

October 2023 NEWS - League of Women Voters Palm Beach County

League of Women Voters Palm Beach County <communications@lwvpbc.org>
via mailchimpapp.net

Sun 10/15/2023 6:01 PM

To:Updates <updates@gladesinitiative.org>

[View this email in your browser](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — OCTOBER 2023

LUNCHEON, GUN TALK ON TAP



It's hard to believe we're in October already, as the year is moving way too quickly. We have two exciting events this month. Our inaugural "I Stand with the League" fundraiser is on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at Benvenuto in Boynton Beach. A *huge* thank you to our sponsors, underwriters and patrons. Our silent auction should be a success thanks to members who solicited community donations and donated baskets

and items themselves. A shout out to committee members who worked tirelessly on this event: Co-chairs Cathy Einhorn and Marcia Sherwood, and members Mary Mertz, Irene Dec, Linda Kramer, Gary Schweikhart and Connie Christians. Then on Saturday, Oct. 28, Dr. Tom Gabor will present a discussion on gun violence "Facts vs Fiction" at the Mounts Botanical Garden Auditorium, 531 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach. There will be a book sale and signing.

November will start off with "A Taste of the League" at the STEM Education

Building across from the South Florida Science Center, 4801 Dreher Trail North, West Palm Beach, starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4. This will be an exciting overview of League committees and activities. Our Hot Topic luncheon Wednesday, Nov. 15, will feature Barbara J. Pariente, who served as a justice on the Florida Supreme Court.

[READ MORE](#)

PASSAGE NEEDS 'PRESSURE OVER TIME'

By Daniel Lishansky, Chair, National Popular Vote Committee

**National
Popular
Vote!**

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact bill (HB 67) has been introduced once again in the Florida House. Thanks goes to Rep. Mike Gottlieb (Broward) for sponsoring it again this year. Sen. Victor Torres (Orange) will again sponsor the bill in the Senate.

So why is this year different from all other years? This year we have acknowledgement and momentum. Two years ago, there were a total of three co-sponsors for the bill. Last session there were 10 co-sponsors. This

session we expect more than 30 co-sponsors.

This momentum will be evident on Oct. 18, when House Minority Leader Fentrice Driskell (Hillsborough) hosts a Lunch & Learn for the House Democratic Caucus and National Popular Vote will be front and center. In addition, LWVFL Co-President Cecile Scoon will speak about Amendment 4 (returning citizens) and our third speaker will discuss the myriad voter suppression laws anticipated this year. Our National Popular Vote chapter and our chapters throughout Florida have been very busy making this happen.



[READ MORE](#)



SUSAN B. ANTHONY: HERO OR VILLAIN?

By *Daniel Lishansky*

Susan B. Anthony is the most visible icon of the women's suffrage movement. She died 14 years before ratification of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote.

Recent stories and internet posts claim Susan B. Anthony was not in favor of women's reproductive rights and was a racist. Several anti-abortion groups have even embraced Anthony's name for their organizations, claiming she was an opponent of abortion. Was she hero or villain ... or just a flawed public figure?

Susan B. Anthony was born in 1820 and died in 1906. She lived most of her life in Rochester, New York, but traveled extensively through the United States. Her life was dedicated to women's suffrage at a time when politics and society were dominated with questions of civil rights for women, African-Americans and immigrants. The 19th century was a time of struggle for everyday activities. For much of the century there was no electricity, indoor plumbing was a luxury for most, and central heating and air conditioning would not be seen until the 20th century.

