

The VOTER OCTOBER 2026

Dear League Members and Friends,

Thank you to everyone who helped with our numerous events in September to celebrate National Voter Registration Day and get voter information out on the upcoming election. [Click here to see pictures from our events on social media!](#) Our September outreach included:



- 6 Presentations on the Amendments/Referendums on the Ballot and
- 7 College/University Voter Registration/Information Tabling Events
- 6 Goodwill Voter Registration/Information Tabling Events
- 5 Voter Registration/Information Tabling Events for state/national partners (LUSH, Ben & Jerry's, Women in Tech & Entrepreneurship, Tampa Braver Angels)
- 1 Presentation on Important Voting Information (including the new Florida SAVE Act and potential federal laws impacting voting)

Also in September, Vote411 went live for the 2026 General Election! We published the local portion of Vote411 on 9/30, which includes Hillsborough & Pasco candidates and referendums (more details below).

Things won't be slowing down in October -- we already have 10 tabling events and 8 speaking events on the books. See below for links to sign up for upcoming events. We will continue to add events to the same sign-up and also to the events section on our website: <https://hclwv.org/news-events/events-calendar/>. Also note below that we're looking for Election Protection volunteers for both the Canvassing Board and Nonpartisan Poll Monitoring.

We discussed at the monthly member meeting that we would like to do voter outreach for the October 17th No Kings/Vote Early call to action, so watch for more information on that as we hope to connect with local partners to canvass and/or phone/text-bank.

And lastly, we are planning an in-person event for after the election in partnership with Vet the Vote to celebrate Election Heroes. Save the date for Sunday, November 8th 2pm-5pm. More details to come! Go ahead and send thank you cards to election heroes on October 20th (see below), but since early voting will already have opened, we wanted to delay our in-person celebration until poll workers are free again and we can celebrate everyone, including our members, who work hard to ensure our elections run safely and effectively.

As usual, please reach out with any questions. And make sure to scroll through all the great information below so you don't miss anything, including the candidate forums (look for one we're co-sponsoring and need table support for on October 8th).

Diana and Teresa
Co-Presidents

Important Voting Information

2026 General Election - November 3, 2026

- Oct. 5, **Deadline to Register or Change Party Affiliation**
- Oct. 22, **Deadline to Request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot**
- Oct. 19 - Nov. 1, **Hillsborough County Early Voting**
- Oct. 19 - Oct. 31, **Pasco County Early Voting**

VoteHillsborough.gov or PascoVotes.gov.

We are the League of Women Voters.

Do you have friends, family, or neighbors in the military?

Here is information from the [Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Office](#) and from the [Pasco County Supervisor of Elections](#) regarding how deployed military personnel can vote from abroad and throughout the U.S.

Vote411

Check out our non-partisan [Vote411](#) and recommend it to others who are still deciding about the candidates and issues. See what's on your ballot, check your voter registration, find your polling location, and read candidates' unedited answers to our public policy questions.

Our league covers all local races and referendums. For the 2026 General Election, all candidates except for one in Pasco and four in Hillsborough have responded. This is not for state level races, but for County Commission, School Board and Mosquito Control. If you see candidates who haven't responded, please remind them that we haven't received their Vote411 responses: for Hillsborough: Harry Cohen, Luiz Garcia, Jackie Toledo, and Joshua Wostal. In Pasco: Seth Weightman.

Everything else is LIVE including the Pasco referendum and the three Hillsborough referendums.

Enter your address to view your personalized ballot.

Helping Others Vote

[LWV Voter Information Table at WMNF's 7th Annual Tom Petty Birthday Tribute Show](#) (WMNF Fundraiser) Saturday, Oct. 3, at Skipper's Smokehouse. We still have 2 free tickets. [Click here to sign up and join us!](#) No need to stay the whole time; do whatever works with your schedule. We're "[Counting on You](#)."

Good Trouble Tampa Bay is hosting a moderated panel with six of the eight candidates for Hillsborough County Commission on Saturday, October 3, 2-3:30pm at Jan Kaminis Platt Library, 3910 S. Manhattan Ave, Tampa 33611.

The forum will include a moderated panel and a 15-minute Q&A with candidates from Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7. Come hear from the folks running to shape Hillsborough County's future! More info and sign-up [here](#).

