

**Calendar
November**

- November 5 – Last day for early voting
- November 7 – DEI Book Group Discussion
- November 8 – Election Day
- November 9 – Closing the Gap
- November 11 – Veteran's Day
- November 16 – Closing the Gap
- November 18 – Board Meeting
- November 21 – DEI Book Group Discussion
- November 24 – Thanksgiving
- November 25 – Native American Heritage Day

December

- December 5 – DEI Book Group Discussion
- December 7 – Closing the Gap
- December 16 – Board Meeting
- December 19 – DEI Book Group Discussion
- December 25 – Christmas
- December 31 – New Year's Eve

**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.

Early Voting Continues Through November 5

Polk County had 463,894 eligible voters register by October 11

Election Day is quickly approaching with early voting currently underway. To view a sample ballot and find your voting location, [click here](#) to be directed to the Polk County Supervisor of Elections. Vote tabulation will occur at the Election Operations Center located at 70 Florida Citrus Boulevard in Winter Haven.

If you're voting by mail:

Ballots must be received no later than 7 p.m. on November 8

Mail to: P.O. Box 7, Auburndale, FL 33823

Return in person to: Election Headquarters, 250 S. Broadway Ave. in Bartow or Election Operations Center, 70 Florida Citrus Blvd. in Winter Haven

If you're voting early:

Visit [one of Polk County's early voting locations](#) from October 24 – November 5, open daily from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

If you're voting on Election Day, November 8:

All polling locations are open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

LWV Polk Voter Outreach

"Burma Shave Campaign" Underway

**Committee began displaying road signs around Polk County on
October 24**

Led by Linda Donaldson, the Voter Services committee began displaying road signs on October 24,

providing voting reminders at locations around Polk County sixteen different times during the busiest times of day. Locations include Posner Park Blvd. in Davenport, Taco Bell in Bartow, Martin Luther King Blvd. in Winter Haven, and the Coleman-Bush building and front of Larry L. Jackson Branch Library in Lakeland.



Eileen Swiler and Jennifer Gardner sign waving outside the Larry R. Jackson Branch Library, Lakeland (Photo from Jo Shim)



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.

Close out 2022 with Closing the Gap

Presentations feature guest speakers and LWV Polk committee chairs

On select Wednesdays at noon, you're invited to join LWV Polk for Closing the Gap, hosted on Zoom by Speakers Bureau chair Trudy Corry Rankin.

November 9: Consensus/Healthcare, Nancy Simmons and Paula Mims

November 16: Consensus/Firearms, Nancy Simmons and Andy Crossfield

December 7: NAACP Education Action Group and Polk Vision Literary Team, Dr. Lindsey Persohn

For the Zoom meeting invitation, contact: SpeakersBureau@lwvpolk.org

DEI Book Continues Discussions of *The 1619 Project*

Four sessions remain in the essay-by-essay reading

The DEI book discussion group has been doing an essay-by-essay reading of *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*, Nikole Hannah-Jones, ed., with thirteen members gathering October 10 and October 24 for lively discussions. Four sessions remain in November and December, at which point the reading and discussion of this book will be complete.

Upcoming sessions will take place on:

- November 7
- November 21
- December 5
- December 19

If you are interested in learning more or joining the discussions, please contact Katy Pace Byrd at byrdkp@gmail.com.

LWV Polk thanks Super Choice Foods in Lakeland for letting league volunteers register voters outside of the store. In the photo on the right, Jo Shim presents one of the store managers, Mr. Amin Abdelhade, with a certificate of appreciation from LWV Polk.



Photo provided by Linda Donaldson

Action Alley

LWV Polk Meets with Moms Demand Action

The September meeting provided clarity on DeSantis' proposed 'Constitutional Carry'

In September, Gun Safety committee chair Andy Crossfield met with Moms Demand Action to discuss gun reform and legislative efforts. Notably present at the Lakeland Public Library meeting was organizer and LWV member Leander Aulisio, Florida House of Representatives District 38 candidate Sarah Henry, and Florida State House District 42 Rep. Anna Eskamani. They discussed the DeSantis pledge to pass permitless carry in Florida before he leaves office. The governor has dubbed the proposed law 'Constitutional Carry' and would eliminate registration, background checks and other restrictions on gun purchases in Florida. A similar law is in effect in Texas.



Photo provided by Andy Crossfield

Andy Crossfield reports that Rep. Anna Eskamani said groups like Moms Demand Action have been effective in preventing conservatives that campaign in the general election from adopting extreme gun positions for fear of public outrage. Sarah Henry added that if there were one issue that is truly bipartisan in Florida, it is the desire to improve gun control and to keep weapons from unstable individuals.

LWV Members Present at 'We Draw the Lines' Redistricting Forum

The September event was held in Bartow and led by the Florida Redistricting Coalition

On September 12, the Florida Redistricting Coalition—made up of Black Voters Matter, Equal Ground, Florida Rising, and League of Women Voters—continued their statewide tour educating voters about the redistricting process in the state of Florida. The tour stopped at the African American Heritage Museum at 585 East Summerlin Street in Bartow.



Photo provided by Andy Crossfield

LWV member Andy Crossfield gave the background of the suit, Equal Ground members stressed the importance of getting others out to vote, Black Voters Matter reviewed the judiciary and that five Supreme Court Justices will be on the ballot for retention this year and Florida Rising provided energetic speakers.

Andy Crossfield reports that LWV Polk had Jerry and Ann Weeks and Sue Schultz present to register voters, and that LWV Polk members Jessie Gomez and Breezi Hicks were in attendance.

Local Events

LWV Polk Invited to Early Voter Round Up Community Festival on November 5

The Delta Sigma Theta Alumni Sorority of Lakeland has invited LWV Polk to be a part of their [Early Voter Round Up Community Festival](#) on Saturday, November 5. LWV Polk will participate with educational materials and a children's craft table with a "Future Voter" theme.

This free family-friendly event is designed to educate, encourage and empower our community to exercise their right to vote and takes place from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. at Simpson Park, 1725 Martin L. King Jr. Ave. in Lakeland.

The Classifieds



LWV Polk is looking for a new Membership committee chair. After years in the position, Linda has moved 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



Volunteers are regularly needed for LWV Polk events throughout the year. LWV Polk has created 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. To join the list, email volunteer@lwvpolk.org.



The Climate Action committee is regularly looking for members and volunteers, especially with growing work in promoting energy efficiency and equity, and environmental justice. Additionally, regular events take place throughout the year, including popular electric vehicle shows in Polk County that require volunteer shifts. Contact: Karen Freedman, kfreedman@hotmail.com

Thank you to all who joined LWV Polk in 2022!

- Jo Shim
- Katherine Sutherland
- Karen Warren
- Ashley Laurretta
- Lynn Paredes-Manfredi
- Tara Wheat
- Rick Maxey
- Jackye Maxey
- Doretha Brooks
- Philip Allen
- Lynn Mawhinney
- April Robinson
- Judy Cleaves
- Julia Craze
- Ben Graffam
- Emily Mayhuasca