



GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL LEAGUES AMIDST COVID-19

The League of Women Voters of Florida requests all volunteers to work within the digital, texting/calling and direct mail procedures that we have devised. We do not presently sanction person to person contact doing League volunteer work as we are concerned about COVID-19 transmission to our largely older volunteers and members of the larger public.

If any person wishes to volunteer and/or protest, they are doing so as individuals as the state League cannot guarantee a volunteer's safety. Of course, every League member has her/his First Amendment rights to freely associate as they choose and if they do so we urge them to follow CDC, local, state and national public health guidelines that originate from medical experts.

Dr. Julie Kessel of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area has helpfully summarized some good healthy precautions that League members can take in addition to consulting with their own health providers and local public health offices whenever they leave their homes. Some of these safety suggestions can be found below.

All League members should limit person to person contact, especially those with the following conditions:

- Persons 65 years or older
- Persons on immunosuppressive agents
- Persons with fever > 100 degrees F, or symptoms of illness, such as cough, extreme fatigue, diffuse aches and pains, and shortness of breath
- Persons with serious underlying chronic medical conditions
- Persons who are homeless or living in highly unstable environments

These categories of persons who need to avoid person to person contact are not exhaustive and do not guarantee safety if a person follows these guidelines. Again, the League does not sanction or authorize in-person League volunteering at this time. As the medical field learns how to prevent the spread and to cure the virus, we will reevaluate our stance.

These are the steps the State League is following, and we encourage all local Leagues to do the same:

1. Move as many activities as possible to a digital strategy. Examples below:
 - i. Candidate forums
 - ii. The Voter Guide is already an electronic document
 - iii. Encourage self-voter registration via VOTE411.org and providing support rather than in-person registration; consider use of technology to reach and assist people in that effort
 - iv. Encourage voting by mail through a digital strategy (see LWVFL.org)



- v. Add phone banking, social media posting, email writing, postcards, etc., as an alternative to in person volunteer activities and make those activities part of the digital strategy
- vi. Provide basic technology training for colleagues

These recommended guidelines of harm reduction were created with the aim of keeping our valued League members and the larger public as safe as possible.

Thank you for your work. We want to get out the vote but to do so in ways that do not compromise your health!