

The VOTER SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear League Members and Friends,

Thank you to everyone who helped with Primary Election events and activities over the last months! We are now gearing up for our busiest time with the Civic Holidays starting with National Voter Registration Day (September 15) and National Voter Information Week (October 5-10). The LWV-US is building national partnerships and we have two in our area so far (LUSH and Ben & Jerry's). With our local partnerships with Goodwill and all of our colleges and universities, we have a full calendar for the next six weeks. [Click here to view the sign-up.](#)



Please join us at an event! You are welcome to join us even if it's full. Coming to a staffed event is a great way to get familiar with providing voter information. With that said, check out the empty spots first. We will make sure there is at least one experienced person at every event.

Please continue to check our online calendar for **upcoming events and trainings**. Our next Voter Services Training will be this week, **September 3, 6-6:30 pm**. [Click here to register.](#) If you can't make this training, please reply to this email and let us know you are interested. We try to schedule two trainings per month and can schedule the next one to work with your schedule.

Our next monthly meeting will be **Sept. 28, 6:30-7:30 pm** so mark your calendars. You can [register here](#) if you are not already registered. Once registered, we will send you a monthly reminder through zoom.

Please also look below for information on how to help with Election Protection through Nonpartisan Poll Monitoring and much more. And watch your email in the coming weeks for additional ways to help.

Diana and Teresa
Co-Presidents

Patricia Moran, RIP

Past President Patricia Moran passed away on July 22, 2026. A small service and mass was held at Sacred Heart church the following week. Thank you to Liana Fox, Sue Parrish, Mary Figg and Maryellin Territo who contributed these recollections. [Patricia is in the front row, far left in this Past Presidents photo from 2018].

Patricia preceded Mary Figg as president of the League at a time that the League was struggling with membership and organization. Mary remembers that Patricia was as steady a president as she was a person; no drama, just orderly progress in accomplishing whatever goal was at hand. She created consensus and collaboration among board members, who often strongly disagreed with each other. Under Patricia's leadership a handbook was produced for the League Board containing information such as job descriptions, budget information, and bylaws.



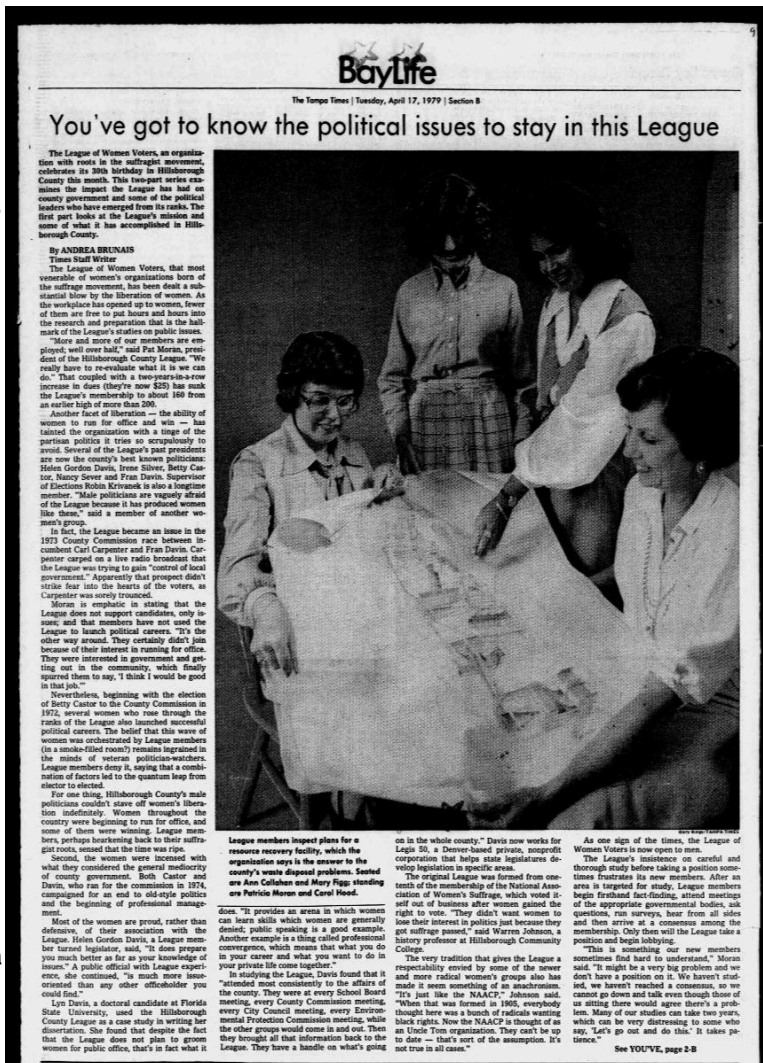
While Patricia was president, 1978-79, HCLWV produced "A Study of the Impact on Hillsborough County" and its municipalities of the state's program to establish group homes as an alternative to institutions for individuals in need of protective care. The League also worked on studies of farmworkers and day care and a comprehensive view of the justice system with a special focus on the Courts. The Brandon/Riverview Unit looked at ways to reduce landfill area needs through source separation, resource and waste reduction.