[READ MORE](#)

FOREVER STAMP HONORS

U.S. REP. JOHN LEWIS

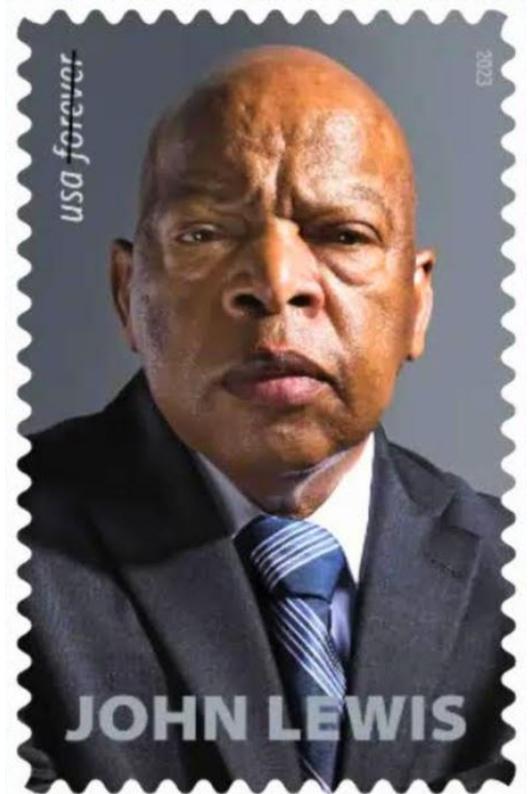
By **Kate Renchin**, Co-chair, PBC Voting Rights Coalition

It's hard to think of anyone in the history of our country more associated with the preservation and extension of Voting Rights than U.S. Rep. John R. Lewis. He was a lifelong passionate and powerful advocate for civil rights as well as voting rights. He, like the League, knew the power of the vote to advance goals of equity and justice for all.

Rep. Lewis' entire life and legacy are an inspiration, dating to his younger days leading the 1963 March on Washington and the historic 1964 march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., on what came to be known as Bloody Sunday. The violent response to the marchers by law enforcement led to the landmark Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 which prohibited racial discrimination in voting. It affirmed the rights of racial and language minority voters and contained pre-clearance provisions for states that had shown themselves to be hostile to non-white voters. He spent the rest of his career in the House, defending the Voting Rights Act. He was a man with a huge heart, serious and devoted to his important work.

He also was both a good dancer and avid stamp collector, as revealed by former staffers when the John Lewis USPS forever stamp was introduced in July. It features a photo of Lewis taken for the Aug. 26, 2013, issue of *Time Magazine*.

Rep. Lewis had big ambitions from early on despite being the son of "very poor" sharecroppers in a rural area of Alabama. He had an ambition to be a preacher as a young boy. It was heartwarming to hear him tell the story of how, at age 5, he prepared by preaching to their chickens. He did later become a Baptist minister.



[READ MORE](#)

NANCY COHEN LEAGUE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



The purpose of the Nancy Cohen League Leadership Program (LLP) is to identify potential future leaders and to increase their level of activity and involvement in League programs and processes. This process is being undertaken as part of the Strategic Plan developed in 2022. The mission of the Nancy Cohen League Leadership Program is to create a positive learning experience; offer participants exposure to the issues of the LWVPBC; provide an understanding of the LWVPBC mission; and enable participants to become more effective and engaged leaders.

You are invited to self-nominate and/or to nominate individuals to the Program. Potential participants may fill out the application form by using the link below.

[READ MORE](#)



YOUR OPINION COUNTS

*By Rich Bartholomew,
Advocacy Committee Chair*

What do you think should be the top policy priorities for local officials from Palm Beach County? Housing? Transportation? Crime? Taxes? Environment? Something else? How do you feel about the quality of life where we live?

The network of local officials from all around our County, who comprise the Transportation Planning Agency, wants you to express your opinion about these and topics that are, *or are not*, related to transportation.

You can do this by taking a very brief survey at:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/834b7f353c294cf3831ae66e904b88e2>

Assuming the TPA will *not* receive hundreds of thousands of inputs, League members who are interested in government policies can have an outsized impact on the responses they receive. Do you have 5 minutes to let them know what your informed opinions are? Take the survey today.

RESERVATIONS HAVE CLOSED WE HOPE TO SEE YOU



POST CARD PROJECT SET FOR OCT. 21

By *MJ Range*

The LWVFL has been engaged in a project to help returning citizens regain their right to vote. The project involves sending postcards to returning citizens (we have names and addresses) telling them how to get clarification of their fees and fines or other issues prohibiting their registration; the League has trained pro bono lawyers who can assist them. League groups all over the state are gathering to write postcards and many



other civic organizations, social clubs and political entities are joining the effort.

