

## *The VOTER August 2024*

In between tabling and speaking about voting from August to November, I am headed out of town for a couple of weeks to visit my youngest son who has been doing an internship abroad this summer and to travel to a few other places with my husband. In my absence, you can continue to send questions to [president@hcwlv.org](mailto:president@hcwlv.org). Thank you to Laurie Winkles, our VP, who will be filling my shoes while I'm away.



Thank you to those who helped at events in July; we were busy! And thank you to those who have signed up to help at USF and HCC for National Voter Registration Day and additional on-campus events and to those of you who have offered to coordinate events at some Goodwill locations.

I was recently informed that there is a 10% voting gap between community college students and those at public four-year universities.

To counter this, the [Community College Concert Competition](#) was launched by Levi Strauss, Showtime/MTV Studios, and several other organizations. HCC is aware of it, but the [Students Learn Students Vote Coalition](#) has asked us to help spread the word to other community college campuses. This competition is a nationwide, nonpartisan student voter turnout campaign and entry is EXCLUSIVE to community colleges. The winning campus will host a free concert by a major recording artist on Vote Early Day, October 29th.

Please see below for continued volunteer opportunities to help us [Get out the Vote!](#) And share the word about the Hillsborough School Board Virtual Candidate Forums that we're co-sponsoring! And any other candidate forums, especially those that will help increase voter turnout on August 20th!

## Save the Date for Caryle

A celebration of Caryle Camissa's life will be held on October 5, 2-4 pm. Details to follow in the September Voter.

## Save the Date for Election Security

How might emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, as well as everyday digital and social media platforms, present challenges to and opportunities for the integrity of American elections? In a sea of information, detecting what content is correct, incorrect, and manipulated can be a difficult task. Feeling empowered to vote and confident in the integrity of American elections requires understanding the information available to each of us. Community officials, political analysts, and researchers come together for this panel to discuss how we can prepare to be better content consumers and decision-makers this election season.

This conversation, moderated by journalist Briona Arradondo of Fox 13 Tampa Bay, features expertise from Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Craig Latimer, political analyst and USF Professor Emerita Dr. Susan MacManus, Director of the USF Center for Sustainable Democracy Dr. Joshua Scacco, and Dennis Mont'Ros with the USF Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement.

This event is part of the USF College of Arts and Sciences Democracy and Citizenship Speaker Series, **co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties**, the Center for Sustainable Democracy, and the Humanities Institute. It will take place on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, 6:30-8:00 pm on the USF campus. For more information and to register click [here](#).

## 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.

### Hillsborough County School Board Virtual Candidate Forum Series

Our league is co-sponsoring this series of candidate forums with Hillsborough County PTA and Families for Strong Public Schools. Details are available at <https://hclwv.org/for-voters/candidate-forum-series/>.

- July 25 - District 7 (county-wide) - [Click here for recording](#).
- Aug, 1-12 pm, District 1 candidates
- Aug, 5-12 pm, District 3 candidates
- Aug, 15-12 pm, District 5 candidates



- **Monday, Aug. 12, 5:30**, NAACP Hillsborough Community Political Forum and Straw Poll, at Middleton High School, Tampa. Invited are candidates for the BOCC Districts 2 and 4; School Board Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7; and State Attorney and Public Defender. More information at [NAACP](#).
- **Friday, Aug. 16, noon**, Candidates for Congressional Districts 14 and 15, Tiger Bay's non-partisan lunch. For more information and tickets, go to [Tiger Bay](#).
- **Wednesday, Aug. 21, 6:30-8:00**, Hillsborough County SOE and SOE candidate Craig Latimore is speaking to the South Tampa Democrats at the Jan Platt Library. Admission is free and open to all.

*If you hear of other candidate forums between now and November, please, please send the information to [president@hclwv.org](mailto:president@hclwv.org) and [voter@hclwv.org](mailto:voter@hclwv.org).*

**Legislator Report Cards**

Several organizations grade our legislators according to their votes on the issues of interest to those groups. We will include them here as we discover them so please share if you know of any. Have a look at report cards from:

- [Progress Florida](#)
- [Sierra Club](#), and the
- [Florida Chamber of Commerce](#)

## GOTV - Get Certified

No, this is not about television. This is about getting out the vote.

### **Get Out the Vote! Get Certified to Volunteer at our Voter Registration Events!**

Now is your opportunity to get out in the community and help inform voters about the election process! **To volunteer at a table, you must pass a simple certification quiz provided by the Florida LWV. Click on the link below to go to our website to get certified.**

If you're not sure if you've done this, you can check the list through the link below or you can simply take it again as a refresher.

