

June 2023 NEWS - League of Women Voters Palm Beach County

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — JUNE 2023

PRIDE, PETITIONS, POSTCARDS & MORE



Summer is upon us and June is Pride Month. We need to remember that democracy is for everyone and ensure the rights of all to participate in our government *and* feel safe and secure in their community. The Voter Services team works to make sure citizens in Palm Beach County are registered to vote, and I am happy to say they registered nearly 1,000 graduating seniors in Palm Beach County schools. The team works throughout the summer to register voters and make sure voters realize they have to renew their Vote By Mail application.

We have many projects going on throughout the summer. 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. We are collecting signed petitions to put this issue on the 2024 General Election ballot. You can join other members in this effort. More information is included below on what you can do. We also will have petitions at our meetings.

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Above: From the Palm Beach County League, Linda Prior, Kathi Gundlach and Arlene Ustin.

Below right: U.S. Rep. Maxwell Frost, the first Gen Z member of Congress, urges League delegates to continue the important work of empowering all voters and defending democracy.

PBC CHAPTER SHINES AT 2023 LWVFL CONVENTION

By **Kathi Gundlach**, *President*

The League of Women Voters of Florida held its biennial convention in Orlando June 1-4. It was informative and thought-provoking, with many excellent workshops and breakout sessions.

League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County was center stage throughout the convention. Our Development Committee, led by **Karen Clarke** and **Joyce Sullivan**, was the Platinum Award winner for its project, a targeted digital outreach communication campaign.

The objective was to communicate with two targeted sets of Palm Beach County voters to empower voting in the election. They also wanted to provide these targeted voters with easy access to trustworthy, nonpartisan election tools from a trusted voice — the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County.



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Above: Co-presidents Debbie Chandler and Cecile M. Scoon. **Below:** Ira Raab, parliamentarian, swears Chandler to her new office at the LWVFL convention in Orlando.

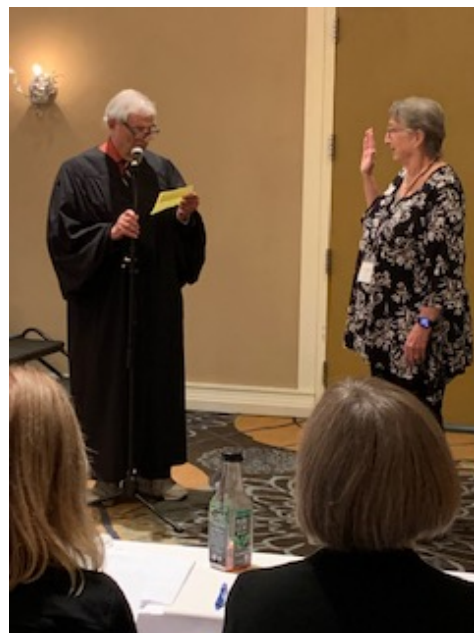
'CECILE AND I WILL GIVE IT OUR ALL'

Debbie Chandler sworn in as LWVFL co-president.

PBCLWV rockstar member Debbie Chandler was sworn in to serve as co-president, along with Cecile Scoon, at the LWVFL state convention in Orlando. The powerhouse duo are both attorneys, Scoon in civil rights and Chandler in criminal defense.

Scoon will continue to focus on litigation and legislation, and will be the face of the League to media and non-League audiences. Chandler will focus on administration, local leagues, managing board meetings and returning citizen matters.

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Above: National Popular Vote chapter members from across Florida attending the LWVFL Convention gala dinner: Danny Lishansky (Palm Beach County), Suzanne Low (Collier), Deb Mazzaferro (Manatee), Leah Nash (LWVFL executive director), Jan Lonsdale (Lee), Anne Coppenhaver (Orange), Leslie Feinberg (Orange) and Kathleen Crampton (Palm Beach.) **Below:** A National Popular Vote seminar June 1 in Orlando involved League members from Palm Beach County and across Florida.

NPV COMMITTEE GATHERS AT LWVFL CONVENTION

By Daniel Lishansky, *NPV Chair*

**National
Popular
Vote!**



I want to start with a big congratulations to **Debbie Chandler** on her election as co-president of the Florida League, and congratulations to **Kelly Williams** on her election as a director! I thoroughly enjoyed the convention, including spending time with Palm Beach County League members and meeting people from around the state whom I had previously seen only on Zoom.

