



The VOTER November 2023

President's Corner

It's hard to know where to start after the horrific shooting right here in our community on Saturday night. Please see below for info on tonight's vigil in Ybor and watch for more information from our Gun Safety Action Group which works closely with Moms Demand Action. It was already a tough month for us, losing several league members: Caryle Cammisa, Cathy Teti & Susan Webb - we remember them again below.



Also, see below for a reminder & link to our new Member Issue Update Meetings - the first one will be this morning at 9am and will be repeated on Monday, November 6 at 6pm.

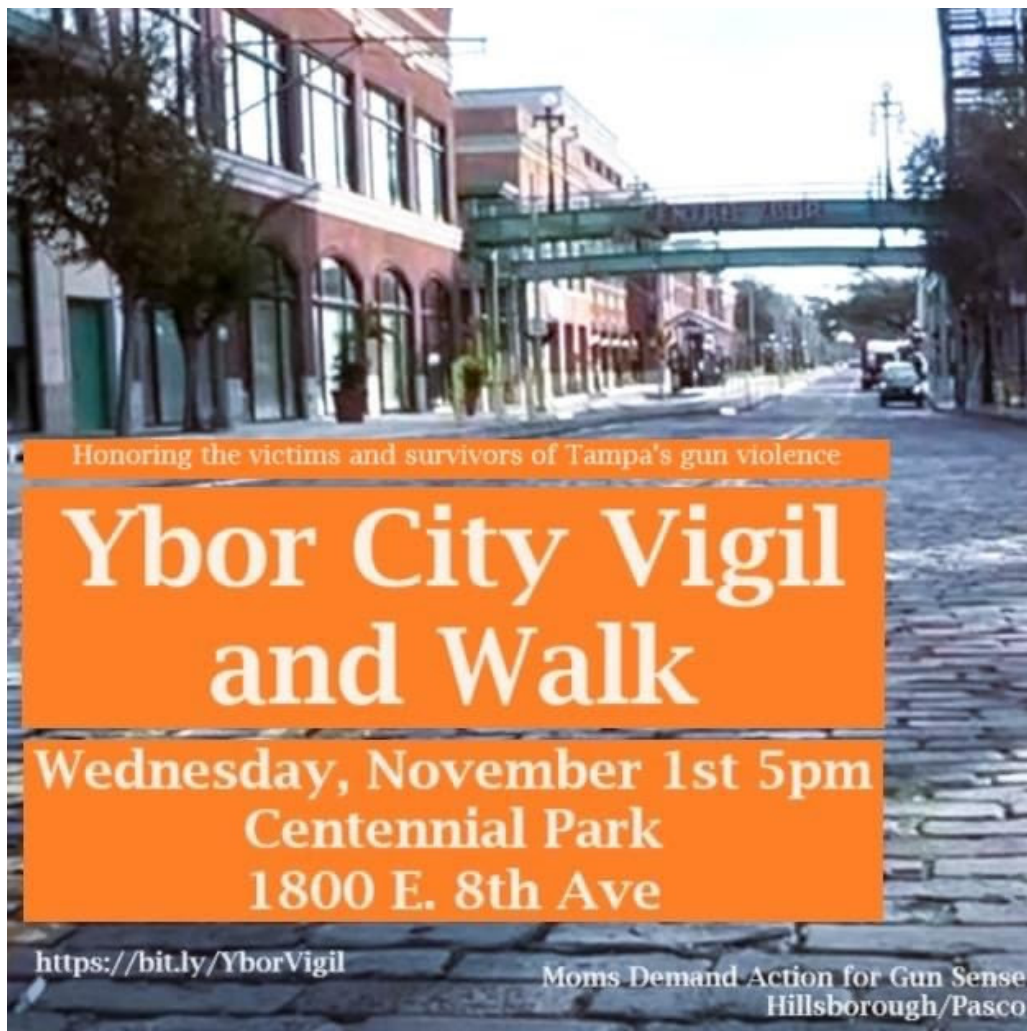
And since Voter Services is the heart of our organization, please read the article below about the help we need in this area. A little bit of help goes a long way (e.g. someone to create the signup geniuses and send them out to the members when we get a request). And if you can come out and help at one of our next two events, please sign up here (if you think you signed up earlier, please check, signup genius had a glitch yesterday):

- [November 4th 10AM - 3PM](#)
- [November 7th 7:20PM - 9PM](#)

Please read all the way to the bottom so you don't miss the article from our Membership Chair, Deb Kauffman about future changes to the member management system of LWV-US and how that may impact us at the local level.

