

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

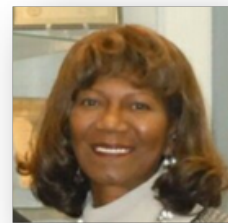


## *The VOTER*

February 2021

### President's Corner

Dr. Idelia Phillips, President



*“The pandemic has opened our eyes.”*

*Becky Shankland,*

*Past-president, Board of Directors,*

*Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC), Los Alamos, New Mexico*

Greetings Membership,

Please join me in congratulating **Deborah Kauffman** as the new President Elect. Her nomination and confirmation occurred at the January 2021 board meeting. Ms. Kauffman has a wealth of experience in project management and management analysis. She also serves as the chair of the membership committee and editor of the Voter newsletter. Other board **discussion**/action at the board meeting included:

- Proposals for the webmaster position
- League membership categories

The board recently held its annual retreat. Highlights of the meeting included the development of a draft strategic plan, a work plan calendar, and a budget workshop.

The LWVFL Voter Registration quiz officially expired on Dec 31, 2020. A new quiz is available for League members who wish to participate in League voter registration efforts. Please take the new quiz at your earliest convenience. A grace period of validity for those who are actively registering voters will be in effect until March 1, 2021. If you have not taken the new quiz by March 1, you will no longer be permitted to register voters under the League's purview. Once taken and passed, you are re-certified to register voters with LWVFL through December 31, 2022. You can see more information and links to the web in the Voter Services article below.

Several league members recently met with Hiba Rahim, Tampa Bay Advocacy Coordinator, Muslim Council on American-Islamic Relations-Florida, to discuss partnerships with the League and other organizations - For Our Future, Dream Defenders, and LWVFL - to plan an event on the (2016) Amendment 4 as well as other potential collaborations.

The Florida League (LWVFL) is in the process of revamping its web site. Stay tuned! Lobby days will occur on April 8 and convention on June 4-5. Both will use a virtual meeting format. LWVFL recently added new members to the league staff and board of directors. Leah Nash joins LWVFL as the new Executive Director and former Florida Supreme Court Justice, Peggy Quince, was appointed to the board. Ms. Quince is also the newest member of the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women, having been appointed by Hillsborough County Commissioner and league member, Gwen Myers.

Please consider joining our newly formed Observer Corps. Observers attend government boards, Hillsborough and Pasco County Boards of County Commissioners, or Tampa City Council meetings, and create a brief report. Due to the pandemic, attendance at these meetings will probably be virtual. Please contact me, [president@hclwv.org](mailto:president@hclwv.org) for more information.

The League is always looking for people to serve on the board and as chairs of standing committees and action teams. So, if you find that you have the time and the inclination please reach out to me, [president@hclwv.org](mailto:president@hclwv.org). You do not have to wait to be nominated!

In League,  
**Idelia**  
Dr. Idelia Phillips

**Democracy is not a spectator sport!**

## **Members Virtual Social Event - Members Virtual Social Event**

Mark your calendar for February 16 at 7 pm! Forget the old 'Rona and get back in touch with the League for a fun time (virtually, of course)! Register using this [link](#), or watch your email inbox for the reservation link.

The first 12 members to register for the Zoom get-together prior to February 9 will receive a delicious treat to enjoy during the meeting or WHENEVER. Sorry, Board members and committee chairs are not eligible for the treat, but you ARE eligible to enjoy this fantastic evening with other democracy warriors like yourself. If you are seeing this notice and are NOT a member, this would be a great time to join. **Anyone who joins or renews their membership after January 31 will receive membership until June 2022.** Now THAT'S a deal.

*(see flyer below and BE THERE)*

# Members Social!!

Join your sister and brother members of the Hillsborough League to engage, enjoy, and celebrate the League's 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday!



What: League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County Member Meeting via ZOOM

When: February 16 beginning at 7 pm

**Get to know other members**  
**Get to know about the League and what's up**  
**Get to know about the contributions of African-Americans to winning women's right to vote**  
**Enjoy and relax together!**



**Nominations Needed!**

## ***Jean Yglesias, Nominations Committee Chair***

As we seek to build the next generation of leaders, this will be the Nominating Committee's final VOTER request for nominations for the below positions. The committee will be preparing a slate of candidates to present to the membership in April. Our Bylaws require that the slate be presented a month prior to our Annual Meeting, which will be in May or June, with elected candidates assuming their roles on July 1. The following positions are up for election:

- President - 1 year term
- President-Elect - 1 year term
- Secretary - 2 year term
- Board of Directors (3) - 2 year term
- Board of Directors (1) - 1 year term
- Pasco Unit Chair - 2 year term
- Nominating Committee (3) - 1 year term

If your passions align with the mission of the LWVHC to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government, working to increase understanding of major public policy issues and to influence public policy through education and advocacy, then we hope you will consider turning your passion into action by offering to serve in one of the roles listed, or by joining any of the many League action groups.