Patricia was always welcoming. Sue Parrish remembers "walking into my first league meeting "cold turkey", not knowing a soul nor really what I was getting into. Patricia was so kind and never questioned who I was or what I was doing there. Found my tribe that day thanks to Patricia!" Patricia was a feminist, quietly and firmly. Symbolic of this, she ordered paperweights with a commemorative coin attached, to celebrate Women's Equality Day in 1978, on the 58th anniversary of the 19th amendment.

Patricia never lost her cool or got angry. She had a ready laugh and a sometimes wicked sense of humor. Patricia was unpretentious, but never lacking internal strength. She was a strong person who presented as unassuming -- a rather good combination for dealing with life. She did not allow anyone to call her Pat -- no drama, just firmly, "my name is Patricia."

According to Mary, Patricia demonstrated the best traits that humans can have: good humor, generosity, thoughtfulness, a sense of civic duty, the kind of person you hoped to have next door -- a decent American. Patricia was a board member in the Leon County League of Women Voters before they moved to Tampa. She was a former social worker and was also active on the Juvenile Justice Committee.

She is survived by her husband, Tim, and son, Kevin, and two grandchildren. Patricia and Tim went to college together in Missouri.



The League of Women Voters, an organization with roots in the suffrage movement, celebrates its 50th birthday in Hillsborough County this month. This two-part series examines the impact the League has had on county government and some of the political leaders who have emerged from its ranks. The first part looks at the League's mission and some of what it has accomplished in Hillsborough County.

By ANDREA BRUNAS
Times Staff Writer

The League of Women Voters, that most venerable of women's organizations born of the suffrage movement, has been dealt a substantial blow by the liberation of women. At the workplace has opened up to women, fewer of them are free to put hours and hours into the research and preparation that is the hallmark of the League's studies on public issues. "More and more of our members are employed, well over half," said Pat Moran, president of the Hillsborough County League. "We really have to reevaluate what it is we can do."

That coupled with a two-part-time increase in dues (they're now \$25) has made the League's membership to about 180 from an earlier high of more than 200. Another facet of liberation — the ability of women to run for office and win — has tainted the organization with a tinge of the partisan politics it tries so scrupulously to avoid. Several of the League's past presidents are now the county's best known politicians: Helen Gordon Davis, Irene Silver, Betty Castor, Nancy Sever and Fran Davis. Supervisor of Elections Robin Kravitz is also a League member. "Male politicians are vaguely afraid of the League because it has produced women like them," said a member of another women's group.

In fact, the League became an issue in the 1973 County Commission race between incumbent Carl Carpenter and Fran Davis. Carpenter charged on a live radio broadcast that the League was trying to gain "control of local government." Apparently that prospect didn't strike fear into the hearts of the voters, as Carpenter was soundly trounced.

Moran is emphatic in stating that the League does not support candidates, only issues; and that members have not used the League to launch political careers. "It's the other way around. They certainly didn't join because of their interest in running for office. They were interested in government and getting out in the community, which finally spurred them to say, 'I think I would be good in that job.'"

Nevertheless, beginning with the election of Betty Castor to the County Commission in 1972, several women who rose through the ranks of the League also launched successful political careers. The belief that this wave of women was orchestrated by League members (in a smoke-filled room) remains ingrained in the minds of veteran politicians-watchers. League members deny it, saying that a combination of factors led to the quantum leap from elector to elected.