LWV Voter Information Table at [Bookends: Literature & Libations](#) in Tampa on Sunday, Oct. 4. We could use help from 12:30-2 pm. This new bookstore has invited us to do Voter Registration/Information for Banned Book Week.

***Volunteer:* Canvassing Board Monitoring**

Passionate about protecting the right to vote? Discover [here](#) canvassing board monitoring and training opportunities sponsored by All Voting Is Local. The Florida League will receive grants for each county that monitors the Canvassing Board meetings!

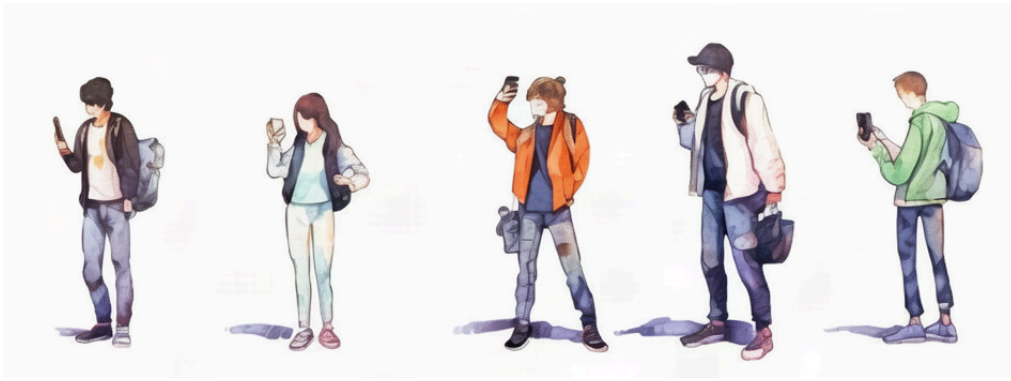
***Volunteer:* Nonpartisan Poll Monitoring**

LWVFL is hosting a coordinated nonpartisan poll monitoring program with our partners both during early voting in October and on Election Day. Nonpartisan Poll Monitors:

- Help make sure every registered voter gets to exercise their rights.
- Support voters by answering questions, reporting issues, and connecting voters to legal resources if denied a ballot.
- Stand or sit outside of priority polling locations during Early Voting and on Election Day (standard shift is 4 hours), beyond the 150' no-solicitation zone.

Sign up [here](#) for online training. (If you already completed training for the August election, no need to repeat.) Additional training dates will be added, including a refresher course. To participate, sign up [here](#).

October 20 is National Election Hero Day! Think about our great SOEs and write a thank-you note to the folks at your SOE, thank the Poll Workers when you vote on this day or work at a polling place, and/or check out other ideas in the LWVUS [toolkit](#). Our SOEs have had a rough time these last several years. For SOE contact info and more, click [here](#). We are also planning an Election Hero Celebration after the elections for everyone who works hard to make elections work!

**Textbank with the LWV of Florida:**

Join fellow League members as we textbank voters with GOTV and Election Protection messaging on the following dates:

- Oct 1, 2026 6:00 PM ET
- Oct 22, 2026 6:00 PM ET
- Oct 29, 2026 6:00 PM ET

Register [here](#). No prior textbanking experience is required!

Free Ride Partnership

Lyft is again partnering with the League to help close transportation gaps that can prevent people from getting to the polls. Through its [Lyft Up Voting Access Program](#), Lyft is providing free and discounted rides to help voters access polling places and voting-related events, in partnership with the League of Women Voters. The LWVUS Mobilization and Engagement team will be dispersing our free ride codes in targeted communities.



[Keep in mind that Lyft may not be available in all areas of Pasco & Hillsborough and they may not provide free rides in both directions. Please try to encourage those without a reliable way to get to the polls to sign up for Vote-by-Mail and remind them that they can track their ballot's receipt through the process!]

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM

Community forum featuring candidates for Seats 2 & 6

MODERATED BY ROBINSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ADVOCACY CLUB

Thursday, October 8th

5:30 pm check-in/meet & greet

6:00-7:00pm candidate forum

Gandy Civic Center

4207 W Oklahoma Ave, Tampa, FL 33616

✓ Meet the candidates

✓ Compare Priorities and Perspectives

✓ Get Informed Before You Vote

✓ Be Part of the Conversation



This should be a very informative event:
Three of the four candidates have confirmed.
[N.B., we still need volunteers to table!](#)

Amendment 3: What You Need to Know

While the League of Women Voters of Florida does not support any of the statewide constitutional amendments on the November ballot, Amendment 3 has drawn especially vigorous opposition from LWVFL and stakeholders around the state.

