

The VOTER *MAY 2025*

We have a busy May calendar and I hope you are able to join us at an event this month:

- Monthly Member Meeting (Virtual) - Monday, May 5, 6 pm-7 pm
- Annual Meeting - Saturday, May 17, at 11 am-1 pm (RSVP at the link below)



We have also been invited to provide voter information at these events:

- May 1 Day of Action, Thursday, May 1, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm - New World Tampa - [Click here for details and to RSVP.](#)
- LULAC Florida State Convention, Saturday, May 17, 1:30 pm-4 pm at USF Tampa. The St. Petersburg and North Pinellas leagues will be staffing the table from 10:30 am-1:30 pm. If you can help deliver materials for set-up at 10 am or help staff the table from 1:30 pm - 4 pm, please contact me by replying to this email.
- Voter Information Table at Moms Demand Action Event - Sunday, May 18, 3 pm-5 pm (See Gun Safety Update below for sign-up if you can help).

So much other great information and some other informational and action events coming up very soon so make sure you scroll through all the way to the bottom. The last item is the calendar - you may need to click 'load full message' or something similar depending on your email service to access the full newsletter.

Food, Planning, and Fun



Our Annual Meeting is set for 11 am-1 pm, Saturday, May 17, at the Seminole Heights Public Library. Doors open at 10:30 am. There is no charge for

attending, and guests, especially prospective members, are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

We will share the accomplishments of the League's past year and plan for the 2025-26 year. We will approve a program (aka our list of priorities), elect officers and a board, and approve a budget. We will also have opportunities to ask questions, share feedback, and spend time with each other in person.

Meeting materials are available on our website. Any items currently missing will be added shortly.

RSVP

MEETING MATERIALS

2025 State Convention

LWVFL State Convention Coming Up

Attending events sponsored by the Florida League of Women Voters is a terrific way to deepen your understanding of League activities and priorities, engage in organizational capacity building, and get to know fellow League members.

The LWVFL Biennial State Convention will take place in Orlando on June 6 and 7, 2025. The convention provides an opportunity to participate in the LWVFL Convention Plenary and vote on:

- LWVFL's Program
- Budget
- Board of Directors and Nominating Committee
- Submitted bylaws amendments
- and more.

Other activities include a reception and dinner on Saturday night and a variety of breakfast sessions and workshops hosted by members and supporters at all levels. There will also be opportunities to network with fellow League members, participate in training sessions, and hear from dynamic speakers.

Registration and details for the State Convention: lwvfl.org

HCLWV will provide financial support to members attending this event. The amount of support will depend on the number of folks traveling as part of our delegation. Our chapter can have up to 13 voting members attend and we have 3 confirmed so far. Please let us know you are attending at president@hclwv.org. Funding is also available from the LWVFL -- check [here](#).

Tabling for Public Service

A group of smiling League members attended and tabled at an April 14 event at USF, which we cosponsored with the Center for Sustainable Democracy and We are Más. Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Anonia Novello spoke as part of the Democracy and Citizenship Speakers.



Dr. Novello shared wisdom from her memoir, *Duty Calls: Lessons Learned from an Unexpected Life of Service* and discussed how public service uplifts our communities.

Celebrating Earth Day While We Still Have One



League members enjoyed tabling at the Pasco County Earth Day Celebration on April 26, at Crews Lake Wilderness Park. The Earth Day event featured upcycled and cottage industry products, food vendors, plant vendors, and other eco-friendly items. It was sponsored by Keep Pasco Beautiful.

Monitoring the County

The Hillsborough County Charter Review Board is meeting again. They meet at 6 pm on the second Tuesday at the County Center in downtown Tampa and the next meeting is May 13. The basic website is <https://hcfi.gov/councils/charter-review-board>.

If you would like to volunteer to attend and observe the meetings, contact president@hclwv.org. It wouldn't be a huge time burden, but would be helpful for our board to see what the charter review board members advocate for, in the likely event we want to take positions.

