

## The VOTER SEPTEMBER 2025

### Co-Presidents' Corner:

Dear League Members,  
Your September newsletter is coming a day early since it includes important information about September 1st Labor Day protests in Hillsborough & Pasco Counties (see below). Also coming up fast is a presentation by the 200 Muslim Women Who Care on September 4th at USF - *Voices at Risk: Is Freedom of Speech Under Fire?* that our league is participating in.



Make sure to scroll down to see details & RSVP for important September events including these:

- Sept 6 - Voter Outreach for Tampa's Sept 9 election
- Sept 8 - LWV-US/Common Cause Phone Banking to Re-engage Inactive Voters
- Sept 11 - Sign up to Speak to Hillsborough Legislative Delegation
- Sept 12 - LWV-US Democracy in Your Hands training
- Sept 13 - Voter Outreach at Goodwill Locations
- Sept 16 - 23 - Voter Outreach at Colleges
- Sept 17 - Virtual Hot Topic Events: Politics & Stress
- Sept 20 - World Car-Free Day Tampa
- Sept 20 - Voter Outreach for Tampa's Oct 28 election
- Sept 27 - NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner

Also, mark your calendars and RSVP to join us for the Tampa Bay Leagues Member Meeting that we're hosting with the leagues in St. Petersburg, North Pinellas & Manatee! Come out and meet our new LWV of Florida President and members of our fellow Tampa Bay leagues. And as always, scroll to the bottom or go to <https://hclwv.org/news-events/events-calendar/#!calendar> for our monthly member meetings (Sept 3 Board Meeting, Sept 16 Member Meeting).

## Labor Day Protests in our area

### Unite & Rise: Resistance Action in St. Pete

On Monday, Sept. 1, the Pinellas chapter of the National Organization for Women and others plan to create GIANT HUMAN LETTERS to create an aerial-viewed art installation. On Spa Beach at the St. Pete Pier, starting at 10:00am, participants will spell out the message UNITE & RISE with their bodies. A photographer will record the event with a drone flyover. Photos will be posted, with participants agreeing to post widely on their own social media channels.

The organizers request participants to:

- wear bright blue clothing
- bring a blue towel to sit upon
- bring your own water in refillable container
- bring an umbrella to protect yourself from the sun until the drone arrives

This is a PEACEFUL, family-friendly event open in solidarity for equality for all human rights and dignity. Go [HERE](#) for more information and to sign up.

### Pasco Resists' Labor Day 2025 Rally & Food Drive!

On September 1, from 3-5 PM, at the west corner of US HWY 19 and Embassy Blvd by the entrance to the Gulf View Square Mall in Port Richey, Pasco Resists will stand alongside

50501 in a National Day of Protest and solidarity. Together, in addition to defending the Constitution and supporting our community by donating food to the Pasco County Salvation Army Food Bank, we will raise our voices for those left out, pushed aside, and now increasingly targeted. Go [HERE](#) for more details.

## Voice at Risk: September 4th at USF

The LWV of Hillsborough & Pasco Counties will participate in this panel discussion on freedom of speech that is being presented by the 200 Muslim Women Who Care at the USF Oval Theater (MSC 2500, 2nd Floor) on Thursday, September 4th 7PM-9PM. Doors open at 6:15PM. Co-President Teresa Potter will share the potential impact of the SAVE Act and Executive Order that could silence the voices of millions of U.S. voters. Other panelists will share how policy changes are impacting free speech from their perspectives and Nadine Strossen, will answer our free speech questions. Lucky raffle winners will win free copies of Nadine's book *The War on Words: 10 Arguments Against Free Speech -- And Why They Fail* (coauthored with FIRE President Greg Lukianoff). [Click here or on the graphic below to RSVP!](#)



**Nadine Strossen**  
Distinguished Guest



Professor Emerita at New York Law School and Senior Fellow at FIRE. She is a leading free speech scholar and former ACLU President (1991-2008). She hosts the 2023 public TV documentary *Free To Speak* and coauthored *The War On Words* (2025).

**Dr. Will Tyson**  
Panelist



Professor of Sociology at USF Tampa, he teaches courses on race, education, sport, and research methods. He currently serves as Interim Director of the Institute on Black Life and Interim Chair of the Racial Justice Initiative.

**Selene San Felice**  
Panelist



Selene is managing editor of *Creative Loafing Tampa Bay*. She is a Pulitzer Prize special citation recipient, a Time Magazine person of the year and the University of Tampa's first distinguished alumni in journalism.

