secretary: Vicki Cohen

Treasurer: Marti Folwell

Directors

Whit Blanton

Rita Garvey

Judy McSwine

Eliseo Santana

Peggy Toohey

Off Board Chair

Pona Piekarski, Education

