

The VOTER JUNE 2026

Dear League Members and Friends,

As we head into the summer season, we want to thank each of you for your continued dedication to our LWV chapter. We are in the full swing of election year planning. Your commitment to our initiatives is so important as we continue to engage with the community to encourage voter education and participation in our democratic process.



Yesterday in Hillsborough and last week in Pasco, a number of us attended the Legislative Debrief sponsored by Equal Ground to discuss many of the bills considered during the recent legislative session in Tallahassee. The event provided valuable insights into legislation affecting voting rights, education, redistricting, property taxes, and other issues important to Floridians. Community engagements like these remind us why staying informed matters -- so that we can help our communities navigate changes and understand what they may need to know before upcoming election cycles. Please see more information below.

We also recently completed questions for vote411.org for upcoming county commissioner, school board, and judicial elections for Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. A huge thank you to those who spent their Fridays brainstorming with us! Please join us for the judicial candidate forums we will be co-hosting in June. Important dates for voting and these forums are listed below.

Mark your calendars to join us at our in-person annual meeting on June 13th. Details below! Every year at our Annual Meeting, we elect new officers, board members, and nominating committee members. We hope you'll consider getting involved by taking on a leadership role!

See you in June!

Teresa Potter and Diana Pecha
Co-Presidents



LWV of Hillsborough & Pasco Counties

ANNUAL MEETING



DATE

13 June, 2026



TIME

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



Seminole Heights Public Library
4711 Central Avenue, Tampa

REGISTER NOW

Please join us for our Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 13th 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Seminole Heights Public Library
4711 Central Ave., Tampa.

Doors will open at 10:30 a.m., so plan to come early (and stay afterward) to enjoy refreshments and visit with other members. The Annual Meeting is when we share the accomplishments of the past League year and plan for the coming 2026-27 year. We will approve a program (aka our 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.

Refreshments will be served and there is no charge to attend. Click on the graphic above to RSVP.

HCLWV Judicial Candidate Forums - June 11 & June 18



Our league is co-sponsoring two Virtual Candidate Forums with the Tampa Bay Trial Lawyers Association (TBTLA). Many judicial races will be determined in August during the Primary election.

- Hillsborough Candidates: June 11 - 12:00PM - 1:30PM - 10th Judicial Circuit Candidates (Hardee/Highlands/Polk) and 13th Judicial Circuit Candidates (Hillsborough). [Register here.](#)
- Pasco Candidates: June 18 - 12:00PM - 1:30PM - 6th Judicial Circuit (Pinellas/Pasco) Candidates. [Register here.](#)

Vote411 for Circuit Court judicial candidates is already live and available so please share the word!

TBTLA
TAMPA BAY TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE FORUM
JUNE 11, 2026
 12:00 P.M. | VIA ZOOM

- Hear from candidates for the 10th and 13th judicial circuits.
- After brief opening remarks from our sponsors, candidates will share their vision and answer questions from the audience. A moderator from TBTLA will guide the discussion.
- To help create an engaging and interactive forum experience, we encourage all participants to keep their cameras on when possible and microphones muted unless invited to speak.

PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES

10TH CIRCUIT / GROUP 23 Lakeisha Latoya Babers Chris Spath	10TH CIRCUIT / GROUP 24 Andrea DeMichael Candice Dixon	13TH CIRCUIT / GROUP 7 Luis "Louie" Aguila Sara Peacock	13TH CIRCUIT / GROUP 13 Nina McGucken Alvarez Jim Wimsatt
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REGISTER AT | www.tbtda.us/events

THANK YOU TO OUR CO-SPONSORS:

TBTLA
TAMPA BAY TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE FORUM
JUNE 18, 2026
 12:00 P.M. | VIA ZOOM

- Hear from candidates for the 6th judicial circuit.
- After brief opening remarks from our sponsors, candidates will share their vision and answer questions from the audience. A moderator from TBTLA will guide the discussion.
- To help create an engaging and interactive forum experience, we encourage all participants to keep their cameras on when possible and microphones muted unless invited to speak.

PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES

6TH CIRCUIT / GROUP 39 Elizabeth "Liz" Constantine Stefan Diskey	6TH CIRCUIT / GROUP 44 Oxalis Garcia Elizabeth "Liz" Jack	6TH CIRCUIT / PINELLAS COUNTY Nick Fiorentino Zachariah Wade
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REGISTER AT | www.tbtda.us/events

THANK YOU TO OUR CO-SPONSORS:

Wear Orange for Gun Safety

Wear Orange Sign Waving Event Corner of Kennedy & Ashley



Friday, June 5 at 4PM

MOMS
DEMAND
ACTION
FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA



Join us at the **corner of Kennedy & Ashley** to honor survivors of gun violence and raise awareness during **Wear Orange Weekend & Gun Violence Prevention Awareness Month**.

- ♥ Wear orange
- 🗨️ Bring your signs
- 👉 Stand with us

Be seen. Be heard. Take a stand.



RSVP: bit.ly/tampa-6-5-reg
Or scan QR code

Plant City Elections

There may be many reasons for this, but the good news is that 17.25% of Plant City voters turned out for the runoff election in May. Last year, only 8.29% turned out and in 2024, it was 7.98%. Could this be a sign that voters are realizing that their vote is their voice?

FYI, the breakdown of voters by party is as follows:

Republican: 49.6%

Democrat: 36.6%

Other: 13.7%

ELECTION RESULT

Important Voting Dates

- Primary elections will be August 18, 2026.
- The deadline for registering to vote is July 20.
- The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is August 5.
- Early voting in [Hillsborough County](#) is August 3-16, 10-6.
- Early voting in [Pasco County](#) is August 8-15, 10-6.

Don't screw up! Request your vote-by-mail ballot now.

[VoteHillsborough.gov](#) or [PascoVotes.gov](#).

We are the League of Women Voters.

Renewing Your Driver's License?

So much disinformation, so little time. [Read here](#) about how some people have been misled about voter registration.

And if you are interested in a mail-in-ballot or curious about the use of mail-in-ballots, read [this article](#) from the Tampa Bay Times.

Where Florida Spends Its Money

Jason Garcia at Seeking Rents has listed, "a bunch of stuff (technical term) that I find interesting for one reason or another – usually because it's objectionable, but sometimes because it's encouraging or intriguing" from the budget that the Florida Legislature has approved. He has included education and other issues of interest to us. Use [Jason's list](#) while following the Governor's decisions on what to veto and what to fund.

Legislative Debriefs



The League was represented at Equal Ground's Legislative Session Debrief in Pasco County on May 21, by several members, including Christine Bright, Cindy Wilson, Aleacia Guy, Celeste Knight, and Ellen Lyons, who spoke about education issues. During a discussion about voter ID issues, Christine shared cards from Vote Riders, who assist people who may need assistance.

The League was represented at Equal Ground's Legislative Session Debrief in Hillsborough County on May 30, by several members, including Teresa Potter, Diana Pecha, Ami Marie Granger Welch, Norin Dollard, Marissa Fenton, Angela Birdsong, and Ellen Lyons. Ami spoke about education issues, with Norin helping out with budget specifics. Nearly every speaker highlighted the services provided by the League, especially Vote411. Teresa let everyone know that Vote411 is already live with information on the Circuit Court judges and reminded everyone that many of these races are determined in the primary.



Member Spotlight on Proposed Property Tax & other Florida Finance Issues * Norin Dollard *

Excerpts from "Florida property tax cut could cost Tampa Bay schools millions, leaders say", Tampa Bay Times, May 30, 2026

Soon after Gov. Ron DeSantis unveiled his [proposal](#) to slash Florida's property taxes, school officials across the state grabbed their calculators to estimate the potential impact.

Local property taxes make up just under half of the state's education budget, which the Legislature approved Friday. They help pay for daily operations, salaries, student services, academic programs and more.

So the effect of cuts is expected to be noticeable....

The [Florida Policy Institute](#) released [estimates] Friday afternoon. The non-partisan, left-leaning think tank, which was among the first groups to challenge lawmakers' anticipated budget for universal school vouchers, pored over data available through the state to consider how schools districts and county governments might fare....

