



Frankly Speaking...

Rep. Frankel, Speaker Pelosi Highlight Infrastructure Funding Opportunity at Broken County Bridge in Delray



West Palm Beach, FL –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21) hosted Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Assistant Speaker of the House Katherine Clark, along with Representatives Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (FL-20) and Frederica Wilson (FL-24), for an in-person press conference on the east side of the George Bush Boulevard Bridge in Delray Beach—which has been stuck open since early March—to discuss the critical investments the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will make to update Florida’s infrastructure and create good-paying American jobs.

The Members and the Speaker were joined by local city and county leaders.

In 2021, Florida Democrats worked alongside President Biden to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, a once-in-a-century investment in infrastructure which includes \$250 million in funding to update and fix bridges in Florida, like the broken George Bush Boulevard bridge in Delray Beach.

Rep. Frankel and her guests discussed these historic investments and explained how this funding will update the infrastructure Floridians rely on while creating and maintaining local jobs.

ICYMI: Rep. Frankel Advocates for Local Veterans Impacted by Toxic Exposure, Passage of Honoring Our PACT Act

Washington, DC –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21), took to the House floor to urge passage of the *Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act*, extensive legislation to provide access to VA health care to millions of veterans who were exposed to toxic substances—including burn pits—during their service.

Below are Rep. Frankel’s remarks, as delivered. For video of Rep. Frankel’s full remarks, [click here](#).



“Mr. Speaker, I am blessed that my son Ben, a Marine war veteran, returned home safely from his tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He’s now a small business owner, and he’s even given me two beautiful grandsons!

Listen, not every family is as lucky. Our servicemen and women put their lives on the line for our nation, yet, for too long, countless veterans have unknowingly been exposed to environmental hazards and toxic waste like burn pits during their duty. Then they come back home with long-term health impacts like cancer, infertility, and breathing issues.

Mr. Speaker, they deserve better. We owe them better.

Here’s the thing: if we are willing to send our troops to war, we must also be willing to care for their health upon return. And this includes the 80,000 veterans in my home Palm Beach County.

It’s time for Congress to honor this commitment and send President Biden the Honoring Our PACT Act to provide access to VA health care to millions of veterans exposed to toxic substances.

The best way to thank our veterans for their service is with action. I urge my colleagues to pass this important bill, and I yield back.”

Rep. Frankel Votes for Funding Bills that Build a Better America

Washington, DC – Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21) issued the following statement after voting for a collection of funding bills for FY 2022.

“I am proud of this government funding legislation that delivers transformative federal investments that lower the cost of living for working families, create good-paying American jobs, and uplift our seniors and veterans,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “The bill underscores our commitment to democratic values at home and abroad furthering House Democrats’ commitment to building a better America.”

On the international front, it includes **\$13.6 billion in humanitarian and military assistance to support the Ukrainian people** as they defend their homes and their democracy against Putin's unprovoked war. The funding package also commits **\$4.8 billion for Israel's security**, including for the Iron Dome missile defense system to protect our most important democratic ally and friend in the Middle East.

The package makes critical investments to support seniors so they can age with dignity and good health, including **almost \$1 billion for Senior Nutrition programs, \$399 million for Home- and Community-Based Services** for older Americans and individuals with disabilities, and **\$6 million for Holocaust survivors**.

The legislation makes the largest investment in **Everglades restoration** in a spending package, with a **historic \$350 million** committed to the program, on top of the over \$1 billion investment already allocated from the Infrastructure Law.

It includes provisions that will help working families with the cost of living through the expansion of affordable child care, quality health care, and after school programs, including **\$11 billion for Head Start** and **\$286 million for the Title X Family Planning Program**. This is on top of provisions to serve **students with disabilities**, strengthen **nutrition assistance programs**, and create **more affordable housing**.

This bipartisan bill **reauthorizes and expands the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) through 2027**. This reauthorization will ensure that survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and dating violence have access to the resources they need to come forward and seek justice, while also investing in the tools to prevent this kind of violence in the future.