Our last membership meeting at Shuffle led to some great information from Brooke Ward at the Food & Water Watch (synopsis below: Impaled on Our Own Grid). We will continue to share information from our Environment & Climate partners at our Issue Update Meetings. And please save the date for the next in-person event, our after-the-holidays Holiday Party, which will be held on January 9, 2024 (also the opening day of the 2024 Florida Legislative Session).

Ybor Community Vigil & Walk for Shooting Victims & Survivors



Honoring the victims and survivors of Tampa's gun violence

Ybor City Vigil and Walk

Wednesday, November 1st 5pm
Centennial Park
1800 E. 8th Ave

<https://bit.ly/YborVigil>

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense
Hillsborough/Pasco

Join Mom's Demand Action Hillsborough/Pasco for a Community Vigil to remember and honor the victims and survivors of Sunday's gun violence in Ybor City. If you are interested in carpooling or meeting up in Ybor, contact Teresa Potter at president@hclwv.org.

Fewer HCLWV Meetings? Yes!

Who among us doesn't breathe a sigh of relief when a meeting is cancelled? Well, we are cancelling almost all meetings.

Starting now, our chapter will hold two "Monthly Issue Updates." These meetings will be one-stop-shops for us to learn about all the issues and work being done by each of our action groups. The virtual meetings will be the first Wednesday of the month at 9-10 am and the first Monday from 6-7 pm. The same information will be presented in each meeting, so no one needs to zoom in twice.

These umbrella discussions will supplant the individual action group meetings. Since many members were attending multiple action group meetings, this should help our busy members save time. Individual action groups may find it necessary to schedule occasional meetings to address specific issues, but this will not be the norm.

See [our calendar](#) for zoom links.

If This is 2023, This Space will be about Abortion Petitions

This message is just in from Floridians Protecting Freedom.

We are now in the final months of collecting petitions and there is *no guarantee* that we will reach the 891,523 validated petitions needed to get the [Floridians Protecting Freedom](#) (FPF) proposed amendment on the ballot.

Now, more than ever, we implore you to work the crowds at big events to collect as many petition forms as possible. This is the most efficient way to collect the most petitions in the shortest amount of time.

Collection events might be found on the [FPF events webpage](#). You can also check your social media, the newspapers, and your friends to find other events where you can gather petitions. Anywhere where people are standing in lines is good. Anywhere where people are lounging in parks or other venues. Anywhere where there are people, basically.

If you haven't been out in the field yet, training for new petition collectors is held every week - [training registration link is here](#).

Abortion Petitions, Two

by Laurie Winkles, Chair, Healthcare Action Group, healthcare@hclwv.org

The numbers as of October 14:

	Hillsborough County	Pasco County:
Total Received:	63,916	Signatures Claimed: 16,678
Total Processed:	63,915	Signature Checked: 15,775
Total Valid:	20,087	Valid: 11,427
		Rejected: 4,348
		Duplicates: 397

What is wrong with Hillsborough County petition signers? Why are so many petitions rejected? Wrong voter information, wrongly entered dates, wrongly entered county name, duplicates, illegible petitions, missing signatures, and more. Petitioner gatherers, check each petition you get signed and make sure it is complete.

Tampa Bay Abortion Fund Activities

This year SO FAR

Jan. 1 - Sept. 17, 2023

2258 Clients Supported

Total spent on appointment costs:

\$537,000

Assisted
161 Floridians with getting out of state for abortion access

Assisted
110 Southerners with getting into Florida for abortion access

182 Clients received Practical Support

Total Practical Support paid:

\$56,000

57 Minors Assisted

Voter Services Chair Needed

by Chris Conn, Former Chair, Voter Services Action Group

Voter Services is the foundation of the League and we are searching for a Voter Services Chair or Co-Chairs. Due to changes in my work responsibilities, I can no longer fulfill the duties of Voter Services Chair. I am available to orient any individual or committee who takes over this position and will provide support.

The Voter Services Chair has three primary functions:

1. Representing HCLWV at state meetings and updating the board and on state actions

2. Maintaining Voter Services member lists

- Maintain an updated email list of members active with the voter services team.
- Maintain a list of members certified to register voters.

3. Coordinating Voter Services events

- Receive request for tabling events and identify events for the League to attend.
- Request volunteers using the SignUpGenius app, including a lead for each event.

The duties can be shared.

Other activities may fall within the role of the VS Chair but are taken on at the discretion of the chair(s) or another member can assume those responsibilities.

