

August 2023 NEWS - League of Women Voters Palm Beach County

League of Women Voters Palm Beach County <communications@lwvpbc.org>
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Tue 8/15/2023 3:33 PM

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — AUGUST 2023

LUNCHEON, LOSS, LEADERSHIP AND A LOOK AHEAD



As the weather continues to heat up, so does the LWVPBC. Our inaugural fund raiser is set for Oct. 18 at Benvenuto in Boynton Beach. We are excited to honor our Supervisor of Elections, **Wendy Sartory Link**, as the first Mavericks and Heroes honoree. **Brian Crowley**, political commentator, will be the featured speaker and broadcast journalist **Tania Rogers** will be honorary chair and emcee.

The Fundraiser Committee needs all hands on deck. You can buy your tickets now at

<https://lwvpbc.org/event/fundraising-luncheon-2023>. We are looking for volunteers to help with many

aspects of the event: sponsorships, invitations, securing silent auction items, helping with tables — as well as on the day of the event. It will be a lot of fun and we hope you will volunteer. **Contact: Cathy Einhorn at (561) 247-0221 or vpres2@lwvpbc.org.**

We will launch **The Nancy Cohen League Leadership Program** this month. Cohen, a longtime member who died recently, had urged a number of us to develop a program to ensure a plan to develop future leaders of LWVPBC. A committee was established to plan the program based on the Collier County model. An upcoming email to all members will include information

about the agenda and schedule. You will be able to nominate yourself or another member to participate in the program.

[READ MORE](#)

NANCY COHEN, A 'WARRIOR FOR THE LEAGUE'

By Kathi Gundlach, President

It is with great sadness that I let you know we have lost a true warrior for the League with the passing of **Nancy Cohen**. Nancy truly loved the League and its members. She worked until the end of her life to make sure to impart important information to many of us.

As I received numerous emails concerning Nancy's passing I was amazed at how many lives she touched. Common threads were found throughout the emails including: she was my mentor, she was always available, she touched us with her smile and enthusiasm, she was my "go-to" person, and her spirit, integrity and commitment to the League had a major and enduring impact.

Nancy was an inspiration to me. As expressed by many, she was always available to talk and lend her support. I often turned to Nancy with questions and concerns and she was able to lead me in the right direction. She helped me to become a better leader and in many ways a better person. At times I still think about calling her with a question or just to talk. I miss her every day and know many of you feel the same way. Together we can continue her legacy and keep the League moving forward.

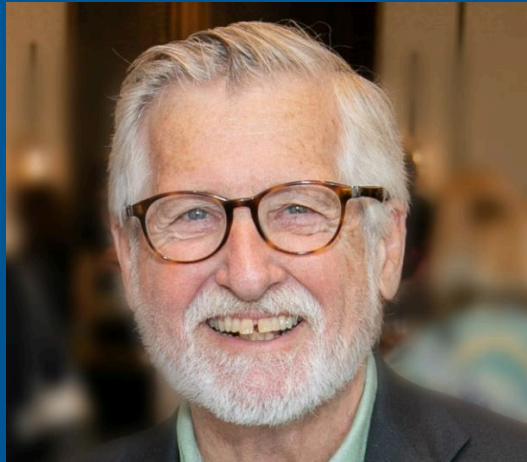
To see her obituary in the Palm Beach Post, click this

link: <https://www.palmbeachpost.com/obituaries/pwpb0531322>





I STAND WITH THE LEAGUE LUNCHEON & AWARDS



OCTOBER 18, 2023

Benvenuto, 1730 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach

Keynote Speaker: Brian Crowley

Editor of the Crowley Political Report and WPTV Political Commentator

Honorary Chair and Emcee: Tania Rogers

WPTV Anchor/Reporter, News Channel 5

Special Honoree: Wendy Sartory Link
Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections

**Find Tickets, Sponsorships and More Details
HERE!**

We are looking for volunteers to help with many different aspects of the event:

Sponsors • Invitations • Silent Auction

It will be a lot of fun and we hope you will lend a hand!

If you are interested, or for more information, please contact Cathy
Einhorn, VPres2@LWVPBC.org.

