

## *The VOTER*      *APRIL 2025*

Hello league members! Please take a brief moment today to skim through this month's newsletter - many of the important action items included are happening this week. I'll recap a few here:



- League Event: April 8 and April 26 Tabling Events - Help!
- League Co-sponsored Event: April 14 event at USF on Public Health & Democracy
- Planned Parenthood legislative update on April 1 and dinner on April 3. A new call to action was issued tonight regarding Title X funding. I highly encourage signing up for Planned Parenthood alerts directly.
- Citizen ballot amendment legislation being heard on the Florida house floor on April 3.
- April 5 Hands Off Day of Action - locations below.
- Early voting April 4-5, election day April 8 in Plant City

Also, please plan to attend our Monthly Member Update Meeting on Wednesday, April 2 at 9 am. In addition to legislative updates, we will discuss the LWV-US study to develop a position on the federal judiciary as an essential component of US democracy. The study's purpose includes addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics. All members received information on this from the LWV-US. **For more information about the study, please visit the [League Management Site](#),** where you will find policy briefs, discussion prompts, survey questions, and a link to the January Town Hall where experts discussed the issue.

Each local league needs to discuss and take a position on it by April 14. After our discussion on Wednesday, we will determine if another meeting exclusive to this topic is needed. Please reply to this email if you cannot make the meeting on Wednesday, but wish to be involved in this discussion.

### **Legislative Update Tonight!**

Florida's state legislative session is in full swing. **Planned Parenthood** is fighting extreme and dangerous bills, including a bill that would make it harder for teens to access birth control and testing and treatment for STIs. They're also pushing forward proactive legislation to end the state's extreme abortion ban.

Join **Planned Parenthood** for a legislative update on April 1 at 6 pm. Learn what bills they're pushing forward to expand care, what bills they are trying to stop, including steps that could lead to an outright abortion ban, and how we can help.

Learn!

Also, the [Planned Parenthood](#) Tampa Bay Dinner: Care. No Matter What. is this week on Thursday, April 3, at Hotel Flor (905 N Florida Ave). Proceeds from this event will directly support Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida, ensuring that our community continues to have access to essential reproductive health care.

[More Info & Tickets](#)

## Table at HOPE's Action Meeting - April 8th

Our league has been invited to offer voter registration and information at the HOPE (Hillsborough Organization for Progress & Equality) Nehemiah Action Meeting where 1,400 people from across the county will be seeking leadership from our County and City officials to take concrete steps around affordable housing, mental health, and flooding and water quality. [More information here.](#)

The event will be on Tuesday, April 8th from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm at Bible-Based Fellowship Church Tampa Bay (4811 Ehrlich Rd, Tampa). [Click here to sign up.](#)

## Table at Pasco's Earth Day Event April 26th

We are tabling at the Pasco County Earth Day Celebration from 9 am -1 pm on Saturday, April 26, at Crews Lake Wilderness Park (16739 Crews Lake Dr, Shady Hills,FL).

The Earth Day event features upcycled and cottage industry products, food vendors, plant vendors, and other eco-friendly items. It is sponsored by Keep Pasco Beautiful. This is generally a fun event with lots of community interaction.

Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945ABA62BA1F9CE9-55992530-celebrate> to sign up!

## Silencing Voters? Not our Jam!

It's been a long time since we could count on our representatives in Tallahassee to represent the needs and desires of their constituents, which has meant that citizen-driven ballot amendments have been crucial. The LWVFL has supported numerous ballot initiatives over the years, some successful and some not. State legislators are currently attempting to add more bureaucratic hurdles: setting unrealistic deadlines to submit signatures, banning important quality control measures, and threatening volunteers collecting petition signatures with felony charges and massive fines. **These measures could effectively dismantle the citizen initiative process, silencing the voices of everyday Floridians.**

Florida's Senate Bill 7016 and House Bill 1205 seek to impose stringent restrictions on citizen-led constitutional amendments. **Florida's citizen-led amendment process in Florida is already the strictest in the nation, requiring nearly one million signatures to get on the ballot and 60% support from voters to pass.** HB 1205 is scheduled to be heard on the floor on April 3. Click below to urge your state legislators to oppose attacks on the citizen-led amendment process.

