

May 2023 NEWS - League of Women Voters Palm Beach County

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STAND WITH THE LEAGUE

Help organize our October 18th fundraising luncheon.

[Click here for details and to volunteer.](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — MAY 2023

THE LEGISLATURE, LEADERS & LUNCH



The legislative session is over and there is much to unpack. The Legislature passed approximately 200 bills, although many have not been signed by the Governor at this point. Watch for announcements and calls to action by LWVFL when and if bills come up for the Governor's signature. We all must be diligent in following the LWVFL's lead.

Among this session's legislation:

Rep. Caruso introduced an antisemitism bill, which has been signed into law.

- A six-week abortion ban, with exceptions for rape and incest, has been signed by the Governor. It is questionable whether the law will go into effect, as the Florida Supreme Court has not ruled on the previously passed 15-week abortion ban. Drag shows, the LGBTQ community, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion all have come under attack. Transgender Floridians were targeted as well as the broader LGBTQ

community.

One of the most concerning bills relates to more stringent voter restrictions.

Citizens now do not need a permit to carry a concealed weapon. Polls indicate that 77 percent of Floridians do not support allowing people to carry a weapon without a license.

- A defamation bill, a bill protecting Confederate monuments, and raising the rifle-buying age all failed to move forward.

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ELECTIONS, BUDGET, KUDOS AND PLANS ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF '23 ANNUAL MEETING

By Marcia Sherwood, *Speakers Bureau Chair*

The LWVPBC held its annual meeting on April 19 at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach. More than 70 members attended in person or on Zoom. Treasurer **Missy Gannon** presented the finances for our chapter, including the Education Fund. Our income was reduced as were our expenses due to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Joyce Sullivan** presented the proposed budget for 2023-2024.

President **Kathi Gundlach** delivered the State of the League report; thanked officers, committee chairs and committee members for their commitment to the LWVPBC; and congratulated the team that produced the latest Voters Guide and Directory of Officials. We are the envy of all Florida

League chapters for our professional publications. **Cecile Scoon**, President of the Florida League, has expressed her admiration for the commitment and work of the Palm Beach County League. We could not do the work without our volunteers.

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VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH OUR FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

By **Cathy Einhorn**, *Second Vice President*

The League is having a Fundraising Luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 11 a.m. at Benvenuto, 1730 N. Federal Highway, in Boynton Beach. We will have political commentator Brian Crowley from WPTV as the speaker.

We are looking for volunteers to help with many different aspects of the event, from getting sponsorships, securing items for the silent auction, helping with tables, stuffing bags as well as on the day of the event. It will be a lot of fun, and we hope you will volunteer.

If you are interested, or for more information, please call or email Cathy Einhorn at (561) 247-0221 or VPres2@LWVPBC.org.

2023 STATE CONVENTION IS JUNE 2-4 IN ORLANDO

By **Kathi Gundlach**, *President*

If you are interested in attending the LWVFL State Convention, contact Kathi Gundlach at Kathi.LWVPBC@gmail.com. In the subject line, indicate LWVFL Convention.

We will register for you — or if you are paying your own way let me know you wish to attend as we have a defined number of delegates.

We will have a meeting via Zoom prior to the convention to discuss travel plans, reimbursements, assignments and more.

Once I have told you are registered, you will need to book your hotel room. We pay for double occupancy or half of the room charge. We ask you to carpool, and we will pay for travel. We don't pay for meals. Keep your receipts and mileage.

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Alexandra Anderson and Marcia Hayden of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., Wellington Chapter with Pamela Maldonado at Wellington High's 2023 drive-through event. Many students were already registered and proudly told us they had already voted. Below, Nancy Ballen helps students at Olympic Heights High register to vote last year.

WE HELP NEW GRADS REGISTER TO VOTE EVERY MAY

By Phyllis Applebaum, *Voter Services Chair*

Remember graduating from high school? Feeling like a bird ready to fly. Fleeing your hometown, high school, parents. Looking forward to college, new friends, new experiences. But, there is fear of the unknown as well; all the coming choices and decisions are intimidating.

Voting, a leap into adulthood, can be scary as well. As one student acknowledged, "I don't know who to vote for." What they won't say, but is probable, is that they don't even know *how* to vote.

