



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

YOUR VOTE BY MAIL HAS EXPIRED!



All **Vote-By-Mail** (VBM) applications for all voters in Florida have expired. Now is the time to reapply, as municipal elections will be conducted March 14 for 17 municipalities. **Vote-By-Mail** requests must be received by the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) by March 4, 2023, if a ballot is to be mailed. After that date, you can go to the SOE, fill out an application, and pick up your ballot — through March 13. **Your ballot must be in by March 14 to be counted.** (Postmarks don't count.)

Although the VBM ballot envelope is postage paid, you should allow two weeks for delivery. You can drop off your ballot at the four SOE offices. There is no early voting in municipal elections. If voting in person, bring an appropriate ID.

To request a **Vote-By-Mail** ballot you must first be a registered voter in Florida. (Feb. 13 is the last day to register to vote in the March 14 election.) There are four ways to request a **Vote-By-Mail** ballot from the Supervisor of Elections office:

- Submit an online application on the Supervisor of Elections website. VotePalmBeach.gov/Voters/Vote-By-Mail
- Call the Supervisor of Elections office at (561) 656-6200
- Submit a written request to the Supervisor of Elections office by email, fax or mail.
Email: VoteByMail@VotePalmBeach.gov
Fax: (561) 656-6287
Mail: Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections, P.O. Box 22309, West Palm Beach, FL 33416
- Request in person at one of the four Supervisor of Elections offices.

[READ MORE](#)

COMING SOON: 2023-24 DIRECTORY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

By Joyce Sullivan
Development Co-Chair

This 2023-24 directory, which arrives Wednesday, March 1, will contain information on county, state and federal

officials who represent Palm Beach County.

As in past years, the directory also will be available on our website, LWVPBC.org, with the capability of sharing.

In addition to links to each official's contacts, we have links to district maps, municipalities and the Supervisor of Elections' website to get current information on voting laws and deadlines.

Distribution will include all county and city libraries, underserved areas in Palm Beach County, senior living facilities, voter registration sites and more.

Thanks to our team: Carol Carnevale, Connie Christians, Christene Campbell Gabor, Marion Lang, Pam Maldonado, Diane Marks, Maria Velez and our major sponsor, Elayne Goodman.

If you are interested in assisting with distribution, contact LegDirectory@LWVPBC.org.

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

UNDERWRITTEN BY

The publication of this Directory has been made possible by donations from the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach Education Fund

And

The Palm Beach Post

WILKERSON TO LEAD ADVOCACY TRAINING

By Rich Bartholomew
Advocacy Chair

The local Advocacy Committee of the LWVPBC has scheduled the first of three training sessions in effective techniques for working with elected and appointed officials. Karen Wilkerson will lead a one-hour Zoom session at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16.

The training is based on decades of successful lobbying experience. It will be valuable not just to persons newly engaged in advocacy activities but also for those who are experienced in this task. It involves a thorough and sophisticated approach developed over time.

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HOT TOPIC

Tomorrow's Newspaper

Tony Doris, Current Opinion Editor of the Palm Beach Post and Humorist

Tony describes himself as an occasional marathoner, crossword fanatic, lapsed guitarist and an embarrassing golfer.

His novels, *Dirt* and the sequel, *Floater*, are loosely based on his reporting of Miami corruption.

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

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

Mounts Botanical Garden

(Hutcheson Complex Exhibit Hall)

559 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Registration Fee of \$35 includes Lunch, Garden Tour option: \$12

REGISTER HERE

Share the link- <https://lwvpbc.org/event/hot-topic-march-2023/>
Reservations **MUST** be made by 3/8/23 online or by mail.

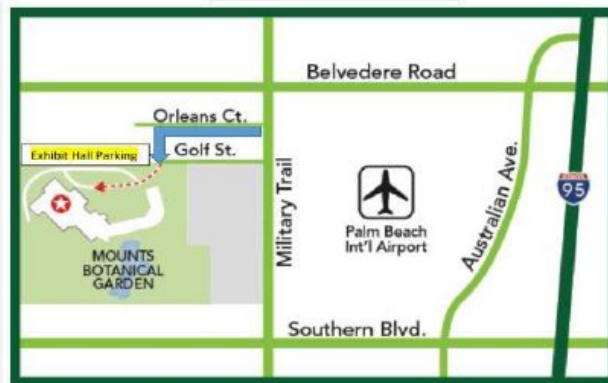
Mail checks to: LWVPBC, 9314 Forest Hill Blvd, Suite 640 Wellington, FL 33411

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



New at the Mounts

"Internationally acclaimed environmental artist Patrick Dougherty recently returned to Mounts Botanical Garden to construct the final large-scale Stickwork installation of his illustrious art career using 30,000 pounds of live willow branches. The walk-through exhibition—a/k/a "Palm Beach County's largest outdoor fort"—will be in the Garden through 2023."