**Russ Miller**  
Panelist



Seasoned political organizer, now volunteers only for candidates opposing the genocide in Gaza, including Tom DeGeorge for Tampa City Council.

**Chris Young**  
Panelist



Reporter and anchor at WMNF 88.5 FM in Tampa, with over 200 stories on politics, education, and the environment.

**Teresa Potter**  
Panelist



Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough & Pasco Counties and co-chairs its Education Action Group.

No cost for entry, but registration is **required**: <https://tinyurl.com/voicesatrisk>

 **THURSDAY,**  
**SEPTEMBER 4TH**

 **USF OVAL THEATER**  
MSC 2500  
SECOND FLOOR

Presented By:   
  @200MWWC

**Tampa Bay Leagues Member Meeting: Meet our new LWV-FL President!**

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ALL-MEMBER MEETING FOR TAMPA BAY AREA LEAGUES

Get updates on the League's work at the state level from LWV of FL President Jessica Lowe-Minor, and learn about the important work that your local Tampa Bay area leagues are doing!



**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD**  
Doors open at 5:30

WITH LWV OF FL PRESIDENT  
JESSICA LOWE-MINOR

Program is from 6:00-7:30  
Light refreshments will be provided. A recording will be posted to YouTube for those unable to attend.  
Allendale UMC Sanctuary 3803 Haines Rd. N. St. Petersburg FL 33703



**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
OF HILLSBOROUGH AND PASCO COUNTIES

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
OF MANATEE COUNTY

RSVP Now for October 23 Member Meeting

## Sign up to Register Voters!

Do you have a few hours to help staff our League table at upcoming events? This fall we will be working to Get Out the Vote (GOTV) during National Voter Registration Day as well as for the Special Election in the City of Tampa. See sign-ups below and help where you can. If you are interested in a training for tabling events, please email [voterservices@hclwv.org](mailto:voterservices@hclwv.org).

- City of Tampa Special Election
  - Sign-up Library Locations - August 2 - October 18
    - For the libraries, a volunteer will need to bring a table & chairs in addition to materials.
  - National Voter Registration Day - Events scheduled Week of Sept 16
    - Sept 16-23 - Sign-up Universities & Colleges - Hillsborough & Pasco
    - Sept 13 - Sign-up Goodwill Industries

## Tampa District 5 Special Election

The Tampa City Council District 5 Special Election will take place on September 9. The run-off will be held on October 28. For a list of candidates, click [here](#).

Early voting will take place Sept. 4-7 at the following sites:

- C. Blythe Andrews Library
- Fred B. Karl County Center
- Robert L. Gilder Elections Service Center
- West Tampa Branch Library

Voters with disabilities have more ways to vote than ever before. Check out [all of them here!](#)

## Check Your Driver's License!

This is a message from Craig Latimer, Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections: "Florida has begun implementing a law requiring that driver license/ID card numbers include a minimum of four randomly generated numbers. If you've renewed or replaced your Florida driver license/ID and the number has changed, please take a few minutes to submit an updated voter registration application with the new number. Your Florida driver license or Florida ID are one of the ways you can verify your identity on a Vote By Mail request or ballot initiative petitions. To update your voter registration, visit [RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov](https://RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov)." If you are not sure if you need to update your information, you may be able to visit or call an elections office to check.

## Get Ready to Dial In

The League of Women Voters of Florida is partnering with Common Cause Florida to call less engaged voters in a priority county to remind them to request their vote-by-mail ballots for elections in 2025 and 2026. We are calling inactive voters to encourage them to sign up for vote-by-mail, which will do two things: (1) move them to active status and (2) ensure they receive vote-by-mail for elections in 2025-2026.

**We are seeking volunteers to make calls on Monday, Sept. 8, from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER by clicking [HERE](#).** Select "League of Women Voters of Florida" as your organization.

Volunteers do not need phone banking experience. You will be provided with training, a script, and a chance to ask questions before you begin calling. You will need to use your own calling device; we will not use an automatic dialer. Otherwise, learn how to set up a [Google number](#). It might be helpful to have two devices: your phone and a computer or tablet. There's more information in [this toolkit](#).

## Democracy in Your Hands

The League of Women Voters of the United States has been offering an ongoing Democracy in Your Hands training series. The schedule is below. Attend any or all sessions. More information is available [here](#).