Members may submit their names for a position listed above or submit the name of a fellow member provided the member has consented. If you have questions about role responsibilities, or the time commitment, or if you are ready to say "yes", please email the committee at [nominating@hclwv.org](mailto:nominating@hclwv.org).



## **Voter Protection Sub-Committee** ***Lynne Price, Sub-Committee Chair***

The Voter Protection Sub-Committee recently discussed addressing misunderstanding and misinformation about how government works in their regular bi-weekly meeting. The committee decided to review the PowerPoint library on the State League's website before the next meeting to see if there are any that would support

educating voters on this important topic, and possibly use these as a foundation for educating the community.

The committee also agreed to reach out to marginalized groups to engage them to collaborate on future efforts. In addition, the committee is interested in addressing the problems experienced related to voter suppression and gerrymandering.

Future plans include inviting someone to speak about Ranked Choice Voting as a means to improve broader representation of the voting population in Congress. For more information, please contact [voterservices@hclwv.org](mailto:voterservices@hclwv.org).

## **Deadline for Voter Registration Recertification**

*Chris Conn, Voter Services Chair*

If you plan to help the League register voters, you must complete a League-specific Voter Registration certification. Any previous certification you may have had expired December 31, 2020, so all members that plan on participating in voter registration events must complete the training and pass the quiz. Even if you do not plan, or are unable to, register voters, League members are often asked questions about voting so all members are encouraged to complete this education.

The setup for the certification is a bit odd so be patient and you can complete the education and quiz from either of the links provided here. We recommend going to this link to read through the training: <https://www.lwvfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/LWV-Policies-Registering-Voters-in-Florida.pdf>. Then go to this link to complete the quiz: <https://forms.gle/78cXyEco9t9UqL7Q6>

Three members have recently reached out to ask about registering voters and we hope that reflects the energy of our members to get to work in 2021 despite ongoing challenges! If you have any difficulty or have questions don't hesitate to reach out to Chris Conn [voterservices@hclwv.org](mailto:voterservices@hclwv.org).



# *LWV Florida Policies:* Registering Voters in Florida

## 1. Join the League of Women Voters of Florida!

- All volunteers who register voters on behalf of the League must be LWVFL members. Not a member? Join today at [www.LWVFL.org](http://www.LWVFL.org).

## 2. Complete the Online Quiz

- In order to register voters, you **MUST** be certified.
- Certification is obtained by scoring a **100%** on [LWVFL's online quiz](#).
- All the information you need to pass the quiz is in this training guide. The link to the quiz is at the end of this guide.

## 3. Receive Confirmation Email

- Once you have scored **100%** on the quiz, you will receive an email confirming your score.

## 4. Coordinate with your Local League

- You **must** contact your local League President and/or Voter Service Chair to find out what voter registration activities are planned in your area.
- **No voter registration events should take place unless sanctioned by your local President and/or Voter Service Chair.**

## 5. Print Voter Registration Forms

- You may print blank voter registration forms [in English](#) and [in Spanish](#) provided here from the Florida Division of Elections.

## **New Grants Committee Takes Shape** *Susan Greenbaum, LWVHC Secretary*

A new committee has been formed to help bring added funding for projects of the Hillsborough County League, and especially for our Action Groups. The idea for a committee was generated by Jean Yglesias who arranged a Zoom information session by Brita Wilkins Lincoln, an experienced grant writer, who inspired three of us to get involved. The members are Margaret Diaz, Susan Greenbaum and Nick Machuca. Each has had experience in writing grants, managing grant projects, and/or evaluating grant proposals. Alex Furnari, former president of our League and longtime specialist in grant writing and management, has agreed to help us develop a database of funding sources and guidelines.

The effort is designed to be collaborative in that the Action Groups and standing committees suggest projects and provide important details, and the Grant Committee seeks appropriate funding sources and provides direct assistance in writing proposals. This added feature will allow leaders and members of the Action Teams to secure needed funding without having to do the detail work of grant writing themselves. We are all volunteers in this organization, and sharing the effort involved in reaching our goals can help achieve them more easily.

