



Frankly Speaking...

NEW FLORIDA LAW: YOU MUST REQUEST YOUR VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT EACH ELECTION!

The state legislature passed a law in 2021 that limits mail-in ballots to one per election cycle. Due to a change in state law, Florida voters interested in voting by mail have to apply for new ballots. As a result, **every vote-by-mail request expired at the end of 2022.**

For you to receive your vote-by-mail ballot in the 2023-2024 elections, you may request it using one of the following methods listed below:

- **By Phone**, Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections at **(561) 656-6208**.
- **In person** at any of their four offices:
 1. Main Office 240 S. Military Trail West Palm Beach 33415
 2. South County 345 S. Congress Avenue Room 103 Delray Beach 33445
 3. North County 3188 PGA Blvd. #2401 Palm Beach Gardens 33410
 4. West County 2976 State Road #15 Second Floor Belle Glade 33430
- **Online** at www.votepalmbeach.gov click on the 'Vote By Mail' icon
- A fillable request form is available online in English and Spanish. Print, complete, sign, and return your request form by **fax (561) 656-6230**, or as an attachment to the **email votebymail@votepalmbeach.gov**.
- **Mail** a fillable request form to PBC Supervisor of Elections Main Office (P.O. Box 22309, West Palm Beach, FL 33416)

A request must include the voter's FL Driver's License or FL ID, or the last four digits of their Social Security Number, whichever can be verified by their office. If your voter record does not include your FL Driver's License/ID, or last four digits of your SSN, you must update your voter record before requesting your Vote-by-Mail ballot.

Updating your voter record and requesting a Vote-by-Mail ballot can be completed online 24/7. If you are a voter with a protected address, you may contact our office or submit a paper registration application/written Vote-by-Mail request.

If you have any questions, feel free to call my District Office at **(561) 998-9045**.

Tip: If you were scammed, or think you saw a scam, tell the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at reportfraud.ftc.gov

ICYMI: Rep. Frankel Opposes Default on America Act

Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22), took to the House Floor to oppose Republicans’ “Default on America Act.” This extreme MAGA Republican legislation presents Americans with a terrible choice: wreck our economy or inflict cruel cuts that hurt everyday people.



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

Below are Rep. Frankel’s remarks, as delivered:

“Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it.

Extremists in this Congress are trying to hold us hostage. Republicans have given us

a ransom note: Choose between wrecking our economy or wrecking our families.

Lose jobs and retirement funds, or inflict cruel pain on American families: more children going to bed hungry, more women dying [in] childbirth, more parents without child care, more neighborhoods without police, more evictions, more drug overdoses, more veteran suicides, and more carbon in the air, more misery.

Make no mistake.

Republicans are willing to sacrifice Americans in order to protect tax cuts for the very wealthy and for big corporations.

And with that I yield back.”

ICYMI: Rep. Frankel Discuss Teacher Shortages, Title IX with Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona

Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, participated in a Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Subcommittee Hearing with Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. Rep. Frankel asked the Secretary about how Republican-proposed cuts to the Department of Education’s budget would affect teacher shortages and female student athletes. Below are excerpts of Rep. Frankel’s opening remarks and questions. For a video of Rep. Frankel’s full remarks and Secretary Cardona’s answers, [click here](#).

“Thank you for being here. Like many of my Democratic colleagues, I am extremely concerned about what looks like might be a 25% budget cut [to] education.

I’m especially concerned about what’s going to happen to the teachers, because we have a tremendous teacher shortage in Florida and around the country.



[...]

In Palm Beach County, we have one of the largest school districts in the country, we have about 400 teacher vacancies now, there’s 5,000 teacher vacancies in Florida, and I understand hundreds of thousands nationwide. So, I’m very concerned if we cut the education budget, what is that going to mean for teacher vacancies? Especially in our poorest schools that we fund with Title One?”

[...]

Hopefully this is something we can all agree on, which is really the importance of sports to the development of young children and to adults. And I want to talk about the real issue here when it comes to Title IX, and that is girls and women are not getting the legally required fair share of athletic opportunities in both high schools and colleges.

