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## Contact Us

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## Join

### League of Women Voters

Annual Membership  
Join & Pay on Line



Or:

Make checks payable to LWVUS and mail to:

LWVPBA

P.O. Box 2023

Pensacola, FL 32513

Fill out a [Membership Form](#)

Select the Amount You Pay

Recommended rate \$75 - Minimum \$20



## “State of the Santa Rosa County”

**Santa Rosa County Commission  
Chair Kerry Smith**

**Saturday, September 20, 2025  
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Program**

Santa Rosa County Commission Board Room  
6495 Caroline Street, Suite M, Milton, FL

**K**erry Smith, Santa Rosa County Commission Chair, will address the *State of the Santa Rosa County* on Saturday September 20, in the Santa Rosa County Commission Board Room at 10:00 a.m.

Smith graduated from Pine Forest High School, earned his Associate of Arts degree from Pensacola Junior College and attended FSU. He was involved in the trucking industry, the fitness industry and is presently a broker/owner of two real estate firms. He was elected Santa Rosa County Commissioner in 2024.

Kerry Smith and his wife Lori are avid outdoors people, and when they are not working, they are usually fishing, hiking, camping, golfing, or finding something new to do outdoors. Most of the time they will be fishing the waters of beautiful Santa Rosa County.

**LWV Meetings are free and open to the public**

## ATTENTION

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

**League of Women Voters of Florida:  
Redistricting CALL TO ACTION**

**League Members —check your inbox for your  
advocacy toolkit and get ready to act on  
Saturday, October 4th.**

**Say NO to Mid-Cycle Redistricting in Florida!**

## Notes from the Immigration Town Hall Forum

by Mary Gutierrez, [mgutierrez,league@gmail.com](mailto:mgutierrez,league@gmail.com)



Grace Resendez McCaffrey and Aida Marta Ramirez, Esq.

*“Immigration policies should promote the reunification of immediate families, meet economic, business, and employment needs, and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises.” – League of Women Voters, USA.*

*The Leagues of Women Voters of Florida and the Pensacola Bay Area (Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties) support securing equal rights and equal opportunity for all. We promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. By supporting immigration policies that promote reunification of immediate families, we help to meet the economic, business and employment needs of Florida and the United States. We work to ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In the transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.*

**I**mmigration Forum: **Grace Resendez McCaffrey** - President of Latino Media Gulf Coast Inc., Publisher of LaCosta Latina newspaper, Founder of the Hispanic Resource Center of NWFL and South AL **Aida Marta Ramirez, Esq.**, Immigration Attorney, Ramirez Hormaza Law Group They discussed immigration and some of the issues/concerns/actions that are occurring in the panhandle, Alabama, and the U.S.

The LWV Florida and the Pensacola Bay Area recognize that Florida and America as a whole are lands of immigrants. They help weave the fabric and identity of our nation, and we believe it is critical for the U.S. to encourage their participation in our society and democracy. Because immigration was a major part of this election cycle's conversation and continues to be a leading topic in the news, we hope to help people better understand the many facets of this complex issue.

The National Immigration Litigation Alliance (NILA), is an organization that is actively engaged in extensive federal court litigation on various immigration issues and welcomes donations: <https://immigrationlitigation.org/>

**Thank you to WBQP TV! You can watch the recorded livestream of the [event here](#);**

## Upcoming meetings, events, and activities to help you stay engaged!

**Assist Voters at Fortis Institute September 17, 2025**

*Our Local League is partnering with Fortis Institute to assist voters for the upcoming Primary and General Election 2026. This is a good opportunity to celebrate both National Voter Registration Day and Constitution Day. . Volunteer for a shift on Wednesday **September 17, 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm**. Fortis Institute is located at 4081 Eat Olive Road, Pensacola. Sign up at [lwvpba@gmail.com](mailto:lwvpba@gmail.com).*

###

### **"Florida Stand Down for Homeless Veterans"**

Friday September 26, 2025, 9 am - 2 pm  
Brownsville Community Center  
3200 West DeSoto Street, Pensacola FL 32505

The League is committed to assist returning citizens gain the right to vote. *Volunteers are needed at a table to assist in efforts to reach out to returning citizens and help them navigate the voter registration process.* Contact Shirley Lewis-Brown, [sdeanlb@gmail.com](mailto:sdeanlb@gmail.com) to volunteer.