For one thing, Hillsborough County's male politicians couldn't stare off women's liberation indefinitely. Women throughout the country were beginning to run for office, and some of them were winning. League members, perhaps borrowing back to their suffrage roots, sensed that the time was ripe. Second, the women were incensed with what they considered the general mediocrity of county government. Both Castor and Davis, who ran for the commission in 1974, campaigned for an end to old-style politics and the beginning of professional management.

Most of the women are proud, rather than defensive, of their association with the League. Helen Gordon Davis, a League member turned legislator, said, "To prepare you much better as far as your knowledge of issues." A public official with former experience, she continued, "is much more indoctrinated than any other officeholder you could find."

Lyn Davis, a doctoral candidate at Florida State University, used the Hillsborough County League as a case study in writing her dissertation. She found that despite the fact that the League does not plan to groom women for public office, that's in fact what it

You've got to know the political issues to stay in this League

League members inspect plans for a resource recovery facility, which the organization says is the answer to the county's waste disposal problems. Seated are Don Colburn and Mary Figg standing are Patricia Moran and Carol Head.

on in the whole county." Davis now works for Legis 50, a Dvorak-based private, nonprofit corporation that helps state legislatures design legislation in specific areas. The original League was formed from one-tenth of the membership of the National Association of Women's Suffrage, which voted its self out of business after women gained the right to vote. "They didn't want women to lose their interest in politics just because they got suffrage passed," said Warren Johnson, a history professor at Hillsborough Community College.

The very tradition that gives the League a respectability envied by some of the newer and more radical women's groups also has made it seem something of an anachronism. "It's just like the NAACP," Johnson said. "When that was formed in 1905, everybody thought here was a bunch of radicals wanting black rights. Now the NAACP is thought of as an Uncle Tom organization. They can't be up to date — that's sort of the assumption. It's not true in all cases."

As one sign of the times, the League of Women Voters is now open to men. The League's insistence on careful and thorough study before taking a position sometimes frustrates its new members. After an area is targeted for study, League members begin firsthand fact-finding, attend meetings of the appropriate governmental bodies, ask questions, run surveys, hear from all sides and then arrive at a consensus among the membership. Only then will the League take a position and begin lobbying. "This is something our new members sometimes find hard to understand," Moran said. "It might be a very big problem and we don't have a position on it. We haven't studied, we haven't reached a consensus, so we cannot go down and talk even though those of us sitting there would agree there's a problem. Many of our studies can take two years, which can be very distressing to some who say, 'Let's go out and do this.' It takes patience."

See YOU'VE, page 2-B

Candidate rejects debate format

An Associated Press Report

TALLAHASSEE — The Republican candidate for U.S. Senate has rejected the debate format provided by the League of Women Voters, possibly scuttling the only statewide televised debate of the race.

Bill Grant, a former North Florida congressman, has refused to participate in the debate because the league planned to have four reporters question him and U.S. Sen. Bob Graham, said Richard Pinsky, Grant's campaign manager.

"We are holding fast to our call for a head-to-head debate," Pinsky said.

He said the candidates have agreed to at least two debates where they would question each other.

Graham is willing to accept either

format, according to campaign manager Jay Hakes.

The two candidates have agreed to debate general issues before a Tallahassee political club and health care issues in West Palm Beach.

Neither debate is scheduled to be televised in full, but Pinsky said he is trying to arrange coverage of the South Florida debate.

The League of Women Voters' debate was scheduled to be taped in Tampa and shown on public TV stations on Oct. 16.

Patricia Moran, organizer of the Tampa debate, said there is nothing unusual about its format.

"It's the same format the league has used in the past. It's not unusual and we didn't expect it would be objectionable."

Polls show Graham outstripping Grant by more than 30 points.

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, Early Voting (Hillsborough County)
- Oct. 19 - Oct. 31, Early Voting (Pasco County)

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.

Helping Others Vote

Amendment 3 Education - We Need You!

Amendment 3 to the Florida Constitution ("Save Our Homes from Excessive Property Taxes") poses a serious threat to local services and community stability. While cutting property taxes sounds like a good idea, in reality there are serious impacts that affect our communities' ability to meet our needs.

As a League we will educate voters via our social media and at our events about this amendment and its impacts if approved.

