

The VOTER June 2024

As I kick off my third year as President, I want you to know how much I appreciate working with you all and would like to invite any of you still looking for the right league activity for you to reach out to me. For an overview of our league work and an opportunity to weigh in, please attend our **June Issues Update Meeting next week - June 5, 9 -10 am**. We're holding one per month, alternating between morning & evening, so the next one will be 6-7 pm on Monday, July 1. The links are at the bottom of this email and on the calendar on our [website](#).



In this election year, we will be working hard to increase voter turnout in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. Increasing voter turnout among younger voters has long been a priority for our league as well. We often have other Hillsborough and Pasco organizations reach out to collaborate on this and many other important issues.

League members help to coordinate our local partnerships with the Sierra Club, Food & Water Watch, PTA, Families for Strong Public Schools, NAACP, Urban League, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Moms Demand Action, and many more. If you are willing to help us by acting as a liaison with a local partner, please let me know.

For those of you who may not know, I work for a small nonprofit, FLATE, as the Community Engagement Manager, and my husband and I have two boys, Daniel (22) and Sean (20), and Chloe, our Kerry Blue Terrier who is 13. In my spare time, I work hard to help manage many league events and activities with the help of many active league members who do so much! I can't possibly thank you all enough for all that you do.

With your help, I hope we can make a difference in the upcoming election, helping to make sure that every eligible voter has a voting plan and is informed on candidates and amendments, and that those who can vote have the opportunity to do so. So please reach out to president@hclwv.org or 813-787-7328 if you want to know how you can become more involved.

There is information below on Vote411, but I just want to give a quick shout-out to the Vote411 team which has been working hard to make sure voters always have a nonpartisan site to look for information on what's on the ballot.

Annual Meeting Report

We were pleased to welcome about 40 League members to our May 18th Annual Meeting, where we enjoyed time visiting with one another, as well as discussing and voting on the business matters of our League for the coming year. Congratulations to Greg Vawter who won the pair of Straz *Clue* tickets donated by Elizabeth Belcher!

Welcome to our new board members, Cheryl Umberger, Christina Conti, and Emily Hinsdale, as well as new treasurer Johanne Castagan. A new budget for the coming year, lower than previous years, passed, with a number of changes that streamlined and combined categories to make the budget easier to manage. We passed changes to our bylaws, primarily updating our League name to the LWV of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. We also approved the framework for our 2024-25 program, which offers broad guidelines for the issues we will work on in the coming year. Several items in the

program were amended during the meeting, and we encourage all members to review the entire document.

Review the programs at <https://hclwv.org/issues-advocacy/>

Find the bylaws at <https://hclwv.org/members-only/bylaws/>. You need to log in on the website to read them.

Meet the Candidates!

Candidate forums listed here are not affiliated with the League of Women Voters unless specifically stated. The list is intended to provide our members with opportunities to vet candidates running for public office. They may be held by partisan groups.

The Leona Huddle will be hosting Hillsborough County Public Defender candidate Lisa McLean and judicial candidate Christine Edwards at its June meeting. The Huddle meets at **2:00, June 5**, at the MidFlorida Credit Union, 1112 S. Dale Mabry. The Leona Huddle can be found on [Facebook](#).

July 18, 2024, 6 pm: Our Pasco Action Group and Pasco NOW are sponsoring a candidate forum at the Hudson Regional Library at 8012 Library Rd. Candidates for the non-partisan judge, school board, and mosquito control positions are invited. There will be a zoom planning meeting on June 7, at 7 pm. If you are interested and available to volunteer, please contact the Pasco Action Group at Pasco@hclwv.org.

If you hear of other candidate forums between now and November, please, please send the information to president@hclwv.org and voter@hclwv.org.