[Get Certified](#)

## GOTV - Volunteer at Events

### **Get Out the Vote! Sign up to Volunteer at These Tabling Events!**

**Provide Election Info and Voter Registration Assistance on Campus**

- USF Tampa Campus, Aug. 27, Sept. 17, Sept. 30, [details](#)
- HCC Brandon, National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 17, [details](#)
- HCC Dale Mabry, National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 17; Congress to Campus, October 1, [details](#)
- HCC Ybor, National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 17; Congress to Campus, Oct. 2, [details](#)

**Provide voting information to Goodwill customers at stores in Hillsborough or Pasco County between**

now and Sept. 17, National Voter Registration Day. If you can help staff or coordinate a day or two at one of the locations below, please contact [president@hclwy.org](mailto:president@hclwy.org). Members have volunteered to staff tables at three Goodwill locations so far, in Brandon, Wesley Chapel and on US 301. If you can help, get the details [here](#).

This information, and any new events that come up, can be found on the Member Opportunities page of our website (see article below).



- [Goodwill Hillsborough Ave](#) - 4102 W Hillsborough Ave, Tampa, FL 33614
- [Goodwill US-301](#) - 1407 US-301, Tampa, FL 33619
- [Goodwill Wesley Chapel](#) - 2390 Willow Oak Dr, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544
- [Goodwill Spring Hill](#) - 4750 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, FL 34606

- [Goodwill Plant City](#) - 2802 James L Redman Pkwy, Plant City, FL 33566
- [Goodwill Brandon](#) - 1106 E Brandon Blvd, Brandon, FL 33511
- [Goodwill Trinity](#) - 11462 State Road 54, Trinity, FL 34655
- [Goodwill Lakeland](#) - 5411 Florida Ave S, Lakeland, FL 33813
- [Goodwill Oldsmar](#) - 3929 Tampa Rd, Oldsmar, FL 34677

## GOTV - Become a Concierge

The Voter Concierge Corps is an elite fleet of passionate volunteers helping Floridians vote in the upcoming primary. You can become one.

Concierges provide personalized ballot research, shareable voting guides, and individualized help to make civic participation simple and fun.

Made up of a special group of League of Women Voters of Florida members and supported by the Center for Artistic Activism and Playscapades, the Voter Concierge Corps will support hundreds of voters in going to the polls confidently this year.

[Sign Up](#)

**VBM**

Due to Florida Senate Bill 90 (2021), all registered Florida voters who want to vote by mail in 2024 must submit a NEW vote-by-mail ballot request to their county Supervisor of Elections!

If you haven't gotten your VBM ballot by now, that means you have not requested one! Contact your SOE now at [www.votehillsborough.gov](http://www.votehillsborough.gov) or [www.pascovotes.gov](http://www.pascovotes.gov)!



Also, LWVFL has created a toolkit with League branded assets to help spread the word about this. Please utilize this kit within your own networks.

[Click here to access our Florida Vote-by-Mail Reset Social Media Toolkit in English.](#)

[Click here to access our Florida Vote-by-Mail Reset Social Media Toolkit in Spanish.](#)

## Vote411



### Promote Vote411 for the Primary Election!

The League's Vote411 Voter Guide is LIVE at [vote411.org](http://vote411.org). The guide provides information about candidates on the ballot for the August 20th election. Type in your address to find the races on your ballot. The guide includes candidates' responses to

questions related to the offices they are seeking and links to their campaign websites.

We're asking for your help in several ways.

- **USE the Voter Guide!** It's a great resource.
- **SHARE the link** with your friends, neighbors and colleagues. It's a great way for voters to learn more about the candidates and issues so they can cast an informed vote.
- **LIKE AND SHARE** our social media posts about VOTE411.
- **ASK candidates to participate!** Questionnaires are sent to every candidate and several reminders are made via email and phone.

We would appreciate all members assisting in informing the public about this non-partisan voter guide. Email [president@hclwv.org](mailto:president@hclwv.org) if you would like a Vote411 yard sign.



## 2024 Voting Dates - August Primary

The deadline has passed for registering to vote or changing registrations in time for the Aug. primaries. Please remind your friends and family about the remaining deadlines.

- **August 2** - Last date recommended for requesting mail-in-ballots, although requests will still be taken through Aug. 8. Please allow at least a week for your completed ballot to reach the offices of the County Supervisors of Elections (SOE).
- **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 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 p.m. at the SOE's office.