The Bare Minimum

Busy people who still want to fight for reproductive rights, a clean environment, civil and human rights, free and fair elections, public education, and everything else that the LWV stands for can use [Chop Wood, Carry Water](#) and/or [5 Calls](#) to communicate easily with their elected officials. It takes just a few minutes each day and if you don't have time or don't agree with the daily message, skip it.

Gun Safety Update

Invite to Partner with Moms Demand Action on May 18

This session in Tallahassee we have been watching HB 759. This bill would dismantle the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act by dropping the minimum age to buy a long gun from 21 to 18. Currently this bill has stalled in the senate, we are hoping it will not go anywhere but we still need to be vigilant and call our lawmakers. Other bills were introduced such as to allow bump stocks (used in the Las Vegas concert massacre) and to allow guns on campus. Thankfully these bills never made it out of committee.

Moms Demand Action held its Tallahassee Advocacy Day on April 1. They supported a Safe Storage bill that never made it out of committee. Locking up guns would help prevent mass shootings. This bill would have also made irresponsible gun owners liable for not locking up guns used in crimes.

If you would like to be a public advocate for safe gun storage, [here](#) is a zoom link for a training call May 12 at 1 pm.

Moms Demand Action will host a gun violence awareness community event on **Sunday, May 18, 3- 5 pm at Festival Field, Waterworks Park, 1701 N. Highland Ave, Tampa.** They will be partnering with other gun violence prevention partners, such as 813 Stop the Violence, Rise Up for Peace, Kuntry Connections, Safe and Sound Hillsborough, and Victims Assistance. To sign up, click [here](#).

Our league has been invited to have a table at the May 18 event to offer voter registration and information. [Please click here if you can help that day.](#)

Calling All Legal Professionals



TAMPA BAY

THURSDAY, MAY 1 • 12 NOON - 1PM
SAM M. GIBBONS UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
801 N. TAMPA STREET, TAMPA, FL
(OUTSIDE - RAIN OR SHINE)

Stand Up Together

This is a powerful moment for lawyers, judges, and advocates to show up to defend the values we hold dear - Democracy, Judicial Independence, and the Rule of Law.

Spend your lunch hour Standing Up for Democracy!

Retake the Oath

On Law Day, we invite all attorneys to retake the Oath of Admission to the Florida Bar - a reaffirmation of our promise to support the Constitution. Together with our colleagues nationwide, Florida lawyers throughout the Tampa Bay area are Standing Up for our democracy — and we hope you'll join us.

[Learn More and RSVP at LawDayofAction.org](https://www.lawdayofaction.org)

Sustainable Growth Forum

Join the Tampa Bay Times for a May 7 community discussion focusing on responsible, sustainable development as Tampa Bay's landscape continues to grow and evolve. With large-scale real estate projects underway on both sides of the bay, from Water Street to Gasworx and the Historic Gas Plant District, the need for innovations in development and construction is top of mind given rising sea levels and changing weather patterns. This discussion will explore how innovative practices are helping shape the future of our region. Find out more [here](#).

Evolving Signatures?

Still committed to voting? Your handwriting may change over time, so it's important to update your signature with the Supervisor of Elections periodically. The signatures you have on file is used to verify your identity on petitions, provisional ballots, and vote-by-mail ballots.

An easy way to update it can be found at RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov, which brings the signature from your driver's license into your voter record. Alternatively, you can sign and submit a new paper voter registration application.

While you are updating your signature, don't forget to make sure all your information is up to date. Go to your Supervisor of Elections' website to review your information and request any updates needed. Go [here](#) for Hillsborough County and [here](#) for Pasco County. As always, if you have any questions, never hesitate to reach out to the SOE in Hillsborough County by sending an email to voter@votehillsborough.gov or calling 813-744-5900. In Pasco County, it's webcomment@pascovotes.gov and 800-851-8754.

Pop Quiz

At what point will you consider the U.S. to be a dictatorship? Take [this fun quiz](#) and see whether you are in the mainstream.

