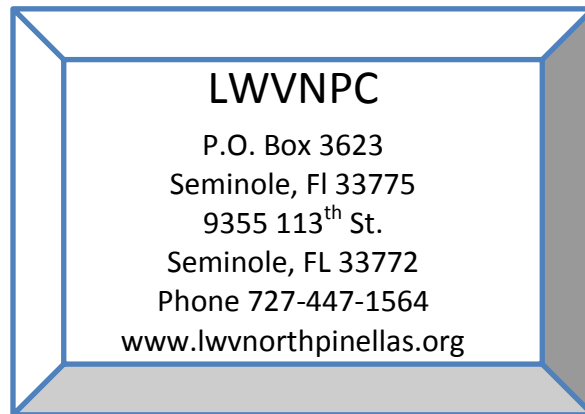


SEPTEMBER 2018 VOTER



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
2018-2020

Karen Karinja, President
Beth Hovind, Second Vice President
Gayla Larson, Treasurer

Directors 2018-2020

Anne Bokneberg
Marti Folwell
Judy McSwine
Stephanie Bolden

Continuing Officers & Directors 2017-2019

Eliseo Santana, First Vice-President/ Membership
Vicki Cohen, Secretary
Whit Blanton, Strategic Planning
Peggy Toohey, *The Voter*

Nominating Committee Chair 2019

Barbara Letvin

Off Board Chairs

Pona Piekarski, Education
David Sillman, Environment/Natural Resources
Stephanie Bolden, co-chair, Environment/Natural Resources

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



LWV North Pinellas 2018-19 Calendar Meetings and Information on upcoming elections

- September 8 Saturday Desmond Meade, executive director of the Voting Rights Restoration Coalition will be our guest speaker at our Hot Topics meeting on Saturday, 10:00 A.M. at the Dunedin Library.
- September 18 Tuesday Poverty/Health/Juvenile Justice Committee, Palm Harbor Library 6:30 pm
- September 25 Tuesday National Voter Registration Day
- September 25 Tuesday 6:30-8:30 at the SPC/Clearwater East Drew Street Library Conference room.
Educational Forum on Clearwater strong mayor vs city manager on ballot
- October 2 Tuesday Mailing of voter ballots
- October 4 Thursday VR The Oaks of Clearwater, 10am
- October 4 Thursday 5:30 pm Webinar on TANF and SNAP (Food Stamps) Cindi Huddleston, Florida Legal Services
- October 8 Monday Freedom Square, Amendment Presentation, 1-3pm
- October 8 Monday Temple Ahavat Shalom, Amendment Presentation
- October 9 Tuesday Voter registration deadline ("closing date") for November 6 election
- October 19 Friday Volunteer arrival at 6:45am for Candidates Forum, Dunedin CC
- October 17 Wednesday Poverty/Health/Juvenile Justice Committee, Contact Beth Hovind, bethse@gmail.com, 727-8091686 for time & place
- October 19 Friday Candidate Forum Dunedin DCO candidate forum 7-8:30am
- October 29 Speaker with PowerPoint October 29 Rotary Club of Dunedin Church of Good Shephard noon, contact Sallie Parks 727.742.5555
- November 1 Thursday 5:30 pm Webinar on Florida MEDICAID, Amy Guinan Liem, Florida Legal Services
- November 2 Friday 70th Anniversary cocktails 5pm Fenway Hotel, Dunedin
- November 6 Tuesday National General Election**
- November 11-December 19 Leadership Conference in Orlando
- November 21 Wednesday Poverty/Health/Juvenile Justice Committee, Contact Beth Hovind

2019

- January 11-12 2019 Leadership Conference in Orlando
- March Women's History month
- April 9-10 2019 Legislative Summit at State Capitol in Tallahassee
- April 27 2019 LWVNPC Annual Meeting, Countryside CC
- June 22 2019 LWVFL Convention in Naples at Edison Center



CLEARWATER STRONG MAYOR vs CITY MANAGER REFERENDUM & VOTE

2018-08-07 Update

The Clearwater Council voted at the first of two readings to move forward with a referendum question to change Clearwater to the strong mayor form of government. If approved by the City voters at the November general election, it would replace the current Council City Manager form of government that the city has had for about 90 years. The referendum would not change the number of councilmembers – still five who would be elected city wide as is the case now. If approved, the change would be effective in March 2020.

