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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — DECEMBER

WHERE DID 2023 GO?



Happy Holidays to everyone! It is hard to believe we are wrapping up another year.

The League has accomplished much this year. We launched our **Nancy Cohen Leadership Program**, hosted a successful fundraiser, and continue to do the work of "Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy." Our Voter Services Committee assisted in registering thousands of voters, having to pivot on how due to current legislation in Florida. They also reminded voters to update their Vote By Mail request. A LWVPBC chapter has been established at FAU and we are looking to expand to other colleges and universities in the area.

We do, however, still have much work ahead of us.

- Upcoming events for 2024 include a **Hot Topic** on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Mounts Botanical Garden. The three co-founders of **Stet Media Group** will discuss the crisis in local journalism and the ongoing erosion of fact-based civic engagement. Don't forget to register!
- Another exciting **Connect and Reboot** will take place on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to noon at the South County Civic Center. **Carey Haughwout**, Palm Beach County Public Defender, will be the guest speaker. This should be a fun time for new and old members to see old friends and make new ones.
- Wednesday, Feb. 21, is the date for our next Hot Topic. Look for an announcement soon, so "Save the Date."

[READ MORE](#)

HELP WANTED

The following Volunteers are needed.
You will be mentored and assisted along the way.

Chair, Development
Chair, Education/Civics
Chair, Forums
Chair, Speakers Bureau
Chair, Special Events

SAVE THE DATE

Jan. 17 — Hot Topic: Stet Media Group
Feb. 10 — Connect and Reboot
Feb. 21 — Hot Topic
March 20 — Hot Topic
April 17 — Annual Meeting

DEADLINE FOR PRO-CHOICE PETITIONS, DONATIONS LOOMS

By Phyllis Applebaum, Voter Services Chair

The overwhelming majority of Floridians think we should be free to make our own personal healthcare decisions without interference from politicians. Despite that, Florida has passed the most extreme abortion legislation in the nation — it bans abortion after six weeks, before most people even realize they are pregnant. It also limits what doctors and hospitals can do to help women with pregnancy complications, thereby endangering their lives, health and fertility.

What can we do to help? The LWV has been collecting Pro-Choice petitions, but we need to redouble our efforts as we get close to the end of the year. All petitions must be processed by Feb. 1, so to ensure there is time for processing and counting, all completed petitions should be signed and sent to the campaign by the end of December. We've done well so far, but we need to push harder than ever to get over the line. Equally important, Florida Protecting Freedom, the group managing the petition, needs more funding to help meet the goal of getting the abortion access Constitutional Amendment on the November 2024 ballot in Florida. FPF *really* needs the money for this last phase. Please donate as much as you can to: FloridiansProtectingFreedom.com/donate

More valid petitions must be collected in Congressional Districts 22 (part of West Palm Beach plus Atlantis, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Greenacres, Lake Worth Beach, Lantana, Palm Beach, Wellington and 15 percent of Boca Raton) and District 23 (85 percent of Boca Raton), and we have identified several events before the end of the month at which we will collect petitions. Let's not stop until we get the amendment on the ballot. Let's do this for all women today and in the future. Thanks for all of your efforts.



Watch Young Leaguer Jihan Bazile explain the petition on YouTube



She made a video explaining the petition for the League because she was “motivated by the sense of urgency, especially because time is ticking away and we need to spread the word as soon as possible,” she said. [WATCH IT HERE.](#)

“It’s important to point out that there is critical focus on congressional districts that need extra attention,” she said. “I’ve worked with the League and abortion funds for a long time to advocate for the right to choose. Reproductive rights are deeply personal and the most marginalized are being impacted.

“The majority of Floridians agree that the freedom of choice should be protected and legal in our state. I’m hopeful we can make strides in getting reproductive rights on the ballot, and send a clear message to our government about what people truly want.”

HOT TOPIC

“The Crisis in Local Journalism”

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, at 11 a.m.

Mounts Botanical Garden

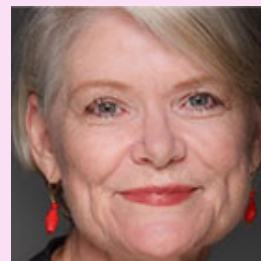
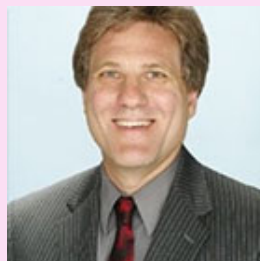
Doors open at 11 a.m., Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m.,
and the program starts at noon



STET MEDIA GROUP

An informative discussion about Palm Beach County’s newest and toughest investigative news source with the three co-founders of the online newsletter:

Carolyn DiPaolo, Joel Engelhardt and Pat Beall



[REGISTER HERE](#)

PLEASE NOTE: We will also be writing postcards to Returning Citizens (former felons), encouraging them to register and vote. Join us and bring friends!