Early this year, a letter was sent to the chairs of each team soliciting ideas and relevant information about their projects that could be enhanced with added funding. The deadline to respond was January 28. This was set in order to get started and determine the extent of interest, but we will gladly accept ideas that come in later as new needs arise and projects are undertaken.

If you are involved in a project that could benefit from a small amount of added funds, please let us know. If you have ideas for funding sources or other relevant expertise to contribute to this effort, we would be delighted to hear from you. Contact Susan Greenbaum, Secretary of the LWVHC, at [secretary@hclwv.org](mailto:secretary@hclwv.org).

## **Maintaining the Integrity of our Brand** *Cindy Donovan, Communications Chair*

As we are already working on another busy season of education and advocacy in our community, I would like to remind everyone of the importance of using the League's logo properly, without changes, and using the correct acronym for our League name.

According to the LWVUS Brand Standards manual, "The League of Women Voters visual system is designed to be dynamic and recognizable, and **our logos are the cornerstone of our brand.**" Our local logo coordinates with the logos of all local, state and the national League logos.

The logo also must be used in the exact dimension ratio provided. To increase or decrease the size, you must maintain the same ratio; it cannot be stretched in just one direction.

If in color, it must be used in the provided League colors. It can be used in black and white, if needed, and even in white on a dark background; please contact [communications@hclwv.org](mailto:communications@hclwv.org) to obtain one of these images if needed.

Our League name is the **League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County**, and our abbreviation is **LWVHC**. Our website was created as [hclwv.org](http://hclwv.org) because the name [lwhc.org](http://lwhc.org) was already in use by another League, and thus unavailable for us, so another name was selected. However, the acronym **HCLWV** is **not** the correct abbreviation for our League. Please use **LWVHC**, or even **LWV of Hillsborough County**. This also maintains the integrity of our brand.





In the illustration above, you see the **WRONG** way to resize/position our logo. The illustration below shows the **RIGHT** way to resize/position our logo.



## What You Should Know About Expanding Medicaid in Florida

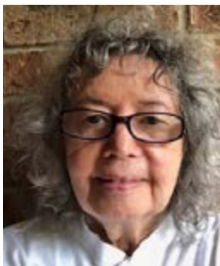
*Laurie Winkles, Healthcare Action Group Co-Chair*



*We must make it our mission to care for low income citizens.*

Scott Darius, Director, Florida Voices for Health

With a call for more clarity to understand the importance of expanding Medicaid in Florida, the Healthcare Action Group hosted a unique panel of passionate advocates, ready to take on this challenge. On January 26, three experts: Tampa City Councilman, District 7, Luis Viera; Scott Darius, Director of Florida Voices for Health; and Diane Dimperio, LWVFL Healthcare Action Group Chair; joined Florida Senator Janet Cruz for a unique zoom event emphasizing the value of expanding Medicaid in Florida. This event was free and open to the community to fulfill the League's mission of informing citizens about current issues affecting our community.



*We can expand [health]care and still reduce the budget by \$200 million.*

The Florida League is calling on the legislature to expand healthcare access and affordability to adults with incomes below 138 percent of Federal Poverty Level. Encouraging our legislators to support this in 2021, and getting it on the 2022 ballot is a high priority for the League.

Defining "Medicaid Expansion" was an important part of the panel's message. We learned it is part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that allows states to expand their Medicaid programs to cover low income adults. The federal government covers 90 percent of the costs for medical care for these individuals and the state covers the remaining costs. Florida is one

Diane Dimperio, Chair of  
the LWVFL Healthcare  
Action Group

of 12 states that chose not to adopt Medicaid expansion, leaving our state with the largest number of uninsured residents in the country. We rank 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation for access and affordability of health care. It has been estimated by the Florida Policy Institute that Florida could save nearly \$199 million in 2022-23 by offering Medicaid healthcare to eligible uninsured Floridians.

Prior to the pandemic, the number of uninsured adults in Florida was estimated to be almost 900,000 people - largely among Hispanic and black populations. The uninsured often use the emergency room and are more likely to be admitted to a hospital for conditions that could have been treated by primary care if they had access. Unnecessary use of hospital care drives up the cost of health care. In 2017, Florida hospitals provided \$2.6 billion in uncompensated care which would be reduced if people had coverage.