2024 Voting Dates

Primary Elections

July 22, 2024 - Deadline to register to vote in Primary Elections; Deadline to change party affiliation for Primary Elections

August 5-18 - Early Voting and drop-off of Vote-by-Mail ballots at 21 locations in **Hillsborough County**

August 10-17 - Early Voting and drop-off of Vote-by-Mail ballots at 12 locations in **Pasco County**

August 8 - Deadline for requesting Vote-by-Mail ballot; please allow at least a week for your completed ballot to reach the offices of the County Supervisors of Elections (SOE).

August 20 - Primary Elections Day - Vote at your local precinct or drop Vote-by-Mail ballots off at an office of the SOE. Dropped off and mailed ballots must be received by 7:00 p.m. at the SOE's office.

Also...

On election days, Vote-by-Mail ballots may only be delivered to office of the Supervisor of Elections, NOT to polling places. The Hillsborough SOE has offices in Tampa, Riverview, and Ruskin. The Pasco SOE has offices in Dade City, New Port Richey, and Land O'Lakes.

Getting In Touch with the Hillsborough SOE:

Email: voter@votehillsborough.gov

Phone: (813) 744-5900 or (888) 297-5843

Website: www.votehillsborough.gov

Getting In Touch with the Pasco SOE: Please check all options at <https://www.pascovotes.gov>.

New Forms for Voter Registration

Remember: New paper **Voter Registration (VR)** Applications (DS-DE 39) became effective on April 24. Throw out the old and print out the new.

[Click here for the English VR Form.](#)

[Click here for the Spanish VR Form.](#)

[Click here for the Creole VR Form.](#)

Juneteenth in Port Richey (and elsewhere)

The Pasco Action Group will be tabling at the Juneteenth Celebration of the African American Club of Pasco, from 11 am to 4 pm, Saturday, June 15, at 6105 Pine Hill Road in Port Richey. League volunteers will talk about the work of the League and assist voters in registering and requesting vote-by-mail ballots. Volunteer shifts are from 10 to 1 and 1 to 4. Click on the link below to sign-up. If you have questions, please contact the Pasco Action Group at Pasco@hclwv.org.

[Volunteer for the Pasco Juneteenth Celebration!](#)

Other Juneteenth events:

- [Urban League](#)
- [TPD Block Party at Perry Harvey Park](#)
- [A fashion show sponsored by the Tampa Bay History Center](#)
- [Pints of Science at New World Brewery](#)

2024 Vote411

As in previous election years, for the 2024 elections, our chapter will publish [Vote411 on-line voter guides](#) for Hillsborough and Pasco County races, providing candidate-specific information for voters. Angie Pickren (Hillsborough) and Barbara Sheppard (Pasco) are creating the guide. Members are currently gathering candidates' campaign data and writing questions for candidates to answer.

Starting July 12, voters can go to the [Vote411 website](#), enter their addresses, preview the candidates on their Primary ballots, and learn about the candidates before making a voting plan. The voter guides will be updated and published again on September 20 for the General Election.

We will be marketing the guide to the community and would appreciate all members assisting with informing the public. Email president@hclwv.org if you would like a Vote411 yard sign.

Winn✓Dixie

The Urban League of Hillsborough and the Hillsborough Supervisor of Elections are joining together to register voters at Winn Dixies throughout the county. The next event

is 10-12 on **Saturday, June 15** at the Winn Dixie at 8837 N. 56Th St., Temple Terrace, 33617. Go to <https://ulhc.org/events> for more information.



This is **Pride** Month. Go to <https://eqfl.org/reproductive-freedom> to learn how Equality Florida is working for women's reproductive health. Volunteer at **Pride events** to register voters and/or to promote Amendment 4. There are **Pride** events all over the Bay area this month.

Meet the Neighbors - June 13th

Tampa Bay League Meeting

Meet Florida LWV Co-President Debbie Chandler

Please join members of the St. Pete, N. Pinellas, and Manatee Leagues at a regional meeting with LWVFL Co-President Debbie Chandler. We will share our activities, learn what the other local Leagues are doing, and discuss possible collaboration. Help represent the LWV of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties at this event!