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.

#### Remember...

On election day, Vote-by-Mail ballots may only be delivered to office of the Supervisor of Elections, NOT to polling places.

#### Get In Touch with the Hillsborough SOE:

Email: [voter@votehillsborough.gov](mailto:voter@votehillsborough.gov)

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

Website: [www.votehillsborough.gov](http://www.votehillsborough.gov)



#### Get In Touch with the Pasco SOE:

Email: [webcomment@pascovotes.gov](mailto:webcomment@pascovotes.gov)

Phone: (800) 851-8754

Website: [www.pascovotes.gov](http://www.pascovotes.gov)

## Wait! There are How Many Amendments?

Um, there's Amendment 4. Oh! And Amendment 3. Are there more? Find out yourself and then tell others about all six amendments on November's ballot through the LWV-FL Speaker's Bureau presentation, "**DECISION 2024 - Voter's Guide to the Six Amendments on Florida's General Election Ballot.**" It's not all about sex and drugs (or rock 'n roll). Access it [here](#), quite a ways down the page. There will be a quiz!

If you are interested in joining our Speaker's Bureau or if you would like to organize an event for a speaker to present the amendments to a group, please contact [president@hclwv.org](mailto:president@hclwv.org).

If you would like to hear the presentation yourself, tune in to the Member Issues Update meeting on **Sept. 2**, 6 pm-7 pm.

And if you want to read nonpartisan information about the amendments, we also have available a [four-page summary](#) and a [two-page summary](#) you can download.



## Amendment 4

Sign up to phone bank and/or canvass for Amendment 4 at [Floridians Protecting Freedom](#). Events take place all month, especially on Super Saturday, **Aug. 17**. Also check out the swag at the same website -- stickers, signs, shirts, and more in English and Spanish.

You all know what Amendment 4 is, right? **Women's health care is on the ballot!**

## Time on Your Hands?

Or nervous energy? If you want to volunteer for a League event but can't find your newsletter with the details, you can now locate that information on our website. Log into your account at <https://hclwv.org/member-log-in/#myaccount> and look for the "Member Opportunities" listing in the Members Only area. The page includes tabling events, speaking engagements, and other related information. If you have an event to add, please email [communications@hclwv.org](mailto:communications@hclwv.org) with the details.

## Temporary FB Help Needed

We are looking for a volunteer to assist with posts on our facebook page for two weeks or longer. The person who regularly handles this will be traveling Aug. 20-Sept. 4, and will be unable to post on a regular basis. If you're already on facebook and familiar with the platform, we would simply provide you with access to our page and provide some guidance about posting. Please email [communications@hclwv.org](mailto:communications@hclwv.org) if you can help.

## Pasco Citizens Academy

The Citizen's Academy offers an interactive, behind-the-scenes look at how Pasco County's government operates. It's an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of governmental organization and functions.

The fall 2024 session starts on **Aug. 7**. Interested individuals may fill out an application. The official Citizens Academy website is [here](#). Have a look as well at this [podcast](#). Let's

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get our pencils sharpened and return to .

## Here Comes the Sun



ICYMI, the Tampa Bay Sun's opening match is **Aug. 18** at 6:30 pm. The Sun is one of the eight teams currently comprising the U.S. Super League, a brand new professional women's soccer league. The USL Super League "plans to be a global leader in women's soccer on and off the field", providing more opportunities for more women in more communities. The team will play at Blake HS in Tampa for its first year, while developing a permanent site in Ybor City. Take your friends, daughters, and mothers to cheer the Sun on.

Click on the logo for tickets and more information.



This month, catch the following Florida Humanities programs in our general area:

[Weird Florida with Eliot Kleinberg](#), Starkey Ranch, Odessa, **Aug. 3**, 11:30-12:30. In 1998, the original Weird Florida posited that Florida was the wackiest of all. This presentation includes a whirlwind tour of 500 years of Florida history.

[The Fighting Baileys: Florida's Black Military Experience](#), Old Courthouse Heritage Museum, Inverness, **Aug. 22**, 7-8 pm. During World War II and Korean War, seven brothers from a black Punta Gorda family served overseas. Yet, the family received no acclaim for over fifty years for their exploits. From a high-flying Tuskegee airman to a grunt in the Red Ball Express. the Bailev brothers' struggles in a Jim Crow south speak to the hidden

and ongoing struggle to accord black Americans in their place in the military.