The goal is have a new chair(s) by March 2024. Please contact President Teresa Potter at president@hclwv.org to volunteer or to get more information.

Water Petitions



In brief, print, sign, and send in your petition in [English](#) or [Spanish](#). No printer? No problem! Click [here](#) to have five blank petitions sent to you. If you would like to track the number of water petitions received, click on myflorida.com.

Voices & Votes: Democracy in America

HCLWV and the Sulphur Springs Museum won a grant to host the "Voices & Votes: Democracy in America"



Smithsonian traveling exhibit.

The exhibit will be at the Sulphur Springs Museum March 23 - May 18 and there will be talks most Sundays. We provided potential speaker topics and names and we expect the talks to include the history of voting and other voting rights issues. During the exhibit, our role will be to provide a table for voter registration and information and a speaker for the opening on March 23, and, if possible, a table on each of the speaker Sundays. Mark the dates!

Read more about this exhibition here: <https://museumonmainstreet.org/VoicesVotes>

Hillsborough Libraries Keep Books on the Shelves

What began as a broad request to move or restrict access to materials that might be deemed inappropriate for minors has resulted in a plan to issue seven different library cards for minors.

Throughout this process, the HCPLC was committed to two key principals:

1. Parent's rights - and responsibilities - in guiding the reading of their own children;
and
2. Not removing, hiding or deselecting any materials outside of the established Request for Review process.

The following categories will offer parents a balance of access options to suit their needs.

Juvenile Library Cards (Ages 0-12)

- Juvenile Card: Default Card for ages 0-12 (incl. HAAL Pass). Access to all Juvenile materials.
- Juvenile Plus: Parents can opt to allow access to General Non-Fiction and Classics.
- Juvenile Unrestricted: Parents can opt for unrestricted library access.

Teen Cards (Ages 13-16)

- Teen Card: Default card for ages 13-16 (incl. HAAL Pass). Access to Juvenile materials plus YA Fiction, Graphic Novels, General Non-Fiction and Classics.

- Teen Restricted: Parents can opt out of YA Fiction and Graphic Novels.
- Teen Plus: Parents can opt into R- or non-rated DVDs.
- Teen Unrestricted: Parents can opt for unrestricted library access.

Libraries will begin offering these new cards sometime in the first quarter of 2024. Let us thank our librarians for all they do for us. Library staff are awesome!

Susan Webb, In Memoriam

by Liana Fox

Susan Webb had passions, one of which was the League. As membership chair of the Hillsborough League 1980-81, she exceeded our goal of 100 members. Susan's letters to prospective members persuaded them to join, a reflection of her eloquent writing and welcoming personality.



Twenty years later, after Susan moved to Brevard County, she became president of the Space Coast LWV. Her longtime active involvement with the League, especially taking on the presidency later in life, was a reflection of her passion.

Susan was persuasive and persistent. She convinced the Hillsborough County Schools to let her daughter skip a grade and go to an IB High School at the age of 13.

Susan had opinions. She had a long career in social work and public health and she was very active politically, in political campaigns and in several Medicare for All and national health care groups. She tried to keep her friends politically informed by frequently forwarding news articles.

Susan Webb is survived by her husband of 48 years, John Twitchell, children Elizabeth and Charles Twitchell, and her sisters. To honor Susan, please donate to your local voting rights project.

Caryle Cammisa, In Memorium

We announced earlier this month the death of Environmental Action Group Chair Caryle Cammisa. If you missed Caryle's obituary in the Tampa Bay Times, you can find it [here](#).

Please mark your calendars for the Dec. 9 event below, being organized by the Caryle Cammisa Environmental Justice Think Tank.

DEC 9 2023

The CARYLE CAMMISA Environmental Justice Think Tank: The State of the Black & Brown Communities

11:00am - 2:00pm
The Reed Apartments
1240 Ray Charles Blvd
Tampa, Florida 33602

Register: tinyurl.com/ejusticethinktank

Logos and images on the poster include: DR. WALTER L. SMITH LIBRARY, CENTRAL FLORIDA JOBS WITH JUSTICE, FOOD & WATER WATCH, Blue GAP, ERBAX PROGRESS ALLIANCE, LULAC (LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICANS OF AMERICA), SIERRA CLUB (FOUNDED 1912), TAMPA BAY CLIMATE ALLIANCE, and various photos of community members and events.

Cathy Teti, In Memorium

If anyone missed our notice about Cathy Teti's death, you may find her obituary notice [here](#).