[Raise Hell!](#)

SB 7016 has not yet been scheduled for a hearing.

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## Rise Up on April 5!

Fight fascism and stand up for women on April 5. Join MoveOn, Public Citizen, Stand Up America, and the Not Above the Law Coalition by taking to the streets on this Hands Off day of action. You can find a protest wherever you are or want to be.

- Wesley Chapel at 9:30 a.m.
- New Port Richey at 11:00 a.m.
- St. Pete at 12:00 p.m.
- Tampa at 3:00 p.m.
- Elsewhere? Everywhere! All day!

Find information about these events and hundreds others using this [map](#) and get out on April 5.

## Vote Now in Plant City!

The City of Plant City municipal elections will be held on April 8. The vote will be for the two City Commissioner seats currently held by Mayor Nate Kilton and Vice-Mayor Jason Jones. Early voting is April 4-5.

If a runoff date is necessary, that will happen on May 27.

More information is available [here](#).

## What about those Public Servants?

The USF College of Arts & Sciences and the Center for Sustainable Democracy are pleased to present an event with former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Antonia Novello on Monday, April 14. “Public Service and a Cause Greater than Oneself” will explore Dr. Novello’s consequential moments leading and participating in significant public health campaigns on behalf of the United States. Dr. Novello also will sign copies of her book *Duty Calls*. Dr. Janelle Applequist, Associate Professor of Health Communication in the Zimmerman School of Advertising & Mass Communications, will moderate. This event is sponsored by [The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties](#) as well as We Are Más. Register [here](#).

## Want to Track a Bill?

WUSF explains [here](#) how to track a bill through the Florida legislature.

## Environmental Bills?

Track environmental bills [here](#) on the Sierra Club's tracker.

## Land Usage Bills?

Track land usage bills [here](#) on the 1000 Friends of Florida website.

## Contact your Legislators

The legislative session in Tallahassee started March 4. If you want to contact your legislators or the governor, check out <https://lwvfl.org/floridagovernment/>.

## Feminist History

Explore the Feminist Futures eight-part video series about the history of feminist movements. —how they fought, what they built, and what we must carry forward. Because a feminist future isn’t just a dream—it’s a choice we make together.

Watch!

## Free Fitness in the Park

The Tampa Downtown Partnership hosts free fitness classes in downtown Tampa's Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park each weeknight at 6:00.

**Mondays:** Rumble Boxing

**Tuesdays:** Zumba

**Wednesdays:** Barre

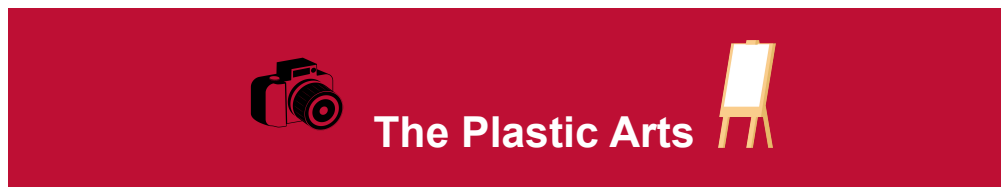
**Thursdays:** Pilates

**Sundays:** Yoga

For more information on this and other events, click on the logo above.



April 26, in St. Pete, learn about sacred lands preservation and education. David Anderson represents the third generation of the Anderson family to serve as caretaker at the Sacred Lands property. He will discuss the Tocobaga people who built the shell midden, and the journey of Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, who landed here in 1528 with the Narvaez expedition, and, along with only four other survivors, walked from Florida all the way to the Pacific Ocean over eight years (1528 - 1536)! Go to [www.discoverfloridatours.com](http://www.discoverfloridatours.com) to book this tour.