We need YOU to talk to your neighbors, friends and family, church members, at pickleball and yoga, book groups and play groups, HOA and condo boards, Senior Centers and volunteer networks, and on social media. Educate them on the impacts to our community. You have already built trust in these networks so these conversations will make an impact.

**We are putting out facts, not advocating for Amendment 3.
It's not politics; it's math.**

Florida Policy Institute (FPI) has put out [a report on the local fiscal impact](#), along with a map of the impact per county.

FPI Policy Analyst Erica Monet Li, who authored a [report on the impact on Florida hospitals](#), said most voters have no idea that their tax bills bankroll local care.

"It's important that Floridians understand the risks associated with adopting sweeping property tax cuts without first considering alternative solutions to the affordability crisis in our state," she said in a statement.

Check out www.Vote411.org to read the amendment and understand its impacts.

And look over [LWV Manatee County's page](#) on the Constitutional Amendments.

Please consider joining the LWV of Florida Education Group.

What this working group will do:

- * Provide weekly graphics and social-media posts
- * Press releases and media statements
- * Shareable content from partner organizations
- * Talking points and rapid-response materials

Please register for the every-other-week Zoom meeting [here](#) and join in Fridays at 9 am. The next one is on September 11.

Please register [here](#) to continue to receive the weekly social media posts and other content.

Please email Alice Newlon (Manatee County Immediate Past President) at anewlon@yahoo.com for the information she presented on the kick-off call. Or reach out to our own Communications Chair, Deana Turnipseed, at Info@hclwv.org, if you have any questions.

It's clear this amendment will be tough to defeat, but it is possible we can do so IF we move quickly and communicate consistently.

Florida voters need clear, factual, and frequent information, repeated often enough to move enough voters from being supporters to becoming opponents.

With your help, we can make sure every community hears from us, every week, all the way to Election Day.

Upcoming Events

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

There are lots of opportunities for members to participate!



The Pasco Action Group plans to table during September to **Get Out the Vote** at the Pasco Hernando State Colleges and at Saint Leo University in Pasco. Pasco League volunteers will be providing Voter information at Goodwill stores in Spring Hill, Trinity and Wesley Chapel. We are grateful to Goodwill and to Pasco Colleges for giving us the space and time to inform voters about recent changes to procedures, requesting a Vote by Mail Ballot, and connecting to the [Vote411](#) online guide, as well as the critical importance of voting. Members also delivered materials to all Pasco Public Libraries, reminding people of the impact of voting on local issues.

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 denied the ballot to legal resources.
- 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.

To participate, sign up [here](#).

Vote411

Check out [Vote411](#) yourself and recommend it to others who are still deciding about the candidates.

An updated version, featuring only the winners of the August Primaries, is expected to be published by September 14.

We are currently reaching out to non-responding candidates so they can still have an opportunity to participate.

We Did It!



For the upcoming Midterm on November 3rd the Pasco Action Group has distributed League of Women Voters nonpartisan Voter information materials, including the QR Codes for registering to vote, requesting a Vote by Mail Ballot and a link to the Vote411 guide, to all Pasco Public Libraries.

Shop for the Benefit of the





LWV of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties Merch!

Ready to show your League Pride? Ready to let folks know you can help them with a voting plan? Check out our very own MERCH at [Zazzle](#)!

A small portion of your purchase comes back to our League. So get your t-shirts, tanks, buttons, stickers, hats, magnets and get ready for Election Season!

Most shirt designs can be put on other styles of shirts. (women's cut, unisex, short sleeve, etc).

Non-League Events



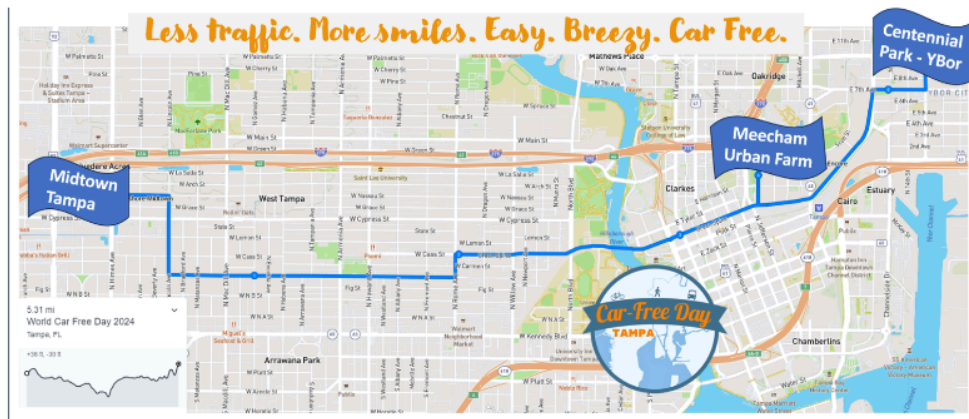
Don't Miss Tampa's World Car Free Day!