She served as president of the LWV of Hillsborough County 1999-2000, as well as editor of the League newsletter 2000-2003.

Please note that her funeral will be on Nov. 3.



Impaled on Our Own Grid

Brooke Ward, the senior Florida organizer for Food and Water Watch, spoke at our Oct. 23 Member Mingle at Shuffle on Florida utilities. According to Brooke, utility costs are a social justice issue - those who can't afford energy-saving appliances and home repairs pay more for energy than those who can. In addition, monopolistic utility companies and the Florida Public Service Commission are keeping us in an endless cycle of dependency on fossil fuels. TECO, for example, has locked us into fossil fuels for the next 30 years by building the infrastructure to switch us from natural gas to fracked fuel. While other states are moving towards alternative energy, we are still relying on dinosaurs.

There's no hope that anything will change in Tallahassee in the near future, but local governments can help with block grants and we can all do our part with climate justice activities. Pay attention to the 2024 county elections, says Brooke.

Our utility companies, by the way, include in the base rate they charge us fees that they then use to pay lobbyists to write laws that cost taxpayers more money and also enable utility company executives and shareholders to receive hefty payments.



League Speakers: New and Returning

PLEASE consider speaking on behalf of the League.

We anticipate receiving many requests for speakers in the coming year and would truly appreciate your assistance in educating the public on a variety of topics in person or by Zoom. Use [this questionnaire](#) to choose which topics you feel most comfortable presenting. If the idea of being a subject expert makes you nervous, please volunteer to speak about the League itself!

Several new topics have been added, so if you have volunteered previously, please fill out the new questionnaire to update your interests.



Thank you for considering this rewarding opportunity!
Any questions? Please contact Jill McDannold at speakersbureau@hclwv.org.

Soulwalk? Soulfood!

The City of Tampa's new Soulwalk rubric for local sites noteworthy for their relevance to Black history has a food component. A cookbook team is compiling recipes that will add flavor to this journey through our local history. If you have recipes, photos, or food-related anecdotes that would fill out the story, click [here](#). A cookbook is forthcoming.

Free Yoga in Ybor

Enjoy free yoga every Saturday at 9:30 am in the garden of the Ybor City Museum State Park. More information [here](#).

Mark Your 2026 Calendars

The White House announced on Oct. 3 that Medicare is now able to negotiate directly the prices of prescription drugs due to President Biden's prescription drug law, the Inflation Reduction Act. Negotiations with participating drug companies for the selected ten drugs will occur in 2023 and 2024 with the negotiated prices effective beginning in 2026.

Stay Within the Law

Inspired by Justice William J. Brennan Jr.'s devotion to core democratic freedoms, the non-partisan Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law works to strengthen democracy, end mass incarceration, and protect liberty and security. For fascinating conversations with well-known thinkers on issues like democracy, justice, race, and the Constitution, check out the Brennan Center's upcoming live and virtual events [here](#).

The State of Florida Public Schools

This Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 10 am on wmnf.org or 88.5 FM WMNF's MidPoint with Shelley Reback, HCLWV member Shelley Reback will host HCLWV Redistricting Chair Norin Dollard and HCLWV Education Chair Damaris Allen for a discussion on the state of our Florida public schools

Norin Dollard is the Senior Policy Analyst and the Director of Florida KIDS COUNT at the Florida Policy Institute. Damaris Allen is the Executive Director of Families for Strong Public Schools. Questions and comments on vouchers, book bans, DEI restrictions, and more are welcome. Call in to the live show at 813-239-9663 or email dj@wmnf.org. All MidPoint shows are available for on-demand listening, streaming from WMNF archives at wmnf.org/midpoint, and on WMNF MidPoint podcasts wherever you get your podcasts 24 hours after the live show.

Enough is Enough!



Every hour in America, a child is shot. Gun violence silences voices. ENOUGH! calls on teens to raise their voices, occupy stages across the country, and use theater to confront America's gun violence epidemic.

The Enough Plays Project presents six new short plays on gun violence by teen writers, produced in Tampa by Thinktank Theater. To attend the Nov. 6 performance at Stageworks Theatre or for more information, click [here](#).

Recommended for ages 10 and up. Attendance is free, but donations are appreciated.

How We Got Here

The Ybor City Museum Society is presenting a special exhibit on Spanish immigration that will be on display through November 2023. The exhibit is based on a semi-fictional book by Tampa native Tony Carreño, *Following Fernando's Footsteps: The Tale of Tampa's "Invisible Immigrants"*, which chronicles the life of a young immigrant from Asturias, Spain to Tampa via Havana, Cuba.

