

League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County December 2022 NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's amazing to me that we're already so close to the end of the year. Where did the time go? I hope everyone had a peaceful and restful Thanksgiving. As I reflect back on the year, we have traveled very far, from the waning of the pandemic to being able to meet in person once again. While we're still working out the kinks for in-person events, it's been wonderful to be able to see everyone.

While this year started off with difficulties, we were able to turn it around and had many triumphs and exciting events. I want to thank all our wonderful volunteers. We are an organization of volunteers, whether we give our time, money or both.

Our committees and interest groups are the backbone of the League.

- Voter Services, led by **Phyllis Applebaum**, was able to register more than 3,300 citizens this year. Thank you for a job well done.

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ISSUE GROUPS, COMMITTEES TACKLE MANY EFFORTS IN 2022

By Marcia Herman, 1st Vice President

The Advocacy Issue Group trained members to interact with locally elected officials to build an ongoing connection with our League.

Additionally, in the Palm Beach County chapter of the League:

* The Voter Services Committee registered hundreds of eligible voters at public events and at schools and colleges.

* The Speakers Bureau Committee educated and informed more than 1,000 individuals in advance of the 2022 Midterm elections.

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VOLUNTEERS MAKE PBC LEAGUE SHINE

By **Marcia Herman**, *1st Vice President*

The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County relies on volunteers to do the important work of our organization: informing, educating and registering voters. The League is a non-partisan political organization; it does not endorse or oppose political candidates or parties at any level of government. Our mission is to empower voters and defend democracy. Through the leadership of our committees, interest groups and board of directors our volunteers worked many hours each month supporting this mission.

A couple of kudos in particular:

From **Kathleen R. Crampton**: **Tom St. Onge** has been my “right hand” in helping to rebuild our newly emerging National Popular Vote Committee in Palm Beach County. Although very quiet, Tom never fails to deliver on his commitments. He contacts prospective committee members, works with me in managing some of our legislative contacts and always knows how to frame a discussion or memo. And most importantly, when I forget something or phrase things a bit too aggressively, he reminds me most graciously. Tom needs to be recognized for his commitment and diligent efforts for the National Popular Vote.

From **Darlene Kostrub**: The Membership Committee would like to recognize **Alice Mann**. Alice has had a challenging year, dealing with COVID and other health issues, but through it all she managed the delivery of League name tags that were ordered. She purchases the mailers,

writes personal notes to the recipients and mails the tags at the Post Office. Each part of this process has its challenges. We salute Alice for her persistence to support the League during a challenging year. She is one of the most cheerful and dependable people we know.

From **Cathy Einhorn**: I want to thank **Ashley Cacicedo-Surdoval** for all the social media support she provides to the Communications team. When I took this position, I had not previously held a chair with the League, and she was my go-to for social media questions. She always steps up when there are tight deadlines, and her talent with graphics is great. She has a thorough understanding of the League, and has helped and guided me on many occasions. I look forward to our continued collaboration and building the League's reach in the community.

A very big Thank You to ELLEN GALKIN for generously hosting the Members' Mix and Mingle Party at her fabulous home in Broken Sound.





VOTERS' GUIDE DISTRIBUTION A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR



By **Christene Campbell-Gabor**, *Civics Education Chair*

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the 34 volunteers who helped distribute the 2022 Voters Guide. You made a huge difference for the people who found the ballot difficult to understand and for everyone who needed information about the candidates so they could make their decision.

A special thank you to **Morgan Lury** and **Jay Shooster** who stepped in to help when we needed them the most. Morgan took over distribution in Jupiter when someone fell ill. Jay picked up 3,000 Spanish copies, which we received quite late, and brought them to libraries, grocery stores and more on the same day he picked them up.

[READ MORE](#)

REAPPLY NOW TO VOTE BY MAIL

By **Phyllis Applebaum**, *Voter Services chair*

The election is over, and the Vote By Mail applications of everyone in Palm Beach County have expired. Now is the time to reapply for VBM using the online automated form.

Go to VotePalmBeach.gov, select the large Vote by Mail icon, then click the Request a Vote by Mail, a big red button. Complete the questionnaire.

Some caveats:

- If you've lived in Florida many years, you may not have any IDs on file at the Supervisor of Elections Office and may not be able to complete this VBM sign-up. In that case, you'll first have to go to RegistertoVoteFlorida.gov to update your voter registration. This automated form requires both your Driver License number and the last 4 digits of your Social Security number.

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WHAT JUST HAPPENED — AND A NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE UPDATE

By Shirley Arcuri, NPV Co-chair, LWV Hillsborough County

As Americans we can be extremely proud of a record turnout in a midterm election. We are still nearly split into two distinctive factions, but democracy prevailed because (1) centrist Americans came out in droves to defeat extremists; (2) Americans know a lie when they hear it; and (3) even under economic pressure, Americans supported democratic principles over their own wallets.