###

Watch the Zoom recording of the **August 14<sup>th</sup> Education Legislative Recap** with speaker *Joe McGehee* from the Florida School Board Association on the League [YouTube Channel](#)

###

**Unite and Rise 8.5: Meeting the Moment, featuring Dr. Erica Chenoweth** (video: 24:35 length)

In LWV's new [Unite and Rise 8.5](#) web series, CEO Celina Stewart speaks with political scientist Dr. Erica Chenoweth about what we can learn from past nonviolent revolutions.

###

LWVPBA members who are interested in registering voters must pass a quiz to be certified to do so at events. The test is on [www.lwvfl.org](http://www.lwvfl.org) under Members [here](#). Obtain the password at [lwvpba@gmail.com](mailto:lwvpba@gmail.com).

###

**Everything a League does involves communications:** voter services, citizen information, advocacy, membership, fundraising, etc. The target audience may be internal, external or both. Required are: composing and editing The Voter and other communications; proofreading; updates to a variety of social media; graphics, photography; website; emails. To do this requires input from all League members. **Volunteers to assist in these tasks are needed.**

Please send your news and updates for The Voter one week in advance of the 1st of the month directly to [communications@gmail.com](mailto:communications@gmail.com).

## Coming to a Location near You?

by Enid Sisskin, PhD and Paula  
Montgomery, MD Health Committee



(Credit: Getty Images)

**T**ake a walk through a cemetery and look at the graves from the early part of the last century. What you'll see are many, many graves of children, often whole families wiped out by infectious diseases. We could be seeing that again.

What about Iron Lungs? Hear much about them lately? If you have, it was probably in March 2024, when Paul Alexander died after spending 72 years in one.

There are many reasons why infectious diseases kill fewer children nowadays – better sanitation and public health practices, availability of antibiotics to fight bacterial diseases, but for polio, chickenpox, mumps, and measles, the availability and mandates for childhood vaccination have made those diseases rare. That could be coming to an end.

Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo recently announced the end of some vaccine mandates and that he would be working with the Florida legislature to repeal others. What this would mean is that children would no longer need to be vaccinated in order to go to school. This is a terrible idea. When enough people are vaccinated, there's herd immunity, which is when it is difficult for a disease to spread because a critical percentage of the population is immune (through having the disease or vaccination). It is different for every disease - for measles, that percentage is 95%, for polio 80%. That protects the people who

cannot be vaccinated because they are too young or have an illness or are immunocompromised or are older and have lost their immunity.

Right now, Florida is one of the easiest states for parents to opt out of vaccines in the country, it shouldn't be made any easier to put children's and their families' lives and health at risk.



## Voter Check List

**Before the next election, make sure to verify your voter registration. Don't miss out on your opportunity to vote!**

### ✓ Verify Your Registration is Current

Verify that your registration is current: ensure your name, address and political party affiliation are up to date and confirm your voter status to active.

### ✓ Request a Vote by Mail Ballot

Each year you need to submit a new request.

### ✓ Review Your Party Choice

Most partisan races in the 2026 Primary are closed and only registered Democrats and Republican can vote for their respective candidates. No Party Affiliation voters will not see these races on their ballots.

Voters can change their party choice in order to be able to vote on these races in the Primary.

For more information, contact the Supervisor of Elections of Escambia County, [www.escambivotes.gov](http://www.escambivotes.gov), (850) 595-3900 or Santa Rosa County, [www.votesantarosa.gov](http://www.votesantarosa.gov), (850) 983-1900.



***A hearty welcome to our newest members and thank you to those members who have joined or renewed. You make our work possible!***

Carolyn Lamb  
Lisa Newell  
Ellen Schoor

Kat Miller  
Angela Schmitt  
Angela Varos



## Guide to Elected Officials 2025-2027

The updated *Guide to Elected Officials* has been published and available for use. Printed copies are being distributed through out Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties. Your assistance is valuable in this distribution. This is a great tool for anyone who would like to make contact with our elected officials. Printed copies of the Guides are at all of the local libraries. A QR Code is available for an electronic copy that can also be printed or retained.



### Guide to Elected Officials 2025 - 2027

Contact Patsy Suydam, pgsuydam1@icloud.com, to assist in distributing printed copies to new residents and those unfamiliar with Florida government.

###

**Members out serving the community with Our Rhythm Church and talking about the importance of voting! #vote411**



**New Members  
at the Craft Bar**