Our committee has had a very busy and successful month. Minnesota passed the National Popular Vote on May 26, bringing the NPV electoral total to 205.

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LET'S GET ABORTION ACCESS ON THE BALLOT

League helps Floridians Protecting Freedom drive for Constitutional Amendment.

By Phyllis Applebaum, Voter Services Chair, and Arlene Ustin

Most of us were crushed when Roe v. Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court recently. Many of us remember a time when abortion was not legal. Women died getting illegal ones.

FLORIDIANS
PROTECTING  FREEDOM

The difficulty with laws restricting abortion is that many women have problems carrying a fetus, and the problems show up well after most new laws say abortions can't be performed. So women carry dying babies, which is harmful to their health, and they have to consult their lawyers rather than their doctors. Some women have to travel to states where abortion is available, which many can't afford, or wait until they are close to death, when they might be allowed to get an abortion. A group of women recently sued, saying the new laws are a threat to their lives and health. In addition, the majority in the United States favors abortion in all or most cases.

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LEAGUE JOINS CLEAN WATER PETITION DRIVE

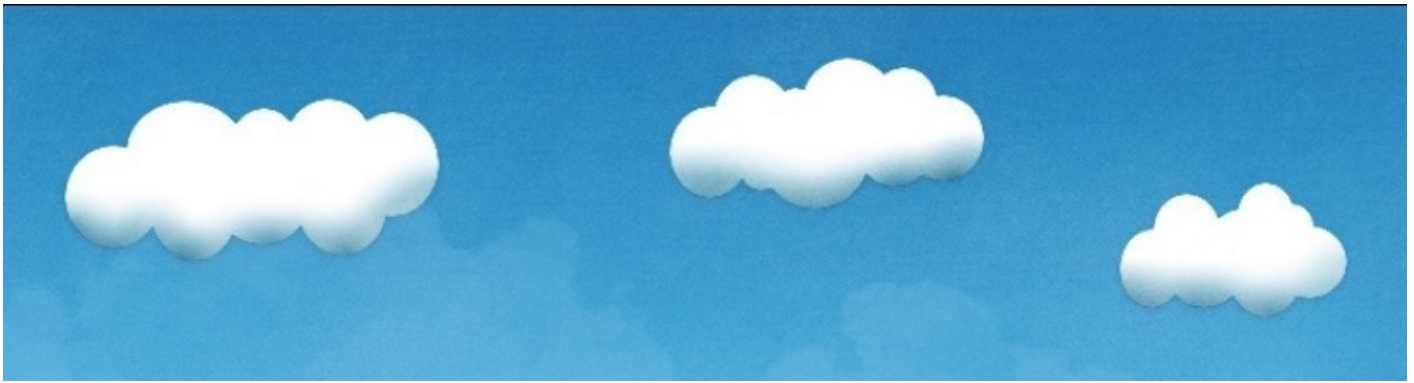
The League of Women Voters of Florida has joined the campaign to support getting a constitutional amendment on the ballot in 2024 for civil action to enforce our right to clean and healthy waters in Florida.

The “Right to Clean and Healthy Waters” is a stopgap, declaring that “no more harm” will be allowed to our waters. The campaign’s mission is to take this to Florida’s voters; to educate them, to collect their petitions, and to ensure their voice is heard.

Why has the League agreed to help this effort?

1. Everyone needs and deserves clean water.
2. Our health, our economy and nature all depend upon clean water.
3. But thousands of Florida’s waterways are polluted because polluters have rights and special interests have undue influence in Tallahassee.
4. The buck stops with the state.
5. With a “Right to Clean and Healthy Waters,” citizens can hold the state accountable.
6. We can stop pollution at the source and protect our families, secure our livelihoods and help nature flourish.

You can now go to FloridaRightToCleanWater.org to download blank petitions and refer people to the site to sign, date and mail.



OUR LEAGUE'S LEGACY IS PROTECTED IN THE CLOUD

By Linda Kramer, LWVPBC Administrative Assistant

Our LWVPBC board recognized the importance of storing years and years of history which, until now, have been kept in binders on bookshelves. They are now safely archived by historical importance and can be accessed securely from our website by any member with a Gmail account through Google Docs. ([Learn how to create a free Google/Gmail account.](#))

Why did we decide to store these important documents in the Cloud?

1. Safe storage: Saving information on the internet is better than storing it on a USB drive or a computer hard drive — these can fail, resulting in lost data.