Here in Palm Beach County, we have set aside Oct. 21 at 10:15 a.m. at the Greenacres Library, 3750 Jog Road, for our League members to participate. We will supply all the details and each person will receive a package of postcards and a sheet of names and addresses. To protect the privacy of the returning citizens, the postcards must be written during this get-together and cannot be taken from the room.

This is an opportunity to help the million or more returning citizens to continue their journey on the road to successful voter registration. We need to know how many will attend so we can prepare all the supplies. Please commit an hour or so of your day and join us. We will make it fun and enjoy the camaraderie of taking on the task together.

To RSVP, or for questions, please contact MJ Range at mjrange@comcast.net.

HELP OUR LEAGUE DEFEND DEMOCRACY

Autumn is here and we have a lot of volunteer opportunities to help with petitions and voter information resources. Your civic engagement, volunteerism and support is greatly appreciated. Please let us know if you can help with any of the events below.

SIERRA CLUB MEET 'N' GREET (Loxahatchee Group)

Saturday, Oct. 21

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

To volunteer, contact Pam Maldonado at MaldonadoPBC@gmail.com or Nancy Gau at JesseStar2@icloud.com

FLORIDA EAST COAST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Saturday, Oct. 21, through Wednesday, Oct. 25

Different events, at several locations.

To volunteer, contact Nancy Gau at JessieStar2@icloud.com

[READ MORE](#)

"The Wisdom of Women"

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: A HUMAN RIGHT

Abortion, pregnancy complications, maternal mortality, legal issues



Wednesday, October 25 12 to 2 PM

Café Centro, 2409 N. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach,

Couvert for lunch:

NCJW members \$40.00

NCJW non-members \$50.00 Join with registration, pay member price

Register here and select your lunch choice Space is limited

Questions? Contact advocacy@ncjwpalmbeach.org



[LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE.](#)



SPOTLIGHT DISCUSSION

GUN VIOLENCE: Facts vs. Myths

October 28, 2023 - 10:30 - Noon
Mounts Botanical Garden
West Palm Beach

Thomas Gabor, Ph.D.
Lead author with Fred Guttenberg

Dr. Gabor will discuss recent trends in gun violence, the sources and impact of misinformation, some key myths, and solutions to gun violence, including what the individual citizen can do.

FREE to the Public

[Register HERE](#)

AMERICAN MUSLIM ALLIANCE OF FLORIDA AMAF

www.americanmuslimalliance.org

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

ANNUAL INTERFAITH PICNIC

AT JOHN PRINCE PARK

(CENTER DRIVE PAVILION)

CORNER OF CONGRESS & 6TH AVENUE.

4759 SOUTH CONGRESS AVENUE, LAKE WORTH, FL-33461

GOD WILLING

ON SUNDAY October 29th, 2023, between 1:00- 6:00 P.M.

Free Flu Shot will be provided

Courtesy of: *Walgreens*

FREE LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Br. Imran Aziz (561) 767-6048	Br. Kasir Chowdhury (786) 971-7941
Br. Shehab Chowdhury Suman (561) 667-6459	Br. Mohammed D. Alam (954) 305-9935
Sister Ruby Awlad (954) 628-2992	Br. Shamim Razin (772) 530-2674

Mohammed Osman Chowdhury President, AMAF (561) 523-0922	Shakir Ahmed Picnic Coordinator (561) 351-6163	Mustafa Gaffar Asst. Picnic Coordinator (954) 548-8094
---	--	--

Thank You!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Darlene Kostrub, Membership Chair

A TASTE OF THE LEAGUE



If you have not attended a League Orientation, plan to attend our next Taste of the League Orientation on **Saturday, November 4**, 10 a.m. to noon. This is for new members and others interested in the League.

Issue Group leaders will be present to tell about the work of their various committees. This event is only offered two or three

times a year.