Importantly, **Rep. Frankel secured millions for local projects** that directly benefit the Palm Beach County community. [Click here](#) for more information.

For a full summary of the bill, [click here](#).

Frankel Announces Millions in Funding for Local Projects



Washington, DC –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, announced funding for nine local community projects included in the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 spending bill.

“I’m happy to report that several important local projects were included in this year’s budget, at my request,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “These programs range from improving local health systems, to empowering women and girls, helping our homeless neighbors, and investing in workforce development. These

projects are going to make a positive difference for so many across the Palm Beach County community.”

After a series of community meetings with input from many stakeholders, the following are the projects Rep. Frankel submitted to the Appropriations Committee for FY 2022 that are included in the spending bill:

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA)

- Location: Delray Beach, FL
- \$1,000,000
- AVDA offers a comprehensive array of services for all victims of domestic violence.
- Funding requested to expand their campus so they can provide further outreach and prevention programming to a broader part of the community and expand their assistance to domestic abuse survivors.

Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County

- Location: Delray Beach, Wellington, and Northwood, FL
- \$525,000
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County is a non-profit youth development organization with 17 clubs in the area that provide programs and prepare children for college or a career after high school in safe, welcoming, positive environments.
- Funding request to put the College and Work Readiness Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program in Boys and Girls Club Centers in Delray, Wellington, and Northwood. The program helps minority, low-income youth by preparing them to be an integral part of a skilled labor force throughout Palm Beach County.

Caridad Center

- Location: 8645 W. Boynton Beach Boulevard, Boynton Beach, FL
- \$1,150,000
- Caridad Center is the largest free healthcare clinic in Florida, offering comprehensive medical, vision, and dental care for the uninsured and underserved children and families of Palm Beach County.
- Funding request to provide for important infrastructure upgrades and the purchase of medical equipment.

Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County

- Location: 2300 High Ridge Road #115, Boynton Beach, FL
- \$125,000
- The Early Learning Coalition works to build a community-wide commitment to ensure every child is ready to succeed in school and life through comprehensive, high-quality early learning environments. Their collaborative partnership with the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County allows for continuity of care and funding for families, resulting in more than 30,000 children served annually in Palm Beach County.
- Funding request to support a parent-to-teacher workforce pipeline project to help parents looking to return to work and fill the staffing gap currently felt by early learning programs as a result of the pandemic's impact on the child care industry.

Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service

- Location: 5841 Corporate Way, Suite 200, West Palm Beach, FL
- \$325,000
- Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service is a not-for-profit organization, with a mission to serve the community by providing a wide range of needed social services to strengthen individuals and families of all denominations.
- Funding request for a mixed-use space that will expand on all the services provided by Alpert JFS, including mental health services for adults and children, support groups, financial and career counseling, food insecurity services and food pantry, mentoring programs, services for seniors, Holocaust survivors, persons with disabilities, and more.

Pace Center for Girls

- Location: 1640 South Congress Avenue, Palm Springs, FL
- \$500,000
- The Pace Center for Girls provides at-risk girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training, and advocacy.
- Funding request to provide educational tools and upgrades to the Pace Center. Proposed enhancements include upgraded classrooms, technologies, instructional tools, computer lab, counseling spaces, and common areas for girls.

Recuperative Care Palm Beach County

- Location: West Palm Beach, FL
- \$1,000,000
- Palm Beach County will lead this effort and is supported by the Palm Beach County Housing and Homeless Alliance (Continuum of Care), that consists of a membership of over 80 nonprofit homeless providers, state and local governments, health care providers and advocates.
- Funding request to help provide medical respite, acute, and post-acute recuperative care for people experiencing homelessness when they are not ill enough to remain in a hospital but too ill to recover on the streets. This service would dramatically decrease the cost of care for homeless patients (including those with HIV) and would improve health outcomes for Medicaid/Medicare patients.