May Day Protests

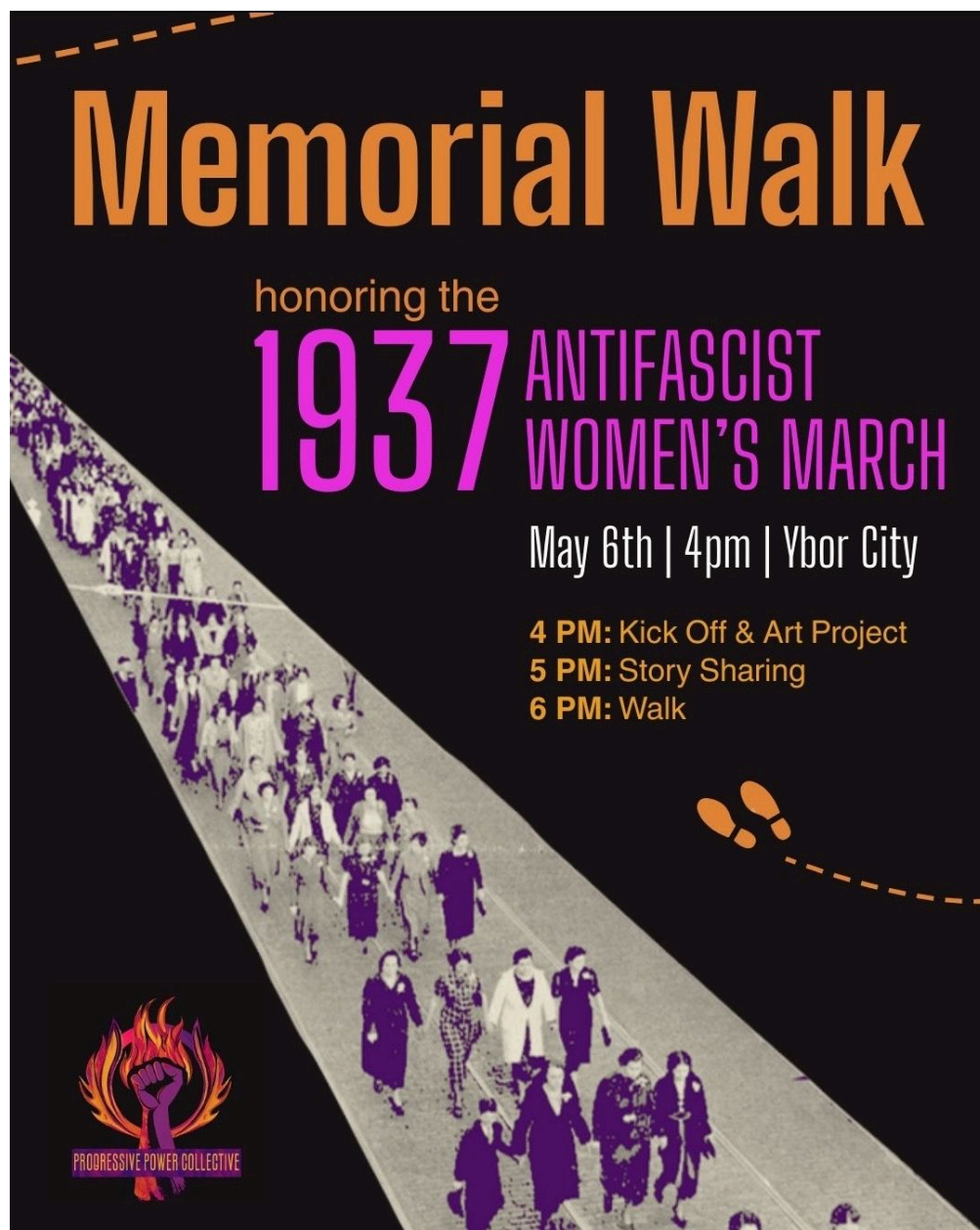
Regardless of your views on the current president, there is no denying the fact that the administration's actions will increase unemployment, lower wages, decrease worker safety and benefits, break our unions, silence immigrant voices, and cause disruptions in food and drug safety, scientific research, medical care, and protections for vulnerable people.

