

October 15 2022 News--Midterm Election Edition

League of Women Voter <communications@lwvpbc.org>

Sat 10/15/2022 2:00 PM

To: Updates <updates@gladesinitiative.org>

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Photo by Cathy Einhorn

Palm Beach County Schools Maintain "A" Rating Despite Pandemic!

September Hot Topic at Mel's Bistro

By Cynthia Archbold

School Superintendent Michael Burke (far right) with (L-R) Palm Beach School Board Chair Frank A. Barbieri, Vice-Chair Karen Brill, LWVPBC President Kathi Gundlach, and Board Member Barbara McQuinn.

Burke introduced the school board members saying "We had a

couple of challenging years. We now travel as a pack," referring to the upheaval the Pandemic brought to education since 2020.

But in the first In-Person LWVPBC Hot Topic Since 2020, Burke celebrated the strong state of education in Palm Beach County partly thanks to funds from the 1.0 Mills Tax passed in 2018 which is on the ballot to renew for 2022! The School District Asks you to VOTE YES on County Question #2!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE VOTE !!!



As Susan B. Anthony said, "Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it." The general election is upon us and it is important to make a voting plan. Whether you vote by mail, in person early or in person on election day it is important to educate yourself on what will be on your ballot.

The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County is excited to once again publish the Voters' Guide, which contains information to enable you to cast a well-informed ballot.

[Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org), a national website, also provides voting information based on your address. We are one of the few

Leagues that still publishes a Voters' Guide. The Voters' Guide was in the Palm Beach Post and Sun Sentinel this past weekend. The Guide reflects one of our core missions of providing voter education. Members distributed guides throughout Palm Beach County to libraries, communities, governmental offices, and various other settings...

[READ MORE](#)

TA-DA!!!!

**The LWVPBC Voters' Guide 2022 Hits The Sunday Papers on
October 9th!**

**32 Pages of invaluable information on
the November 8 Midterm Election!**



NONPARTISAN VOTERS' GUIDE 2022

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022 * GENERAL ELECTION * 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

OFFICES UP FOR ELECTION AND RETENTION

FEDERAL	4-8
U.S. Senate	
U.S. House of Representatives	
STATE	9-20
Governor	
Attorney General	
Chief Financial Officer	
Commissioner of Agriculture	
Florida's Senate	
Florida House of Representatives	
Supreme Court Justice - Merrit Retention	
Fourth District Court of Appeal - Merrit Retention	
PALM BEACH COUNTY	22-27
Board of County Commissioners	
Port of Palm Beach	
School Board	
Soil and Water Conservation District	
BALLOT HEADERS	29-29
Constitutional Amendments	
Local Referendums	

**INFORMING
VOTERS.
EMPOWERING
PEOPLE.**

Election Information You Need
vote411.org

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



Top Left, Morgan Lury hands out guide as she registers voters; bottom right Christene Campbell Gabor helps volunteers load up their cars with Voters' Guides to distribute all over the county.

Photos by Cynthia Archbold and Ashley Cacicedo Surdovel

**Joyce Sullivan thanks
her Voters' Guide team:**

"Well team... once again, we have published a Guide. I think it gets better every time. All of your hard work shows. Even with two cases of Covid, we published!!!!

Here's more from Voters Guide Chair Joyce Sullivan:

"Our 2022 Guide appeared in the Palm Beach Post and the Sun Sentinel on Sunday, October 9th, and Florida Weekly (digital version) on Sunday, October 13th.

We printed 80,000 of which 20,000 was delivered by over 30 volunteers to all county and city libraries, Government buildings, and organizations like the Urban League. This year along with our normal locations we delivered to 50 senior living facilities and to Kappa Alpha Psi which will take it to 1,500 for churches and other locations. We presented Vote 411 to the Unicorn organization for the disabled.

Our Guide was 32 pages long and was promoted on social media. Both the Guide and VOTE411.org are on our site. Members and the community can visit and share both organizations on social media.

Our Guide team of 22 volunteers created this Guide and 34 volunteers distributed it throughout the county. The Guide will also be used by our Speakers' Bureau and Voter Services when registering voters. This was a true partnership with other committees like Communications and the News to reach our membership and the community of Palm Beach County with valuable voting information.

Special thanks to Joan Williams of Searcy, Denney, Scarois, Barnhart and Shipley, the Retired Teachers Association, and Elayne Goodman for financially supporting our guide. Smith Ball and Baez supported us by printing over 1,000 Vote411 Flyers for our Voter Services.

This could not have been possible without all of our volunteer members.