I want to read something, according to a recent report by the Women’s Sports Foundation, 86% of NCAA schools offer athletic opportunities to men at disproportionate rates compared to their student-body make-up. And male athletes receive \$252 million more in sports scholarships than females.

At the high school level, your department has reported receiving over 3,000 complaints in one year under Title IX, based on gender inequities in high school sports opportunities.

[...]

So really, this is a two-sided question. First is, how does your budget improve enforcement of Title IX so that girls and women get the opportunities that they legally are entitled to. And number two, how would these proposed budget cuts affect that?”

Rep. Frankel Announces Boost in Funding for Boynton Beach Public Safety Infrastructure

Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22) hosted a press conference in Boynton Beach alongside Vice Mayor Turkin and Police Chief Joe Degiulio to announce over \$1 million in federal funding to replace the city’s 32-foot radio tower and control sheds—one leg of Palm Beach County’s regional public safety communication network. First responders such as police, fire rescue, and emergency medical providers use radio communication systems to respond to calls for service in the community.



The tower also services public safety radio support for the FBI, Homeland Security, Palm Beach County Sheriff's office, and the Lantana, Delray Beach, and Boca Raton Police Departments—as well as everyday cell service for the community. Recent inspections have revealed extensive damage and deterioration to the 35-year-old structure, which has compromised its integrity. Replacing the radio tower is critical for maintaining the public safety communications network that more than 80,000 residents of Boynton Beach and nearby cities rely on, and failure to do so could result in a catastrophic communication void.

This investment is one of 15 local non-profit projects Rep. Frankel submitted for funding through the [Community Project Funding process](#) for Fiscal Year 2023, which allows Members of Congress to secure investments for specific nonprofit or governmental programs in their communities.

Rep. Frankel Celebrates Congressional Art Competition

Congratulations to A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts student, Ava Grave de Peralta for winning my 2023 Congressional Art Competition!

Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-22) held this year's Congressional Art Competition Reception at Hatch 1121 in Downtown Lake Worth Beach. Each spring, this competition is sponsored by the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. It is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in the nation, as well as in our congressional district. We were able to celebrate the amazing talent of students from Lake Worth Beach High, Boynton Beach High, St John Paul II Academy, Pine Crest High, and Dreyfoos School of the Arts.



They were all winners in our eyes.

Another special thank you to our panel of judges, Claire Clum, Emily Theodossakos, and Derek Sober, who volunteered their time to recognize these students and choose a winner. We know this task was not easy due to the dozens of excellent submissions. Thank you to all Palm Beach County students who participated!

ICYMI: Rep. Frankel Participates in Labor, Health and Human Services Hearing with Public Health Leaders



Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, participated in a Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Subcommittee Hearing with Dr. Lawrence A. Tabak from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Dawn O’Connell, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. The Congresswoman discussed how

Republican cuts to public health spending would disproportionately harm women, children, and seniors.

Below are excerpts of Rep. Frankel’s opening remarks and questions. For a video of Rep. Frankel’s full remarks and Director Walensky’s answers, [click here](#).

“Thank you to our guests today for all your good work, especially in these challenging times.

Speaker McCarthy has recently declared that the Republicans in the House would cap federal spending at FY2022 levels and limit spending growth over the next decade to one percent annually. I suggest that would bring misery and hardship to millions of Americans.

Today we’re talking about the cuts to your agency, cuts that are going to cause the most vulnerable in our community—women, children, and seniors, to suffer the most.

Less spending on health care will mean more breast cancer, more cervical cancer, more maternity deaths, more suicides, more drug overdoses, more pandemics, more violence against women, and less hope for Alzheimer’s patients.

These proposed budget cuts have real consequences: human misery and hurt, especially for folks who are under-resourced.

[...]