Enter the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County. In May, Voter Services is visiting 15 high schools. We are catching the graduating seniors, literally, on their last day of high school. They are preparing to flee the building. One of their last tasks is to register to vote. We are great at engaging with the seniors, telling them voting is easy, and referring them to [Vote411](https://www.vote411.org), the League's national election information website, to find out about candidates. The home page of [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) shows 1) what's on their ballot, 2) their voter registration status and 3) their



polling place. If they want to vote by mail, we explain that as well, since many are going off to college.

Once the process is explained, the fear is lessened and the likelihood of voting is greater. The end result is that many of the students do register. LWVPBC's *next* role is to encourage these young people to actually vote.

SOME RECENT VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES



PBC LEAGUE, BEST BUDDIES REV UP REGISTRATION

By Pamela Maldonado, Voter Services

Saturday, April 22, was a perfect day for the Best Buddies Walk, which was held at the Baseball Stadium for the Palm Beaches.

Best Buddies is an organization serving the community of people with IDD (intellectual disability disorder), including Down syndrome, autism, Fragile X, traumatic brain injury and other disabilities. Their annual walk is a big fundraiser, where families and other groups form teams to support friends or family with IDD by contributing money and participating in the walk.

Best Buddies is the world's largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with IDD. Its programs empower the special abilities of people with IDD by helping them form meaningful friendships with peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy and communication skills, and feel

valued by society.

LWVPBC has partnered with the American Association for People with Disabilities on its REV UP the Vote campaign to make sure the disabled have access to voter education, registration and voting. Many people came by our booth to say thank you for being there and supporting them. We look forward to continuing to partner with this great organization.



PBC League member Pamela Maldonado of Voter Services offers voter registration information and help on May 6 at the School District's Title I Migrant Education Program's end-of-the-year celebration at Loxahatchee Groves Park. She is bilingual and does a lot of outreach with immigrant communities for the League.



Palm Beach Atlantic University students organized an Earth Day event April 21, and we had a Voter Registration table there. While most of the students were already registered to vote elsewhere, in their home towns, we still provided civics and voting information — as well as fun 'props' to draw them in to hear our message.



DID YOU KNOW? Only 20 percent of the population decides the presidency.

By Dan Lishansky, NPV Committee Chair for Palm Beach County

If you are curious about the National Popular Vote campaign and the Electoral College, here is a link to a 2½-minute video that the Palm Beach County League's National Popular Vote Committee created and posted on YouTube: https://youtu.be/AK4xr_cWeao. We encourage you to share it with all your friends, especially those not already in the League. And please click on the "thumbs up" button under the video. Your comments on it are welcome and can be sent to NPV@LWVPBC.org.

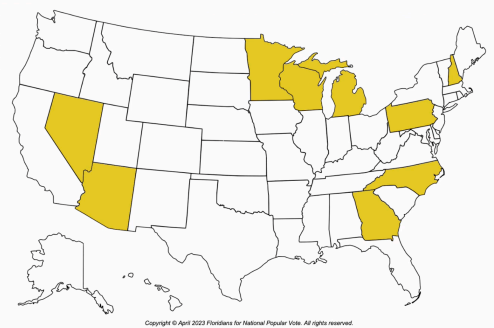
The NPV Committee held a meeting and training session on April 18 at the Hagen Ranch Road Library in Delray Beach. There was an excellent turnout, and members got to see a new training presentation about NPV. A big thanks to all the members who attended, with a special thanks to LWV Vice President and Speakers Bureau Chair **Marcia Sherwood**.

The next NPV meeting will be Tuesday, May 30, at 5:30 p.m. at the Palm Beach County Branch Library at 5689 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. New members, guests and anyone who

wants to learn more about the National Popular Vote all are welcome. RSVPs are encouraged, to Tom St. Onge at NPV@LWVPBC.org.

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2024 Presidential Election: 9 Swing States



COMMENTARY: SENATE FAILS WOMEN ON ERA

By Ashley Cacicedo-Surdovel, *Young Leaguers Chair*

If I walked down the street and asked you if men and women had equal rights in the United States, would you say yes? About 70 percent of Americans believe that women already have equal rights. The U.S. Senate recently failed to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Although they had 51 yes votes, they needed 60 to pass. Forty-six legislators voted no and confirmed that even in 2023, they do not consider women equal.

The question is, "Why?"

Do not get me wrong; women have progressed much over the past hundred years, but we still have many obstacles to overcome. When your rights are not enshrined in constitutional writing, things can be complicated.