Voters' Guide Reader Says Non-responsive Candidates Unfit for Office

By Jay McIntyre

I turned 21 in 1972 and have voted in every election for which I was eligible. As a young adult in the 70s, I moved around some, so did not have residency at a few points in my life. I am not a party-line voter necessarily but I seem to lean more to the liberal side as I get older. That is why I spend time researching candidates and try to choose those who mirror most closely my points of view, which are not necessarily liberal, or demonstrate a willingness to promote the values that would/should continue to make America the great place it is. I turn to the internet (vote411.org) to compare candidates and I read.

I was happy to have the Palm Beach Post's issue of the League of Women Voters' Vote 411 insert. I was hoping to be able to compare stances from both sides of the party line, but no. In nearly every instance, the Republican candidate did not respond to the invitation. This is shameful. None of you deserve our vote, because you were not interested enough to take the time. You disrespected all voters, Republicans, Democrats and Independents in this state. I will not vote for any who disregarded an opportunity to better inform me of your positions on issues that matter to all of us.

What's On YOUR Ballot?

Your Ballot will contain two Local Referendum proposals--
County Question 1 and County Question 2

The League supports both of them, and so does the Palm Beach Post.
Read on to find out why!



**County Question #1:
League Supports More Workforce And Affordable Housing!**

(From the LWVPBC Voter's Guide)

"The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County supports this measure. The county is experiencing a workforce and affordable housing crisis, with home prices and rents escalating at a pace that far outstrips the increase in workforce income, thereby squeezing out many of the people who keep us safe and provide us with the things that have enhanced the quality of life here.

This November, voters are being asked to approve a \$200 million housing bond, aimed at helping to build 20,000 homes for Palm Beach County's essential middle-class workforce — teachers, nurses, first responders and essential workers among them. The measure's goals include increasing the supply of housing, preventing excessive rent increases, and revitalizing existing housing in disadvantaged neighborhoods through rehabilitation and community redevelopment."

**Why Vote Yes on County Question 2?
To Keep Schools Safe and Strong**

By Cynthia Archbold

COVID and its variants ripped through public Schools during the Pandemic, but the district earned an "A" Rating anyway for the 2021-2022 School Year! There's a reason that Palm Beach County Schools excelled despite the upheaval says School Superintendent Michael Burke, speaking at the September 21st LWVPBC Hot Topic. He credits much of the success to



the 1.00 mills School District ad valorem levy that Palm Beach Voters passed in 2018. "To maintain that "A" rating--we're really proud--not every school was able to do that," Burke said at the September 21st LWVPBC Hot Topic.

The 2018 referendum had four goals: 1) support student mental health 2) improve teacher pay 3) enhance school safety and 4) keep arts and music education in the curriculum--and these measures made the difference in keeping Palm Beach County an "A" School district.

And now you have a chance to vote YES again! It's way down on the bottom of your ballot.

[READ MORE](#)

Check out the League's position on three state-legislature proposed constitutional amendments!

As a rule of thumb, LWVFL does not believe taxes should be changed in the constitution, but this time there is an exception on Amendment #1.

By Cynthia Archbold

#1 Limitation on the Assessment of Residential Properties

This amendment is in response to the threat to Florida homes from rising sea levels. It says homeowners who spend money to make their homes more flood-proof should not be punished with higher property taxes. Since Flood resistant homes promote environmental sustainability, the League does not oppose the amendment. It would exempt homeowners from property tax hikes, who improve their flood-resistance by elevating structures as well as furnaces, heaters and electrical panels and waterproofing.

#2 Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission

LWVFL opposes this amendment, which would terminate the commission meeting every 20 years to develop changes to the Florida Constitution.

"While the 2017 Constitution Revision Commission was political and questions put before voters were 'bundled' in ways that made it difficult to separate valid issues, the LWVFL believes that the Constitution Revision Commission is worth saving."

The LWVFL says the Legislature should amend the process so that future Constitution Revision Commissions would have bipartisan appointees, and ballot amendments would address only one issue.

The next commission would meet in 2037. "The League opposes any limits on citizens' abilities to be

architects of their own Florida Constitution."

#3 Additional Homestead Exemption for Public Service

Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Public Service Workforce; This amendment would "grant additional homestead property tax exemption on \$50,000 of assessed value of homestead property owned by classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active-duty members of United States Armed Forces, and Florida National Guard members."

LWVFL is against this because taxes should not be in the Constitution. If it passed, in 2023 local governments would lose \$85.9 million in revenues.

From The Supervisor of Elections Palm Beach County: VOTE!