Studies reveal expansion improves health and reduces racial disparities among beneficiaries. Expanding Medicaid is also good for economic health. When a state expands its Medicaid program, state spending is replaced with an influx of federal Medicaid dollars. For Florida, that means Medicaid expansion would bring in over \$4 billion new dollars into the state from the federal government, increasing the capacity to provide needed care while bolstering state funds, creating jobs and freeing up other resources.

Watch for a call to action from our Healthcare Action Group, and look for the opportunity through Florida Voices for Health to sign a petition and/or join their coalition. Most importantly, tell your representatives in Tallahassee how you feel about this issue. Do it now!

## **Natural Resources Action Group Requests Deliberation on PURE Project**

## *Rick Garrity, Natural Resources Chair*

In January the League became aware that plans for the PURE project (sometimes known as “Toilet to Tap”) was going to be considered for funding by the Tampa City Council. The Natural Resources, led by Dr. Rick Garrity, quickly mobilized and worked with our officers and board members to draft and send letters, both to the Tampa City Council and to the Mayor. These letters (the City Council letter is reprinted below) requested city officials to take a more deliberate approach to allow plenty of public input and time to gather and consider scientific information related to the technologies proposed and their impact on our environment.



The good news is that Mayor Castor removed consideration of the project from the agenda and postponed its consideration until later in the year.

For more information, or to participate in the Natural Resources Action Group, please contact [naturalresources@hclwv.org](mailto:naturalresources@hclwv.org).

*Jan. 19, 2021*

*Dear Distinguished Members of the Tampa City Council,*

*The Natural Resources Committee of the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County (LWVHC) was very recently made aware of the Purify Natural Resources for the Environment (PURE) project currently under consideration by the City Council. We appreciate the outreach to us and would like to offer our constructive input.*

*We have carefully reviewed the information about the project and also the issues raised by Tampa Bay Sierra Club. We agree with many of the recommendations and questions raised by the Sierra Club indicating that additional review is needed. Our position is that for a project of this magnitude the City should proceed cautiously. Clearly, the City will want to be on solid ground, both scientifically and in terms of public acceptance.*

*We would suggest that the City undertake an intensive effort to involve public interest groups and the academic community to benefit from the best scientific expertise available before proceeding with this significant \$10 million investment of taxpayer funds. Groups like the Agency on Bay Management, USF and others could be helpful.*

*We are convinced that additional scientific and public input will be necessary to successfully advance this project and to insure the long-term safety and sustainability of water sources for Tampa Bay residents. We urge Tampa City Council*

*to proceed prudently, involving both early public input and independent scientific review to the greatest extent possible.*

*With best regards,*

*Dr. Idelia Phillips  
President*

*Dr. Rick Garrity  
Chair, Natural Resources Committee*

***fyi. . .***

**February 2, 9 am - Education Action Group regular meeting.** Email [education@hclwv.org](mailto:education@hclwv.org) for information and a meeting link.

**February 3, 1 pm - Voter Protection Sub-Committee regular meeting.** Email [voterprotection@hclwv.org](mailto:voterprotection@hclwv.org) for information and a meeting link.

**February 3, 7:30 pm - Voter Services Committee regular meeting.** Email [voterservices@hclwv.org](mailto:voterservices@hclwv.org) for information and a meeting link.

**February 8, 5:00 pm - League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County regular Board of Directors meeting.** All members are welcome to attend. Any members who wish to participate, please contact [president@hclwv.org](mailto:president@hclwv.org) to receive the link.

**February 13, 10 am - Gun Safety Action Group regular meeting.** Contact [gunsafety@hclwv.org](mailto:gunsafety@hclwv.org) for information and a meeting link.

**February 13, 2 pm - Pasco Action Team regular meeting.** Contact [pasco@hclwv.org](mailto:pasco@hclwv.org) for information and a meeting link.

**February 16, 7 pm - All Member Virtual Social.** Reservations for the meeting can be made by members when they receive the reservation link via email. The first 12 members (who are not Board members or committee chairs) to register by February 9 will receive a free treat to enjoy during the meeting!

**February 19, noon - Tampa Tiger Bay Club Hosts Virtual Forum: 2021 Legislative Preview.** The meeting is free and open to the public and will be shown live on [tigerbayclub.com](http://tigerbayclub.com), Facebook ([facebook.com/tigerbaytampa](https://facebook.com/tigerbaytampa)) and the Tampa Bay Arts and Education Spectrum channel 636 and Frontier channel 34.

The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County

**PO BOX 1801**

**TAMPA, FLORIDA 33601-1801\_**

[www.hclwv.org](http://www.hclwv.org)

Connect with us

