

Palm Beach CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Improving Life in Palm Beach Since 1944

October 2012

www.palmbeachcivic.org



2012 VOTERS GUIDE

Election on Tuesday, November 6

For more information see the Civic Association Webpage

www.PalmBeachCivic.org/Elections



Palm Beach voters have a full slate of candidates for President, the U.S. Congress, the Florida Legislature, judges for retention, local races, and ballot questions on the November 6 election ballot.

The Palm Beach Civic Association believes all civic-minded citizens will want to make informed decisions in the November 6 election. This voter guide details only the candidates and issues on the Palm Beach ballot.

FEDERAL RACES



Florida is a pivotal state in the presidential race where incumbent President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden seek a second term against Republican challenger Mitt Romney and running mate Paul Ryan.

President Obama lost Florida by 536 votes when he defeated John McCain in the 2008 presidential race.

Incumbent U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, a Democrat, faces Republican Connie Mack, a West Coast congressman who is the son of the senator whom Sen. Nelson replaced in 2000.

Former West Palm Beach Mayor Lois Frankel is pitted against Republican Adam Hasner of Boca Raton for U.S. House District 22. Ms. Frankel was a Democratic leader in the Florida House for 13 years before she became mayor.

Toll-Free Telephone Participation for Election Forums

Members Only Benefit!

If you can't attend in person, use our 800 number to participate. Call 561-655-0820 to get the toll-free number and Pin.

Palm Beach Civic Association ELECTION FORUMS for the November 6th General Election



ADAM HASNER
Congressional Candidate

Wednesday, October 31
10:00 a.m.



LOIS FRANKEL
Congressional Candidate

Friday, November 2
10:00 a.m.

Palm Beach Civic Association Community Room

139 North County Road #33, Palm Beach, FL 33480

Everyone welcome!

Open to the Public

Make your reservation today!

**Seating Around a Table (Limited to 35)
Reservations Required**

561-655-0820

Or Register Online: www.PalmBeachCivic.org

U.S. SENATE

A U.S. Senator is elected to serve the state of Florida for a six-year term.

BILL NELSON – D (Incumbent)



Personal: Nelson was born in Miami on Sept. 29, 1942. He has been married to his wife, Grace, since 1972 and has two grown children.

Education: Bachelor's degree from Yale in 1965. Law degree from University of Virginia in 1968.

Professional Career: He served as a captain in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1971, both on active duty and in reserve.

Political Experience: He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2000 after six years as a member of the Florida Cabinet. He currently serves on the Senate Commerce, Budget, Finance, Intelligence, and Aging committees and is recognized as a congressional expert on NASA.

Main Issues: He has fought oil drilling off Florida's coast. He pledges help for veterans to get the benefits they deserve and access to quality health care.

CONNIE MACK – R



Personal: Age 44. Born in Fort Myers. He is currently married to California Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack, the widow of Sonny Bono.

Education: Bachelor's degree from the University of Florida.

Political Experience: Mack is the U.S. Representative for the 14th District, serving since 2005.

Main Issues: During his 8 years in Congress, he received respectable scores from conservative rating organizations, opposed the bailouts, and co-sponsored the balanced budget amendment. Generally opposed to earmarks, he did secure funding for his district to expand I- 75.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A U.S. Representative serves a two-year term. The District 22 seat is open after Rep. Allen West moved out of the district to run for another House seat. The district includes coastal Palm Beach and Broward counties from Jupiter to Fort Lauderdale.

ADAM HASNER – R



Personal: Adam Hasner was born in Brooklyn in 1969. Wife: Jillian

Education: Hasner received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in 1991 and a JD from Florida State in 1995.

Political Experience: In 2002, he was elected to Florida House District 87.

Main Issues: Creating jobs and boosting the economy, create American energy, debt reduction spending control, and patient centered healthcare.

LOIS FRANKEL – D



Personal: Born in New York in 1948. One son.

Education: She graduated from Boston University, and received a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

Political Career: She won the Florida House seat in 1986, and was re-elected in 1988 and 1990. She served as majority whip and minority leader. She was elected mayor of West Palm Beach in 2003, continuing for eight years.