November 8, 2022 General Election Dates and Deadlines

General Election November 8, 2022

Early Voting: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., each day from October 24, 2022, through November 6, 2022

Deadline to request that a Vote-by-Mail ballot be mailed to you: 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 29, 2022

Deadline to return your Vote-by-Mail ballot: 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, to the SOE Main Office

Election Day: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 8, 2022



Election Information



Wendy Sartory Link

Please join us as Wendy Link, Supervisor of Elections Palm Beach County, tells us about the 11/8/22 election and Marcia Herman, Chair of our Speakers Bureau, tells us about the Propositions that will be on the ballot.

**Wednesday
October 19, 2022**

11:00 am–1:00pm - in-person only

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



Marcia Herman

***Mounts Botanical Garden
(Hutcheson Complex Exhibit Hall)
559 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415
Lunch: choice of Chicken Sub Sandwich or Salad
Box Lunch, \$20 & Garden Tour option: \$12***

REGISTER HERE

Share the link- <https://lwvpbc.org/event/october-hot-topic-3/>

Reservations MUST be made by 10/16/22 online or by mail

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

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

Recording will be posted on Facebook.



SOLAR CO-OP Shines on Palm Beach County

Solar Energy is good for the environment, good for the economy and good for the consumer.

By Diane Marks

The fourth Solar Co-op in Palm Beach County started on September 14, 2022. The Solar Co-op has 60 members already! Each of these members are interested in putting solar panels on their roofs to cut their energy expenses. By joining the Co-op, the members pick 1 installer (this meeting will be soon) and the installer can cut the cost of installation by 20% due to having so many installations. Through 2032, there is a 30% income tax credit so this Co-op, too, can save 50% on the total cost of solar installation. The state LWV has joined with Solar United Neighbors, a non-profit organization that has all the technical knowledge to explain solar to the community and handle questions co-op members have.

[READ MORE](#)



WHEN WE ALL VOTE PALM BEACH COUNTY VOTING SQUAD

Proudly Presents

2022 Virtual Candidates Forum

School Board Elections:

Through the Lens of Our Youth

THURSDAY
OCTOBER
20
6:30PM

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED



zoom

WEBINAR ID: 819 0795 4048
PASSCODE: 434550

SCAN WITH YOUR MOBILE DEVICE



Marcia Andrews
District 6
(Incumbent)



Jennifer Showalter
District 6



Edwin Ferguson
District 7



Corey Smith
District 7

MODERATORS ARE MEMBERS
OF THE FOLLOWING YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS:



All candidates in the above races were invited to participate in this forum



Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson and Chief Justice John Roberts at the Supreme Court following formal investiture ceremony on Friday September 30, 2022

Photo by ABC News

Originally Published October 4, 2022

Bloomberglaw.com

By Kimberly Strawbridge Robinson

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson invoked the original meaning of the US Constitution in her first days of Supreme Court arguments, suggesting that she's willing to engage with a constitutional doctrine traditionally associated with conservatives.

The “framers themselves adopted the equal protection clause” reflected in the 14th and 15th amendments “in a race conscious way,” Jackson said Tuesday in countering the argument that redistricting—and particularly challenges to redistricting plans under the Voting Rights Act—must be race-blind.

Jackson hinted at a willingness to engage with the doctrine known as originalism—the idea that judges should look to the original meaning of the Constitution in interpreting its provisions—during her March confirmation hearings, in which she noted that text, history, and tradition had become the touchstone of the court's constitutional cases.

[**READ MORE**](#)



Please Welcome These New Members to Our League:

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

Karen Altschul (Boca Raton); Frances Barfoot (Riviera Beach); Julie Bond (Riviera Beach); Margaret Carrothers (Boca Raton); Anne Frieder (Boca Raton); Melissa Gannon (West Palm Beach); Lynn Swanson Keiter (Boca Raton); Linda Kramer (Palm Beach Gardens); Francine Mantyh (North Palm Beach); Sue Regan (North Palm Beach); Joan Redmond (Boynton Beach); Judith Schwaber (Delray Beach); Pamela Seymon (West Palm Beach); Jennifer Thornton (Boca Raton); Nancy Visconti (Palm Beach).

Questions? Call or text Darlene Kostrub at 561-573-6384 or email membership@lwvpbc.org

Last Taste of the League Orientation for 2022...

On Sept. 24, we had 24 new members and prospects attend. Much thanks to the Issue Group Speakers as well as Phyllis Applebaum, Mark Schneider and Joyce Sullivan who gave special presentations.

Our next **Taste of the League Orientation** will be held Saturday, February 4, 2023



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!!!

Please Contact us immediately at lwvpbcnews@gmail.com



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