WWII and Tampa Race Relations

On the eve of Pearl Harbor, Tampa was a southern city of 108,000 inhabitants. A rigid line defined race relations in the South, but the war launched a massive struggle for freedom and justice across the Deep South and America. African-American ministers, teachers, soldiers, and civilians launched a double campaign: a war against totalitarianism and a war against racism and intolerance.

Join retired USF History Professor Gary Mormino at the Sulphur Springs Museum on Nov. 19 from 2-3:30 pm. Learn more and register [here](#).



1000 Friends of Florida

Join 1000 Friends of Florida's webinar, Land Application of Biosolids in Florida: Challenges, opportunities, and equitable solutions, on Wed., Nov. 8, from 12-2 pm.

Community planning entails considering all aspects of human activity. As Florida's growth continues to skyrocket, we are pressed for sustainable management of society's wastes. In Florida, most biosolids are put in landfill or transported and applied on rural lands as fertilizer or soil amendment. With our state's water quality challenges and as our rural areas feel pressure from development, a more sustainable, long-term solution to the conventional land application of biosolids is needed.

In this webinar, consultant Craig Diamond, environmental economist Dr. Chris De Bodisco, and Florida State University PhD student Elio Fernandez will share findings from a recent 1000 Friends of Florida project evaluating biosolids management, distributional considerations of Florida's disposal practices, and options to mitigate its impacts.

Learn more [here](#).

Read Books?

Tampa's own Marty Baron, former editor-in-chief of *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The Miami Herald*, is just one of the authors speaking at the *The Tampa Bay Times* 2023 Festival of Reading on Nov. 11. Learn more [here](#).

Are You a Pre-teen Girl?

Or do you know one?

Powerstories is seeking 5th through 8th grade girls for a free Girlstories Theatre winter camp. The camp meets one Saturday a month.

Guided by Powerstories staff, the girls of Girlstories Leadership Theatre create a theater **podcast**. They decide the podcast's name, who to interview, and what questions to ask. They create the podcast's logo and graphic design, learn to use sound equipment and editing software, upload their completed podcast to Spotify and other selected platforms, and learn how to market the podcast to listening subscribers. GLT aims to empower each girl on a creative journey to hone interview skills and unlock artistic potential.

Register at https://powerstories.com/glt_winter

Café con Tampa

At 8:00 on Friday mornings over breakfast, people gather at the downtown Tampa Portico to listen, ask questions, and learn about what's going on in Tampa or just as likely the world at-large. Want to know about the city's latest development project? Eager to learn more about historic preservation? Have a question about the political landscape? Want to grill a city council member? No topic is off limits at Café con Tampa whose founders describe the forum as a place for insightful conversations. Find out more at <http://cafecontampa.com/>.

Countering Disinformation on COVID Vaccines



With the availability of the latest COVID vaccines came the latest bizarre statements by Florida's own Surgeon General. If you would like to know what is true and what isn't, check Katelyn Jetalina's comments [here](#).

Tiger Bay Club

This month brings a tri-county roundtable on Fri., Nov. 17, with the Superintendents of Schools from Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties.

Bring your insightful questions.*



Tampa Tiger Bay Club meets at noon at the Cuban Club in Ybor City. Doors open at 11:30.

The Tampa Tiger Bay Club is a non-partisan political group that presents candidates running for office and lively discussions on important issues. To find out more and/or to purchase a ticket to attend, go to <https://www.tigerbayclub.com/>

*N.B. Only Tiger Bay members may actually ask questions.



Local Theater and Film

Get your tickets for:

- *Women Rock* at the Straz with the Florida Orchestra, Nov. 3
- Fran Leibowitz at the Straz, Nov. 4
- *When a Woman's Fed Up* at the Straz, Nov. 11
- *Acts of Faith* by David Yee at American Stage, starting Nov. 2
- *Funny Girl* at the Straz, starting Nov. 2

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute - USF

The following courses are among those starting in November:

Global Warming Issues: An Introduction

Holocaust Rescuers: Daring Diplomats and Public Officials

Third Parties in American History

Florida History in the 1920's

Don't Let Medicare Scare You

Women Rowing North: Navigating Life and Finding Joy

American Exceptionalism as Exceptional Bodies: The Politics of Unassimilable Images
Women's Health Advocacy: Improving Quality Care for All Women

Also check out the Shared Interest Groups on China, Politics, and more.

Find out more at www.usfseniors.org.