The meeting is June 13, 5:30-6:30 pm at the Allendale United Methodist Church, 3803 Haines Rd. N, St. Petersburg, FL 33703. Doors open at 5. [Click here to RSVP for June 13.](#)

Tradition, Tradition!

Now is the traditional time to renew your membership. Even though our League now has "rolling" membership renewals (meaning you need to renew 12 months after you last paid), right now is the time of year that many of you have traditionally joined or renewed in the past.

If it has been 12 months since your last dues payment, then it's most likely time for you to renew your membership. If our member database has your current email address, you will receive an email reminder about renewing your membership 30 days before the due date and again five days before. Please follow the link provided to the website to continue your membership and support of our League. If you would like to renew right now, click below to log into the member area.

[Renew Now](#)

Reproductive Rights

Did you hear? Abortion is on the ballot this November in Florida.

The state-wide umbrella organization overseeing the campaign to get 60% of voters to vote yes is Floridians Protecting Freedom.

We know that Floridians overwhelmingly agree: abortion is a personal medical decision that should be free from government interference. We also know that the repercussions of an abortion ban extend far beyond abortions. Doctors will be fearful of taking actions that could be construed as abortions. Women with medical conditions or with fetuses with medical conditions will be sent home until they are in danger of dying before they can access essential health care. OB/GYNs will leave Florida for states where they don't

need to worry about going to jail. (It is already happening.) Women in healthy pregnancies with wanted children will have a harder time seeing qualified medical personnel. Women will be increasingly steered towards anti-abortion centers where health care providers will lie to them about how far along they are in their pregnancies as a strategy to keep women from aborting.

If you don't know what is happening to women with unwanted pregnancies, well, you will hear more and more. In the meantime, check out these stories here:

<https://floridiansprotectingfreedom.com/> on the Yes on 4 page.

Did you know there are 192 anti-abortion pregnancy centers operating across Florida? Sometimes calling themselves “crisis pregnancy centers”, these anti-abortion pregnancy centers **deceive and shame Floridians** seeking comprehensive reproductive health care including abortion care. Many of these are state-funded with taxpayer dollars: in 2023, Gov. Ron DeSantis allocated **\$25 million a year** towards these centers. Don't believe The Voter? [Read here](#).

Would you like information from an unbiased source? Read the Pew Research report [here](#).

How can you help?

- **Sign up to volunteer** and you'll receive the latest ways to spread the word and get out the vote.
- **Looking for upcoming events?** [Click here](#)
- **Join FPF for Super Saturday!** The 3rd Saturday of every month will be a statewide day of action to learn about messaging, voter contact, and how to win in November. [Find your local \(or virtual\) Super Saturday here](#).
- **Donate to the campaign.** Opponents continue to try to slow down our efforts, which is why we can't lose momentum. Every dollar helps us get closer to protecting abortion access for Floridians.
- **Spread the word on social media.** Let others know that we need their help to remove government interference from our personal medical decisions.
- **Talk to your neighbors!** Even your Catholic and conservative voters may be concerned about prenatal health care and/or government interference in our lives.
- **Talk to strangers.** Wear a button referring to Amendment 4 and conversations will happen in shops, restaurants, and elsewhere.
- **Use Amendment 4 as a talking point** during voter registration. It's a winner. Just remind potential voters that it's not enough to vote yes on 4; they also need to vote for pro-choice candidates.
- **Remember --** 100% of pregnancies can be linked to men. Thus, 100% of men should be voting yes on Amendment 4. Don't discount their weight in elections.
- **Join Floridians Protecting Freedom** in weekly calls to invite voters to take action and support "Yes on 4" this election cycle. No experience necessary!
- **Join Equality Florida this month - Pride Month -** in their events in support of Amendment 4.
- **Stay informed.** Sign up for daily clips from Progress Florida.
<https://progressflorida.org/>

Here are some specific **Pride** dates and events for outreach and, well, fun.

