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*January Hot Topic- 1-19-2021*



## *Hot Topic*

### **Beyond Roe: Reproductive Rights in Florida**

*January 19, 2022*

*12:00 PM via Zoom*



*Amy Weintraub*

Amy Weintraub is the Reproductive Rights Program Director for Progress Florida and chairs the Reproductive Rights Task Force for Florida NOW. A seasoned organizer, Amy has worked most of her adult life identifying, educating, and activating citizens toward social justice. Amy lives in St. Petersburg with her husband; they have two children in college.

[Register Here](#)

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### *LWVPBC Trailblazers*



“The League of Women Voters has evolved from a mighty political experiment designed to help 20 million newly enfranchised women vote in 1920, to what it is today.”

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We should be very proud of what we have become over the last century yet we recognize that we still have a long way to go. It is clear that at its inception, the League was only concerned with white women. Several of the founders were openly racist, reflecting the times they lived in. Now, 100 years later, the national League has at last made Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) a priority, and our Palm Beach chapter has fully embraced the mission.

To begin with, however, we need to broaden our definition of diversity beyond the standard categories of gender, ethnicity, race, sexual preference and socioeconomic levels to include the disabled. People with disabilities span all of those groups. Health problems and disabilities do not care if you are black or white, gay or straight, native-born American or an immigrant.

For perspective, in Palm Beach County, around 30% of residents over 65 (400,000+) have at least one disability and many have two or three. For younger residents, the percentage is approximately 7%.

Yet it often seems as though these people are invisible unless you are someone dealing with a family member who is disabled, and then you are often acutely aware of barriers and types of discrimination, including obstacles related to education, transportation and accessibility, among others.

Voter Services is undertaking a project to reach out to the disabled community to provide voter registration and education. But more than that, we want to encourage individuals and organizations to join the League or partner with us so that we can benefit from points of view that we, as able-bodied citizens, might not have considered.

During our last Hot Topics presentation on Disability and the Poverty Trap, by Olivia Babis from Disability Rights Florida, we had closed captions and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. This is a big first step toward making our events more inclusive and, moving forward, plans are to have them during Hot Topics and Spotlight presentations.

The personal injury law firm of Smith, Ball & Baez, PA was kind enough to sponsor the interpreters. According to Olivia, we are the first Florida chapter to provide this service; hopefully, other chapters will follow suit.

**YOU CAN HELP US!** If you have a connection with any local disabled community organization that we can reach out to, please contact Pam Maldonado at 305-873-4239 or [maldonadopbc@gmail.com](mailto:maldonadopbc@gmail.com).

Likewise, if you are interested in participating in the subcommittee working on outreach to disabled organizations, contact Pam.

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*A Tribute to Catherine Emihovich*





I am sad to report that I recently learned of the passing of Catherine Emihovich, a highly esteemed member of the Voter Services committee, who departed this world in August after a 15-month battle with a brain tumor.

Catherine had only been a member of the League for a couple of years, but we learned to appreciate her quiet consideration of ideas and excellent suggestions. She especially loved doing voter registration at the Naturalization Ceremonies and all her colleagues enjoyed working with her.

In her previous life, Catherine was a highly regarded educator, moving through ever more responsible positions at Florida State, the University of South Carolina, Cal State Sacramento and finally the University of Florida. She was the first ever woman to hold the position of Dean of the College of Education at UF, stepping down after 9 years.

Personally, I feel cheated to have only known her for a short time. I realized she was someone very special the first time I met her and am so glad that our paths crossed, if only briefly.

Catherine is survived by her husband Ron, her sons David and Ben and five grandchildren.

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*Watching Healthcare In the 2022 Legislative Session*





#### **SB414 Family Caregiver Certified Nursing Assistant Program**

Requiring the Board of Nursing, in consultation with the Agency for Health Care Administration, to develop a program to train and certify family caregivers as certified nursing assistants for a specified purpose; authorizing family caregivers who complete the program to take the nursing assistant competency examination; providing that such caregivers who pass the examination are eligible for certification as a nursing assistant, etc. This bill will not be supported.