LWVFL has created a series of informational slides (including those below) to increase understanding and awareness of the real-life costs to communities that passage of Amendment 3 would bring about.

Get informed and help get the word out! [Find the shareable slide deck here.](#)

NO PROPERTY TAX? HERE'S WHAT YOU REALLY LOSE

PROPERTY TAXES ARE NOT JUST A LINE ON A BILL. IT'S YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FIRE STATION. YOUR LOCAL COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE LIKE ROADS, BRIDGES, AND STORMWATER DRAINS. LIBRARIES. POLICE SERVICES. YOUR COMMUNITY'S SENIOR CENTER.

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN LOCAL TAX REVENUE WILL HAVE TO BE REPLACED TO MAINTAIN BASIC SERVICES, AND THERE IS NO EASY WAY TO DO THAT UNLESS NEW FEES ARE IMPOSED OR TAX RATES ARE INCREASED.

LESS FIRST RESPONDERS = LONGER RESPONSE TIMES. EVERY SECOND COUNTS DURING AN EMERGENCY.

LESS FUNDING = ROADS CRUMBLE, LIBRARIES SHUT DOWN, AND PARKS CLOSE.

THE STATE LEGISLATURE WILL DICTATE HOW LOCAL TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT, NOT LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR LOCAL VOTERS.

WHAT FLORIDIANS NEED

THE LEAGUE BELIEVES THAT **NO TAX SOURCES OR REVENUE** SHOULD BE SPECIFIED, LIMITED, EXEMPTED, OR PROHIBITED **IN THE CONSTITUTION.**

- 1 LOCAL DECISIONS:** THE LEAGUE BELIEVES LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE THE ONES TO ADMINISTER LOCAL ISSUES. A ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL APPROACH DOES MORE HARM THAN GOOD.
- 2 LOCAL IMPACTS:** LOCAL TAX AUTHORITIES MUST LISTEN TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND ADJUST LOCAL TAX RATES ACCORDINGLY.
- 3 FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:** FLORIDIANS NEED A STATE FISCAL STRUCTURE THAT IS EQUITABLE IN ITS DISTRIBUTION OF THE TAX RESPONSIBILITY AND IS RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC NEEDS.

Upcoming Events

All upcoming HCLWV events can be found at [our signup genius](#).

There are lots of opportunities for members to participate! We will keep adding events to this sign-up and you are welcome to create your own. Reach out if you know of an event or organization who could use our help with voter registration or voter information.



How Nonprofits Can Participate in Nonpartisan Voter Engageme

Resources for nonprofits:

- [Slides: Nonpartisan Election Activity](#) (Alliance for Justice)
- [Nonprofit Civic Engagement & Voter Registration Activities in 2026](#) (Democracy 2025)
- [Voting and Community Engagement Webpage](#) (National Council of Nonprofits)
- [The Rules of the Game: A Guide to Election-Related Activities for 501\(c\)\(3\) Organizations](#) (Alliance for Justice)
- [Voting Toolkit](#) (Democracy 2025) - *This guide is designed for individuals to engage in and protect elections. We are also pleased to share a [PDF version](#) with space on the top right for your organization to add your logo.*

Learn more: Democracy 2025 [Election Hub](#) (Democracy 2025) & [The People's Guide to Voting Rights](#) (Democracy Forward)

The below event is highly partisan, but that doesn't mean the questions have to be. Whatever your point of view, come, listen, and ask questions.



2026 BALLOT AMENDMENTS & REFERENDUMS EXPLAINED

Our Democratic Candidates and Current Elected Officials along with other expert Democratic Activists will explain the 3 Florida Constitutional Amendments and 3 Hillsborough County Referenda and their yes or no positions so we can advise other voters who have questions when we are canvassing, phone banking or otherwise engaging with them.