In February, the CDC-published a [report](#) that is sad and alarming. It found that in 2021, nearly 60 percent of adolescent girls felt persistently sad or hopeless, double that of boys, and a 60 percent increase since 2011. Nearly one-in-three girls seriously considered suicide, also up nearly 60 percent from a decade ago. One-in-five girls experience sexual violence, also an increase; girls [are] feeling increased pressure to use alcohol or drugs; over half of LGBTQ+ students have experienced poor mental health; and one-in-five have attempted suicide in the past year.

And I would respectfully suggest that the recently enacted abortion bans in dozens of states will exacerbate these mental health issues now that girls are going to have to worry about or be forced to raise a family or bring a baby into life before they are ready.

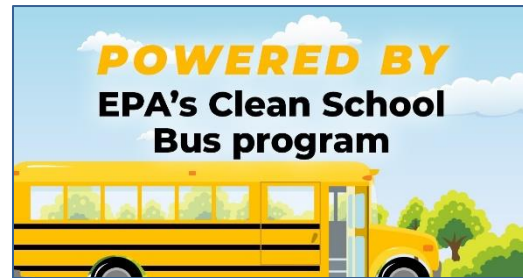
So, question: what recommendations is the CDC working on to address these mental health issues and how would these suggested budget cuts make it harder?

[...]

Let me just state that the great state of Florida is already pushing school districts to abandon the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey. How would a budget cut hurt these efforts?"

Rep. Frankel Proudly Supports Biden-Harris Administration Clean School Bus Investment

Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22) released the following statement after the [Biden-Harris Administration announced](#) \$400 million in new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grants to fund cleaner school buses, which will reduce harmful pollution and protect children's health. This new funding is available through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean School Bus Program.



The \$400 million grant opportunity through the EPA's Clean School Bus Program will fund electric, propane, and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses that will produce either zero or low tailpipe emissions compared to their older diesel predecessors.

“Clean school buses protect children and our planet from the harmful effects of greenhouse gas emissions,” **said Rep. Frankel**. “This investment from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which I proudly voted for, will reduce harmful pollution, create new jobs, and ensure that our children are breathing cleaner air when they travel on school busses.”

These new EPA grants are made possible by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which provided an unprecedented \$5 billion to transform the nation’s fleet of school buses. This funding follows the nearly \$1 billion the Biden-Harris Administration awarded through the [rebate competition last year](#) that funded over 2,500 electric and low-emission school buses across the country.

Local, state, and tribal governments and other eligible applicants can use this funding to replace existing school buses with clean and zero-emission school buses, as well as fund charging or fueling infrastructure. More information and application forms can be found [here](#). The EPA will also be hosting a virtual [information session](#) on Wednesday, May 10th at 3:00 PM.

Rep. Frankel Announces Upgrade to Tri-Rail Services, New Federal Funding

Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22) released the following statement after the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (Tri-Rail) was awarded \$71.7 million to replace their train cars. The funding comes from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which Frankel supported.

“This new grant will enable Tri-Rail to upgrade and modernize its fleet of trains, making rail travel for thousands of South Floridians safer and more comfortable, with the extra benefit of getting more cars off the road,” **said Rep. Frankel.**

The Tri-Rail system services more than 70 miles between Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties, and helped transport more than 3 million riders in 2022.

Big Boost to Florida’s Clean Drinking Water

Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-22) released the following statement in response to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) announcement of the state allotment for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

This year, thanks to President Biden’s Infrastructure Law which Rep Frankel proudly supported, Florida will receive an historic \$376 million in funding to protect clean drinking water in the state.

“Safe, clean drinking water is critical for our health and our economy,” **said Rep. Frankel.** “This unprecedented federal investment will help local cities and towns get the resources they need to revitalize their drinking water systems, remove lead pipes, and protect families from dangerous chemicals and pollutants in their water.”

Several Palm Beach County cities are currently working to improve their water systems and could benefit from this funding, including: Delray Beach, Lantana, Briny Breezes, West Palm Beach, and Lake Worth Beach. Localities must work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to request their project be included in DEP’s yearly plan.