Celebrate the Lunar New Year with the PBC League of Women Voters

Saturday, February 10, 10-noon

South County Civic Center
16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach, FL 33446

**Members and others interested in the League are invited to
learn about our work in areas such as:**

Voter Services, Gun Safety, National Popular Vote, Voting Rights,
Health Care, Advocacy, Speakers' Bureau, Election Protection...



**FEATURED SPEAKER IS CAREY HAUGHWOUT
Palm Beach County Public Defender**

**She will discuss issues relevant to our League work as we celebrate
her outstanding career making justice available to all. She will retire at
the end of 2024 so come help thank her for her lifetime of service.**

Registration is needed. To register, email members@lwvpsc.org
or text/call 561-276-4898.

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS



By Rich Bartholomew, Advocacy Chair

This article offers some tips for effectively interacting with elected officials and their staff. It recommends a three-step process: Prepare, Choose your Methods, and Follow Up.

PREPARE

Do your homework. In the LWV, we study before we advocate. Review our League Directory of Elected Officials to learn who represents you. Find it on our website, [here](#):

And check the Palm Beach County website at: [Discover.PBCgov.org](https://www.discover.pbcgov.org)

- Get and analyze a copy of any bill/proposal you want to consider as well as any explanatory materials. This can usually be done on official websites, such as MyFloridaHouse.gov, where you can research bills before the Legislature. Contact the staff of the proposing official. Effective contact starts with the staff. These individuals set the officials' schedule; review proposals/legislation; or perform "constituent service." Develop staff relationships.

[READ MORE](#)

YOU SAID IT

Interstate Compact is best path to National Popular Vote



This Opinion was recently submitted by Kathleen Crampton in response to an article that appeared in 'The Washington Post' on Dec. 8, 2023. [Read the article here](#).

To the Editor:

The Dec. 8 article, "Small segment of voters will wield outside power in 2024 presidential race," correctly

points out that the current system of electing the president leaves most Americans out in the cold: "During the last election, just 10 states and two congressional districts were targeted by Republican or Democratic nominees' campaigns," and only "1 in 4 Americans lived in these areas." The 2024 presidential campaigns will look similar.

However, the article later states, "... there is considered to be little prospect for change given the country's polarization and high barriers to amending the Constitution."

The thing is, a Constitutional amendment is not needed to enact the national popular vote for president, which, according to the Pew Research Center, 65 percent of Americans want. [Read about the study here](#).

It can be accomplished with an interstate compact rather than an amendment. Thus, there is a prospect for change.

Indeed, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact concept has momentum. [Read about the compact here](#).

[READ MORE](#)

The logo features the word "FLORIDIANS" in large blue letters, with "FOR NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE" in smaller red letters below it. A red checkmark is to the right of the text. Below the text is a blue outline of the state of Florida. At the bottom, the slogan "Every Vote Equal" is written in blue.

FLORIDIANS
FOR NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE ✓
Every Vote Equal

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

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

Reisha Allen (Lake Worth), **Roselyn Almazan** (Wellington), **Amanda Carr** (West Palm Beach), **Eileen Rosenzweig** (West Palm Beach), **Barbara Carey-Shuler** (Delray Beach), **Lynn Garod** (Boca Raton), **Francine Giglio** (West Palm Beach), **Annette Hanson** (Palm Beach), **Sandy Kaltman** (West Palm Beach), **Wendy Sartory Link** (West Palm Beach), **Alicia Mullen** (Palm Beach), **Barbara Pariente** (West Palm Beach), **Beryl Rosenstein** (West Palm Beach), **Louise Snyder** (Palm Beach), **Rick Troiano** (Boynton Beach), **Josette Turet** (West Palm Beach), **Caroline Villanueva** (North Palm Beach), **William Washington** (West Palm Beach), and **Karen Zarembo** (Lantana).