Main Issues: Creating jobs, pro-choice, make Social Security and Medicare solvent, protect and advocate for the needs of veterans, improve education and ensure that college education remains within reach for the middle class and access to quality affordable health care.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Any qualified Palm Beach County voter is entitled to vote an absentee ballot. An absentee ballot may be requested in person at the Supervisor of Elections office, in writing, over the telephone or by completing an on-line application.

A designee may also pick up an absentee ballot for a voter beginning on the Wednesday five (5) days before and including Election Day.

Direct telephone, written or facsimile requests to:

Supervisor of Elections
P.O. Box 22309
West Palm Beach , Florida 33416
Telephone: (561) 656-6200
Facsimile: (561) 656-6220

An application may be filled out or downloaded online at: www.pbcelections.org

FLORIDA SENATE

A State Senator serves a four-year term. Jeff Clemens is alone on the ballot because no Republican filed but a write-in candidate qualified to allow voters to write their name on the ballot. District 27 extends from Palm Beach County to Florida's west coast.

JEFF CLEMENS – D



Personal: Born September 8, 1970.

Education: Bachelor degree in journalism from Michigan State University.

Professional Career: Energy contractor, and has worked in journalism and public relations.

Political Experience: Mayor of Lake Worth 2007- 2009. Ran for House District 89 in 2010, defeating Pete Brandenburg in the Democrat primary.

Main Issues: His goals are to ensure we are all treated fairly under the law, to fix our broken and failing tax system, to improve our struggling education system and to protect the natural resources.

Palm Beach Civic Association Presents:

Election Symposium

Ballot Questions & Amendments



Todd Bonlarron
Legislative Affairs Director
Palm Beach County

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23
10:00 A.M.

Palm Beach Civic Association
139 North County Road #33, Palm Beach

Limited Seating! RSVP
561-655-0820
or Register Online:
www.PalmBeachCivic.org

FLORIDA HOUSE

A State Representative serves a two-year term. District 89 covers coastal Palm Beach County from Singer Island to Boca Raton.

BILL HAGER – R



Personal: Bill Hager is a 20-year resident of Boca Raton.

Education: He holds a J.D. degree from the University of Illinois, a Masters of Education from the University of Hawaii.

Professional Career: CEO of NCCI, and a co-founder of Boca technology incubator Cenetec, Inc.

Political Experience: He was elected to the House in 2010, he served 3 terms on the Boca Raton City Council and was Deputy Mayor. After Adam Hasner left his District 87 seat due to term limits, Bill Hager was elected to replace him.

TOM GUSTAFSON – D



Personal: An attorney and resident of Ft. Lauderdale,

Education: Bachelors degree from the University of Notre Dame, J.D. from the University of Florida Law School.

Professional Career: Authority on transportation funding and development opportunities that are related to sustainable, mobile, higher-education-linked, livable communities. Currently, Director, Research Programs, FIU Office of

Finance & Administration.

Political Experience: Elected to the Florida House in 1976. Served as Speaker 1988-1990.

ATTENTION VOTERS!

The Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea is no longer a voting location. Check your updated voters registration card or the Supervisor of Elections website to see your new precinct number and polling location.

STATE ATTORNEY

The State Attorney prosecutes crimes filed by Palm Beach County law enforcement agencies, serving a four-year term. Michael McAuliffe, the previous office holder, resigned before his term expired.

DAVE ARONBERG – D



Personal: Born May 4, 1971.

Education: Attended Harvard Law School, where he graduated in 1996 with a Juris Doctor.

Professional Career: In 1999, Aronberg became an Assistant Florida Attorney General.

Political Experience: He was elected to the Florida Senate in 2002. He wrote major consumer protection legislation, sat on the state's Medicaid task force to reform fraud and abuse, served as

chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight.

ROBERT GERSHMAN – NPA



Personal: Robert met his wife, Cindy, also an attorney, during their freshman year of college. They have a 17 year old son and a 15 year old daughter.

Education: Received a Bachelor of Accounting degree from George Washington University in 1988 and his law degree from Nova in 1991.

Professional Career: He has managed his Palm Beach County law practice for more than 15 years.

The Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office and the Courts appointed him as a special prosecutor in significant cases.

DINA A. KEEVER – R



Personal: Resides in Palm Beach Gardens with her husband of 14 years, Dr. Mark Agrama, and two sons.

Education: Received law degree with Honors from Florida State University College.