Address: This address will lead you to the back entrance. Use the instructions below if you need assistance. 559 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Instructions to get to the Exhibit Hall at the Hutchinson Complex from Military

- From Military turn west on Orleans Ct. and enter the Hutcheson Agriculture Parking Lot
- From Golf St., go straight and make a left into the Hutcheson Agriculture Parking lot
 - Park in any available spaces near the flagpole
 - Go through the walkway that is to the left of the flagpole
- Keep walking straight. Exhibit Hall and Restrooms will be to your immediate left.

YOU CAN HELP DRESS FOR SUCCESS CLIENTS AT TODAY'S HOT TOPIC LUNCHEON

If you have registered for today's Hot Topic luncheon, we invite you to bring some items to help Dress for Success Palm Beaches clients: new mascara and toiletries, gently used accessories such as purses (especially black and brown) and shoes (pumps or flats), costume jewelry, and shopping bags from Marshalls or TJMaxx.

Joe Ann Fletcher, executive director of Dress for Success Palm Beaches, is today's luncheon speaker at Mel's Way Bistro, where she will explain how the organization helps prepare women for the workforce. Reservations have closed, and no walk-ins can be accommodated, but the program will be available later on the League's Facebook page.



Florida offers many taxpayer funded choices for students' education.

- District run neighborhood schools
- District run magnet schools
- Charter schools
- Virtual schools
- Vouchers and Education Savings Accounts
 - Private schools
 - Tutoring
 - Home schooling

Which choice provides the most robust education experience?

Research is mixed on academic outcomes for the various choices. Making an informed choice is essential for providing the best option for each child.

Take a look inside for comparisons...

The Florida Constitution requires a high quality free public education system.

Article IX states that "the education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida."

Article IX requires that the system be...

- Uniform
- Efficient
- Safe
- Secure
- High quality



League of Women Voters of Florida
lwvfl.org

"Education is the key to preserving democracy and assuring prosperity for all citizens."

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL CHOICE



A QUICK GLANCE

- Curriculum covers state standards based on national norms
- Certified professional teachers
- Certified professional administrators
- Governed by an elected school board
- Academic achievement assessed through state tests
- Oversight and accountability from the Florida DOE
- Neighborhood school locations
- Buildings meet safety and hurricane standards
- All students accepted regardless of special needs
- All students accepted regardless of gender identity
- Transportation provided
- Full offering of extracurricular activities
- Full offering of art, music, physical education
- Discipline policies published for public review
- Extra fees assessed

	District	Charter	Private
Curriculum covers state standards based on national norms	✓	✓	-
Certified professional teachers	✓	✓	-
Certified professional administrators	✓	✓	-
Governed by an elected school board	✓	-	-
Academic achievement assessed through state tests	✓	✓	-
Oversight and accountability from the Florida DOE	✓	✓	**
Neighborhood school locations	✓	-	-
Buildings meet safety and hurricane standards	✓	-	-
All students accepted regardless of special needs	✓	-	-
All students accepted regardless of gender identity	✓	✓	-
Transportation provided	✓	-	-
Full offering of extracurricular activities	✓	-	-
Full offering of art, music, physical education	✓	-	-
Discipline policies published for public review	✓	-	-
Extra fees assessed	-	✓	✓

✓ = Complies with state requirements
- = Not required to comply with state requirements

** NOTE: Public money for vouchers (scholarships) and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) are managed by a private scholarship funding organization (Step Up for Students) which receives up to 3% of every voucher and ESA awarded. Step Up for Students is among the largest charities in the United States with assets totaling more than \$1B.

References
 • <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/>
 • <https://www.orgforstudents.org/scholarships/>
 • <https://www.floridapolicy.org/policy/florida-latters-voucher-expansion-over-1-billion-from-public-schools-to-fund-private-education>
 • <https://lwvfl.org/step-up-for-students-preliminary-investigative-report/>

EDUCATED OPINIONS ON SCHOOL CHOICE

The League of Women Voters of Florida's positions on education includes promoting "adequate and equitable funding of public education and oppose use of public funding for the expansion of funding of private education, including through voucher program."

The Florida Policy Institute released this on Feb. 2.

Universal Voucher Program Under HB 1 Would Cost Billions, Analysis Finds

Funding for public school districts would drop by over \$900 per pupil if the Florida House's voucher expansion bill was enacted

TAMPA, Fla. — Legislation (HB 1) that would implement a massive expansion of Florida's voucher program by broadening eligibility to include all K-12 students in the state would redirect billions in state school aid from public to private schools, according to an [analysis](#) by Florida Policy Institute (FPI) and Education Law Center (ELC).

High-income families, current private school students, and homeschooled students would be newly eligible for vouchers under the proposed law. Even under conservative estimates, Florida Empowerment Scholarship (FES) vouchers would cost the state about \$4 billion dollars in the initial year of HB-1 implementation. This does not include costs for the proposed expansion of the Florida tax credit scholarship vouchers (\$568 million in 2021-22).