From May 1-3, 2025, stand united for a world where every family has housing, healthcare, fair wages, union protection, and safety—regardless of race, zip code, or immigration status. Stand united for public education, public services and public servants, and working people. Reclaim our power from corporate elites.

To stand together on International Worker's Day, several groups have come together: Move On, Chicago Teachers Union, Indivisible, 50501, Working Families Party, NEA, Bargaining for the Common Good, Sunrise Movement, AAUP, Debt Collective, Public Citizen 50, Popular Democracy, People's Action Institute, and more. Read more about this on [MayDay Strong](#) and/or [50501](#).

For information on the May 3 protest in Ybor City, click [here](#). For a list of 26 other May Day protests in Florida, click [here](#).

Women Against Fascism



More information and sign-up [here](#).

Report Cards

The first 100 days of the Trump administration has ended. If you weren't keeping track of its actions, check out the [NYT](#) tracker. Read what [NYT writers](#) have to say about this period. Find out what the [ACLU](#) has to say (and learn about the 104 lawsuits it has filed in the last 100 days). Get a historical perspective from [NPR](#). See [Rolling Stone's](#) list of the 100 most terrifying, cruel, and absurd actions. Learn from [Robert Reich](#). See the [Center for Reproductive Rights'](#) report on, well, reproductive rights, and the [Guttmacher Institute's](#) report on science and reproductive rights.. For higher education, check out [The Chronicle of Higher Education's](#) series. To learn what Congress did these past 100 days, read [Time's](#) report.

If You Can't Beat 'em, Join 'em

Are you interested in serving on the Hillsborough County DOGE Liaison Committee? Hillsborough Commissioners are seeking applications for five open positions. People interested in seeking the appointment must reside and vote in Hillsborough County. These are voluntary positions, without compensation.

Please contact: Glenda Rotger, Director of Board Services, (813) 272-5826 or Rotgerg@HCFL.gov.

Applications are due by close of business on **May 2, 2025**. [Learn more here.](#)

Between Hurricane Seasons

Join WUSF in St. Petersburg for a special one-hour episode of Florida Matters.

Hurricane season is upon us, just months after several major storms devastated the Tampa Bay region. Lessons have been learned. But gaps remain. Florida Matters Host Matthew Peddie will lead a conversation on the crucial role community plays in recovery. Hear from residents who served their neighbors, and others who are forever grateful for the support they received.

And you'll have a chance to share your questions.

Date and time

Friday, May 9, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, at the Palladium Side Door in St. Pete.

This episode will air on WUSF 89.7, YouTube, and the "Florida Matters" podcast app.

The event is free, but [registration](#) is required and seating is limited.

Pasco Recycles Glass

As of April 1st, the Solid Waste team implemented a glass drop-off recycling pilot program. Please see the drop off locations below. This is very exciting news for Pasco County. If the pilot program is successful, it will continue to grow. It is very important to remember that you cannot mix your recycling, glass is **not** accepted curbside. If you'd like to recycle your glass, be sure to visit one of the four sites. We hope to have more sites added in the future.



West Pasco Recycling Center
7am - 4:30pm | Monday - Saturday
14606 Hays Road
Spring Hill, FL 34610

East Pasco Recycling Center
7am - 4pm | Monday - Saturday
9626 Handcart Road
Dade City, FL 33525

Holiday Area Recycling
8am - 5pm | Wednesday - Saturday
Anclote Gulf Park
2305 Baillies Bluff Road
Holiday, FL 34691

Land O'Lakes Recycling
8am - 3:30pm | Monday - Friday
Senior Services Center
6801 Wisteria Loop
Land O' Lakes, FL 34638



Petition Publix

Who Needs Single-Use Grocery Bags?

Plastic debris can choke and entangle wildlife as well as leach harmful chemicals into our water.

As one of the largest users of plastic bags, please sign the Sierra Club's [petition](#) that specifically asks Publix to cease using disposable plastic bags and also add your own comments on Senate Bill 1822 and House Bill 565 which they are supporting. Your petition and remarks will go directly to Publix.