League to address African American history education standards

'We are planning to address these misleading offensive statements as the League on our own, and in concert with many historical groups that educate on African American history.'

One of the recent challenges in Florida is the newly announced standards of African American History established by a Florida Department of Education board. **These standards include a curriculum that claims slavery actually taught slaves skills that some were able to use for their own benefit. This is an outrage! The League will not quietly let this pass by.**

We are planning to address these misleading offensive statements as the League on our own, and in concert with many historical groups that educate about African American history, see the connection between erasing the history of minority groups and limiting the participation of minority groups in civic engagement.

— **Cecile M. Scoon, Esq., Co-President**



EDUCATION ADVOCACY GROUP LAUNCHES PETITION



In July, the Florida Board of Education passed African American History standards for grades K-12. These standards aim to teach the rich and complicated history of African Americans. This approval is just the start of a work in progress. The FLBOE has its next meeting on Aug. 23, and Families for Strong Public Schools is requesting the following be changed and/or added to the current standards:

1. Change the language of standards to address that enslaved people did not benefit from being enslaved.
2. Create and include standards that teach the history of the African diaspora to properly reflect the history of African peoples.
3. Create and include standards that teach about the African American experience post-1965 to the modern day.

[READ MORE](#)

You Can Help Determine LWWFL 2024 Legislative Priorities

The League of Women Voters of Florida will have four legislative priority issue areas for the 2024 state legislative session, which begins in January. The Board has predetermined that “voting and election reform” will remain its top priority this session; the other three will be determined by submissions from local Leagues coupled with LWWFL Board input.

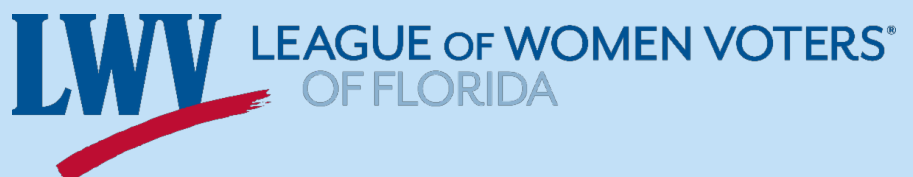
LWWFL hosted an all-member listening session Aug. 14, and a second will be held Aug. 30, to hear from our broader membership on the issues they see as important. The Aug. 30 session will take place at noon, ET.

- [Click here to register](#)

In addition to voting rights and election reform, our 10 other current issue areas are:

- Clean Energy
- Education
- Gun Safety

[READ MORE](#)



THANKS TO PALM BEACH COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

By Rich Bartholomew, Advocacy Chair

The **Advocacy Committee** is working to facilitate a “Thank You” press conference for our bipartisan Tallahassee Legislative Delegation, to be held Sept. 13 at the Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach. In spite of all the partisan divisions facing Florida, they worked together to produce an extraordinary number of grants and other benefits during the 2023 session. Their successes are recorded in their Annual Report. Access it here:



Participants will include the **Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network**, the **Alpert Center**, the **Els Center** and **Boca Raton**.



MEMBERS MEETING ON ZOOM

**Wednesday, August 16th at Noon
via ZOOM**



The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County (LWVPBC) invites all members to an informative Hot Topic Discussion.

- **GETTING READY FOR FALL 2023**

- UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS
- STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS
- LWVPBC UPDATE
- COMMITTEE PLANS AND PROJECTS
- GET READY TO BE ENERGIZED!

JOIN US ON ZOOM

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

The LWVPBC **Membership Committee** invites newer members and others interested in joining the League to two Special Events ... Please plan to attend both!



**You are invited to a
Meet and Greet for newer members of
The League of Women Voters of PBC
Wednesday, September 13
5-7 p.m.**



**At the home of Liz Shapiro
Ironhorse Country Club, West Palm Beach**

**A chance to meet other League members &
learn more about the League**

RSVP: members@lwvpbc.org

(A more formal New Member Orientation will take place
Saturday, Nov. 4, 10-Noon at the Stem Center in WPB
across from the So. FL Science Museum. **Come to both!**)

Text or phone Darlene Kostrub 561-276-4898 with questions.