- Sept. 12, 11am ET - Working with Local Election Officials to Anchor Change
- Oct. 22, 2:30 pm ET - Building Coalitions to Amplify Action

Register [here](#).

## Politics & Stress Hot Topic Event

You are invited to attend a presentation by Dr. Stephen Neely, USF Professor of Public Administration, on what we have learned about politics as a driver of chronic stress, the patterns of media consumption that contribute to that stress, and what responsible

citizens can do to engage with politics in a less stressful manner.

It will be held on zoom at 5:30 pm Wednesday, Sept. 17, and is sponsored by the LWV of North Pinellas County. To participate, please RSVP by clicking on the graphic below. You will be sent the Zoom invitation shortly before the event.

## POLITICS & STRESS

a Zoom Hot Topic Event  
5:30 pm Wednesday, Sept. 17



with Dr. Stephen Neely,  
USF Professor of Public Administration



## Hillsborough County Delegation Meets Oct. 12

Want to speak directly to the 15 state lawmakers who represent Hillsborough County in the Florida Legislature? Here is your opportunity! Plan now to attend the Hillsborough County Legislative Delegation meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 21 from 10 am to 2 pm at the TPepin Hospitality Centre (4121 N 50th St, Tampa, FL 33610).

Speakers typically have three minutes to share their remarks. If you wish to provide printed materials for the meeting, you must bring 15 copies to the Delegation Chair's District Office, Suite 210, 1101 Channelside Drive, Tampa, FL 33602 before the event.

The meeting is in-person only. The signup to speak will open on Thursday, Sept. 11, and the deadline to sign up is Saturday, Oct. 11, although we encourage speakers to sign up early. Sign-up to speak [HERE](#).

Please email Teresa & Diana at [president@hclwv.org](mailto:president@hclwv.org) if you can speak on behalf of the league at this meeting. We have talking points on our opposition to mid-cycle redistricting and other topics!

## Street Murals Destroyed by State Government

*by Transportation Action Chair Emily Hinsdale*

The state of Florida has ordered all street murals in Tampa and St. Petersburg removed within the next two weeks. This order came from the Florida Department of Transportation with a threat to punish local governments that do not remove existing murals by removing all funding. The specific target is murals with a political message, such as rainbow crosswalks supporting LGBTQ+ residents and Black Lives Matter murals; however, all murals, including those supporting school safety, are being erased as well.

Street murals serve multiple purposes and have been used in different ways. First and foremost, they are a proven safety measure, shown to reduce traffic crashes by as much as 50%. Many of Tampa's murals act in just that way, narrowing dangerously-wide lanes, emphasizing no-parking areas near crosswalks, highlighting school crossing areas.

Some areas have also used the murals as a space of recognition of a cultural event, including rainbow murals and Black Lives Matter murals. The Pulse Nightclub massacre was memorialized with a rainbow crosswalk, for example. It was paved over in the middle of the night by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Additionally, street art serves as a community mobilizing event. Most of Tampa's street murals, for example, were developed by community groups like PTAs, CRAs, and non-profit organizations. These groups raised funds and held celebrations to install the murals themselves.

Tampa and St. Petersburg's street murals were legally permitted by their municipal governments. Tampa's Crosswalks to Classrooms murals were recognized by the Florida Department of Transportation as important and innovative design work. Several Tampa murals have won state awards and been featured in state publications.

Our region should be proud of its hard work and dedication in bringing these beautiful examples of proven safety techniques to our legendarily dangerous streets. It is tragic that they will be destroyed without any discussion or reason.

Call to Action: click here to share your thoughts with state leaders  
– <https://secure.everyaction.com/8l7s2WiRyKij540X6yyFag2>

## World Car-Free Day Tampa

The third annual World Car-Free Day Tampa will be Sept. 20, 9 am- 2 pm. Created and coordinated by the community advocacy group Walk Bike Tampa, this is an opportunity to explore and engage with our city from a different perspective: walking, biking, scooting, or using transit. Walk Bike Tampa and partner organizations are shifting Tampa's culture from old-fashioned car dependency to a forward-thinking, forward-looking connected modern city.

The day's celebration includes activities in the Westshore District, Downtown, Ybor City, TGH's Tampa Well Community Garden in East Tampa, Seminole Heights, and Hyde Park. Join bike rides for kids and adults, take part in farmers' markets, nosh at food trucks, win prizes, and enjoy art installations and live music.

Learn more at [Walk Bike Tampa](#).