For larger Hillsborough County, the group's estimates came in at \$248 million in the first full year, reaching \$312 million by 2029 and \$494 million with full elimination.

Its numbers for Pasco County were \$123 million in the first year, \$152 million in 2029 and \$212 million if homesteads are not taxed at all.

"They're already under duress trying to make sure our kids are educated well," said [Norin Dollard](#), a Florida Policy Institute senior policy analyst. "I don't know how any good can come out of this."

What do You Think?



*Tampa is Changing -
Be a Part of What's Next*

Tampa is growing, and the rules that guide how our city develops are evolving too. Join us for an interactive community meeting on Tampa Forward, where you'll learn what the Land Development Code is, why it matters, and how it impacts your neighborhood.

Come ask questions, share your perspective, and be part of the conversation shaping Tampa's next chapter.

tampa.gov/TampaForward

WHEN:

Monday, June 1
Kate Jackson Community Center
821 S Rome Ave

Tuesday, June 2
Ragan Park Community Center
1200 E Lake Ave

Wednesday, June 3
Forest Hills Community Center
724 W 109th Ave

Monday, June 8
Barksdale Community Center
1801 N Lincoln Ave

All meetings are from 6:30 - 7:30pm

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation should contact the City of Tampa's ADA Coordinator. The ADA Coordinator may be contacted by phone at (813) 274-3964, email at TampaADA@tampagov.net, or by submitting an ADA - Accommodations Request online form available at tampagov.net/ADARrequest



Let's Protect Pregnant Women

No one would be surprised to learn that it's difficult and expensive to get an abortion in our counties and state. The Tampa Bay Abortion Fund removes financial and logistical barriers to abortion access. TBAF specifically assist pregnant women seeking abortion in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties and beyond. They also provide funding assistance and practical/travel support at numerous out-of-state clinics for Floridians over 6 weeks, due to unnecessary abortion restrictions in Florida.

Click [here](#) to learn what it costs TBAF to provide support and [here](#) about the HCLWV's current fundraising activities. Please put your feet in the shoes of pregnant women and your hands in your wallet.

Why We Have Abortions

The LWVSPA and Tomobolo books hosted a book presentation by Dr. Shelley Sella, a retired provider of third-trimester abortions and the author of *Beyond Limits: Stories of Third Trimester Abortion Care*.

Major points:

- Women seeking third trimester abortions deserve the same compassion and care as anyone else. Third trimester abortions usually happen because of new information concerning the mother or the fetus. Some happen because of barriers to access at earlier stages.
- There are only five clinics in the U.S. that regularly provide third trimester abortions.
- Viability should not be the deciding line. The deciding line should be whether the abortion is needed. The viability line only helps people/voters feel better. There should be no barriers, no involvement of politicians. Pregnant people know more about their own circumstances than others.
- A 2024 poll of OB/GYNs in Florida showed that half planned to stop practicing within two years. That may be happening.
- Someone recommended movie *After Tiller*.
- Sella's book is for people who are pro-choice but not gung-ho.
- Check out Medical Students for Choice.
- Abortion care training is required for all would-be OB/GYNs. Medical students in Alabama take a one-month course outside the state to satisfy that requirement. One month is not enough.
- Let's not become Alabama.
- There are 90 pro-choice organizations in FL. Find one that speaks to you and get involved! Start off easy, by giving to Tampa Bay Abortion Fund -- see above.

Inequities in Abortion Care and Perception

TBAF and Black English bookstore collaborated in bringing Renee Bracey Sherman to present her book, *Liberating Abortion: Claiming our History, Sharing our Stories, and Building the Reproductive Future We Deserve*. A reproductive rights activist and writer, Sherman outlined in her talk and in her book the history of abortion and abortion access for Black women. People of color have been having abortions since the dawn of time, yet

access is under attack like never before. In *Liberating Abortion*, Renee Bracey Sherman and journalist Regina Mahone illustrate the long racist history that brought us to this moment, uncover the hidden figures who set the foundation activists and storytellers are building on today, and explain what abortion has always meant for people of color. Included are discussions of forced sterilization, depictions of abortion in culture, and more.