Mark your calendar for September 26, 2026, from 9am to 2pm! Bring the whole family and walk, bike, roll, or scoot to one of our neighborhood activity hubs. Explore your community, enjoy fun activities, meet your neighbors, and make memories together—all while experiencing the joy of a day with fewer cars and more people.



Scan me

Want to volunteer? Be a Sponsor? Be a vendor? Join in the fun?
email: WCFDTampa@gmail.com



Plan
Hillsborough

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

[Urban Expansion Area Study - I-4 Corridor, Round #3, Community Meeting #3](#) | 09/01/26 | 6:00 p.m. | Bailey Elementary School | [4630 Gallagher Road](#) | Dover

[Urban Expansion Area Study - Little Manatee South Area, Round #4, Community Meeting #1 \(Virtual\)](#) | 09/17/26 | 6:00 p.m. | Virtual | [Register here](#)

[Urban Expansion Area Study - Little Manatee South Area, Round #4, Community Meeting #2](#) | 09/19/26 | 11:00 a.m. | South County Career Acceleration Academy | [2810 John Sherman Way](#) | [Ruskin](#)

[Urban Expansion Area Study - Little Manatee South Area, Round #4, Community Meeting #3](#) | 09/22/26 | 6:00 p.m. | South County Career Acceleration Academy | [2810 John Sherman Way](#) | [Ruskin](#)

Exploring What Moves Tampa Bay Forward



Transportation needs don't stop at county lines. But with limited funding, deciding which projects should come first can be a challenge.

The Hillsborough County TPO, Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Forward Pinellas are working together on a new pilot project called the Tampa Bay Transportation Project Prioritization pilot.

[Read more](#)

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

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

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

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.



Florida

HUMANITIES



[More Than Orange Blossoms: Feisty, Fabulous Females of Florida](#)

Though not always in the history books, the women who helped build, form, shape, and develop the state have inspired hope and possibility. This presentation highlights stories of strong, courageous women such as Julia Tuttle, known as the Mother of Miami, Mary McLeod Bethune, daughter of enslaved parents who went on to become an advisor to several US presidents, and other brave women who influenced and impacted their communities, Florida, and the nation. Discover and rediscover some of the women who grew and shaped the state!

Virtual, Sept. 29, 6-7 p.m. Click on the title for details.



The State of Florida is scheduling a bear hunt again this year and issuing more permits than the last time!

The Sierra Club will be fighting back once again. Please do your part to limit the number of bears killed.

See more [here](#).



vs. GOLIATH: Greater Chaco

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

vs. Goliath: Greater Chaco tells stories of courage and resistance from the sacred Greater Chaco region of New Mexico, the ancestral homeland of the Pueblo and Diné people and the frontline of the climate crisis. The region is under continuous siege from oil and gas interests. See how the residents unite to defend tribal sovereignty and protect Chaco for future generations.

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

Community announcements will be welcome before the screening. Following the film, join Bill McKibben and others for a live Q&A.

Date and Time: Tuesday, Sept. 1, 7:30 - 9:30 pm,

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

This will be a monthly event as *vs. Goliath* is a documentary series following everyday people across the United States as they stand up to the fossil fuel industry and fight for the future of their communities.

Mark your calendar now for Oct. 1, *vs. Goliath: Port Arthur*.

[Register here for VS Goliath](#)

Tampa Bay - Westshore Audubon Sanctuary Clean-Up



Date and Time:

Sat, Sep 26, 2026; 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Time is tentative

Location: Westshore Audubon Sanctuary, 5009 W San Jose St, Tampa, FL 33629

[Register now!](#)

Volunteers, please wear closed-toe shoes, hat/visor and sunglasses. Be prepared to get wet and dirty. Gloves, trash bags, water and a light snack will be provided.