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EXPRESS YOURSELF!

You can help decision-makers solve infrastructure needs.

By Rich Bartholomew, Advocacy Chair

Palm Beach County citizens are growing in their awareness of the significant new resources pouring into local housing, transportation and infrastructure projects. Federal, state and local money has been provided at unprecedented levels for these purposes. Much of the funding involves federal dollars “washed through” the state budget. The decisions that local officials are making now will have notable impacts on the places where we live and move.

League members have immediate opportunities to participate in these deliberations. We can observe, in



person but especially electronically, what is going on. Most area jurisdictions televise and record their official sessions. Go to the websites of your municipality, the county and the Legislature. You will find current and recent information about what is happening. Then you can call, visit, email and use the Internet to connect with the decision makers. Typically, our members have joined the League because they want to be informed and active in public policy. Now is an exceptional time to express one's position. It has never been easier to input your thoughts into the public square.

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PB TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY: A PRIMER

By **Melissa Murray**, *Transportation Planning Agency Public Relations Director*

Have you ever wondered how roads are constructed and how bike lanes are built in certain areas? The Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (TPA) is a federally mandated public agency that works with partners across Palm Beach County to plan, prioritize and fund the transportation system. The TPA conducts planning studies, annual planning documents and a Long Range Transportation Plan to create a balanced transportation system to enrich the quality of life for the people who live, work and play in Palm Beach County.



PALM BEACH
Transportation
Planning Agency

The TPA consists of a 21-member Governing Board of locally elected officials, which prioritizes more than \$600 million of federal, state and local transportation dollars to implement projects that advance our regional vision for the nearly 1.5 million Palm Beach County residents. The Governing Board is supported by staff and three advisory committees.

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LWVFL Sues State for Hampering Voter Engagement Efforts

TALLAHASSEE — The League of Women Voters of Florida, represented by the Campaign Legal Center, sued Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody and Secretary of State Cord Byrd on May 24 to block provisions of Florida's recently enacted omnibus election law that would restrict and penalize basic nonpartisan civic engagement efforts. The law, Senate Bill 7050, directly targets and drastically restricts the ability of nonpartisan civic engagement organizations, like the League of Women Voters of Florida, to engage with voters, violating their right to freedom of speech and association.

LISTEN HERE: NPR radio station WGCU in Southwest Florida interviews the lead Campaign Legal Center attorney representing the LWVFL in its lawsuit over SB 7050. [Listen to the Radio Show.](#)

“Folks helping their neighbors access and exercise the fundamental freedom to vote is one of the pillars of our democracy,” said Paul Smith, senior vice president at Campaign Legal Center. “Instead of celebrating civic engagement groups for their work to encourage participation in our democracy, Florida legislators restricted and penalized basic voter outreach efforts. This action will directly harm members of historically marginalized communities – including voters of color, low-income voters, voters with disabilities and young voters – who rely on these nonpartisan efforts to help make their voices heard.”

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RAINS DON'T DETER US DURING PRIDE ON THE BLOCK

By Pamela Maldonado, *Voter Services*

Neither rain nor heat stayed the enthusiasm of the Voter Services members who worked at Pride on the Block, a fundraiser for Transpire Help, on Clematis Street in downtown West Palm Beach June 2-3. Sunday afternoon skies were black, lightning was too close for comfort, and then the skies opened.

But after “having” to retreat to a nearby Peruvian restaurant for some delicious food, the rains stopped and our volunteers went back to registering voters and collecting signed abortion access petitions. Toward the end of the evening, people had heard about the petition and actually came looking

for us to sign it.

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PROUD TO SUPPORT DELRAY PRIDE JUNE 10 AS WELL



HIGH SCHOOL DRIVES: BY THE NUMBERS, SMILES



Above: Speaking up for America/Indivisible helped us register students to vote at Inlet Grove High School. From left, Marcia Halpern, Michael Gallagher, Jessica Brason, Barbara Bogart, Rebecca Cohen, Nancy Beren and Cindy Santner. (Not pictured: Wendi Levine.) **Below:** Cynthia Lang of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., Janet Elinoff and Marlene Bogard at Palm Beach Lakes High School.

Another stellar year for voter registration at PBC high schools.