Professional Career: In 1995, joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida as Assistant U.S. Attorney. She has written over forty federal appellate briefs and successfully argued

numerous appeals in the United States Courts of Appeals.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Voters are asked whether to retain each of the three incumbent justices for another six-year term. Justices don't compete against each other. Florida voters approved merit retention of appointed judges in 1976 to replace elections and take politics out of the Supreme Court.

FRED R. LEWIS – Yes or No



Personal: Married his wife Judy in 1969 and has two children.

Education: Attended Florida Southern College in Lakeland and the University of Miami School of Law, where he graduated cum laude in 1972.

Professional Experience: A member of the Florida Supreme Court. Appointed in 1998.

PEGGY A. QUINCE – Yes or No



Personal: Born in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1948. Married to Fred L. Buckine and has two daughters.

Education: J.D. Degree from the Catholic University of America in 1975.

Professional Experience: A member of the Florida Supreme Court. Appointed in 1998.

BARBARA J. PARIENTE – Yes or No



Personal: Married to the Honorable Frederick A. Hazouri, judge of the Fourth District Court of Appeal. They have three married children and eight grandchildren.

Education: Received law degree from George Washington University Law School, where she graduated fifth in her class in 1973.

Professional Experience: A member of the Florida Supreme Court. Appointed in 1997.

Note: Candidate bios and information provided by candidates and edited to fit this guide.

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL

Voters are asked whether to retain two incumbent judges for six-year terms who are not competing against each other. The Fourth District court, located in West Palm Beach, hears appeals of verdicts from state circuit courts in Palm Beach and five other counties.

BURTON C. CONNER— Yes or No



Education: An undergraduate degree from Duke University and J.D. from the University of Florida.

Professional Experience: Prior to joining the appellate court in 2011, Conner served as a judge on the Florida Nineteenth Circuit Court since 1997. Before that, he was a judge on the Okeechobee County Court from 1984 to 1988. He has also spent some of his career in private practice.

CAROLE Y. TAYLOR— Yes or No



Education: Attended University of North Carolina, where she received her bachelor's degree in 1971 and her law (J.D.) degree in 1974.

Professional Experience: Was appointed County Court Judge in 1991 for the 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida. Circuit Court Judge in 1995. Appointed to the Court of Appeal in 1998.

PALM BEACH COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR

The county Tax Collector serves a four-year term. Anne Gannon is alone on the ballot because no Republican filed but a write-in candidate qualified to allow voters to write their name on the ballot.

ANNE M. GANNON (Incumbent)



Education: Attended Florida Atlantic University.

Professional Career: Owned a public policy firm in Delray Beach and Tallahassee.

Political Experience: Elected to the Florida House in 2000 and re-elected for two more two-year terms. She was first elected as tax collector in 2006.

Main Issues: Her goal has been to modernize and professionalize the tax collector's office.

PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSIONION

A County Commissioner serves a four-year term. Residents who live north of Southern Boulevard may vote in the race to replace Commissioner Karen Marcus, who is retiring because of term limits.

DAVID LEVY – D



Personal: Mr. Levy is a native Floridian who has lived in Palm Beach Gardens since 1989.

Education: He received a B.S. in Geology from Florida State University, and a M.S. in Geological Services from Virginia Polytech.

Professional Career: Owner of Southeast Remediation Technology, owner since 2003 and owner of Risk Management Services since 1996.

Political Experience: He is currently Mayor of Palm Beach Gardens and has been a City Councilman since 2004.

HAL VALECHE – R



Personal: He grew up in New York and a Palm Beach County resident since the early 1990s.

Education: Graduate of Yale and received a Master's degree in business administration from Wharton.

Professional Career: U.S. Navy pilot and worked as an investment banker for Merrill Lynch in New York City and now in venture capital.

Political Experience: He served on the Board of Supervisors of Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District and Palm Beach Gardens City Council.

What is the Palm Beach Civic Association?

We are a town-serving, non-partisan organization that is the source of in-depth and late breaking news, providing information about local issues and holding events to gather ideas, inform, enlighten and improve life in Palm Beach.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Call 561-655-0820 or visit our website www.palmbeachcivic.org

SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS

PORT OF PALM BEACH

Port commissioners serve four-year terms and run district-wide. Jean Enright is alone on the ballot for Group 3 because no Republican filed but a write-in candidate qualified to allow voters to write their name on the ballot.