## Gun Safety Saves Lives

*by Gun Violence Prevention Action Group Chair Betsy Braden*



If you would like to join Moms Demand Action or Be Smart, please contact Betsy Braden at [gunsafety@hclwv.org](mailto:gunsafety@hclwv.org) or text "ready" to 64433.

## NAACP Dinner - Join a League Table!

Get your tickets now for the NAACP's annual Freedom Fund dinner! It will be held Sept. 27 at the Tampa Convention Center. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Roslyn M. Brock, Chair Emerita of the NAACP's national board.

Elizabeth Corwin would like to put together a table for our League - if you'd like to participate, please reach out to her soon at [voter@hclwv.org](mailto:voter@hclwv.org).

More information [here](#).



### Tampa Bay Sierra Club: Meet & Greet and Ice Cream Social

September 18, 2025

6:45 PM - 8:30 PM

Carrollwood Village Park

4680 W Village Drive

Tampa, FL 33624

Join us to enjoy a cool treat mingle with Sierra Club Tampa Bay leadership and volunteers! You will have the opportunity to learn what our local group does, and to talk with volunteers working on initiatives to protect our environment; with leaders of outings for adults and children; with activists involved in political causes; and others.

Join us to Greet and Meet people with similar interests, and others who are involved in important environmental activities. Share your expertise and talents!

### Sierra Club Pasco Group

This group is part of the Suncoast Sierra Club, which includes Pinellas and Pasco Counties. If you are interested in joining or learning more, contact Sasha at (727) 326-2646 or [sashabuddha@gmail.com](mailto:sashabuddha@gmail.com).

## It's the Life in Your Years



Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just in it for the fun, the [2025 Active Life Games](#) are your chance to get moving, make new friends, and show off your skills. Organized by the Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation Department, this annual event combines friendly competition with serious fun for adults ages 50 and older.

The Games are Sept. 29-Oct. 10. [Registration](#) closes Sept. 12.

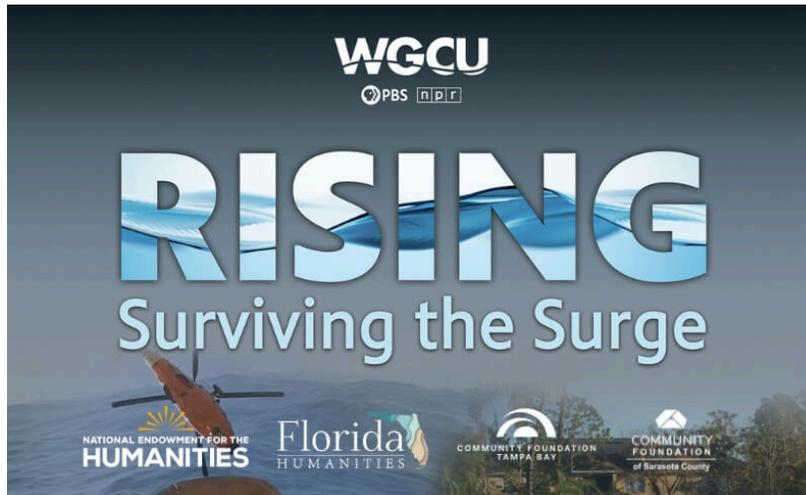
## How Hurricane Ian Reshaped Florida

On September 24 beginning at 7 pm, join Florida Humanities at The Portico Café for a powerful evening of film and conversation exploring the lasting impact of one of Florida's most devastating storms.

**Rising: Surviving the Surge** is a compelling new documentary from WGUC Public Media that traces how Hurricane Ian reshaped Southwest Florida, and how the region continues to endure and adapt in the face of increasingly powerful storms. Featuring dramatic storm footage, first-hand survivor accounts, and insights from scientists, first responders, and community leaders, the film offers a sobering look at the realities of storm surge and resilience.

Stick around after the movie for a panel discussion with local historians who will explore Florida's long and complex relationship with hurricanes.

This program is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Florida Humanities, the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.



## Tiger Bay

Join the non-partisan Tiger Bay Club the third Friday of each month for discussions of current events. On Friday, September 19, the topic is Property Taxes: Dollars and Sense.

The doors at the Cuban Club in Ybor City open at 11:30. Lunch will be served at 11:40 am and the hour-long program begins at 12 pm.

Click on the Tiger below for more information and to register.