With democracy on the ballot, millions used their vote to affirm their belief in our democratic system of one person, one vote. While many election deniers won congressional seats, Democrats held the Senate majority and the Republicans won a slim lead in the House of Representatives.

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TRACING ALABAMA'S CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL

By Christene Campbell-Gabor, *Civics Education chair*

Words alone cannot express what my husband, Tom Gabor, and I felt when we went to Alabama to visit the Civil Rights Trail sites in November. Courage, hate, triumph, fear, sadness, pride, love, hope – so many powerful emotions.

The Lowndes Interpretive Center between Montgomery and Selma showed a film that every single American should see. I am trying to get a copy of the film to show at a League event. I feel certain that seeing it would make everyone aware of the consequences of their vote and the importance of the work we do registering voters. The Legacy and Rosa Parks Museums in Montgomery were both amazing. They showed us details that most people are unaware of from Enslavement to Mass Incarceration.

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THOUGHTS FROM NATIONAL LWV ON SCOTUS CASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The League of Women Voters and Fair Elections Center released the following statements after the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments for the *Moore v. Harper* case:

"The Independent State Legislature Theory is a dangerous, fringe ideology that has massive implications for the future of our democracy," said Virginia Kase Solomón, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States. "Even the narrowest ruling in favor of the ISLT will cause chaos in our election administration system and remove longstanding checks and balances that ensure voters are not victims of power-hungry legislatures. Elections must work for our democracy to work."

"What Americans heard ... was the Justices struggling out loud to find a limiting principle for this dangerous and unprecedented theory, and they came up empty-handed," said Jon Sherman, litigation director at Fair Elections Center. "If adopted, the Independent State Legislature Theory would infect every aspect of election administration. Whenever state courts strike down state election laws, they will split voting rules and burden and confuse election officials and voters alike."

The League of Women Voters joined the rally at the Supreme Court today, in partnership with Common Cause and Southern Coalition for Social Justice. Voters from across the country came together in front of the Court to call attention to the harmful effects of the Independent State Legislature Theory.

This fall, the League of Women Voters of the United States and League chapters from all 50 states and the District of Columbia filed an amicus brief in the *Moore v. Harper* case focusing on the massive implications of the ISLT for every state and on the future of American democracy. The League is represented by Fair Elections Center and O'Melveny & Myers LLP.



THANKSGIVING BASKETS WENT TO PBC FOSTER FAMILIES

By **Ashley Cacicedo-Surdoval**, *Young Leaguers chair*

What started as a simple act on social media grew into something so much bigger. Young Leaguers Chair Ashley Cacicedo-Surdoval shared a flyer asking to donate Thanksgiving baskets to foster families in our community with her friends and committee members.

Numerous League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County committees then expressed interest in the project and League President Kathi Gundlach collected several baskets at the Hot Topic Luncheon.

On Nov. 21, Ashley gathered a total of 14 baskets and delivered them to Friends of Foster Children of Palm Beach County. The staff was so excited to see that her car was full of food for the families. Our League appreciates everyone who made the holiday special for those in need.





PLEASE HELP US BRIGHTEN THE HOLIDAYS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY

On Saturday, Dec. 17, we will meet at the Palm Beach County Community Services Building, starting at 8:30 a.m. Gifts will be wrapped throughout the day until all gifts are ready for distribution.

Please attend and help out for a few hours based on your availability (morning is preferred).

Palm Beach County Community Services is at 810 Datura St. in downtown West Palm Beach. If you will be volunteering at this event please confirm by contacting youngleaguerspbc@gmail.com or call (732) 757-9943.

We need your help making sure all 1,400-plus foster children in Palm Beach County receive gifts.

You can:

- 1) Shop for Friends of Foster Children's Amazon wishlist: bit.ly/ffcamazontoys
- 2) Donate online: bit.ly/ffctoydrive
- 3) Drop off toys at the Friends for Foster Children Office by December 16: 4100 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach, 33409

Please you join us in [#FosteringHappyHolidays](https://www.instagram.com/ffcholiday) this year!

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
HOT TOPIC



State of the County

Please join us as **Verdenia Baker, Palm Beach County Administrator** tells us about accomplishments & challenges from 2022; strategic and legislative priorities for 2023; the challenges & opportunities presented by inflation and the economy; the influx of corporate relocations & growth, as well as the composition of the new Board of County Commissioners.

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

11:00 am –1:00 pm

(11:00 – arrival; 11:30 – lunch served; 12:00 – presentation)

***Mel's Way Bistro, 3536 Via Poinciana
Lake Worth, FL 33467***

Lunch: choice of Regular or Vegetarian - \$35

REGISTER HERE

Share the link- <https://lwvpbc.org/event/jan-hot-topic-state-of-the-county/>

Reservations MUST be made by 1/11/23 online or by mail.