*Bodies and Souls* represents Suchitra Mattai's (Guyanese, b. 1973) first solo Museum exhibition on the East Coast and in Florida. Compromised largely of new works, the show focuses on three themes central to Mattai's practice: migration, motherland, and materiality. [Tampa Museum of Art](#), through April 20.

*Jennifer Steinkamp: Madame Curie* celebrates two female trailblazers: scientist Marie Curie (Polish-French, 1876-1934) and artist Jennifer Steinkamp (American, b. 1958). Curie remains the only woman awarded two Nobel Prizes for her groundbreaking scientific discoveries and research. Born nearly a century later, Steinkamp is internationally recognized for her monumental installations that unite art with technology. [TMA](#), through August 10.



Catch [American Stage](#)'s outdoor production of *Hair*. *Hair* isn't just about the music or the protests—it's about the power of community, the strength of love, and the belief that change starts from within. Through April 27.

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FreeFall's *For Closure* is a hilarious and satirical look at the foibles and hypocrisies of modern life, set on Florida's Gulf Coast. April 11-May 11.

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Catch *Morning Side* at [Stageworks](#). Women gather for a baby shower. Family secrets are revealed and propriety flies out the window. A laugh-out-loud look at the modern family and sibling rivalry. April 23-May 11.



Going on at TBHC this month:

- Sara McNamara explores the important role women played in Ybor City. April 9.
- **The Honorable E.J. Salcines** will present an historical overview inspired by the current exhibition, [Invisible Immigrants: Spaniards in the U.S. \(1868-1945\)](#), highlighting the unique experiences of Tampa's immigrant community. April 17.
- Reception for HBCU alumni. April 10.
- Walking tours and gallery tours.
- Book group discussions.

Click on logo above for more information.



So many OLLI courses starting in March and now there are courses at St. Leo University in Pasco County as well! Learn about Nazis and the Holocaust, the climate crisis, better capitalism, rock 'n roll, Florida food, Ybor, the Bay of Pigs, cars in American culture, FDR, gardening, and more. Click on the above bull for the full catalogue.



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 on the logo above for more information, but for the most up-to-date information, subscribe to their email notifications.

## Support Seminole Heights

Take a tour of houses in Old Seminole Heights, Sunday, April 6. More information and tickets [here](#).



Join an April 2 webinar on the current legislative session. 12 noon. Details and registration [here](#).

The Florida Wildlife Corridor is a visionary 18-million-acre network of interconnected lands and waters which afford critical ecosystem services. About a third of this land is in agriculture. Learn more at noon on April 17 in the free webinar, "Building Bridges." Representatives from the agriculture and conservation communities will discuss areas of common concern and strategies for cooperation. Learn more [here](#).

Stay tuned for the May 14 legislative wrap-up.



### Florida State Parks Love Fest!

Celebrate and protect Florida's state parks, and send a loud, clear message they are for nature- NOT developers! The Sierra Club's love fest is taking place all over the state, mostly on April 4 and 5. In Hillsborough County, the celebration will be on April 13, 9-11 am, at Hillsborough River State Park. Learn more by sending an email to [fvaonline@yahoo.com](mailto:fvaonline@yahoo.com).

Don't forget that Hillsborough residents may join the Tampa Bay Club and Pasco County residents may join the the Suncoast Club. The Tampa Bay Group's Conservation Committee meets on the **second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm**. Email [here](#) for details. 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

Join the non-partisan Tiger Bay Club the third Friday of each month for non-partisan discussions of current events. In April, the airport. Pet the tiger to register for the

lunch. The doors of the Cuban Club open at 11:30 and the program starts at 12.



## Follow the Sun



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### *Upcoming Member Meetings*

April 2, 9-10 am, Monthly Issues Update Meeting. [Details](#)

April 21, 12-1 pm, Monthly Board meeting. [Details](#)

April 26, 9 am-1 pm, Pasco County Earth Day. [Details](#)

May 17, 11 am-1 pm, Annual Meeting. [Details](#)

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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