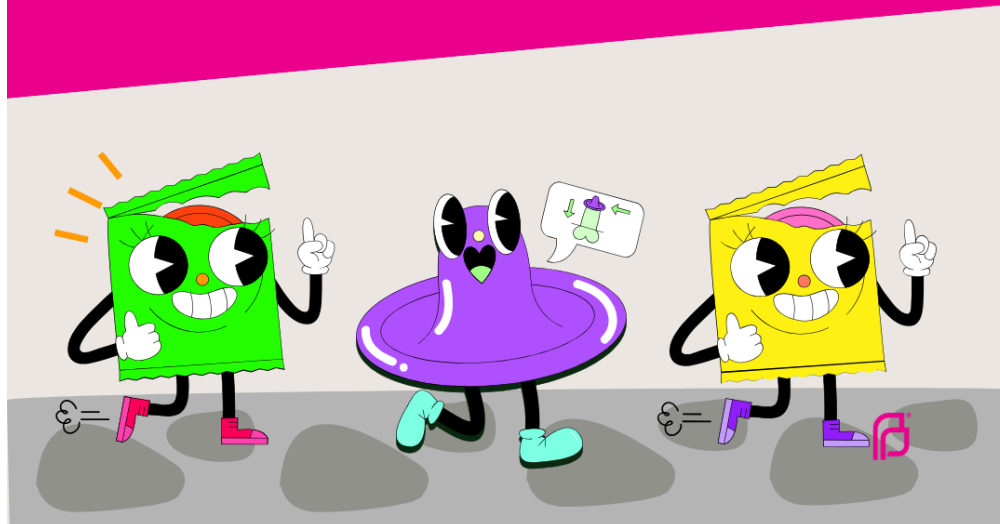
Be polite, but firm. Praise what they are doing right. Critique and ask for change on what they are doing that harms the environment.

Barhopping for Good

CONDOM CRAWL

ST. PETERSBURG | MAY 2ND

Join us to promote safe sex, raise awareness about sexual health, and hand out FREE condoms!



What: Planned Parenthood's Condom Crawl

Date: Friday, May 2, 2025

Time: 4 pm-8 pm and/or 8 pm-11:30 pm

Location: Downtown St. Pete. Exact meetup location will be shared upon confirmation.

RSVP Link: <https://www.weareplannedparenthood.org/a/st-pete-condom-crawl>

Tampa Community Wellness

Planned Parenthood is offering free community wellness in MacFarlane Park, May 9, 10 am-12 pm. Treat yourself to a peaceful morning of yoga, soundbath, and qigong. This is a free event open to all—bring a friend and enjoy some healing movement in community. [RSVP here](#). [editor's note -- what are soundbath and qigong?]

For more Planned Parenthood events -- phonebanking, tabling, and sex education trivia night -- enter your zip code in this [website](#). Who wouldn't want to play sex education trivia?

To volunteer with Planned Parenthood, click [here](#).

The Tampa Bay Abortion Fund has apparently been flooded by people wanting to volunteer and, thus, has a list of ways we can help on our own. Check it out at [TBAF](#).

In the meantime, the Tampa Period Pantry has expanded to 22 pantries in just two years. If you would like to help get period products in the hands of people who need them, check out its [website](#).

Liz Coursen, the author of "Having Fun, Wish You Were Here!: An Illustrated History", takes the audience on a trip back in time from a Florida when ox carts traveled via ferry and air-conditioning existed only in the imagination to the Florida of Streamliners and Orange Blossom Specials. Coursen uses museum-quality postcards to tell this story. Parking is available onsite. Coffee and refreshments will be served. May 11, 2-3 pm at the Sulphur Springs Museum. More information [here](#).



The Plastic Arts



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.

Green Book of Tampa Bay Legacy Unveiled opens May 31 at [Studio@620](#) and highlights the creativity and cultural impact of local Black artists. Through June 30.