The location is:

STEM Education Building across from the South Florida Science Center, 4801 Dreher Trail North, West Palm Beach

Register by email to Members@LWVPBC.org or call (561) 276-4898.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

Our annual **Connect and Reboot** event will be held **Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to noon**, at the South County Civic Center at 16700 Jog Road in Delray Beach. **Carey Haughwout**, Palm Beach County Public Defender, will be our featured speaker. **Get the date on your calendar!**

NOVEMBER

HOT TOPIC *'THE SUPREMES: Greatest Hits & Misses'*

November 15, 11 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Mounts Botanical Garden
West Palm Beach

BARBARA J. PARIENTE

Former Justice of the Florida
Supreme Court will discuss
recent decisions
by the Supreme Courts
in both Tallahassee
and Washington, D.C.



[Register HERE](#)

MEET AND GREET WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

The Membership Committee hosted an informal Meet and Greet at the home of **Liz Shapiro** in Iron Horse Country Club on Sept. 13. Seventeen new members and guests attended and their interest in League issues was most exciting.

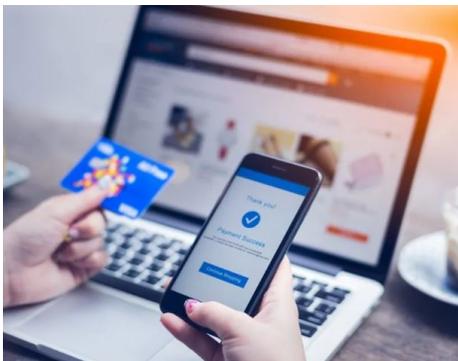
— *Darlene Kostrub, Membership Chair*

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

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

Priscilla Buono (North Lauderdale); **Bailey Carmack** (Boynton Beach); **Charlotte Cohen** (Delray Beach); **Peter Grossman** (Delray Beach); **Martha Hochberger** (Wellington); Leann Mervilus (Boca Raton); **Renee Post** (Boynton Beach); **Joyce Rico** (Delray Beach); **Lawrence Timmins** (Delray Beach).

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



IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR DUES?

October is a big month for the Palm Beach County League — many members renew their memberships during this time. Since the volume of dues payments will be heavier than usual, we ask members to pay securely online instead of mailing a check. This will expedite the renewal process.

Here are some tips to help you renew your membership online:

1. **LOG IN FIRST.** When logging in to your online membership account, please use your email address and your password.
2. If you forgot your password, you can set a new one [HERE](#).
3. After you are logged in, go [HERE](#).
4. Scroll down to either “RENEW” or select a new membership level.
5. Finally, fill out your payment information, submit and you're done. Your receipt will be emailed.
6. Need help? If you are experiencing trouble, please contact [HELP](#) for immediate assistance.

Thank you from the LWVPBC Membership Team

SOME THINGS WE'VE BEEN UP TO

PBC LEAGUE HELPS S.O.E. REGISTER 633 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

More than 450 League chapters, including Palm Beach County, signed on as partners for National Voter Registration Day during the third week of September, hosting both in-person and virtual voter registration events across the country.

Volunteers from the Palm Beach County League, along with our local Supervisor of Elections Office staff, assisted with voter registration at 26 high schools. During that week, 633 students registered or pre-registered to vote.

Since the inception of National Voter Registration Day in 2012, the League has been the largest on-the-ground partner, and this year, LWV reached more than 100,000 new voters. We thank you for your dedication to empowering voters and defending democracy all year round.



Above left: **Sharon Lent, Nancy Gau and Pam Maldonado** collected 59 abortion access petition signatures at the Senior Luau at the Wellington Community Center on Sept. 28. Above right: The Out of Darkness Walk for suicide prevention, held Sept. 30 at John Prince Park, was sponsored by the

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Healthcare Chair **Nancy Gau** and her husband walked and donated, while **Arlene Ustin** staffed our LWVPBC table, distributing items for our Voter Services and Gun Safety committees.

GET 4 FREE AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS THIS FALL ON COVIDTESTS.GOV

Every U.S. household may place an order to receive four free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to your home.

[Order Free At-Home Tests](#)

Need help placing an order for your at-home tests?