#### **HB75 Limiting COVID-19 Restrictions**

Prohibits state or any political subdivision from enacting mask mandate; provides any such mandate is void; prohibits state & local governments from requiring COVID-19 vaccinations, issuing vaccine passports or other standardized documentation to third parties, or otherwise publishing or sharing COVID-19 vaccination records; prohibits businesses from requiring customers to provide documentation certifying COVID-19 vaccination or COVID-19 post-transmission recovery or discriminating against customers on basis of their COVID-19 vaccination status or COVID-19 post-transmission recovery status, etc. This is still alive, though it is partially redundant to special session COVID-19 bills.

#### **HB167 Abortion**

Requires physician to conduct test for, & inform woman seeking abortion of, presence of detectable fetal heartbeat; prohibits physician from performing or inducing abortion if fetal heartbeat is detected or if physician fails to conduct test to detect fetal heartbeat; provides exceptions; authorizes private civil cause of action for certain violations; provides for civil remedies & damages. This bill is not moving. Senate not interested. House will probably introduce a new bill in January, similar to Mississippi's 15-week ban.

#### **SB630 (HB363) Pregnant Women in Custody**

Citing this act as "Ava's Law"; requiring that every female who is arrested and not released on bond within 72 hours after arrest be administered a pregnancy test within a specified timeframe, upon her request; requiring that, if a pregnant woman is convicted of a crime and sentenced to incarceration of any length, the sentencing judge provide the pregnant woman the opportunity to defer the imposed sentence until a specified time after delivery, etc.

#### **SB107 HIV Prevention Justice Act**

Reducing the degree of criminal penalty for certain persons who are infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and who donate blood, plasma, organs, skin, or other human tissue for use in another person; revising prohibitions relating to the intentional transmission of certain diseases through sexual conduct; providing that a person's failure to comply with behavioral recommendations does not de facto establish intent to transmit a disease, etc.

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## *Passing the Torch*



After serving for several years, Past President Karen Wilkerson has resigned from two appointments. Her slot on the PBC Business Forum (which serves as an advisory to the county Economic Council) will be filled by LWVPBC member Richard Barholomew. Her spot on the PBC Ethics Coalition will be replaced by LWVPBC member Justice Ira Raab.

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## *Welcome New Members*



**Please Welcome These New Members to Our League:**

**Vevienne Ebanks (Plantation); Lynn Filipski (Gulf Stream); Elaine Gershenovich (Boynton Beach); Linda Hipol (Boynton Beach); Sharon Kornreich (Boca Raton); Patricia Moran (Boca Raton); Charlotte Novak (Boynton Beach); Kathleen O'Leary (Boca Raton); Elaine Ragon (Palm Beach Gardens); Mona Reis (Palm Beach Gardens); Lynn Rogut (Palm Beach); Susan Vazquez (Delray Beach);**

Contact information is available in the Member Directory at [lwvpbc.org](http://lwvpbc.org).

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## 2022 Taste of the League Orientation



The first New Member Orientation for 2022 will be Saturday March 12, 10:30-11:30 a.m. If you are a newer member of the League and have not attended an Orientation or a Taste of the League, please do plan to be with us on March 12. For details, contact Darlene Kostrub.

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## Dues Renewal



A number of you have dues that may have expired in the last month or two. If you have any difficulty renewing online, please do contact me.

Darlene Kostrub, Membership Chair

[dkostrub@aol.com](mailto:dkostrub@aol.com) 561-573-6384 (cell)

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## LWVPBC Member Spotlight

Click the image below to nominate a member to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.