Presentations include:

FLORIDA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Amendment No 1: Budget Stabilization Fund: [State Senator-elect Dist. 16 Fentrice Driskell](#)

Amendment No.2: Exemption of Personal Property on Agricultural Land from Taxation:
[Candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture Joey Mendoza-Atkins](#)

Amendment No. 3: Increased Homestead Exemption:
[Jackson Peel Communications Director, Save Our Services - No On 3](#) along with [State Senator Dist. 14 Brian Nathan](#) and [State House Candidate Dist. 64 Luis Salazar](#)

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REFERENDUMS

No. 1: Elected School Board Superintendent of Schools: [School Board Candidate Dist. 2 Daniella Simic](#)

No .2: Increase the Number of County Commissioners, All Single Member Districts:
[County Commissioners Harry Cohen Dist 1, Gwen Myers Dist. 3, Candidates Aileen Rodriguez Dist 5,](#)
 and [Dr. Neil Manimala Dist 7](#) will be on a panel moderated by former County Commissioner & well-known
 longtime activist [Mariella Smith](#).

No. 3: One-Half Cent Sales Surtax for Public School Air Conditioning and Capital Improvements:
[School Board Chairperson and Candidate Dist 6 Countywide Karen Perez](#)

Special Guest Opening and Closing Speakers
to be confirmed

October 14, 2026 6 pm - 9:00 pm
Please RSVP for location using QR code

Admission is free to the public over 21 years of age as a cash bar and food will be available.



All other Democratic candidates appearing on the ballot will also be invited to table and meet with attendees before and after the presentations.

In the News

If you would like to know what laws come into effect today, Oct. 1, 2026, in Florida, here's [a link](#) to a story on NPR. This is not a comprehensive list.

If you are concerned about money and politics, have a look at Seeking Rents, a newsletter and podcast devoted to producing independent journalism about Florida politics, with an emphasis on the ways that big businesses and other special interests influence public policy in the state. This week, Jason Garcia looks at [pay-for-play in St. John's county](#).

Non-League Events



Pasco County is giving away 1,500 trees. To streamline the lottery process, create an account through [Pasco County Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources](#).

WHEN: Pick up Saturday, October 10 | 8 am - Noon

WHERE: Starkey Wilderness Park | [10500 Wilderness Park Blvd.](#) | New Port Richey
Withlacoochee River Park | [12449 Withlacoochee Blvd.](#) | Dade City
Crews Lake Wilderness Park | [16739 Crews Lake Dr.](#) | Shady Hills

Registration is open **September 21 to October 1**. You must register at mypas.co/FreeTreeRegistration



Powerstories' upcoming informational session for *Journey to Seek and Speak Your Powerstory* will be held on October 11 at 4 pm. "Seek and Speak Your Powerstory" is a guided workshop that helps women identify, shape, and confidently share on stage the true stories that have defined their lives. The informational session offers a first look at the full 2027 program and how it supports women from their first idea to the moment they step onstage at the Voices of Women Theatre Festival in March 2027. Find out more [here](#).



Want to reject attacks on our elections? Let's make voting turnout too big to ignore.

Over more than a year, the No Kings Coalition has built people power by the millions: publicly, joyfully, and nonviolently rejecting unaccountable power and defying those who believe they are above the law.

On October 17, the No Kings Coalition will kick off the largest early vote turnout in our country's history.

Join an Event

- [Check out the event map!](#)

Join the St. Pete League to create a visual display using human lettering to spell out VOTE EARLY. Voter service organizations will be available to provide information and assistance about early voting, voting rights, voter registration, voter protection, volunteer opportunities, and more. This event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of St. Petersburg, Indivisible St Pete, Common Cause, and the National Organization for Women (NOW).



Florida young people deserve access to sexual health education that gives them accurate information and helps them make healthy decisions. The Florida Healthy Youth Alliance is offering a free **Sex Ed Action Lab Training** for youth (ages 14-19), parents, community members, advocates, and others who want to better understand Florida's sex education landscape and learn how to advocate for change.

Registration Links:

For Parents: Training in Hillsborough County, Saturday, October 17, 10:00 am - noon.

Register at [parents](#).

For Youth Ages 14-19: Training in Hillsborough County, Saturday, October 17, 2:00-4:00 pm.

Register at [youth](#). Youth participants will receive a **\$50 gift card** for completing the training. Participants will learn how sex education decisions are made, explore what is currently happening in Florida, and build practical advocacy skills including how to speak at a school board meeting, communicate with decision-makers, and make the case for quality sex education



This November, election results across Florida will determine the future of all Floridians and our beautiful state. This is a critical election. and Tampa Bay Group Political Committee and support volunteers are hard at work to **get out the vote for our endorsed pro-environment candidates**. The decisions made by elected officials this November will affect our clean water, natural lands, energy future, community resilience, and quality of life.

