

The VOTER *March 2025*

Once again, our fabulous editor has put together a newsletter full of information. I want to draw your attention to a few upcoming dates (details in newsletter):

- Monthly Member Meeting (Virtual) - March 3 6 pm-7 pm
(Link in calendar at bottom)
- League Lobby Days (Tallahassee) - March 11-12 -
Deadline to sign-up March 6.
- National Popular Vote Presentation - March 25
- Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of
Women Luncheon - March 26



Also, on this coming Tuesday, March 4th, the League of Women U.S. is hosting a nationwide action for democracy: Light for our Democracy. Leagues across the country will join with Black Voters Matter, the Workers Circle, the American Association of People with Disabilities, National Organization for Women, American Federation of Teachers, Southern Poverty Law Center, Common Cause, the National Council of Jewish Women, APIA Vote, Center for Common Good, Declaration for American Democracy, and Public Citizen to stage community gatherings at state capitols, city halls, town halls, and public gathering spaces across the country, bringing people together in reflection, action, and solidarity during the President's address. [Click here to watch for an event near us.](#) There is an unaffiliated event that is happening on March 4, 3-4 pm in front of Tampa City Hall, which is also a pro-democracy protest.

Please save the date of Saturday, May 17, 11 am - 1 pm for our Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Seminole Heights Public Library. More details coming soon.

And last, but not least, please note the message from our Nominations Chair that we are still in search of leadership for next year. If you are interested, please reach out for more information on what each job entails. We would love to get you more involved!

League Lobby Days

Join LWV members and allies from around Florida as we descend on the Capitol in Tallahassee **March 11-12**. If you have never experienced this before, 2025 is the year to do it. But, and there is always a but, you need to sign up by **March 6**.

In Tallahassee, March 11 will be filled with comprehensive training that includes updates on the current climate of the legislature, lobbying techniques, and in-depth sessions on our priorities, voting rights and election reform, education, reproductive health and justice, and gun violence prevention. March 12 is when our members meet with

legislators regarding our legislative priorities, pop into committee meetings, and watch each chamber with an eagle eye as they conduct business and pass legislation.

Lobby Days are a unique opportunity to humanize our [legislative priorities](#) with our state lawmakers. [Click here for more information and to register!](#) If you are interested in participating, or have already signed up, please email president@hclwv.org so we can connect those who are going for lodging and travel coordination if possible.

A Reason to Celebrate

One of our own league members, Doris Weatherford, is being honored this year at the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon. Please email President@hclwv.org if you are planning to attend so we can plan to sit together! Click on the graphic below for more details and to purchase tickets.

Hillsborough
County Florida
COMMISSION ON THE
**Status
of
Women**

Hillsborough County

Women's Hall of Fame

Class of 2025
Luncheon & Induction
Ceremony

Honoring

Marsha Rydberg
Tempress "Tee" Solomon
Doris Weatherford



Wednesday, March 26, 2025
11:30am - 1:00pm
Shanna and Bryan Glazer JCC
522 N Howard Ave

Tickets & Sponsorships
www.friendsofecosw.org

Petition Drives

The League of Women Voters of Florida is officially supporting two citizen ballot initiative drives aimed at securing spots on the 2026 ballot.

- The first initiative, the **Right to Clean and Healthy Waters Amendment**, seeks to empower Floridians to better hold our government accountable when it comes to Florida waters. This amendment is crucial for protecting our environment and

public health. Click [here](#) to learn more about this amendment.

- The second initiative, the **Amendment to Provide Medicaid Coverage to Eligible Low-Income Adults**, aims to expand Medicaid coverage to low-income adults who currently fall in the coverage gap. This initiative could provide much-needed healthcare access to thousands of Floridians. Click [here](#) to learn more about this initiative.

LWVFL believes that both of these initiatives are critical for the well-being of our state and its residents. Stay tuned for more updates on how you can get involved in supporting these important causes!

The National Popular Vote

On March 25, there will be a half hour Zoom presentation on the "What, When and Why of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact", with a half hour Q&A following. Look for an email with registration instructions from LWVFL in March. Questions? Contact [Shirley Arcuri](#).