The Imagine Clearwater project to improve Coachman waterfront park in downtown will be the subject of two public meetings on the 21st and 22nd of August. The fifteen percent design has been completed for public comment prior to advancing to preparation of full construction design drawings. Approximately \$14 million has already been funded for the first phase of the project of which would include demolishing of the Harborview Center at the corner of Osceola and Cleveland.

The Council approved conceptual plans for a “complete street” redesign of Drew Street to make the road safer and improve traffic flow.

The Clearwater annual budget will be finalized at two public hearings on September 6 and 20. Preliminary plans call for a property tax increase of 0.8 mills per \$1000 of assessed taxable value. The increase of 15% would be the first millage increase in eight years. While the millage rate hasn't increased during the last eight years, assessed tax valuations have increased 25% increasing city revenues even though the millage rate has remained unchanged. Part of the millage increase is in anticipation of the passage of the Amendment One in November for a \$25,000 increase in the homestead exemption for property valued over \$100,000.

The LWVNPC has agreed to have an informational/educational forum on this proposal tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 25.

POVERTY ACTION WEBINAR: 5:30 PM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018

Topic: TANF AND SNAP: Temporary Aid for Needy Families in Florida; and Foodstamps-Florida style

**Presenter: Cindi Huddleston, Staff Attorney for Florida Legal Services
Norin Dollard will be hosting this conference.**

As a staff attorney for the past 19 years, Cindi is responsible for public advocacy in the areas of TANF and Snap. Prior to that she was Senior Attorney with Legal Services of Greater Miami. She has represented clients, conducted trainings and co-counseled rules challenges in the program. She has received awards from the Florida Bar Foundation and is a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow.

She brings her vast experience to our task force to bring us:

- a brief history of the programs
- benefit changes over time
- percentage of eligible clients actually receiving benefits and the value received
- areas where the state of Florida has influence over the program
- suggestions for League advocacy.

With Cindi's vast knowledge and experience, we can expect a greater understanding on how our welfare system works and doesn't work. Her presentation will be a Webinar so sign on with your computers. Afterwards the Power Point will be available at the LWVFL for the use of all members of the League.

If you are not registered with the Poverty Action Team, you can do so by contacting the state office.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Based on polling our chapter members, our focus areas are:

Helping to address the growing crisis of single-use plastics to our oceans & waterways by assisting some of the several groups already working on this issue, clean energy and cleaning up our water.

www.suncoast-rap.org (rise above plastics coalition)

Coalition of local organizations educating businesses and individuals about using alternatives to plastic.

Audubon Society.org (national) or www.clearwateraudubonsociety.org

Suncoastsierraclub.org

Address: 1990 Central Ave, St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Phone: (727) 824-8813

rethinkengeryflorida.org

Informed and Active Citizen
Participation

**CHECK OUT FACEBOOK PAGES FOR NORTH PINELLAS LEAGUE
AND ST. PETERSBURG AREA LEAGUE FOR UP TO DATE EVENTS.**

Upcoming Informational Environmental Events

JACKSONVILLE TIDAL TOWN HALL

Monday, October 22, 2018 at 05:30 PM

[UNF Adam W. Herbert University Center](#) in Jacksonville, FL

National Popular Vote!

We are very happy that the recent National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States adopted a resolution that "urgently reaffirms its long-held position that the Electoral College should be abolished."

For more information go to the website nationalpopularvote.com

The national website has information and articles of interest from newspapers in different areas of the country. www.nationalpopularvote.com

All states websites can be accessed from the national website.

The Florida website has information on the progress being made in Florida on the National Popular Vote Initiative.

It can be accessed from the national site or nationalpopularvote.com/state/fl

PASS THE ERA HOORAY!!!!!!

Nevada and Illinois have voted to ratify the ERA! --The first states to ratify after 36-years of working! Just ONE MORE to get ratified. We WILL do it, together with You. You need US, We Need You. Help US to Help YOU.

All six states with Equal Rights Amendment ratification legislation filed are now vying to Be The One State to put it over the top and INTO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION: Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, and Virginia! Email us from this page's bottom to find out how you can help from your state to PUSH it,

More information at www.2PassERA.org.

WOW. It has taken a long time. But there is still work to be done!