We need volunteers willing to take action in our communities to get out the vote for pro-environment candidates. Find candidate endorsements [here](#).

Join Pasco and Pinellas members on Tuesday evenings for Environmental Action Nights. The Sierra Club will provide training and use a variety of ways to connect with registered voters - including **phone calls, texts, social media, email, door knocking and community outreach**. No fundraising involved!

Oct. 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 6:30-8 pm

In-person from St. Pete to Pinellas Park, with a virtual option available.

Register [here](#) for event details. **Bring a friend - advocacy is more fun together!**

In Tampa and Hillsborough, if you can spare any amount of time, we have a task for you! Contact Gary Gibbons at garygibbons@tampabaysierraclub.org to find out how you can help.

vs. GOLIATH: Port Arthur

Join the Tampa Bay Sierra Club at Angry Chair Brewery for a Watch Party of Sierra Club's new monthly series *vs. Goliath*.

This episode tells the story of John Beard, Jr., a retired refinery worker in Port Arthur, Texas, a massive oil and petrochemical hub. Beard is called to action as a leading opponent of fossil fuels in his community as he watches his neighbors die from pollution related illnesses.

There will be 30 minutes at the beginning to share what partner organizations are doing, socialize, and network.

[Home](#) | [Vs Goliath](#)

Date and Time: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7:30 - 9:30 pm,

Location: Angry Chair Brewery, 4101 N Florida Ave, Tampa, 33603

Register [here](#).

1000 FRIENDS of FLORIDA

Greenways and trails are where Florida's conservation work meets everyday life. They give people a place to walk, ride and recreate, and an alternative route for commuting. The corridors they follow help keep conserved land connected, tying parks and preserves to each other and to the towns beside them, with many of them overlapping the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

State agencies, university researchers and local planners have spent decades identifying where these corridors belong. How much of this network actually gets built comes down to funding, and it rarely comes from a single source.

Join 1000 Friends of Florida on Wednesday, October 14, from noon to 1:30 pm for the webinar Conservation That Connects: How Florida Communities Invest in Land, Water and Trails. More info [here](#).

Join them again on October 28th for ***Connectivity Across Scales: Tools and Concepts for the Urban-to-Rural Transect***. This webinar dives deeper into how applied transect planning in Florida shapes the fate of natural and working land protection and the natural amenities that every Floridian depends on. More info [here](#).



Forbidden Florida Reads

In honor of Banned Book Week, Izzy Miletic, LWV Tallahassee board member and FSU librarian, shares her method of researching banned books. To read her guide, click [here](#).

Tiger Bay has invited all candidates for the U.S. House and Senate to join a panel discussion on Friday, October 16.

The room opens at 11:30 and the program starts at 12:00 the third Thursday of each week.

Click on the tiger for more information and registration.



On Friday, October 2, Matthew D. Suarez, 5th-generation Tampeño and author/illustrator of the book *Tampa Tales & Treasures - Poems About People, Places, & Things* will be speaking about this recently released illustrated book of poetry, which tells the story of Tampa's natural, built, and human environments.

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. Each event opens with community announcements, which are followed by a speaker and a Q&A.

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



The Wash: A clean break from history. A dirty fight for justice.

Step into Atlanta, 1881, where a fierce group of Black laundresses decided they had washed their last load for pennies. Based on the true story of the Atlanta Washerwomen's Strike, *The Wash*, is a vibrant, funny, and deeply moving look at the unsung heroes of labor history.

If you enjoyed *Predictor* and/or *Conscience* or missed them both, catch Powerstories' latest production. More information and tickets, click [here](#).

Oct. 1-11, at Studio@620 in St. Pete. The first week is sold out!



TAMPA BAY SUN FOOTBALL CLUB

Tampa's women's professional team has kicked off its third season. Click on the banner to buy tickets and come out to cheer on these amazing athletes. We're thinking about an HCLWV outing to a Sun match after the elections. Stay tuned.

Upcoming Member Meetings

Monday, October 26, 6:30-7:30pm - [League Monthly 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
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