

**Calendar**

**July**

July is Disability Pride Month

- July 22 – Board Meeting
- July 25 – Deadline for Polk County residents to register for the Statewide Primary Election
- July 30 – Lakeland Love Solidarity Event at Bryant Stadium (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

**August**

- August 13-20 – FL Primary Election, Statewide Early Voting
- August 23 – FL Primary Election, Election Day
- August 26 – Women's Equality Day; Board Meeting

**LWV Polk 2022-2023 Board of Directors**

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\*Terms end in 2024, all others end in 2023.

Need to contact the LWV Polk Board? Click on a name to send an email.

# Supreme Court Ends Constitutional Right to Abortion

## LWV Polk members joined area protests after Roe v. Wade overturned

We are sure that many of you are still in a state of shock and disbelief when it comes to the recent Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, ending constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place nearly 50 years. LWVUS Board President Dr. Deborah Turner said in response to the announcement:

**"The League continues to stand in our power with our reproductive rights partners and all persons who fear the dangerous consequences of this decision."**

Thank you to all LWV Polk members who attended the many protests in Polk County and to those that provide patient escort services for Lakeland Women's Health Center. This facility has provided women's health services, including abortions, to patients in Polk County, neighboring counties and states since 1975.

—Eileen Swiler and Jo Shim, Reproductive Health and Justice co-chairs



This photo of LWV Polk member Paula Mims was taken by Ernst Peters [for The Ledger](#).

**Editor's Note:** Moving forward, The Voter will be distributed bi-monthly. Want an announcement included in the September/October edition? Email Ashley at [ashleyannlauretta@gmail.com](mailto:ashleyannlauretta@gmail.com).

## Committees and Action Areas

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI)

[Bobbie Boatwright Harris](#)  
[Katy Pace Byrd](#)

EDUCATION  
Open

GUN SAFETY  
[Andy Crossfield](#)

HEALTHCARE  
[Paula Mims](#)

IMMIGRATION  
Open

JUVENILE JUSTICE  
[Andy Crossfield](#)

LIBRARIES  
[Lillian Blessing](#)

MEDIA  
[Jerry Weeks](#)

MEMBERSHIP  
Open

NATURAL RESOURCES  
Climate Action:  
[Karen Freedman](#)  
Plastics:  
[Sharon Masters](#)

NEWSLETTER  
[Ashley Laurretta](#)

NOMINATING (2023)  
[Sue Schultz](#)

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND JUSTICE  
[Eileen Swiler](#)  
[Jo Shim](#)

SPEAKERS BUREAU  
[Trudy Rankin](#)

VOTER OUTREACH AND EDUCATION  
[Linda Donaldson](#)

VOTER REGISTRATION  
[Linda Donaldson](#)  
Returning Citizens Voter Registration Subcommittee:  
[Andy Crossfield](#)

Need to contact an LWV Polk Committee Chair? Click on a name to send an email.

# LWVFL Supports Back-to-School HPV Vaccine Campaign

## Only 33 percent of those eligible have completed the two- or three-dose series

Did you know that the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine provides protection against six different cancers that impact men and women if administered between the ages of 9 to 26 years?

The HPV vaccine is not recommended or required for students attending Florida public schools and as a result has been underutilized. While some statistics indicate that 50-59 percent of Floridians eligible for the vaccine have received at least one dose, data from the Florida Department of Health shows that only 33 percent have completed the series (two doses for boys and girls ages 9-15 and three doses for those over the age of 15.)

LWVFL is supporting this initiative to provide HPV vaccine awareness and a toolkit including social media posts is available for local Leagues to use for their outreach efforts. To obtain materials for distribution at back-to-school, tabling and voter registration events, contact Reproductive Health and Justice co-chair, Jo Shim at [shimjo2001@yahoo.com](mailto:shimjo2001@yahoo.com).

Welcome  
New Members

Judy Cleaves  
Julia Craze

## New Voter Information Cards Have Been Mailed

**Here's what information to verify when yours arrives**

More than 450,000 voters will be receiving new voter information cards, and when yours arrives, here is what Polk County Supervisor of Elections Lori Edwards instructs you to verify:

- Name
- Residence Address
- Party Affiliation
- Date of Birth

These cards are not required to cast your ballot, but do indicate the location of your polling place, which is helpful as many of Polk County's voting precincts have changed due to redistricting.