Group 1

WAYNE RICHARDS – D (Incumbent)



Personal: He and his wife, Erika have two daughters.

Education: BS in Mechanical Engineering from Howard University and a JD from the University of Michigan.

Professional Career: Practicing attorney at his own firm, specializes in real estate and business law, land use, zoning and government affairs.

Political Experience: A port commissioner since 2000 and currently

Chairman, he was re-elected in 2008.

GEORGE A. BLACK - R



Personal: Born in the state of Indiana on January 6, 1955. George has two children.

Education: Attended University of Indianapolis. Obtained a degree in criminal justice specializing in law enforcement and psychology.

Professional Career: Multiple construction and real estate jobs.

Group 3

JEAN L. ENRIGHT – D (Incumbent)



Personal: Widow of the late Dr. William F. Enright Jr. and mother of two daughters.

Education: Dr. Enright received a Doctorate Degree from The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. and a Master of Science Degree from Howard University in Washington D.C.

Professional Career: Worked as a teacher and administrator with the Palm Beach County School Board.

PALM BEACH SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Supervisors are elected non-partisan countywide for four-year terms. The district helps farmers and governments conserve farm land and assists with irrigation.

Group 2

DREW A. MARTIN (Incumbent)



Education: Bachelor degree in History and a Masters in Business.

Experience: Vice Chair of Soil and Water Conservation District Board. 2007 – 2008 Co-Chair Everglades Coalition and volunteer for the Sierra Club. Winner of Kabler Award from the Everglades Coalition for volunteer work on preserving the Everglades in 2012 and Environmental Champion Award from John T. McArthur State Park in 2010.

STEPHEN JARA



Education: BS at Vista College in Hospitality Management

Professional Career: Worked as general manager at several country clubs and now president at Pristine Properties. On several boards and committees: Coastal Conservation Association South Palm Beach, Snook & Gamefish Foundation, and a Member of the Florida Cattlemen Association.

EARLY VOTING GENERAL ELECTION, 2012

Registered voters may vote early from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily on Saturday, October 27, 2012 through Saturday, November 3, 2012, at the Supervisor of Elections Office, 240 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach.

PALM BEACH POLLING LOCATIONS FOR GENERAL ELECTION

- Precincts 1390 and 1392: St. Edward's Church, 165 N. County Road.
- Precincts 1394 and 7154: Central Fire Station, 355 S. County Road.
- Precincts 7156, 7158 and 7166: South Fire Station, 2185 S. Ocean Blvd.

For a Sample Ballot go to www.pbcelections.org

**POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M.
ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012.**

FLORIDA AMENDMENTS – 2012

Amendments to the Florida Constitution require approval by 60 percent of state voters for passage.

AMENDMENT 1

Health Care Services

The measure aims to prevent laws or rules from compelling any person or employer to purchase, obtain, or otherwise provide for health care coverage.

AMENDMENT 2

Veterans Disabled Due to Combat Injury; Homestead Property Tax Discount

The proposed measure would allow for property tax discounts for disabled veterans. This bill explicitly extends the rights to ad valorem tax discounts, made available in 2010 to all veterans who were residents of Florida prior to their service, to all combat-disabled veterans currently living in Florida whether they were residents prior to their service or not.

AMENDMENT 3

State Government Revenue Limitation

The measure proposes replacing existing revenue limits with a new limitation based on inflation and population change. Any funds that exceed the revenue limits would be placed in the state's "rainy day fund." Once the fund reaches 10% of the prior year's total budget the Florida State Legislature would be required to vote to either provide tax relief or reduce property taxes

AMENDMENT 4

Property Tax Limitations; Property Value Decline; Reduction for Non-Homestead Assessment Increases; Delay of Scheduled Repeal

The proposed amendment would prohibit increases in the assessed value of homestead property if the fair market value of the property decreases; reduces the limitation on annual assessment increases to non-homestead property; and provides an additional homestead exemption.

Specifically, non-homestead or commercial property would have their assessment increases capped at 3 percent per year. The property tax rate would also be lowered to 10 percent for rental and 5 percent for commercial properties. This will put non-homestead or commercial property owners in line with the benefit received by homestead owners. Additionally, the measure would implement an additional homestead exemption for first-time buyers equal to 50 percent of the median home price in the county. The additional exemption, however, would be gradually reduced until it expires within 5 years.