We Need You

Every year at our Annual Meeting we elect new officers, board members, and nominating committee members.

Your nominating committee has been working since last Fall to make sure our slate is full of great candidates who will provide leadership for our League through 2025-26 and beyond. The response has been wonderful, however we still have two critical spots to fill.

Please consider yourself, or someone you know, for the following positions:

- President (or Co-President)
- Nominating Committee Member

You may send your potential nominees (including yourself!), along with contact information (email and/or phone) to nominations@hclwv.org. The Nominating Committee members will take care of asking your suggested nominees if they are willing to serve - or if you nominate yourself, we will contact you to confirm.

Thank you for considering who best can provide the leadership our League needs!

The LWV/ACLU Venn Diagram

On Sunday, April 6, the St. Petersburg LWV is holding its annual business meeting and lunch. The keynote speaker is **Bacardi Jackson**, Executive Director of the ACLU of Florida, who will share insights about our shared vision of a fair and just Florida, where

all people are free, equal under the law, and able to live with dignity. Tickets for the luncheon are \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. [Purchase your ticket now.](#)

Legislative Updates

The legislative session in Tallahassee starts March 4 and there is no honeymoon period.

If you want to contact your legislators or the governor, check out <https://lwvfl.org/floridagovernment/>.

Diving Deep

How we can improve Tampa Bay's water quality

Join the Tampa Bay Times for a community discussion on the future of Tampa Bay's water supply and quality, and the urgent need to tackle the challenges that threaten our waterways.

From red tide outbreaks and widespread pollution after hurricanes Helene and Milton to seagrass decline in the Bay's estuary, aging infrastructure failures, and concerns over freshwater availability, the panel will explore critical issues and actionable solutions to protect, conserve, and sustainably manage Tampa Bay's water resources for generations to come.

March 6, Shanna & Bryan Glazer JCC, 6-7:30. Free admission. More information [here](#).

Protest Against Fascism

Stand up for democracy. Bring a sign of your own making and choice and join groups and individuals in front of Tampa City Hall. March 4, 3-4 pm.

A Longer Perspective

Classical Antiquities Lecture: Citizen Participation in Ancient Athens

After the U.S. Presidential Elections in November, it is perhaps fitting to return to the birthplace of democracy, Athens, around the 6th through 4th century BCE.

Dr. Jennifer Roberts traces the political reforms that led to the breakdown of the power of the nobility and the rise of popular government within the larger context of ancient Greek history. As well as discussing the women and the enslaved population excluded from participation in government, Dr. Roberts will explore the Athenians' rationale for denying citizenship to immigrants and their descendants in the context of anxiety about

immigration in the United States, beginning with the founding era. Among those who did belong to the citizen body, she will ask how the Athenians arranged to involve men (not women) of all social classes in government.

Identifying eight strategies for maximizing citizen participation, she will explore how the Athenians' approach might be adapted to the large nation-states of the modern world, the United States in particular. Tampa Museum of Art, March 23. For tickets and more information, click [here](#).

Care. No Matter What.

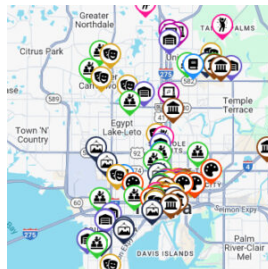
Planned Parenthood's annual fundraiser will be held on April 3 at the Hotel Flor (formerly Hotel Floridan) in downtown Tampa. Former State Attorney Andrew Warren is being honored. Tickets start at \$250. Find out more at TampaBayDinner.ppswcf.org.

It's Not Too Soon

All vote-by-mail requests in Florida expired on December 31, 2024. Those who would like to have a vote-by-mail ballot mailed to them for elections taking place between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2026, must submit a new vote-by-mail request. This applies to all voters, even if they voted by mail in the 2024 General Election.

Tampa Arts Directory

Plan out your next art adventure with over 200 cultural spaces to explore. The Tampa Arts Alliance has mapped out and categorized 15 museums, 25+ performing art venues and theater companies, 50+ galleries and studios, and art classes, bookstores, music stores, and more. Check it out at www.TampaArtsAlliance.org.



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.