Call [1-800-232-0233](tel:1-800-232-0233) (TTY) [1-888-720-7489](tel:1-888-720-7489)).

The U.S. government will continue to make COVID-19 tests available to uninsured individuals and underserved communities through existing outreach programs. Please contact [a HRSA health center](#), [Test to Treat](#) site, or [ICATT location](#) near you to learn how to access low- or no-cost COVID-19 tests provided by the federal government.

YOU SAID IT

***Registering voters has become more
difficult and much more expensive***

This ANOTHER VIEWPOINT opinion by LWVFL Co-Presidents Cecile M. Scoon and Debbie Chandler was published Sept. 19 in the Sun-Sentinel.



People and organizations across the country and of all political persuasions work to extend the fundamental right to vote to all lawful citizens. Many of these organizations are making special plans to push for potential voters to get registered on National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 19. Unfortunately, even as these organizations try to expand the franchise, there are a number of states making it harder for citizens to vote and adding difficulty to registering voters, including Florida.

In a 2022 ruling, Chief U.S. District Judge Mark E. Walker found that Florida officials have spent the last 20 years intentionally making registering voters and voting more difficult by creating a variety of prohibitions erroneously. Since Walker's order, the Florida Legislature has "gifted" Floridians with yet another nearly 100-page law with a slew of even more prohibitions, increased criminal penalties and fines related to voting. This new government "fix," Senate Bill 7050, directly impacts any organization that wishes to register voters in Florida.

The League of Women Voters, a more than century-old nonpartisan organization whose volunteer members are dedicated to registering and educating voters, has made the difficult decision to change its way of doing business in Florida due to this newly enacted law. Dedicated volunteers will no longer collect completed paper voter registration forms and return them to their local supervisors of elections on a voter's behalf. Gone are the days when hundreds of skilled volunteers with paper registration forms, pens and clipboards will register voters in neighborhoods and at community events. Senate Bill 7050 sets fines for even inadvertent errors so high that the league's yearly budget could be affected.

[READ MORE](#)

LEAGUE IN THE NEWS

League starts countdown to 2024 vote with 2 events

This article about the LWVPBC was published Oct. 5 in Florida Weekly.

The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County is committed to keeping the electorate informed.

With that in mind, the nonpartisan organization plans two events this month.

First up: The “I Stand With the League” luncheon and awards, scheduled for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18, at Benvenuto in Boynton Beach.

This event will launch the league’s yearlong countdown to the 2024 election, “Stand up for Democracy!,” an aggressive yearlong campaign of issue-oriented Hot Topic Luncheons, Spotlight Discussions, voter registration drives, and voter education efforts. Highlights of the annual fundraiser will include a three-course seated lunch, fascinating speakers, a silent auction of gift baskets, and the opportunity to meet and connect with many of Palm Beach County’s most influential political, legal, business, media, and community leaders.

Honorary chair and emcee is Tania Rogers, anchor/reporter at WPTV News Channel 5. The recipient of the league’s Heroes & Mavericks Awards will be Wendy Sartory Link, Palm Beach County supervisor of elections. Keynote speaker will be Brian Crowley, former newspaper journalist and editor, and political analyst.

[READ MORE](#)



Trudy Rankin and Andy Crossfield are co-chairs of the League of Women Voters of Polk County's Gun Safety Committee. They are leading a campaign to give away gun locks.

'Listen, be responsible': Polk League of Women Voters gives away gun locks to save lives

This article about the Polk County chapter of the League was published Oct. 6 in the Lakeland Ledger.

By Gary White, Lakeland Ledger

It sounds like it could be part of a stealthy and suspicious operation: Someone from Polk County drives four hours to Fort Lauderdale, meeting a supplier in an office parking lot to collect a package before driving back to pass along the contents for local distribution.

Though the details might vaguely resemble those of an illicit deal, the supply run is actually part of a mission intended to save lives.

Volunteers with the [League of Women Voters of Polk County](#) have been teaming with another chapter in Broward County to provide free gun locks to local residents. Since starting the campaign in May, the Polk chapter has distributed nearly 1,200 locks, its leaders say.