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

LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



POTLUCK PICNIC: The Voter Services Committee spent some social time at Village Park in Wellington on Dec. 7. Front row, from left: **Catherine Martinez**, **Arlene Ustin**, **Nancy Ballen**, **Chris Allen**, **Adrienne Rabinowitz**, **Ellen Cohen**, **Charlotte Novak** and **Mary Resnick**. Back row, from left: **Ginny Powell**, **Janet Clark**, **Pam Maldonado** and **Phyllis Applebaum**, the

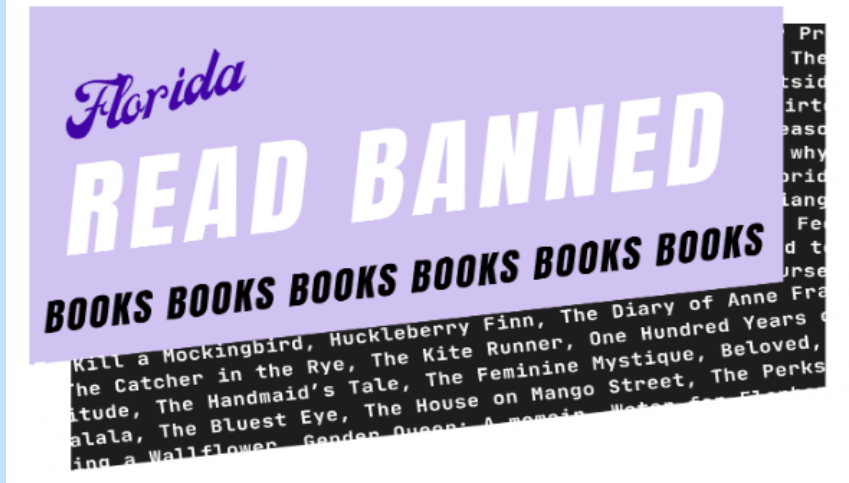


THANKSGIVING FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT EXTRAORDINARY CHARITIES: Three generations of Maldonados helped prepare turkey and fixings. From left: Nico Narvaez, Pam Maldonado, Executive Director **Christine Raymond** and **Ana Cristina Maldonado**.

Don't Miss the **Big** Read Banned Books Rally
WHY DID YOU TAKE MY BOOK?

Students: Learn to Organize Your Own Banned Book Clubs
and Get a Free Banned Book

Parents: Learn How to Help Your Children Navigate
This Challenge to Their Education



When: Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 4 p.m.

Where: The Countess de Hoernle Theatre on the grounds of Spanish River Community High School, 5100 Jog Road, Boca Raton

What: Speakers, music and one free book to each student in grades 3-12.

Write to us at Readbannedbooks23@gmail.com for a list of books to donate.

Admission is free, but space is limited. Plenty of free parking. Food is not allowed.

Thanks to our generous partner, Simon & Schuster Inc. and its "Books Belong Everywhere" Program



Event Disclaimer: "Read Banned Books is not affiliated with or endorsed by the School Board of Palm Beach County and the events/activities hosted by Read Banned Books on Spanish River Community High School's premises pursuant to a lease agreement shall not be construed as being conducted, funded, hosted, or sponsored by the School Board on behalf of Read Banned Books. The School Board and Spanish River Community High School undertake no responsibility for supervising or monitoring Read Banned Books events/activities and will not be liable for any and all actions of Read Banned Books on Spanish River Community High School's premises.

REMINDER

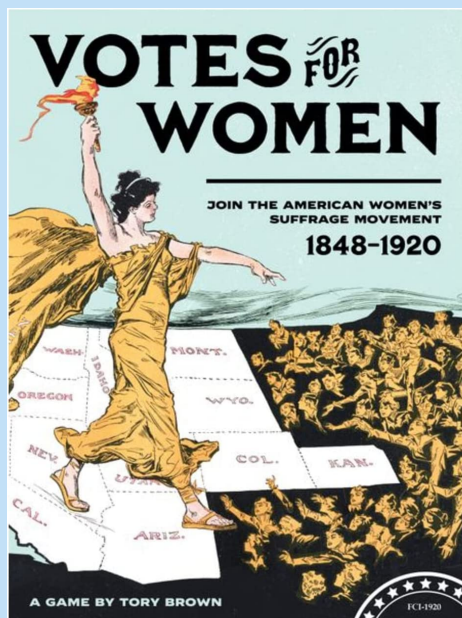
YOUR Vote by Mail
Application Has

EXPIRED

REAPPLY NOW!



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!



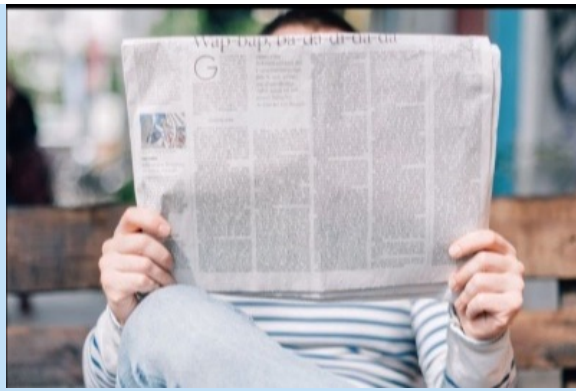
Our **SHOP PAGE** is open on the website and ready for your order. Wear your shirt to a League meeting and we will post your picture on our website!



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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