Florida NOW State Conference

2026 FL NOW State Conference: Feminists Fight Fascism in St. Petersburg, Florida - August 14th - 16th

Join Florida NOW this August for our statewide conference, where feminists from across the state will gather to strategize, learn, and strengthen our collective work for gender justice. While it's still a few months away, now is the time to mark your calendar and start planning to be part of it.

30 years old and under, RSVP free.

[Sign up here!](#)

Let's Not Revert to Jim Crow Times

Mark your calendar now for the Oct. 3 NAACP gala!

Also note that the monthly meetings of the Hillsborough County NAACP take place the third Thursday of every month at 5101 N 40th Street, Ste. B Tampa, FL 33610. The meetings start at 6:30 pm. The June speaker has yet to be announced.

Tickets to the gala include an annual membership in the NAACP.

<https://www.naacphillsborough.org/>



A Gift for Graduates!



All graduating seniors in the Tampa Bay area can now get access to a free, yearlong digital subscription to the *Tampa Bay Times*.

The subscription will include access to the tampabay.com website, e-Newspaper, and mobile app.

To claim the offer, visit [grads-offer](#) by July 4.

LWV National Convention



Convention will take place June 25–28, 2026, in Columbus, OH. Visit the [event page](#) for registration, proposals, and for the latest convention updates.

Please let us know that you are going by clicking [here](#).



Summer Camps

For the first time ever, Tampa Bay Sun FC and Tampa Bay Rowdies are teaming up to host a special joint soccer camp this June – and your young player can be part of it.

JUNE 8-12 | 9 AM-3 PM

 Tampa Bay Sun Training Facility

CAMPERS WILL EXPERIENCE:

-  Skill-building sessions for all levels
-  Fun games and competitive play throughout the week

👉 Plenty of touches on the ball each day

👉 Coaching and training inspired by both Tampa Bay clubs

Open to boys and girls ages 6-14, this is a unique opportunity to learn, play, and grow in an exciting professional soccer environment.

Click [here](#) to register.

Explore 4-H's fun and exciting day camps throughout **Pasco County** during Summer 2026! Summer day camps with various themes will be offered throughout Pasco County during June and July 2026. There will be opportunities for all youth ages 5-18. Dates, times, locations and age range will vary by camp so be sure to check out each one [here](#).



Izzy Miletic's May selection is *Forever.*, by Judy Blume, which is banned in 29 Florida school districts, including Hillsborough and Pasco. It is one of Florida's most banned books. The young adult novel sparked immediate controversy for its depiction of teenage sexuality. The story follows Katherine, an eighteen-year-old high school senior, as she navigates her first serious relationship with her boyfriend. Although the couple promises their love will last "forever," graduation and college threaten to pull them apart. For Izzy's complete review and summary, click the burning book above.



Ever Used a

Home Pregnancy Test?



Powerstories Theatre presents *Predictor*, the true story of Meg Crane, the graphic designer who invented the home pregnancy test. Performances will be at Stageworks

from July 17-26. Meg Crane herself will be joining the audience on July 24 and 25th for a meet and greet and a talkback. Powerstories is excited about the conversations this funny and inspiring show will spark around the creative ways that women find to navigate a world that wants to keep us in the dark. You can learn more here: <https://powerstories.com/predictor/>

Powerstories is a nonprofit professional theater whose mission is to stage true stories of women and girls to open minds and hearts and inspire action worldwide.

Tiger Bay

The June 19 Tiger Bay lunch will feature candidates running for the Florida State House. The room opens at 11:30 and the program starts at 12:00.

Click on the tiger for more information and registration.



You may want to add to your calendar now:

- July 17 lunch with candidates for the Florida Senate;
- August 21 with gubernatorial candidates;
- September 18 with candidates for the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners
- October 16 with candidates for the U.S. Senate and Congress

**Democracy Now!
Or, rather, June 5**

AMY GOODMAN TAKES ON SOLDIERS, POLITICIANS, AND CORPORATE MEDIA IN A FEARLESS PURSUIT OF TRUTH.