Tampa Bay Sierra Club and Tampa Audubon Society volunteers will partner to clean up the Sanctuary, a mangrove forest along Old Tampa Bay which serves as habitat for many wading birds and marine life such as horseshoe crabs.



Be part of a community effort to keep our waterways clean by helping remove debris before it enters them.

The [Keep Pasco Beautiful Cleanup](#) is part of the [International Coastal Cleanup](#) coordinated by [Ocean Conservancy](#). Since 1986, this worldwide event has collected more than 380 million pounds of trash with help from more than 18 million volunteers worldwide.

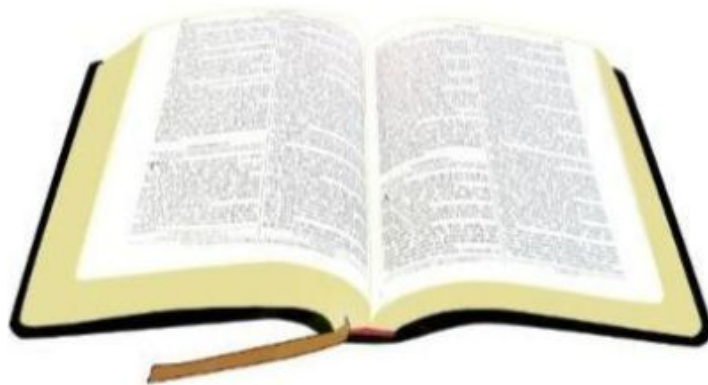
The cleanup will occur in multiple locations all around the county. While start and end times may vary, the event will take place in the **morning of Saturday, September 19**. After your registration, you will be provided with specific meeting details and the contact of the captain of your group. Feel free to reach out to info@KeepPascoBeautiful.org or your captain with any questions related to your assigned area.

Go [HERE](#) to check out locations and times, and register to help!

If you have **kids under 10 years old** in your group, we recommend registering for one of the following locations: Sims Park Boat Ramp in New Port Richey; Anclote Gulf Park in Holiday; or River Road Trailhead in Dade City.



Forbidden Florida Reads



BANNED in 0 Florida county schools.

Challenged in 63 Florida counties. Read more [here](#).

Tiger Bay has scheduled two events for September! **GOP** gubernatorial candidate **Bryon Donalds** is scheduled to appear on Sept. 18 and **Democratic** candidate **David Jolly** on Sept. 25.

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

Click on the tiger for more information and registration.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

- Must be currently enrolled in a college or university in Florida.
- Must be registered to vote in Hillsborough County.
- Must be pursuing a degree in political science, public administration, communications, or a related field.
- Demonstrated interest in politics, public policy, or local government.
- Minimum GPA of 3.0.

TO APPLY VISIT TIGERBAYCLUB.COM





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](#).

Poynter.50 YEARS

Journalism. Truth. Democracy.

Teachers, take note! This fall, the Poynter Institute is launching [MediaWise Weekly](#), a new initiative supported by a recent [Andrew Carnegie Foundation grant](#). Each week, educators will get access to a free, classroom-ready lesson plan that makes media literacy engaging and accessible for students.



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](#).

As We Like It: When truth itself becomes dangerous, how can we distinguish a noble lie from a deadly one?



In the forests of Nazi-occupied Poland,

Rose and her family are fighting to survive, but Rose sees another world entirely: the enchanted Forest of Arden where she is rehearsing *As You Like it* for the wedding of a Duke and his Fairy Queen. If the performance succeeds, Rose believes, the

Queen might return to her the son she has lost.

At once suspenseful, heartbreaking, darkly funny, and fiercely theatrical, *As We Like It* explores the stories we create to endure the unbearable—and the terrifying power of stories to heal, deceive, protect, and destroy.

For more information and tickets, click [here](#).



**TAMPA BAY SUN
FOOTBALL CLUB**

Tampa's women's professional team has kicked off its third season.

The home opener is Sept. 12. 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

Sept. 3, 6-6:30, [Voter Services Training](#)

Sept. 28, 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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Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 18933, Tampa, FL 33679

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