Tampa Bay History Center

Selected October programs include:

- Book Discussion: *Urban Vigilantes in the South* by Robert P. Ingalls
- Florida Conversation: Florida in the 1920's
- Ybor City Walking Tour
- Downtown Tampa Walking Tour
- Central Avenue Walking Tour

Find out more [here](#).

Florida Humanities

Rachel Brown is the author of *Defusing Hate: A Strategic Communication Guide to Counteract Dangerous Speech* and was a 2014 Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide.

For over a decade, Rachel Brown has used communication to prevent violent conflict. Her work culminated in the founding of **Over Zero**, an organization that partners with community leaders and researchers to harness the power of communication to prevent and rise above identity-based violence. In the final Democracy Reignited of 2023, Brown shares her experience in preventing violence in global hotspots. Zoom in on Nov. 14, 7-8:30 pm.

Learn more about this and other Florida Humanities programs [here](#).

Sierra Club

Paddle to Caladesi Island with the Sierra Club on Nov. 4, hike Blackwater Creek Preserve on Nov. 24, or educate football fans about recycling at Raymond James Stadium. Something for all of us. See all events [here](#).

Art and Artists

Visit Studio 620 November 4-19 to see the exhibit Bridges and/or attend the Nov. 12 panel discussion about this exhibit of works by artists of the diaspora whose lives and experiences have crossed “time bridges.” Images and inspiration span the generations from the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements, United Farm Workers, La Raza Unida, and the Chicano Liberation Movements of the past to the volatile, chaotic energy of today, while conjuring powerful visions of tomorrow.

The free exhibit at The Dalí, *Leonora Carrington: Writer, Painter, Visionary* is on until Jan. 7, 2024. Visit this introduction to the remarkable life of Leonora Carrington, a Surrealist artist, sculptor and writer whose work deals with the visionary, the fantastic and the occult. Carrington produced more than 2,000 paintings and authored several notable written works. The exhibition highlights Carrington’s personal life, her time as a painter and her written work.

The Woodson Museum's exhibit of works by the Florida Highwaymen is up until January.

Angelika Kollin: *Turning Darkness into Light* is up at FMoPA through Dec. 10.

Native America: *In Translation* is still on through November at the Contemporary Art Museum at USF.

The Tampa Museum of Arts' two Haitian exhibits are on display until 2024.

Future Member Management System

by Deborah Kauffman, Chair, Membership Action Group, membership@hclwv.org

The US League of Women Voters voted at the last convention to better meet the needs of local, state, and national league levels. The change that will be most apparent to us is the transition to a new member management system. With input from members across the country, the application ChapterSpot was selected as the new, mandatory membership platform. The transfer to the new system will take place over the next year, with training and implementation after the 2024 elections.

The changes (as described so far) include:

- A "one-stop shop" for new members and current members renewing their League memberships.
- New members will select the local and state chapters they wish to join.
- Paper forms and checks will still be accepted, but will have to be entered manually by the local league.
- Auto-renewal will be available as an option. The system will automatically notify members when it is time for renewal.
- The membership year will be rolling month-to-month
- There will be a pay-what-you-can option (\$20 minimum is suggested); the standard rate will be \$75 for an individual. There will be higher tiers for those who wish to make an additional contribution. The "contribution" will be split between national, state, and local levels in the same proportion as the dues. This means that local leagues will no longer be able to keep the entire amount paid over and above the standard rate. Household membership will be available at \$112.50 per household.
- Credit card fees will be split between local, state, and national Leagues at the same percentage as the dues.
- LWVUS will receive 33% of dues payments, a decrease of 18% from current amount. The state league will receive 47% of dues.
- There will be no student memberships.
- There will still be lifetime memberships (more than 50 years).
- Leagues can continue to use their existing websites. A link will have to be added to the national site for membership.

I will request a review of the financial impact of this new system on our own league once we have enough information to conduct the analysis. This information will be used to construct our 2024-25 proposed budget.

Upcoming Member Meetings

Nov. 1, 9-10 am, Monthly Issues Update Meeting

Nov. 6, 6-7 pm, Monthly Issues Update Meeting (repeat)

Nov. 13, 6:30-8:30, HCLWV Board Meeting. Contact president@hclwv.org.

Check the League's website [calendar of events](#) throughout the month for new meetings and events.

Want to know what's coming up? You can now subscribe to our HCLWV Events Calendar so our events show up on your online calendar! Find the subscribe link just below the calendar heading [here](#).

EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

League of Women Voters of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties

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