Undeterred by armed soldiers, smooth-talking politicians, and riot police, journalist Amy Goodman has reported some of the most consequential stories of our time. *Steal This Story, Please!* is a gripping portrait of the trailblazer whose unwavering commitment to truth-telling spans three decades of turbulent history. From the frontlines of global conflicts to the organized chaos of her daily news show *Democracy Now!*, Goodman broadcasts stories and voices routinely silenced by commercial media.

Oscar-nominated filmmakers Carl Deal and Tia Lessin (*Trouble the Water, The Janes*) take us behind the scenes with the warm, wisecracking granddaughter of an Orthodox rabbi – raised in a tradition of asking hard questions – as she navigates a news landscape reshaped by technology, corporate consolidation, and political assaults on truth itself. Urgent, provocative and unexpectedly funny, *Steal This Story, Please!* is both a call to action and a celebration of resistance, posing the question: what happens to democracy when the press surrenders to power?



Click [here](#) to learn about and buy tickets to showings of *Steal This Story, Please* at Sun-Ray Cinema on June 5, including appearances by and Q&A with Amy Goodman herself! Additional screenings might be scheduled for June 10.



"Place-Based Hope: Affordable Housing, Resident Voice, and the Future of Community Impact"

is the subject of the talk by Dr. Sarah Combs, President & CEO of Metropolitan Ministries, for this Friday's Café con Tampa.

Café con Tampa is a 501(c)(3) organization that holds community fora 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. Doors open at 7:30 am.

To learn about future speakers, visit [Upcoming Events](#). Speakers are usually not announced until early in the week. If you are interested in becoming a speaker, visit [Speaking at Café con Tampa](#).

Input Wanted

Please write to voter@hclwv.org with suggestions about The Voter in general and with specific suggestions for stories. The Voter is your voice!

Not Just for Kicks



Join Florida Humanities Council for its next virtual book club! The book will be Carl Hiaasen's latest satirical take on our state. [Register here](#) for the June 18, 6:00 p.m. conversation.

On June 21, at 2:00, gather at the Sulphur Springs Museum in Tampa for a program about how Black Floridians found hope, resolve, and resilience in the face of terror and oppression. Find out more [here](#).



Can
Prevent
Garbage
Truck
Fires!

Small, rechargeable batteries are sparking fires in dumpsters, trucks, and elsewhere. The batteries are found in small, everyday devices like phones, laptops, disposable vapes and toothbrushes, but also larger machines like lawnmowers and cars. Lithium-ion-powered products are prone to overheating and catching fire. Please dispose of them responsibly.

In Hillsborough County, residents may drop rechargeable batteries off at five collection centers that are open Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- [Alderman's Ford Solid Waste Facility](#): 9402 County Road, Plant City.
- [Hillsborough Heights Solid Waste Facility](#): 6209 County Road 579, Seffner.
- [Northwest County Solid Waste Facility](#): 8001 W. Linebaugh Avenue, Tampa.
- [South County Solid Waste Facility](#): 13000 US Hwy 41, Gibsonton.
- [Wimauma Solid Waste Facility](#): 16180 W. Lake Drive, Wimauma.

Pasco's two collection sites are open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- West Pasco Resource Recovery: 14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill.
- East Pasco Transfer Station: 9626 Handcart Road, Dade City.

Most Pasco public libraries and some county offices also accept batteries.

Saving the Best for Last!

On May 21, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a comprehensive domestic violence reform bill into law!.

The bill brings several changes to Florida law, including:

- Stronger penalties for offenders who repeatedly violate protective orders;
- GPS monitoring pilot program to track those offenders;
- Broader legal definitions making it easier for victims to obtain a protective order;
- Additional funding for victims to relocate; and
- Increased channels of communication between civilian and military law enforcement, so that protective orders on military installations can be applied off-base.

The law takes effect July 1.

Upcoming Member Meetings

June 2, [Voter Registration, Goodwill](#)

June 13, 11 am-1 pm, [HCLWV Annual Meeting](#)

[Click here to sign up for upcoming Election Outreach Events.](#)

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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