I know what you are thinking: "You thought when women got the right to vote in 1920 that they had equal rights." I wish that were true, but most history classes do not tell you that women have gained rights through Supreme Court cases for decades. Did you know women were not allowed to sit on juries until 1947? You can thank *Faye v. New York* for that. It was not until 1965, through *Griswold v. Connecticut*, that married women were permitted access to birth control. Through another case in 1972, *Eisenstadt v. Baird*, unmarried women were granted the right to access contraception.



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CLERK OFFERS PAYMENT PLANS FOR FINES, FEES

By Kathy Burstein, *Chief Communications Officer, Clerk & Comptroller*

Do you know someone with overdue traffic fines or criminal court fees in Palm Beach County? The Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, Palm Beach County, offers payment plans so people can pay set amounts each month toward their cases. The Clerk's office makes it easy to set up a plan online and establish regular payments that work for any budget. Payments can be made online, by mobile app, by phone, by mail and in person.

To learn more about the Clerk's payment plans for overdue court fines and fees, visit MyPalmBeachClerk.com/PaymentPlan.

ONLINE ORIENTATION 'TASTE' WAS SPLENDID

By **Darlene Kostrub**, *Membership Chair*

A dynamic hour of online learning about the Palm Beach County League and its programs was held April 29 for 19 newer League members and four prospective members. Special thanks to **Bonnie Greenberg** and **Carol Rinaldi** for their technical assistance to make the hour go so smoothly. Also, special recognition goes to **Marcy Brody**, **Kathi Gundlach** and **Kate Renchin** for their informative presentations on Gun Safety, Education and Election Protection. We appreciate the Issue Group Leaders giving their Saturday morning to talk about the work of their groups.



Our next Taste of the League orientation will be Saturday, Sept. 9, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Zoom. If you have never attended a League orientation, please save this date. Registration information will be given this summer.

You are the best outreach worker for the League as you share with your friends and neighbors all that you have learned being part of League. Invite them to attend a Hot Topic event and to be on the Sept. 9 call.

Thanks to all for your support of our Membership efforts!



LWVFL DENOUNCES ANTI-VOTER ELECTION PACKAGE

TALLAHASSEE — In response to the final passage of Florida's Senate Bill 7050 on April 28, League of Women Voters of Florida President **Cecile M. Scoon, Esq.** issued the following statement:

“The League of Women Voters of Florida expresses deep disappointment in Florida’s state Legislature as both chambers have passed Senate Bill 7050 (2023). **The League believes the bill’s sweeping changes will make it harder for Floridians to register to vote and undermine Florida’s reputation as a gold standard of election administration.**

This bill continues the consistent and intentional efforts of the Legislature to muzzle and ignore the votes and voices of Florida citizens. **Senate Bill 7050 does nothing to make voting easier or more secure, nor does it address the problems of Florida’s labyrinthine process of determining voter eligibility.**



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LWVFL, NAACP Florida State Conference File Suit Over Florida’s Flawed Voter Registration Form

Omissions put thousands of Floridians with past criminal convictions at risk of criminal prosecution.

TALLAHASSEE — The League of Women Voters of Florida and the Florida State Conference of the NAACP **filed suit** in federal court in late April against Florida’s Secretary of State, charging that the state’s **voter registration application** violates the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. The civil rights organizations allege that the form’s lack of information about the voter eligibility requirements for Floridians with past convictions creates confusion, impedes the organizations’ voter registration activities, and puts people in danger of criminal penalties.

The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law, American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of Florida, the Legal Defense Fund, and O’Melveny & Myers represents the League of Women Voters of Florida and the Florida NAACP in the suit.

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LWVFL to Support Constitutional Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion

TALLAHASSEE — A coalition entitled “Floridians Protecting Freedom” has launched a citizen-led ballot initiative campaign to give women the right to seek abortions up to viability. Florida voters want women to have the chance to ensure that their personal medical decisions are theirs and theirs alone to make. **The League of Women Voters of Florida Board of Directors has voted to support this citizen initiative effort.**

The decision of whether or not to have an abortion belongs to Floridians, their families, and those they trust — this campaign is an opportunity to further enshrine those protections in our state constitution.

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PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Contact information is available in the Member Directory at LWVPBC.org

Charlie Bruin (Delray Beach); **Reuben Johnson** (Palm Beach); **Dianne Kaplan** (Delray Beach); **Vivian Lonetto** (Boynton Beach); **Nancy Marcus** (Palm Beach); **Gail Pullman** (Boca Raton); **Elaine Rodriguez** (Loxahatchee); **Amanda Sherrill** (Lake Worth); **Maureen Thompson** (Boca Raton).