Palm Beach State College Respiratory Care Clinical Laboratory

- Location: 4200 Congress Avenue, Lake Worth, FL
- \$700,000
- Palm Beach State College is a public college with multiple locations in Palm Beach County and nearly 49,000 students.
- Funding requested to help expand the clinical laboratory to provide respiratory care students with better training opportunities through medical simulations to prepare them for the future workforce. Upon completion of the Associate in Science degree of Respiratory Care program, the graduates obtain their Registered Respiratory Therapists license.

The Lord's Place

- Location: 2802 North Australian Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL
- \$998,900
- The Lord's Place is a non-sectarian, social impact organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness by providing innovative, compassionate and effective services to men, women, and children in our community.
- Funding requested to renovate elements of the Family Campus with apartments, community center, and a youth center that is called home by 120 (including 75 children) people at any given time. Since 1983, The Lord's Place has assisted thousands of families experiencing homelessness and that challenge has only grown due to the impact of the pandemic.

Rep. Frankel Statement on Biden Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request

Washington, DC –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21), member of the House Appropriations Committee, issued the following statement in response to President Biden's fiscal year 2023 (FY23) budget proposal.

“President Biden is committed to building a better America for the people, and his FY23 budget proposal lays the groundwork for how we'll continue to work toward this important goal while lowering

the deficit, fighting inflation, and creating more jobs,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “I am especially excited by his inclusion of billions of dollars to make high quality, affordable child care more accessible, historic investments to create a more gender equitable world, hundreds of millions for Everglades Restoration to protect Florida’s drinking water, and unprecedented funding to support our Veterans, and I look forward to working with the Biden-Harris Administration to include these funding priorities in our FY23 spending bill.”

For more information on the President’s FY23 budget proposal, [click here](#).

Rep. Frankel Announces Availability of \$1.4 Billion in Grants for Clean Buses Through Infrastructure Law

West Palm Beach, FL –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21) announced the availability of approximately \$1.47 billion in competitive grant funds available to help modernize bus fleets and facilities across the country, [including in Palm Beach County](#). This new funding will help support good-paying jobs and help reduce carbon emissions, leading to cleaner air, healthier communities, and better transportation.

“The transition to a clean energy future is about ensuring our children and grandchildren grow up in a world with clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and beautiful nature to enjoy,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “These new grants will help local transit authorities, like our very own Palm Tran, expand their electric bus fleets, creating more sustainable transportation options for our community.”

This is the first Federal Transit Administration (FTA) competitive grant opportunity to be announced through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The [Low or No Emission \(Low-No\) Grant Program](#) makes funding available to help transit agencies purchase or lease U.S.-built low or no emission vehicles that use advanced technologies, including related equipment or facilities, for transit revenue operations. The [Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program](#) makes funding available to help transit agencies purchase and rehabilitate buses, vans, and related equipment, and build bus facilities.

[Click here](#) for additional information from the FTA

Rep. Frankel Visits The Lord’s Place, Announces \$998,900 in Federal Funding

West Palm Beach, FL –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, will visit The Lord’s Place to announce \$998,900 in new funding included in the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 spending bill, which Congress passed this month.

Rep. Frankel was be joined by Diana Stanley, CEO, The Lord’s Place.

The Lord’s Place is a non-sectarian, social impact organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness by providing innovative, compassionate and effective services to men, women, and children in the Palm Beach County community.



The Lord's Place requested funding to renovate elements of the Family Campus with apartments, a community center, and a youth center that is called home by 120 people—including 75 children—at any given time. Since 1983, The Lord's Place has assisted thousands of families experiencing homelessness, a challenge that has only grown due to the impact of the pandemic.

This funding for The Lord's Place was secured as one of nine projects Rep. Frankel championed to directly benefit Palm Beach County residents through her Community Project Funding requests for the FY 2022 spending bill. Read more about the other eight [here](#).