AMENDMENT 5

State Courts

The proposed measure would modify the existing Florida State Supreme Court. The amendment revises provisions relating to repeal of court rules, limits re-adoption of repealed court rule, and stipulates that all appointments to the Florida Supreme Court be subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate. The proposed legislation also grants the Florida House access to investigative files of the Judicial Qualifications Commission. Change would shift the balance of power to the Florida Legislature.

AMENDMENT 6

Prohibition on Public Funding of Abortions; Construction of Abortion Rights

The proposed measure would prohibit the use of public funds for abortions except as required by federal law and to save the mother's life. Additionally, the measure stipulates that the state constitution cannot be interpreted to include broader rights to abortion than those contained in the United States Constitution.

AMENDMENT 8

Religious Freedom

The proposed measure would prevent individuals from being barred from participating in public programs if they choose to use public funds at a religious provider. Essentially, the measure moves to repeal the state's ban of public dollars for religious funding.

AMENDMENT 9

Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouse of Military Veteran or First Responder

If enacted this amendment would authorize the legislature to totally or partially exempt surviving spouses of military veterans or first responders who died in the line of duty from paying property taxes.

AMENDMENT 10

Tangible Personal Property Tax Exemption

If enacted this amendment would provide an exemption from *ad valorem* taxes levied by local governments on tangible personal property that's value is greater than \$25,000 but less than \$50,000.

AMENDMENT 11

Additional Homestead Exemption; Low-Income Seniors Who Maintain Long-Term Residency on Property; Equal to Assessed Value

This would authorize the Legislature to allow counties and municipalities to grant *ad-valorem* tax exemptions up to the assessed value of a homestead property worth less than \$250,000 if the owner has owned it for more than 25 years, is 65 years of age or older, and has a "low income" as defined by general law.

AMENDMENT 12

Appointment of Student Body President to Board of Governors of the State University System

This amendment would require the Board of Governors of the State University System to create a council of student body presidents, whose chairman would then become the student member of the Board of Governors.

Palm Beach CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Improving the Quality of Life in Palm Beach Since 1944

139 North County Road, Suite 33 • Palm Beach, Florida 33480-3950

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PALM BEACH COUNTY BALLOT QUESTIONS

Voters are asked whether to give Palm Beach County commissioners the authority to take action on two issues.

GEN_2012: PALM BEACH COUNTY - QUESTION 1

Economic Development Property Tax Exemptions for New Businesses and Expansions of Existing Businesses

This measure seeks to continue to allow the county to provide property tax exemptions for new or expanding businesses in the county. The current tax break incentive would expire in August 2014, if this measure to renew it does not get approved.

GEN_2012: PALM BEACH COUNTY - QUESTION 2

Slot Machines at Licensed Pari-Mutuel Facilities Located in Palm Beach County

This measure would allow slot machines to be placed at licensed pari-mutuel facilities. The Palm Beach Kennel Club is the only licensed facility in the county which could have the slot machines.

Go to our Webpage to see Voting Information & Candidates:
www.PalmBeachCivic.org/Elections

Join the Civic Association today to participate in our member's only events!

Please mail or fax this form to:

Palm Beach Civic Association

139 N. County Rd. #33

Palm Beach, FL 33480

Phone (561) 655-0820 • Fax (561) 655-1070

If you are not already a member, please support our community by joining now.

Membership Level

- Premier Benefactor (\$10,000 +)
- Leading Benefactor (\$5,000 - \$9,999)
- Sustaining Benefactor (\$2,500 - \$4,999)
- Leadership (\$1,000 - \$2,499)
- Guardian (\$500 - \$999)
- Sustaining (\$250 - \$499)
- Basic (\$100 - \$249)

Payment Method

- Check
- Credit Card (check one)
- AMEX
- Mastercard
- Visa

Amount to charge

\$ _____

Billing Information

Name (as it appears on credit card)

Address

Phone

Expiration Date

Card Number

ALL MEMBERSHIPS ARE FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED BY LAW, AS THE PALM BEACH CIVIC ASSOCIATION IS RECOGNIZED BY THE IRS AS A 501(C)(3) FOUNDATION. A copy of the official registration may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state (800) 435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.