READ MORE

The Miami Herald published this editorial on Jan. 28.

Is Florida trying to destroy public schools in the name of parental choice? Sure looks like it | Opinion

By The Miami Herald Editorial Board

Florida could soon have two separate and unequal school systems.

One would be regulated by strict state laws on curriculum, testing, student performance, school grades, safety and even on how teachers can discuss race, gender and sexual orientation.

The other gets to slide by under the motto: "The fewer regulations, the better." Those schools don't have to be accredited by an outside organization, teachers don't have to be certified and curriculum requirements are lax. If those schools ignore evolution to teach creationism, it's not the state's business, yet taxpayers are still paying for them.

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LEAGUE RESPONDS TO BIDEN’S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The League of Women Voters of the United States president, Dr. Deborah Turner, issued the following statement in response to President Biden’s State of the Union address:

“In (his) State of the Union address, President Biden touched on many important issues impacting our country, including the foundation of our democracy.

“For the last few years, our democracy has been threatened and attacked. The continuous spread of lies and mis and disinformation has sown seeds of mistrust, which led to a deadly insurrection against the will of the American people. We must do more to fortify trust in our democratic institutions. There is no greater way to do that than to protect the right to vote — the backbone of our democracy.

[READ MORE](#)



'VINTAGE TWEETS' TALK ON TAP MARCH 1 AT HISTORY MUSEUM

The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum is co-hosting the upcoming Town Hall Talk “Vintage Tweets: Suffrage Era Postcards” with the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County. The talk, sponsored by Renee Johnson, JP Morgan Private Bank, will be given at the museum on Wednesday, March 1, at 6 p.m. in Boca Raton’s historic Town Hall at 71 N. Federal Highway.

Longtime human rights activist Carol Crossed purchased and restored the Susan B. Anthony birthplace in Adams, Mass., in 2006. Her book, *Vintage Tweets: Suffrage Era Postcards*, is an amusing and insightful look back at the women’s suffrage movement. She will explore both domestic and political views of the topic as found through vintage postcards, the social media of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



The event starts at 6 p.m. with check-in and refreshments, and the lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. This event is free for museum members, and \$10 for guests. For more information or to RSVP for this Town Hall Talk, please visit BocaHistory.org or call (561) 395-6766, ext. 100.

The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum is the home of the Boca Raton Historical Society, whose mission is to collect, preserve and present information and artifacts relevant to the past and evolving history of Boca Raton and to maintain a visible role in education and advocacy of historic preservation in the community. It is now open to the public Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



YOUNG LEAGUERS FOSTER CHILDREN

By Ashley Cacicedo-Surdovel

Young Leaguers Chair

On Feb. 4, the Young Leaguers committee made 150 Valentines for Friends of Foster Children of Palm Beach County, Inc. They were delivered on Feb. 8.

Thank you to everyone who participated, and Happy Valentine's Day to all the kids!

WE HELPED SHINE A LIGHT ON ACA ENROLLMENT

By Nancy Gau

Healthcare Co-chair

According to CMS.gov, approximately 16 million people have signed up for Affordable Health Coverage in the ACA Marketplaces during the 2022 Open Enrollment period (Nov. 1, 2022 to Jan. 15, 2023). This record-breaking enrollment represents a 13 percent increase over the previous year, including more than 3 million people new to the Marketplaces.

As of Jan. 7, Florida's total enrollment figure was 3,151,448. In Palm Beach County, our LWVPBC Healthcare Team (along with other LWVPBC committees and our other local partners) distributed approximately 1,400 copies of the flyer, in three languages. Many of these same groups and individuals also posted the flyers on social media.



A big thanks to everyone for your support of this annual project! And kudos to Christine Pelaez-Pena of Epilepsy Florida who was part of the local Health Insurance Navigation Program.

[READ MORE](#)

ICYMI

Jan. 18 Hot Topic: Verdenia Baker, Palm Beach County administrator, gave a State of the County report at the League's monthly luncheon at Mel's Way Bistro. She reviewed accomplishments and challenges from 2022, strategic and legislative priorities for 2023, challenges and opportunities presented by inflation and the economy, and more.

Feb. 2 Zoom: Wendy Link, Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections, met via Zoom with the League's Voting Rights Coalition to discuss how Florida's voting laws have undergone significant changes recently.

Feb. 10 LWVFL Lunch and Learn: This Zoom featured a panel discussion with three young Black leaders — Courtney Thomas, Grace Castelin and Raeshaun Coonce — on how Black history has affected their lives as well as inequalities they still face today.

Check out the [LWVFL Lunch & Learn Series Recordings...](#) You can access previously recorded Lunch & Learn webinars.



**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@lwpbc.org.



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