# Action Alley

## LWV Polk Represents at Red, White and Kaboom!



Photo provided by Linda Donaldson

### LWV Polk members were on hand to register voters

Volunteers at the LWV Polk tent helped complete ten new voter registrations at Lakeland's annual gathering on July 3, sponsored by LWV Polk members Paula and Tom Mims.

Thank you to Larry Rankin, Linda Donaldson, Jo Shim, Eileen and Stuart Swiler, Karen Freedman and Robin Adams for your efforts!

## From Our Members: LWV Polk on the value of protests

### From member Trudy Rankin:

How did our standing on Florida Avenue with signs make a difference?

- The archetype of protest activates a sense of purpose, which prompts one to feel more in control
- The protest prompts one to identify those of the tribe, which gives a sense of community and focus
- The protest shows the viewers of the protest the importance of voting
- The protest prompts an inner confidence in knowing one is acting rather than giving in or giving up
- The protest creates space for creative ideas
- The protest activates inner calm in knowing one has reached outside of oneself for the benefit of someone else



LWV Polk members Eileen Swiler and Trudy Rankin at local Roe v. Wade protests, taken by Ernst Peters [for The Ledger](#).

### From member Paula Mims:

There are also plenty of women (presumably men too) whose partners have different beliefs and they have to suppress their own beliefs. When they see us it gives them a voice they can't activate and gives them hope and strength.

I can't tell you the number of times that people have come up to me and said thank you for taking a stand on particular issues, saying they cannot come out publicly because of their jobs, positions in government, employers, etc. I always emphasize voting in these conversations. It could be disheartening for me to be on the receiving end of their public silence, but I try to receive it in hopefulness and gratitude.

# The Classifieds

## LWV Polk Volunteers Needed

This year is an important election year, especially where voting rights are concerned. Plus, we are all busy catching up after two years of lockdown, yet LWV work must continue on schedule. In response, we are creating a volunteer pool for members who want to help out on an as-needed basis!

Our hard-working committees sometimes need extra hands for special (and fun) activities. We often have clerical or media needs where members can assist from home.

Starting this week, there are several events and activities running through November that are key to voter services and outreach. Beyond that, we have regular LWV events all year! Watch for more information about the program coming to your inbox soon!

Questions can be directed to [volunteer@lwvpolk.org](mailto:volunteer@lwvpolk.org).

—Vicki Lowe and Linda Donaldson

### Here are a few immediate volunteer opportunities LWV Polk has available:



**Volunteers are needed on July 30 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. to help with the Lakeland Love Solidarity Event.**

This community event is being funded by our grants to educate voters on redistricting—which require LWV Polk members to be in attendance—and is taking place at Bryant Stadium.

Contact: Jessie Gomez, [jgomezlwv@gmail.com](mailto:jgomezlwv@gmail.com)



**The Climate Action committee is looking for volunteers.** The most immediate need is to convince the Polk County School Board to take advantage of federal funding for *free* electric school buses (deadline 8/19). Our county is eligible to receive *\$9.8 million* for 25 new electric school buses; completely free, including charging stations. Polk is a priority county, so we will be given priority consideration (it's not first come first served). The committee needs help getting the word out!

Contact: Karen Freedman, [kefreedman@hotmail.com](mailto:kefreedman@hotmail.com)



**The Voter Registration committee is looking for volunteers to help register voters.**

It requires taking and passing [the LWVFL Quiz](#) with a perfect 180/180 score (info is provided and the test can be retaken as many times as needed). Those certified to register voters will also receive updates via the Voter Services email list and Zoom meetings.

Contact: Linda Donaldson, [lindajdonaldson@yahoo.com](mailto:lindajdonaldson@yahoo.com)



**Voter outreach volunteers are needed to send postcards to potential voters.**

All the postcards, stamps and directions will be personally delivered to you. Please specify the number of postcards you are requesting when contacting Jean.

Contact: Jean Baker, [jbk7783@gmail.com](mailto:jbk7783@gmail.com)



**LWV Polk is looking for a new Membership committee chair.**

After years in the position, Linda is moving to Voter Registration and is looking for a detail-oriented person to take over the Membership committee. This is an opportunity to get to know our members from their very first inquiry!

Contact: Linda Donaldson, [lindajdonaldson@yahoo.com](mailto:lindajdonaldson@yahoo.com)