Women, Peace, and Security Caucus Co-Chairs Frankel, Waltz Statement on International Women's Day

Washington, D.C. –Co-Chairs of the bipartisan Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Caucus Representatives Lois Frankel (FL-21) and Michael Waltz (FL-06) released the following statement recognizing International Women's Day.

“Increasing women's participation in peace and security efforts is crucial to advancing gender equality and to broader international security,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “This year's International Women's Day theme—Break The Bias—underscores the importance of breaking down the barriers to women's participation in these critical sectors. By building more equitable and gender-inclusive societies, that put women in the rooms where decisions are being made, we're creating a more peaceful and secure world.”

“International Women's Day is a time to highlight the achievements of women worldwide. As a Green Beret I have seen firsthand that in societies where women thrive, extremism does not. Empowering women is essential to our national security. The United States must remain steadfast as a global leader in efforts to elevate women around the world,” **said Rep. Waltz**.

The WPS Caucus aims to ensure that women play active, meaningful roles in all aspects of their communities and society to advance democracy and stability worldwide, as provided in the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017 ([P.L. 115-68](#)). More info on the Caucus can be found [here](#).

Rep. Frankel Congratulates Verdenia Baker on National Recognition

West Palm Beach, FL – Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) released the following statement congratulating Verdenia C. Baker, the Palm Beach County Administrator, for being selected as a Women Who Move the Nation honoree by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO).

“Verdenia Baker is an incredible leader, a dedicated public servant, and a dear friend of mine,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “I am so proud that her decades of service to our community here in Palm Beach County are being recognized by COMTO—she deserves it. Congratulations, Verdenia!”

Baker is one of 16 women from across the country, including Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, and NASA Johnson Space Center Director Vanessa E. Wyche to be acknowledged this year for their work advancing America's transportation industry. The 2022 honorees will be celebrated on

Wednesday, March 16th at 8am during the 10th Annual COMTO Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation Awards Ceremony. [Learn more here.](#)

Rep. Frankel Congratulates Dr. Alina Alonso on National Recognition

Washington, DC –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-21) released the following statement congratulating Dr. Alina Alonso, Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County Director, for being recognized as Florida’s honoree for USA TODAY’s Women of the Year.

“I add my congratulations to Dr. Alonso for this well-deserved, national recognition,” **said Rep. Frankel.** “Her tireless, courageous leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic has saved thousands of people in our community from serious illness and death. Palm Beach County is blessed to have her at the helm of our public health system.”

Dr. Alina Alonso is a long-time practitioner and public health leader in Palm Beach County. She is a diplomat of the American Board of Family Practice and a member of the Palm Beach County Medical Society. She is on the faculty for Nova Southeastern University and participates in the Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency Program at the Department of Health in Palm Beach County training future leaders.

The Women of the Year program is a continuation of the USA TODAY’s 2020 Women of the Century project that commemorated the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote. Other nominees for this year include Simone Biles, Melinda Gates and Vice President Kamala Harris. You can read Dr. Alonso’s profile [here.](#)

Rep. Frankel Statement on Don’t Say Gay Law

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-21) released the following statement after Governor Ron DeSantis signed Florida’s dangerous *Parental Rights in Education* legislation, also referred to as the “Don’t Say Gay” bill, into law.

“School should be a nurturing environment for kids to learn and grow, where all students feel welcomed and supported,” **said Rep. Frankel.** “The ‘Don’t Say Gay’ bill will make it harder for students to receive information essential to their well-being and put LGBTQ+ children at risk to bullying and mistreatment.”

The “Don’t Say Gay” bill prohibits any classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in primary schools and restricts these conversations throughout high school to “appropriate” discussion. This purposely vague language will allow parents to sue school districts, teachers, and schools that bring up “inappropriate” LGBTQ+ related issues, effectively censoring educators and excluding LGBTQ+ history, information, and students from Florida’s school system.

Gallery



Full house at the Valencia Reserve town hall



**Palm
Beach
Pride
Parade**



Meeting with Firefighters & Paramedics of Boca Raton, Local 1560