Register for the Meet and Greet at Members@LWVPBC.org or text/call (561) 276-4898.

Then attend our next **Taste of the League Orientation** on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. to noon.

This also is for New Members and others interested in the League. Issue Group Leaders will be present to tell about the work of their various committees. This is only offered two or three times a year.



The location is:

STEM Education Building across from the South Florida Science Center, 4801 Dreher Trail North, West Palm Beach

Register by email to Members@LWVPBC.org or call (561) 276-4898. If you have never attended a League orientation, please do save this date.

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 attend these two membership events. Thanks to all for your support of our Membership efforts!

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

Our annual **Connect and Reboot** event will be held **Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to noon**, at the South County Civic Center at 16700 Jog Road in Delray Beach. **Carey Haughwout**, Palm Beach County Public Defender, will be our featured speaker. **Get the date on your calendar!**

ASK US ABOUT NPV — IT'S GAINING TRACTION

By **Daniel Lishansky**, *NPV Chair*

At the June 2023 League of Women Voters U.S. Convention in Las Vegas, guess what was adopted as one of the two leading issues for the National League? Yes, National Popular Vote! It was the talk of the convention, with workshops, presentations, and lots of chatter by officers, delegates and staff.

The national League is moving at full speed with National Popular Vote. Its plan is part of a multi-decade effort, the goal of which is election of the U.S. President and Vice President by popular vote.

This was not a minor feat. During the previous three years there was a lot of behind-the-scenes work by LWVFL, especially by current Co-Presidents **Cecile Scoon** and **Debbie Chandler**. And **Kathleen Crampton**, from LWVPBC and Chair of Floridians for National Popular Vote, was instrumental in guiding everyone along. The result was even bigger than these champions imagined.

The logo for the National Popular Vote features the text 'National Popular Vote!' in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font. A large blue checkmark is superimposed over the word 'Vote!', with the checkmark's head pointing towards the bottom right.

[READ MORE](#)

Link: Help Democracy by being an Election Worker in 2024 Cycle



Election workers play an essential role in our democratic process. They assist with everything from setting up voting machines to ensuring voters have a smooth and positive experience at the polls. Dedicated election workers help ensure successful elections. We want Palm Beach County to continue to be recognized as having one of the best election experiences in the state, and that will take all of us working together to achieve that.

Election workers are paid positions and provide an opportunity for individuals to earn a little extra money while fulfilling their civic duty. Pay ranges from \$190 to \$375, depending on the election worker's position. We also offer community service hours.

We provide comprehensive training for all election workers to ensure they are well-prepared for their roles, and we will make every effort to accommodate their preferences so they can serve at a location near their home.

[READ MORE](#)

YOU SAID IT: Staying on Low Road for Florida Court System

By Ira J. Raab

Palm Beach County League member Ira J. Raab of West Palm Beach is a retired justice of the New York State Supreme Court. The Palm Beach Post published his Opinion column on Aug. 13.

Gerrymandering is the deliberate manipulation of electoral district boundaries by a political party to achieve an unfair advantage over rivals.

In Florida, the political party in power redraws district lines every 10 years, after the federal census. Drawing district lines for the Florida House and Senate is done by the Florida Legislature, subject only to Florida Supreme Court review. Florida's Congressional districts, by contrast, are subject to

veto by the governor, which can be overridden only by a vote of two-thirds of each legislative chamber.

[READ MORE](#)

MORE DATES TO SAVE

Sept. 20 Hot Topic:
Schools Superintendent Mike Burke,
at the Mounts Botanical Garden.



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

By Nancy Gau, Health Care Co-chair

Per the American Federation of Suicide Prevention, suicide is the 14th leading cause of death in Florida. Please see the rack card below, courtesy of our **Gun Safety Interest Group**, and be aware of the signs and symptoms. To learn more or to join our team in the Out of Darkness walk on Sept. 30, please contact **Nancy Gau** at (561) 439-4522 or at jessiestar2@icloud.com. You may help to save a life.

CONCERNED
ABOUT
A FAMILY
MEMBER OR
FRIEND?