The Performing Arts

[FreeFall's](#) *For Closure* is a hilarious and satirical look at the foibles and hypocrisies of modern life, set on Florida's Gulf Coast. Through May 11.

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. Through May 11.

Enjoy New Tampa Unplugged: The Women of Jazz at the [New Tampa Cultural Center](#), May 11. The program includes instrumental and vocal jazz, showcasing songs written or made famous by women.

The film *Lilly* will play at the [Tampa Theatre](#) May 9-13. Based on the real life story of Lilly Ledbetter, *Lilly* follows the transformation of an ordinary citizen into the face of an issue, illuminating the impact a single, courageous person can have.

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Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator* is playing at the [Tampa Theatre](#) on May 14. Click on the link to learn about what drove Chaplin to make this film in 1940.



Going on at TBHC this month:

- History boat tour
- Tampa's Emancipation Day celebration
- Walking tours and gallery tours
- Book group discussions.

Click on logo above for more information.



Attend the OLLI Summer Open House at 10 am on Wednesday, May 7 at the Embassy Suites on the USF in order to learn about summer courses and talk with faculty. Public health expert **Donna Peterson will be the keynote speaker**. Click [here](#) to register.

So many OLLI courses start in May and now there are courses at St. Leo University in Pasco County as well! Want to learn about:

- Murals in Tampa?
- Current politics?
- Traffic roundabouts?
- Affordable housing and local food production?
- Historical conflict between Ukraine and Russia?
- African-American military Hhstory?
- Climate change -- global and local?
- Financial w, ellness?
- Historical maps of Tampa?

Click on the above bull for the full catalogue.



Laugh and cry on Friday, May 2, as local environmental journalist Craig Pittman talks about "nudists, citrus, alligators and other true tales from America's Most Interesting State." Pittman writes that "nine hundred new people move here every day, most without any clue about what they've gotten themselves into." His book, *Welcome to Florida*, tells them some of the things they need to know."

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 and, for the most up-to-date information, subscribe to their email notifications.

Learn About Tampa and Feed Families

Tampa, Florida has one of the highest rates of childhood hunger. According to [Feeding America](#), 59,270 children experience food insecurity in Hillsborough County. Where Love Grow's programs address the immediate needs of hungry children, while implementing long-term positive change. Originally called Do the Local Motion, Where Love Grows hosts family dinner nights and cooking programs, looking to break the cycle of hunger for children and their families in Tampa.

Funds for their programs are raised in part by walking tours of downtown Tampa and the environs during the fall, winter, and spring.

Join Where Love Grows on its Friday, May 2 Walk to End Hunger downtown Tampa streetcar tour. Tours are free, but \$10 donations are encouraged. Donate [here](#). Register [here](#).



Register [here](#) for the May 14 Florida legislative wrap-up focusing on community planning, conservation, transportation, and water quality.



The Manatee County LWV is teaming with the Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club on a zoom discussion of Florida's legislative actions regarding the environment and how the Sierra Club will move forward during the next year.. The zoom will be May 15, 5-6 pm. Sign up [here](#).

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. On Friday, May 16, the topic will be a 25-year retrospective of term limits, with a focus on the pros and cons. Pet the tiger to register for the lunch. The doors of the Cuban Club open at **11:30** and the program starts at 12.



What To Believe?

Social media platforms are rejecting fact-checking. The use of artificial intelligence to create eye-catching posts and visuals is exploding. Giant financial incentives can drive the information environment. How do you know what you can believe online?

Join the Poynter Institute on May 6 for a Community Conversation about information integrity on social media platforms, how artificial intelligence is shaping messages, what dangers lie ahead, and the tools you can use to find the truth.

More information and tickets [here](#).

The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow

It's not too late to buy tickets for the Sun's 2025-2026 season! Let's get out and support the first and only women's professional sports team in the area. Click on the logo.



Upcoming Member Meetings

May 5, 6-7 pm, Monthly Issues Update Meeting. [Details](#)

May 11, Mother's Day for mothers and others

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](#).

EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

League of Women Voters of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties

813-461-5365 | hclwv.org



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