Questions? Call or text Darlene Kostrub at (561) 573-6384 or email Members@LWVPBC.org.

REMINDERS

YOUR Vote by Mail
Application Has

EXPIRED

REAPPLY NOW!



2023-24 DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

By Joyce Sullivan, *Development Co-Chair*

The Directory is available both in print and online. The online version is located in the [Voter Toolkit](#) on our website, LWVPBC.org. It has links to websites and email addresses for all officials. Our flyers are ready for Voter Services and others with the newly created QR code that takes you directly to the Toolkit.

Please take the time to share the online version and let Christene Campbell-Gabor know if you need a few more printed copies. Reach her at Christene.LWVPBC@gmail.com.

DIRECTORY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Palm Beach County
2023 - 2024

PREPARED BY



The League of Women Voters
is a nonpartisan political organization
encouraging informed and active participation in
government. We influence public policy through
education and advocacy. We never support or
oppose any political party or candidate.

Our mission:
Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

Our vision:
We envision a democracy where every person
has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and
the confidence to participate.

lwvpbc.org

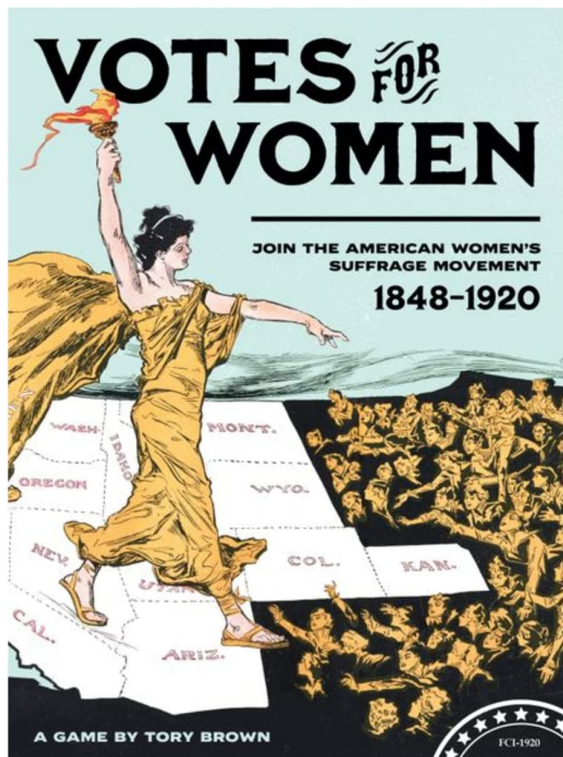
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And

The Palm Beach Post

A MILESTONE GIFT: WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE GAME



Votes for Women, designed by Tory Brown and published by Fort Circle Games, recounts the story of how suffragists won the right to vote in 1920 through the 19th Amendment. The card-driven game detailing events from Seneca Falls, N.Y., to the ratification of the 19th Amendment features period artwork and historical documents.

The League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago in 1920, just six months before the 19th amendment was ratified and women won the vote. The League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women fulfill their new responsibilities as voters.

"Women had to fight to win the right to vote, and particularly today, when democracy is under threat,

we look for new ways of sharing our history and the importance of voting with the next generation of voters," said Virginia Kase Solomón, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the US. "Votes for Women is an engaging way to share those lessons as we strive to protect every American's freedom to vote."

The 19th Amendment was a major milestone in American history and an incredible accomplishment for a social movement; however, it did not guarantee all women the right to vote. The amendment notably enabled states to exclude Black women, especially in the South, and allowed the federal government to deny other women of color citizenship.

[READ MORE](#)

**Show your League Spirit
by wearing your shirts and hats!**

GET YOUR LEAGUE ON!
The League Merch Store is Now Open!



Our **NEW SHOP PAGE** is open on the website and ready for your order. Wear your shirt to a League meeting and we will post your picture on our website!



**Show that you
STAND WITH THE LEAGUE!**

SHOP NOW!



**DO YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?
DO YOU LIKE TO BE WHERE THE ACTION IS?
DO YOU LIKE TO TAKE PICTURES?**

Then we need you on our Communications Team!
Contact Communications@LWVPBC.org.



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