By Phyllis Applebaum, Voter Services Chair

Voter Services had its biggest year ever doing voter registration at the high schools in May. We got 962 voter registration forms filled out by Seniors doing their final checkout prior to graduation. When the Seniors are about to graduate, they have to collect their caps and gowns, pick up their yearbooks, and pay related graduation fees, among other things.

They also must register to vote. This is the final step in preparing the Seniors for adulthood. And it *is* literally the final step, since we are usually the last stop in the checkout process. When we were finished this year, there were almost 1,000 new registered voters in Florida.



Registering to vote is part of the education process of the students. When we ask, “Are you registered

to vote?,” we often hear “Vote for what?” This year, we could say “in 2024 you’ll be able to vote for President!” That seemed to thrill many.

[READ MORE](#)

PBC ELECTIONS OFFICE WINS NATIONAL AWARDS

U.S. Election Assistance Commission cites team for innovation, sustainability, replicability.

Congratulations to Wendy Sartory Link, Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections, and the staff at the Elections Office.

The Clearinghouse Awards, also known as the “Clearie” Awards, are presented annually across the United States for best practices in election administration by the **U.S. Election Assistance Commission**. Established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002, the EAC is charged with serving as a clearinghouse for election administration information. To further this mission, the EAC launched the Clearies in 2016 to promote best practices in elections and celebrate the accomplishments of election officials.



Our very own Supervisor of Elections, Wendy Link, was the winner of the Outstanding Innovations in Elections for programs that use creative tools to improve election administration, while advancing new and innovative concepts, for large districts. The Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections office was first in the nation to offer early voting appointments during the 2022 Primary and General Elections. The program, No Wait Inside, launched successfully with 21,356 voters who participated.

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MARKING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS



Mitzi Garvey (pictured) and **Marilyn Ricci** attended the West Palm Beach Mental Health Coalition's Mental Health & Wellness Resource Festival on May 20 at Keiser University's flagship campus in West Palm Beach. Garvey and Ricci are members of the PBCLWV Healthcare Issue Group, and participated in National Mental Health Awareness Month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 21 HOT TOPIC: Florida Legislative Wrapup



Florida Senators Gayle Harrell (R-District 31) and Tina Scott Polsky (D-District 30) will speak to the League at noon Wednesday, June 21, at Mounts Botanical Garden in the Hutcheson Building Exhibit Hall, 559 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach. Reservations have closed, and walk-ins cannot be accommodated.



WEST
PALM
BEACH

NON-PARTISAN

JUNE
22,
2023



STAY WOKE FLORIDA

15 CITY ROLLING PROTEST

JOIN US AS WE ROLL THROUGH WEST PALM BEACH
4:30-GATHERING

STARTING LOCATION: NORTHEAST OF HOWARD PARK
1302 PARKER AVENUE, WEST PALM BEACH

6:00 PM

CELEBRATION VILLAGE OPEN HOUSE: MT. CALVARY
BAPTIST CHURCH, 1111 36TH STREET, WEST PALM BEACH



*Banned
Book
giveaway*

Teach-In

Register Now

bit.ly/StayWokeFL-WPB



‘Stay Woke’ tour, voter push coming to WPB June 22

Florida NAACP branches will lead a “votercade” and rolling protest aboard the John Lewis Make Good Trouble Bus that will begin in Jacksonville on Juneteenth, June 19. It will make stops in 14 other Florida cities, including West Palm Beach the evening of June 22, before ending back in Jacksonville June 23.

The aim is to “raise awareness and encourage Black Floridians to stand up and fight back against attacks on our communities, our democracy and our history, by registering to vote and voting every election,” said **Adora Obi Nweze**, president of the NAACP Florida State Conference.

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

Rank Choice Voting
Wednesday, July 19 at Noon
via ZOOM



The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County (LWVPBC) invites voters and residents to another informative Hot Topic Discussion and Lunch.

Join us to learn more about **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)**, a non-partisan electoral reform that allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference rather than choosing just one. Supporters say RCV encourages voters to focus on issues and reduces negative campaigning and polarization. The electoral system is used worldwide and by 13 million U.S. voters.

Guest Speaker: Vilia Johnson grew up in Tampa and currently serves as VP and a Board member of LWV Sarasota. She is also a Director with Rank My Vote Florida and is team leader for the RMVFL Speaker's Bureau.

JOIN US ON ZOOM

Share the link-

<https://lwvpbc.org/event/july-hot-topic-2023/>

Recording available on Facebook.