The second **Florida Humanities Festival** starts March 15 and culminates in a one-day festival on **March 22** at **Selby Library** in downtown Sarasota! Activities dive into the many communities that make up this region along the Gulf coast, including:

- A Keynote presentation from **Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jack E. Davis**.
- Cultural demonstrations and performances.
- A Kids' Room featuring author read-alongs and activities.
- **Histories of the Suncoast** panel discussion with local scholars and historians
- A **Community Showcase** of local humanities organizations including the Sarasota Ballet School, the Sarasota Orchestra, Time Sifters Archaeology, The Cortez Village Historical Society, the Clearwater Historical Society and the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program.
- A sneak peek of a new Hurricane Ian documentary ***Rising: Surviving the Surge***, produced by WGCU-TV with support from Florida Humanities
- **And so much more! Click on the logo above to learn more.**

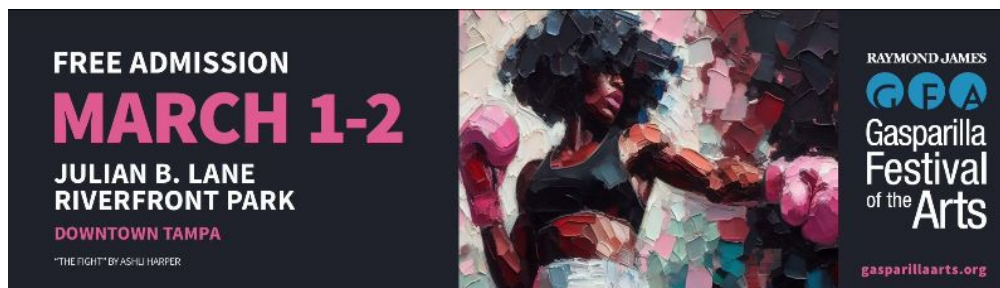
Head to the Tampa Bay History Center March 19 at 12 pm for a presentation from author Leslie Kemp Poole on her latest book: ***Tracing Florida Journeys: Explorers, Travelers, and Landscapes Then and Now***.

In her book, Dr. Poole tells the stories of well-known explorers and voyagers who traveled through Florida and wrote about their experiences. Their words and paths from the colonial period to the twentieth century reveal what these places have become. Highlighting the Florida that was and the Florida that exists now, Dr. Poole tells a revealing story about the state's natural history and changing human perceptions of it in hopes of enlightening audiences and inspiring them to take their own journey. Click [here](#) to register.

And at the Sulpher Springs Museum on March 9, 2-3:30 pm. writer and lecturer Betty Jean Steinshouer explores the life and work of a dozen women authors who "ran south in agitation" to Florida from the reconstruction era through the late twentieth century,

including Zora Neale Hurston, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Rachel Carson, and more. Learn more about [Scribbling Women in Florida](#) here.

Come to the Hugh Embry Library in Dade City on March 20, 2-3 pm, about "[Writers in Paradise: Hemingway, Capote, Hurstone, and Others who found their Inspiration in Florida.](#)" Beginning with a poem around 1560, the Florida story has been told and retold. This presentation features the stories of over two dozen well-known authors of the past and present who found inspiration and a haven, including Ernest Hemingway, Judy Blume, Tennessee Williams, and more. Jim Clark is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Central Florida where he has taught history since 1987. More information and sign up [here](#).



How fortunate the [Gasparilla Festival of the Arts](#) is this weekend and the weather is supposed to be beautiful! Head to Julian B. Lane with your friends and loved ones and enjoy the art, the music, the food, and the river. This year's poster depicts the artist's victorious battle with breast cancer.

A gallery talk bridges art history and contemporary perspectives on motherhood imagery while exploring the often humorous perception of "ugliness" in Renaissance depictions of the infant Christ, shedding light on historical artistic conventions. [St. Pete Museum of Fine Arts](#), March 4.

An exhibition featuring the work of artists Krystle Lemonias and Sharon Norwood explores the value of African American labor and its simultaneous invisibility. [Woodson African American Museum of Florida](#), through March 29, 2025.

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.