"Just about everybody [has a gun tragedy story](#)," said Andy Crossfield, co-chair

of the Polk group's Gun Safety Committee. "So then, the volunteers get to thinking, 'This is just a huge problem.' But then you see the gleam in the eye of a volunteer when they hand over a gun lock and think to themselves, 'I might have just saved a life by doing this.' I've been volunteering for a long time, and I have never had the reward of volunteering with the possibility I may save somebody's life."

The League of Women Voters, a national nonprofit founded in 1920, initially focused on voting rights and elections but has branched into other areas, such as health care, the environment and immigration. Though nonpartisan, the organization often advocates for left-of-center political ideas.

[READ MORE](#)



IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION

All Vote-by-Mail requests submitted prior to the November 8, 2022 General Election have expired.

New election laws require voters to renew their mail ballot requests after every General Election cycle.

WATCH THE VIDEO TO LEARN MORE.



***An Important Message
About Voting by Mail***

READ MORE

REMINDERS

FLORIDIANS

PROTECTING FREEDOM





LEAGUE AIDS PETITION DRIVES: ABORTION ACCESS, CLEAN WATERS

We are collecting petitions for the Abortion Access constitutional amendment proposed by Floridians Protecting Freedom, and for the Right to Clean and Healthy Waters constitutional amendment.

Even though SB 7050 has mandated restrictions on our voter registration activities, there are no restrictions on gathering petitions, nor on gathering Vote by Mail applications. A reminder that only petitions signed by registered Florida voters will be accepted.

[READ MORE](#)

2023-24 DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

The Directory is available both in print and online. The online version is in the [Voter Toolkit](#) on our website, LWVPBC.org. It has links to websites and email addresses for all officials.

Please take the time to share the online version and let **Christene Campbell-Gabor** know if you need a

DIRECTORY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

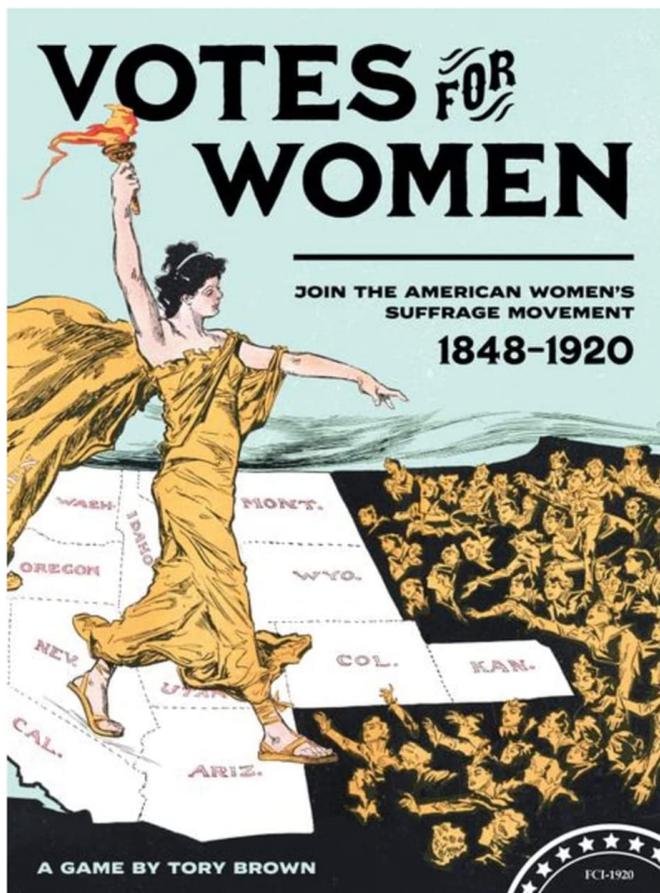
Palm Beach County
2023 - 2024

PREPARED BY

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

few more printed copies. Reach her at Christene.LWVPBC@gmail.com.

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. The League of Women Voters receives a donation for each game purchased.



**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.

This email was sent to updates@gladesinitiative.org

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County · 9314 Forest Hill Blvd · Suite 640 · Wellington, Florida 33411 · USA