- Sat, Jun 22 at 2 pm
[St. Petersburg Super Saturday @ St Pete Pride!](#)
- Sat, Jun 15 at 10 am
[Volunteer @ Polk Pride](#)
- Sat, Jun 8 at 12 pm
[Volunteer @ Silver Pride](#)
- Thu, Jun 6 at 6 pm
[Weekly Virtual Phone Bank](#)

• Tue, Jun 4 at 5:15 pm

Get Support Using Reach for Yes on 4! - Reach App Live Training

In the meantime, click on each link below to follow Floridians Protecting Freedom on social media and help share out the message about Amendment 4 and use these hashtags when you post: **#Yes4Florida #YesOn4**

Twitter	https://twitter.com/yes4florida	@Yes4Florida
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/yes4florida/	@Yes4Florida
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/yes4florida/	@Yes4Florida
YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/@yes4florida	@Yes4Florida
TikTok	https://www.tiktok.com/@yes4florida	@Yes4Florida
LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/company/yes4florida	@Yes4Florida
Mastodon	https://mastodon.social/@flprotectfree	@FLProtectFree

We will be overwhelming you with information about Amendment 4 between now and November 5 and we hope that you will overwhelm everyone you know. We need to get 60% of voters to vote yes. If we don't, it will be the end of health care as we know it.

The Writing on the Wall - Help Needed for Mural

Cooperation continues between the HCLWV and Tampa Walls on a mural to encourage voter participation. We are close to agreeing with a building owner on the canvas or wall and we have the on-line portfolios of eight fabulous, local, female muralists to review. Now we need to decide whose works we like the most. Who would like to help evaluate the works of these eight artists? Once we've narrowed the list down and know the dimensions of the wall, we will ask a few to submit site-specific designs to us. We also might want to come up with guidelines and criteria for the designs. What do we want to say in words? What do we want the painters to depict visually? When the muralists come back to us with their designs, Teresa Potter makes the final decision.

We are still hoping to get the mural done before the July 22 voter registration deadline. Gulp.

Please contact voter@hclwv.org if you would like to help evaluate the artists.

Wear Orange

The 10th annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day—June 7—is fast approaching! Are you ready to **Wear Orange**?

Wear Orange Weekend is June 7-9, which will feature virtual and in-person events across the nation.

In our area, there is an event at 8 pm Saturday, June 8 at Bayfront Park in Sarasota, organized by the Manasota Moms Demand Action and Brady Sarasota.

Go to everytown.org to learn more and find other events.

Save Your Bottle Caps

Donate your plastic bottle caps and help Community Stepping Stones, the organization that provided the vases made from election signs for our 2024 Lifetime Achievement Awards. Community Stepping Stones will use our plastic caps in a mosaic mural during its summer camp. Contact Rebecca@communitysteppingstones.org about your caps.

Separate Was Never Equal

Shouldn't this have been the end of history? Sign up now for the *Tampa Bay Times* forum on the 70th anniversary of Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, June 4, 2024 at the Beulah Baptist Church in Tampa. Doors open at 5:30. Program starts at 6. Reserve seats [here](#) TODAY for the free event.



Performing Arts



***** Tampa Repertory Theatre presents *Next to Normal* through June 16
Click on the asterisk to learn more.

Yimbyism

Conference for the New Urbanism (CNU) Tampa Bay and Yes In My Backyard (YIMBY) Tampa are hosting a summer social and panel discussion on accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on Monday, June 3 from 5 to 7 pm. Attend the panel discussion on and walk through a modular tiny home!