The X Factor: Latinx Artists and the Reconquest of the Everyday looks to historical, recent and commissioned works by key Latinx artists to engage, depict, and challenge the underlying complexities of identity. *X Factor* underscores a period of political and creative ferment in which fundamental redefinitions of both society and identity abound. [USF Contemporary Art Museum](#) through March 8.

Barbara Peacock's *American Bedroom* series offers a unique glimpse into the unguarded lives of individuals, couples, and families, revealing the depth of their character, truth, and spirit. Each photograph tells a story of love, struggle, hope, and everyday life. At [FMoPA](#), opening Feb. 20.



The Performing Arts

Returning after a successful run at Stageworks Theatre in 2023 *When the Righteous Triumph* delves deep into the heart of the Civil Rights Movement. This compelling drama brings to life the courageous stories of individuals who stood up against injustice and fought for equality through sit-ins that led to the desegregation of Tampa lunch counters in the 1960s. At the [Straz](#) March 6-9 only.

Enjoy Tensegrity, the USF spring dance concert, March 6-9. Tickets and information [here](#).

Catch a staged reading of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf* at [Studio@620](#), March 12-13. Ntozake Shange's form-changing choreopoem tells the survival stories of seven Black women using poetry, song and movement.

Catch the Gay Men's Chorus of Tampa Bay's spring cabaret, "Say My Name", at the [Straz](#), March 22.

In today's ever-devolving social climate, amplifying women's voices and stories has never been more crucial. [Powerstories Theatre](#) proudly presents the fifth annual Voices of Women Theatre Festival, showcasing local and national playwrights. The festival combines two full-length staged readings and seven or more short plays. March 27-30.



Going on at TBHC this month:

- Walking tours and gallery tours;
- History lunch cruise;
- Spring break Florida movie clips;

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! Discuss foreign policy? Learn about Simon and Garfunkel? Discover how women have contributed to marine science? Learn how to resolve conflict between red and blue states? 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.

Music and Foreign Policy

Beginning in the 1950s, the U.S. State Dept. and the U.S. Information Agency used jazz— one of America’s great cultural creations--as a diplomatic tool to counter Soviet propaganda.

Great musicians like Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Dizzy Gillespie became global ambassadors of American culture while struggling with the challenges of the Civil Rights movement at home. Searching for a balance, they sought answers through the compositions they created, explored the new cultures they were introduced to, and inspired musicians around the world.

James Ketterer, Senior Fellow at the Bard Center for Civic Engagement, will be

interviewed by Christopher Warren on March 20, at Studio@620, sponsored by the St. Pete World Affairs Conference. Find out more [here](#).



Special planning challenges arise in areas where human development meets up with undeveloped wildland. Zoom in as certified planners discuss “The Economics of Rural Land Use in Florida,” focusing on human/wildland interface planning and land conservation strategies to protect working rural lands managed with frequent prescribed fire, as well as using trail systems to link urban and rural areas. Weds., March 5, 12-2 pm. Click on the logo above to learn more and to register.



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

Hillsborough residents may join the local Tampa Bay Club. The Suncoast Club now has a Pasco County committee. 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.

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 for the Media's Perspective on the Legislative Session, March 21. Pet the tiger to register for the lunch. The doors of the Cuban Club open at **11:30** and the program starts at 12.



Legacy and Responsibility

Join the Florida Holocaust Museum for a powerful conversation exploring the personal and collective responsibility to shape a more just future. Featuring Pastor Kai Hoess, grandson of Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Höss, and Mike Igel, grandson of Holocaust survivors, with Rabbi Ed Rosenthal as moderator, this personal dialogue will examine history's impact and the role we each play in ensuring that "never again" is more than a promise—it's a commitment. March 27, 6:30 pm, Eckerd College. More information [here](#).



See the Sun



Upcoming Member Meetings

March 3, 6-7 pm, Monthly Issues Update Meeting. [Details](#)

March 11-12, League Lobby Days. [Details](#)

March 17, 12-1 pm, Monthly Board meeting. [Details](#)

May 17, 11am - 1pm, 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](#).

EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

League of Women Voters of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties
813-461-5365 | hclwv.org



Copyright © 2023 HCLWV. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 18933, Tampa, FL 33679

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [unsubscribe from this list](#).