**NEWS EDITORIAL VOLUNTEERS**  
Ashley Cacicedo, Managing Editor  
Annette Evans, Harvey Rosenfeld, Rita Wachs  
Emily Rosen, Rebecca Freeman, and Jalydney Brown

Please send your feedback or questions to [lwpbcnews@gmail.com](mailto:lwpbcnews@gmail.com)

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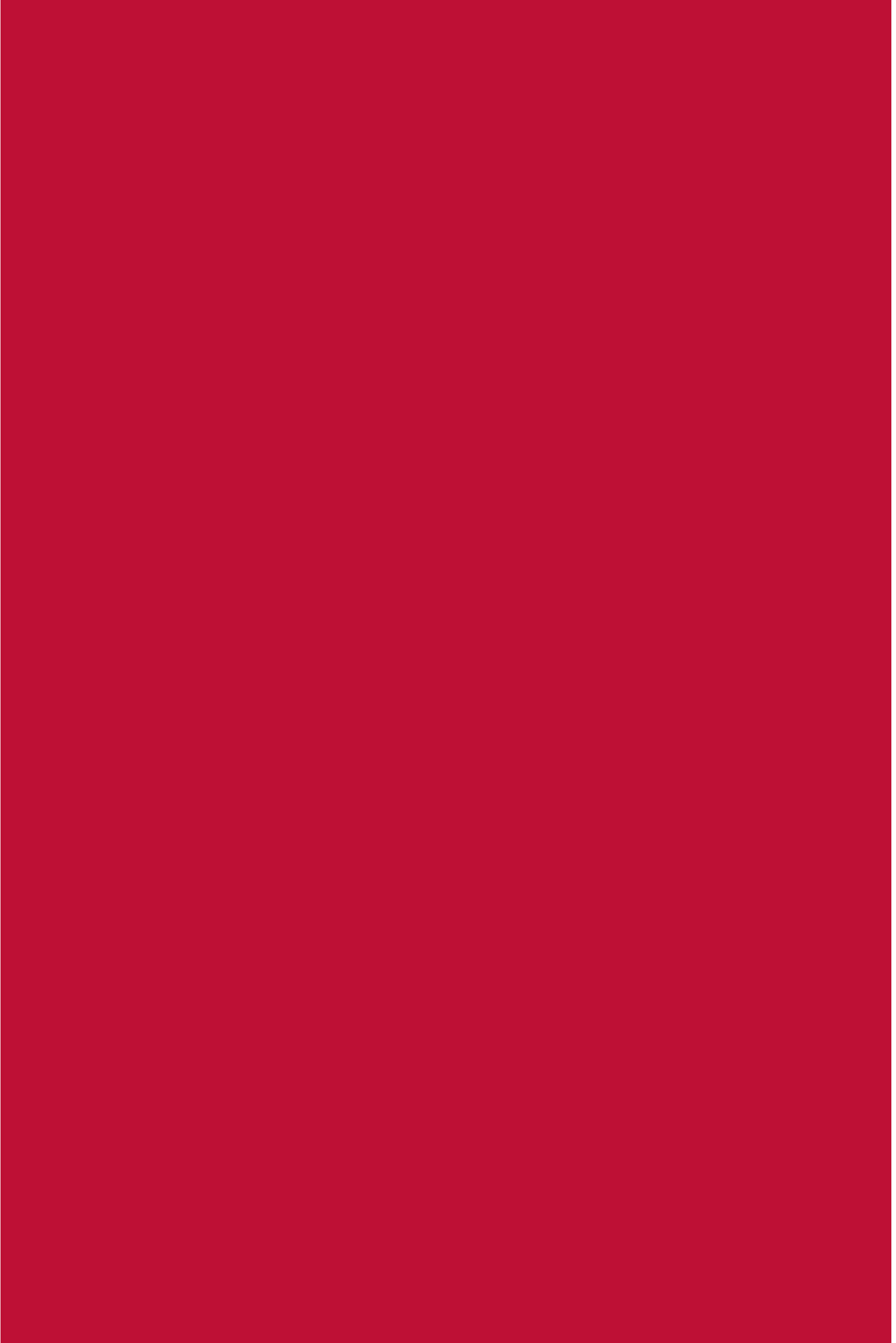
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