## The Performing Arts



[Tickets](#) are on sale for Elizabeth Gilbert's Sept. 23 appearance at the Tampa Theatre. Gilbert is the bestselling author of the novels *City of Girls*, *The Signature of All Things*, and *Stern Men*; the story collection *Pilgrims*; and the nonfiction books *Big Magic*, *Eat Pray Love*, *Committed*, and *The Last American Man*.

### ADA Lovelace: The Spark that Ignited Generations of Women in STEM

Step into the brilliant mind of Ada Lovelace, the world's first computer programmer, in **Ada and the Engine** by Lauren Gunderson. This important production blends history, STEM, and theatrical magic. Performances run September 12-21 at Stageworks Theatre. Adults who purchase a \$25 25th anniversary ticket can bring up to two middle or high school students for FREE – making it the perfect outing for families and

educators. Student RSVP required. This is part of the HIDDEN HERSTORIES series by Powerstories in Motion.  
Go [HERE](#) for tickets.



"Here For Now," on view through October 5, 2025, at [FMoPA](#), explores themes of migration, impermanence, and community through photography and video.



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Visit the monumental Harriet Tubman sculpture in the Legacy Garden of the [Woodson African American Museum](#) in St. Pete. Admission is free. Indefinitely.

*In the Out/Out the In* includes draped, shirred, and pleated paintings by Nina Yankovitz. [St. Pete MFA](#), through Sept. 21.

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Also at the [St. Pete MFA](#), but through Feb. 1, 2026, the exhibition, *Creative Freedom: Women as Decorative Arts Entrepreneurs and Connoisseurs, c. 1900-1940*, celebrates the dawn of the modern woman through the stunning objects she created. As the call for suffrage led to the landmark Nineteenth Amendment, women began to break free from convention. They didn't just demand a vote; they claimed their place as cultural leaders.



Revisit frontier Florida with vignettes about moonshining, fifth Sunday sings, and ghost stories/folklore. As early settlement came to Florida largely via the Armed Occupation Act and the Homestead Act, life was often rugged survival. Learn about Civil War veterans recruited for a Union Colony by Captain Jeffries (Zephyrhills); a pristine, formal Southern center of government (Dade City); and cracker cowboy lifestyle (Wesley Chapel).

So many OLLI courses throughout Hillsborough County and at St. Leo University in Pasco County as well! Don't forget to check out the great tech classes on offer.

Don't miss OLLI's Fall Open House on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at the JCC on N. Howard Ave., Tampa, starting at 10:00 am. The Open House is open to the public and will offer complimentary snacks and coffee. The goal is to highlight the 130 liberal arts and technology classes and lectures that will be offered starting in mid-September.

The keynote speaker will be [Brian Ford](#), CEO of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He will speak on *Beyond the Field: Celebrating 50 Years of Buccaneers Football, Fandom, and Community Impact*. You will also hear short presentations from [new faculty members](#) and receive information about many of OLLI's other programs, including shared interest groups, educational travel, day trips, social events and volunteer opportunities. Sign up to attend [HERE](#).

In Pasco County, visit the Open House on the Saint Leo campus near Dade City to hear Keynote Speaker Dean Heather Parker, PhD highlight the new community outreach partnership with OLLI-USF. You will also hear four outstanding St. Leo faculty discuss their fall term classes:

- Karen Hannel will discuss Ireland & World War I: Cultural Impact
- Woody Woodard will discuss Happiness Research: Living our Best Lives
- Burgsbee Lee Hobbs will discuss Science Fiction & Pop Culture

- Robert Imperato will discuss New Testament and Women

Join us Sept. 3 at 10 am at the Lake Front Court of Saint Leo Wellness Center, 12338 Priory Cir, St Leo, FL 33574. Register yourself and friends by clicking [HERE](#)



Going on at TBHC this month:

- Gallery Exhibit: Invisible Immigrants: Spaniards in the US (1868-1945)
- Tours of the Cigar City exhibit

Click on logo above for more information.



Café con Tampa is a 501(c)(3) organization that holds community forums to discuss important issues facing Tampa Bay. The weekly gatherings of neighborhood and community leaders take place on Fridays at 8 am at The Portico at 1001 N. Florida Ave., Tampa.

To view the next events, visit [Upcoming Events](#). If you are interested in becoming a speaker, visit [Speaking at Café con Tampa](#).

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### *Upcoming Member Meetings*

Wednesday, September 3, 6 pm, [HCLWV Board Meeting](#)

Tuesday, September 16, 7-8 pm, [HCLWV Monthly Issues Meeting](#)

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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