This event is hosted by tiny home manufacturer AbleNook, 3313 East 7th Avenue, Tampa, FL 33605. The panel discussion on the role of ADUs in addressing Tampa Bay's housing challenges will feature:

- Ali Ankudowich with the Florida Housing Coalition;
- Stephen Benson with the City of Tampa;
- Alex Smith with Boone Architects; and
- Josh Streeter with Yes in My Back Yard! (YIMBY) St Petersburg

Click [here](#) for more information.

OLLI

Classes starting in June as part of OLLI include:

- American Heroes of the Holocaust
- Jackie Robinson
- 40 Men and 40 Women who Transformed Tampa
- The Supreme Court Today
- The Bay of Pigs
- Third Parties in American History
- Global Warming

Guess which of the above is taught by HCLWV member Ron Weaver. For the answer or for other information about OLLI, click below.



Café con Tampa brings together community activists every Friday morning at 8:00, at the downtown Portico, for breakfast, community announcements, networking, and a talk. No topic is off limits at Café con Tampa whose founders describe the forum as a place for insightful conversations.

More

Tampa Bay History Center

Going on at TBHC this month:

- Downtown Tampa Walking Tour
- Ybor City Walking Tour
- Central Avenue Walking Tour
- Book discussion on *Collision of Power* by Tampa native Martin Baron
- Florida Conversation: The Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Tampa Emancipation Day Celebrations
- Living History: D-Day
- Gallery Tours
- Fabric of Freedom: Juneteenth Fashion Show
- Slice of History: Pizza and Trivia
- Black History Book Club: *In Peace and Freedom: My Journey in Selma* by St. Pete civil rights legend Bernard LaFayette Jr.

Click on logo below for more information.



Chill

Take a break from current events with free classes in Curtis Hixon Park, including yoga, zumba, barre, and pilates. Need we mention the food truck festival in Perry Harvey Park? The concerts in Lykes Gaslight Park? Rock the Park? Putt and Party? The Summer Series?

If you aren't comfortable taking time off, then wear Amendment 4 swag when you go to these events. Conversations will happen.

Find out more at www.tampasdowntown.com



The Sierra Club has been a good partner to the HCLWV and has regular outings and events.

Pasco County residents can join either the Tampa Bay Sierra Club or the Suncoast Sierra Club! Both clubs are active. See below for Tampa Bay Sierra Club info.

The Suncoast Sierra Club usually meets the third Tuesday of each month. They also have regular outings and events. March with the Suncoast Sierra Club on Pride Day. See more below.

Suncoast

Hillsborough County residents are in the Tampa Bay Sierra Club. The Tampa Bay Club has regular weekend outings and usually meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Learn more about the meetings, outings, and additional events below.

Tampa Bay

Tiger Bay

Tiger Bay's June 21 panel discussion will be on Strong Schools, Stronger Community: Understanding the Proposed Millage Referendum. Click below to register for the luncheon. Doors open at 11:30.



Pasco

Pasco County offers summer gardening classes for kids, summer student rates on public transportation, summer 4-H programs for kids. Also, if you are a member of an HOA or CDD, join an advisory council of other HOA or CDD members and discuss how to be good inhabitants of this planet. For more information on all of this and more, contact kstarkey@mypasco.net.

Thelma and Louise

Find inspiration. According to Wikipedia, "*Thelma & Louise* has influenced other artistic works and become a landmark of feminist film." The American Film Institute included it on its list of most inspiring films. The Library of Congress selected the film for preservation in the National Film Registry, finding it "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant." See you at the Tampa Theatre, June 2, 3:00 pm. Discussion to follow. Details at [Tampa Theatre](#).

Upcoming Member Meetings

June 5, 9-10 am, Monthly Issues Update Meeting. Register [here](#).

June 15, Pasco County Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration, Port Richey.

June 18, 1-2:30 pm, Monthly Voter Protection Meeting. Email voterprotection@hclwv.org for more information and the link.

July 1, 6-7 pm, Monthly Issues Update Meeting (repeat). Register [here](#).

July 22 - Deadline to Register to Vote in Primary Election.

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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