Mail to: LWVPBC, 9314 Forest Hill Blvd, Suite 640 Wellington, FL 33411

Please Note: Walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Fee is nonrefundable.

LIVESTREAMED on Facebook

GOT HEALTH INSURANCE?

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LIFE HAPPENS!

Qualifying Life Events:

- 1 Low family income or change in income.
- 2 Loss of medical coverage.
- 3 Moving to a new county or state.
- 4 Any change in household size.
- 5 New or change in immigration status.

www.EpilepsyAllianceFL.com/MakeAnAppointment

OPEN ENROLLMENT WINDOW ENDS JANUARY 15

By **Nancy Gau**, *Healthcare Co-chair*

Dear LWV Healthcare supporters: The Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) kicked off its annual open enrollment runs through Jan. 15. Every year, for the past 10 years, we have assisted local navigators in getting the word out about this open enrollment. ACA has become very popular and more affordable, yet still, too many Floridians remain uninsured.

I am distributing 500 of these Health Insurance cards (above) to libraries. You can help by making copies of this flyer and leaving them at your houses of worship, community centers, clubhouses and other locations. If you participate, please let me know how many flyers you distributed and where so I can pass this information to the lead navigator. [Click here to download and print the Health Insurance card.](#)

Thanking you for your help!

LISTEN, LEARN, LOVE THE LEAGUE EVENT



For All League Members and Guests
(A combined Taste of the League & Connect and Reboot event)

Saturday, February 4th, 10 am-Noon

**South County Civic Center
16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach**

Issue Group Leaders will update all on their current work...

Reconnect with old League friends...

Welcome new/er League members.

Special Guest Speaker: Cecile Scoon, LWVFL President

All are welcome! Bring friends.
Registration is required.

Text/call: 561-573-6384

Email: membership@lwvpbc.org

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

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

Susan Cohen (Lake Worth); Madeline Lee (West Palm Beach); Margie Meyer (Boynton Beach); Roberta Popper (Boynton Beach); Kathleen Ryan (West Palm Beach)

Questions? Call Darlene Kostrub at (561) 276-4898 or email membership@lwvpbc.org.

ICYMI

November 16 Hot Topic

Strengthening Medicaid and Medicare

The lunch and lecture, by Florida Voices for Health at Mel's Way Bistro in Lake Worth, explained the latest developments around Medicaid and the campaign for Medicaid expansion, as well as recent changes to Medicare and campaigns to improve the oral health benefit.

December 2 Lunch & Learn Disability Rights Florida

This webinar centered around the intersectionality of disability rights and voting rights. Nearly 30 years after the Americans with Disabilities Act, 60% of polling places still have impediments to people with disabilities. And yet, according to the Center for American Progress, nearly 62% of voters with disabilities voted in November 2020, compared to just 56% in 2016. For more information about the Lunch & Learn series, visit [LWVFL.org](https://www.lwvfl.org).

Join the upcoming December 16th Lunch & Learn at 1:00 p.m. (ET)...

as we learn more from LWVFL Board Member Jennifer Adams on effective ways we all can use the power of the League and grassroots advocacy to champion an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

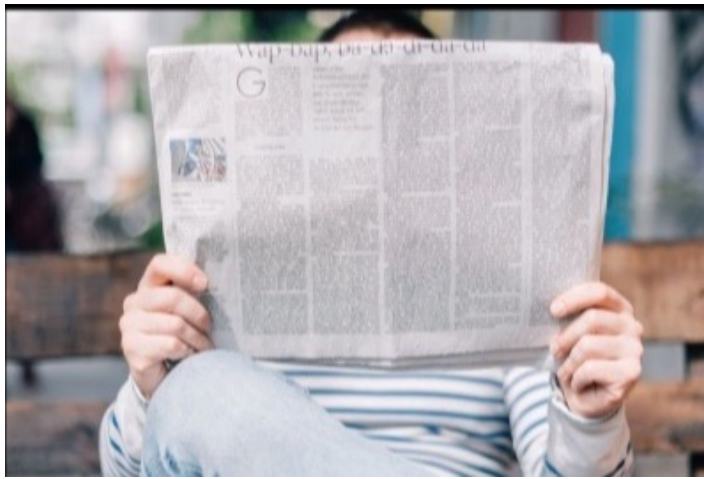


YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING CAN SUPPORT THE LEAGUE

Are you an Amazon holiday shopper? Did you know you can select LWVPBC as a benefit charity through Amazon Smile? When you do, we receive a small donation every time you make a purchase on Amazon.

To get started, click on the logo above in your browser and you'll go straight to the League's AmazonSmile sign-up page.

Don't forget to bookmark [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) to make sure you're shopping through AmazonSmile and generate donations to empower voters and defend democracy.



**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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