PLEASE HELP ORGANIZE OUR OCT. 18 LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER

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.

YOU ASKED FOR IT ...

Our next Taste of the League Orientation will be held Saturday, **Nov 4**, in person, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. This is for New Members and others interested in the League.

Location: STEM Education Building across from the Science 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 this Nov. 4 event.

Thanks to all for your support of our Membership efforts!

A TASTE OF THE LEAGUE



MORE DATES TO SAVE

Aug. 16 Hot Topic: Business Meeting (Via Zoom)

Sept. 20 Hot Topic-: Schools Superintendent Mike Burke (In Person)

Fall 2023 Launch of the League Leadership Program

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

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

Cynthia Cannon (West Palm Beach), **Lexy DePhillips** (Jupiter), **Sharon Fradkin** (Delray Beach), **Diane Lerner** (Boca Raton), **Marcie Tau** (Boynton Beach) and **Patricia Whaley** (Jupiter).

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

YOU SAID IT

Large body of misinformation is fueling American gun violence

By Thomas Gabor and Fred Guttenberg

This 'Your Turn' opinion column was published in The Palm Beach Post on June 7.

Slogans like “Guns don’t kill, people do” and “The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun” reflect the decades-long campaign by the gun lobby and its allies to convince Americans that owning guns makes them safer. This campaign, based on a large body of misinformation, has made America a far more dangerous place. [Our book American](#)

Carnage identifies and debunks close to 40 core myths that have led many Americans to mistakenly believe that carrying a gun and keeping one in the home will protect them rather than expose them to an elevated risk of harm.

Much of this misinformation stems from the radicalization of the gun lobby, beginning in the 1970s. Since then, the gun industry and gun rights organizations have made it their priority to convince Americans that an armed citizenry is the most effective way to shield ourselves from violence. This campaign has included stoking the public's fear of crime, funding dubious scholarship by gun-friendly researchers, and shutting down federal funding of research showing that guns in the home put occupants at an elevated risk.

[READ MORE](#)

FROM OUR NEW BLOG...

Don't be fooled by anti-union propaganda

This Letter to the Editor by Palm Beach County League member Mary Mertz was published May 19 in the Sun-Sentinel.

In a recent opinion piece ("DeSantis offers a lesson in freedom"), state Rep. Spencer Roach, of North Fort Myers, would have you believe that crippling teacher unions teaches students about freedom.

On the contrary, Roach provides a perfect example of the level of deception and doublespeak by state leaders to fool Floridians into thinking they are protecting our freedoms when in fact they are increasing restrictions on freedom. Don't believe a word of their propaganda.

If kids in Florida are learning about freedom, it's because they're learning what it isn't. When books are banned, it's not freedom. When certain populations such as Blacks or LGBTQs or immigrants have their history rewritten or erased, that is not freedom. When parents are prevented from making health choices for LGBTQ or pregnant children, that is not freedom.

[READ MORE](#)

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

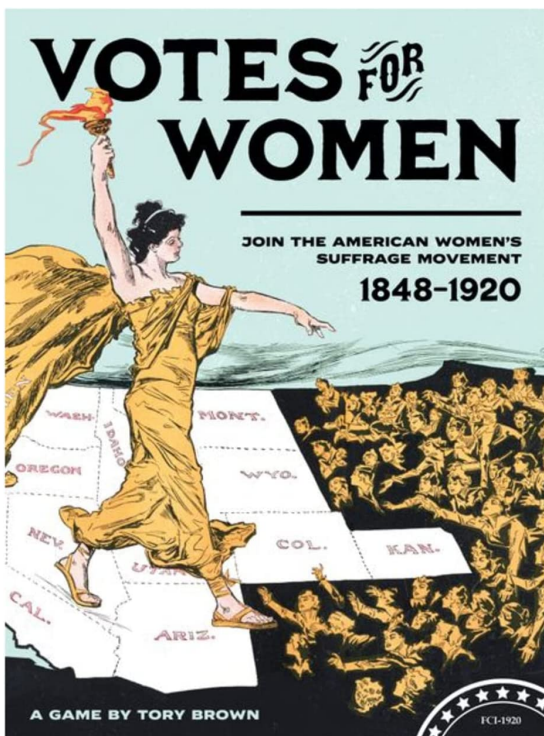
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The publication of this Directory has been made possible by donations from the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach Education Fund

And

The Palm Beach Post

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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