## NAACP Annual Dinner

Come to the 2024 NAACP Hillsborough County Freedom Fund Dinner on **Sept. 28** at 6 pm. More details [here](#).



### The Arts



Did you know that Bank of America and Merrill Lynch debit and credit cardholders can enjoy free admission to over 225 museums and cultural institutions across the United States on the **first full weekend** of every month? Find out more [here](#).

**Aug. 14-25, *Thrice to Mine***, Roxanne Fay wrote and stars in this tale of how Lady MacBeth learned from the women in her life how to fight. [Jobsite Theater](#).

**Aug. 6-Sept. 15, *TutuTango: A Photographic Ballet in Four Acts***. A testament to the power of art to connect, move, and provoke thought, even in the face of separation. [FMoPA](#).

**Aug. 9-Sept. 8, *Fable***, about the making of a Broadway fable - the hit musical *Gypsy*. Sisters June Havoc and Gypsy Rose Lee's loyalty to each other is tested in a mounting battle between fiction and truth. [Freefall Theatre](#).

**Aug. 4** and the first Sunday of every month, Little Surrealists Tour of the Dali Museum for families with kids ages 4-11 years old. [Dali](#).

**Aug. 10** and the second Saturday of every month, the St. Pete Museum of Fine Arts welcomes families with children with sensory sensitivities to explore the galleries. [MFA](#).

**Through March 16, 2025**, Suchitra Mattai: Bodies and Souls, explores migration, patriarchy, and materiality. [Tampa Museum of Art](#)

**Through August**, *Give Us the Sun*, a solo exhibition of drawings, prints, paintings, and quilts by artist St. Pete native Traci Mims. Mims's work spotlights the narratives, lives, faces, and figures of the individuals in her community as well as epic individuals and stories. [The Woodson](#)

**On view now** in the cafe, *Black is Beautiful* by St. Pete native Nick Davis. Davis took on digital artistry after epilepsy left him unable to work. Davis constructed art that portrayed his love for his culture. [James Museum](#)

## OLLI

OLLI invites you to attend the Fall Open House on Thursday, **Sept. 12**. The keynote speaker will be Artificial Intelligence expert John Licato, an associate professor of Computer Science and Engineering at USF. His topic will be "Artificial Intelligence Promises and Pitfalls."

The Open House will highlight some of the 140 classes in person and online this fall. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Classes starting in August are few but check out:

"Pirates, Warriors and Spies, Oh My! Women Who Didn't Make the History Books" and "With or Without Merit: U.S. Participation in the 1936 Olympic Games."

To register for classes or for more information, click on the USF logo below.

Are there any LWV members teaching this fall? Please write [voter@hclwv.org](mailto:voter@hclwv.org)



## Tampa Bay History Center

Going on at TBHC this month:

- Walking tours!
- Gallery Tours galore!
- **Aug. 26 Book Discussion:** *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People* by Ben Crump

Click on logo below for more information.



This Friday, **Aug. 2**, catch Tampa Bay Times political columnist William ("Windy") March discussing the primary elections. Windy has covered local politics for decades and has lots of wisdom to share.

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. Click below for more information.

More



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 outdoors. The Suncoast Club is also active in social justice issues.

The Tampa Bay Group's Conservation Committee meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. Email [here](#) for details. In addition, the Tampa Bay Sierra Club has walking and biking outings in August.

The Suncoast Club's political committee usually meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Barbara S. Ponce Library in Pinellas Park. General membership meetings are usually the 3rd Tuesday. For information about the Suncoast Club's outings, meetings, and activism, click [here](#).

## Tiger Bay

Tiger Bay's **Aug. 16** lunch will be a non-partisan forum for Congressional Districts 14 and 15. All candidates have been invited and the following had confirmed as of July 31:

District 14: Rocky Rochford (R), Neelam Perry (R), Nathaniel Snyder (Libertarian), Ehsan Joarder, (R)

District 15: Pat Kemp (D), Jennifer Barbosa (R)

Pet, er, click on the tiger to register. Doors open at 11:30 and the program starts at 12.



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*Incoming Member Meetings*

## Upcoming member meetings

No Monthly Issues Update Meeting in August.

Aug. 1, 6:30-7:30 pm, DEI & Social Action monthly zoom. [Details](#).

Aug. 13, 1:00-2:30 pm, Voter Protection monthly zoom. [Details](#).

Aug. 17, Yes on 4 Super Saturday events. [Details](#) about St. Pete event.

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](#).

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EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

League of Women Voters of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties

813-461-5365 | [hclwv.org](http://hclwv.org)



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