Are they thinking about suicide?

Do they:

- Talk about wanting to die
- Feel trapped or in unbearable pain
- Worry about being a burden to others
- Feel hopeless or feel they have no reason to live
- Withdraw or isolate themselves
- Increase the use of alcohol or drugs
- Feel anxious or agitated; behave recklessly
- Show rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Have extreme mood swings

NEED HELP?

Call or Text 988 to get connected

**SUICIDES IN FLORIDA
FAR OUTNUMBER HOMICIDES**

SUICIDE ATTEMPTS WITH GUNS

ARE FAR MORE DEADLY THAN
OTHER METHODS

FIREARMS ARE THE LEADING
METHOD OF SUICIDE IN FLORIDA

HELP SAVE A LIFE

- Ask directly if they are thinking about suicide and listen.
- Putting time and distance between a person thinking about suicide and a gun may save a life.
- Offer to store a firearm for your loved one until they are feeling well.
- Encourage them to keep their firearm locked and unloaded.

NEED HELP?
Call or Text 988
Press 1 for Veterans
Press 2 for Spanish



Or
Text *"Talk"* to 741741 for English or *"Ayuda"*
for Spanish

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

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

Cyndi Bloom (Boca Raton); **Kathleen Connors** (Boynton Beach); **Margie Holtz** (Delray Beach); **Jennifer Kay** (Boynton Beach); **Madeline Klein** (West Palm Beach); **Lynn Read** (Lake Worth); **Chris Schimmel** (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!



FLORIDIANS
PROTECTING  **FREEDOM**

**LEAGUE SUPPORTING TWO PETITION DRIVES:
ABORTION ACCESS AND CLEAN WATERS IN FLORIDA**

By Phyllis Applebaum, Voter Services Chair

We have already been collecting petitions for the Abortion Access constitutional amendment proposed by Floridians Protecting Freedom, and have recently begun collecting petitions for the Right to Clean and Healthy Waters as well.



Even though SB 7050 has mandated restrictions on our voter registration activities after July 1, there are no restrictions on gathering petitions, nor on gathering Vote by Mail applications. A reminder that only petitions signed by registered Florida voters will be accepted.

[READ MORE](#)

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

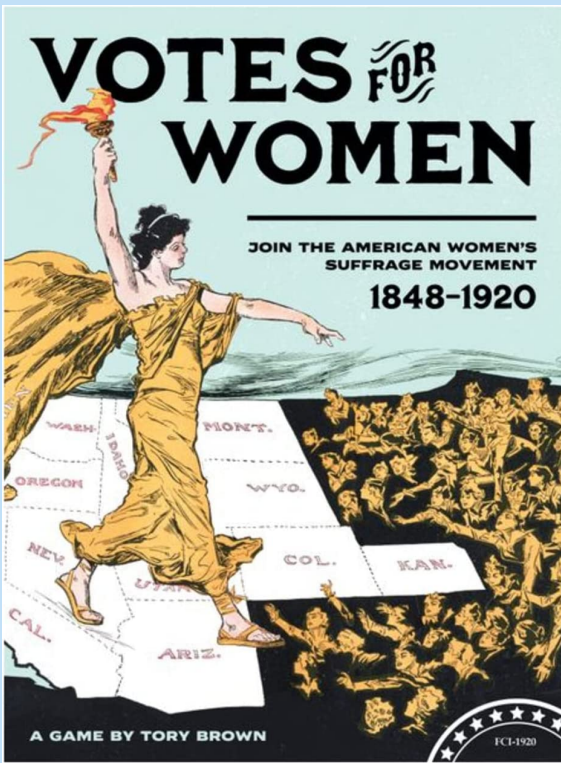
PREPARED BY



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.

Founded in 2017, Fort Circle Games designs board games based on historical events. Fort Circle Games is based in Washington, D.C., and is named after the network of fortifications that



defended the city during the Civil War.

The game Votes for Women can be purchased for \$75 (including shipping) at [VotesForWomen.com](https://www.VotesForWomen.com). The League of Women Voters receives a donation for each game purchased.

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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