ICYMI: Rep. Frankel Exposes Harmful Impact of Republican Budget Cuts on Maternal Health



Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, participated in a Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Subcommittee Hearing with Carole Johnson, the Health Resources and Services Administrator. The Congresswoman asked Administrator Johnson to explain how Republican cuts to public health spending would undermine maternal health efforts.

Below are excerpts of Rep. Frankel’s opening remarks and questions. For a video of Rep. Frankel’s full remarks and Administrator Johnson’s answers, [click here.](#)

“Administrator Johnson, thank you for your good work and for being here.

Today, or sometime this week, we’re going to be voting on a bill that’s called ‘Default on America Act’. This is going to be a terrible choice. It’s a choice of whether we wreck our economy or we

inflict cruel cuts on everyday Americans. That's what this is about. So, I want to get right to your programs, and see what these proposed 22 or 25 percent cuts are going to mean.

The United States has the highest maternal mortality rate in any developed nation in the world. Women of color are disproportionately impacted by maternal mortality, and we need more maternal health workers to address the crisis — not less.

So, tell us what these budget cuts would mean? What a 22, 25 percent cut would mean?

[...]

In other words, if Republicans have their way, more women will die in childbirth. I think that's what you just said. So next: In recent years there has been a steady stream of news stories reporting the closure of maternity care units in hospitals across the country.

In the past decade, over 200 U.S. hospitals closed labor and/or delivery departments, and according to the most recent data [from] March of the Dimes, nearly five hundred births occur in areas with low or no access to maternity care.

So, first of all, tell me how you have been using your investments to change that? And what the proposed 22 to 25 budget cuts proposed by the Republicans [would do]?

[...]

In other words, there are going to be less hospitals delivering services. And just as a side note, in Florida, our new abortion law there, as a result of it, our doctors are leaving like crazy. So, folks, between the budget cuts and the abortion restrictions, those of us who live in red states are going to have a hard time finding gynecologists who deliver babies and who take care of women.”

Rep. Frankel Statement on Florida Six-Week Abortion Ban

Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-22) released the following statement after the Florida State House passed SB300. Governor DeSantis then signed this bill into law in the middle of the night. It bans abortions in Florida after six weeks, which is before many women know they are pregnant. Doctors who provide abortion care for patients after the six-week mark could face up to five years in prison.

“Women should have the freedom to make decisions about when or whether to start or grow a family, without political interference. That means having access to contraception and legal abortion,” **said Rep. Frankel.** “Florida’s abortion ban is cruel, it’s backwards, and it won’t just be devastating for the women of Florida—its impact will be felt across the Southeast. That’s why Congress must pass the *Women’s Health Protection Act*, which would prohibit federal or state laws that ban or create medically unreasonable restrictions.”

It is important to note that even though the Governor signed this cruel Republican bill into law, the six-week ban is not yet in effect. The Florida Supreme Court is currently weighing a challenge to Florida’s current 15-week ban. If the court upholds the 15-week ban, the six-week ban will immediately take its place, meaning Florida will effectively turn into an abortion desert overnight with nowhere close to go for abortion care.

Rep. Frankel is a co-lead of the *Women's Health Protection Act*, which she [helped re-introduce](#) in the House of Representatives alongside Reps. Chu (CA-28), Pressley (MA-08), Escobar (TX-16) and 204 additional House Democrats on March 30, 2023.

The *Women's Health Protection Act* creates a federal statutory right for health care providers to provide abortion care and a corresponding right for their patients to receive that care—free from bans and medically unreasonable restrictions. The legislation would also protect the ability to travel out of state for abortion care. Companion legislation was [introduced](#) in the Senate by U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), along with 47 other members of the Senate Democratic Caucus.

Photo Gallery



◀ Rep. Frankel with all participants of the 2023 Congressional Art Competition.

Rep. Frankel fighting to protect access to abortion care for all women. ▶



◀ Rep. Frankel meeting with neighbors at Temple Ansei Shalom.



May 2023



◀ Rep. Frankel with leaders from the Florida chapter of the Military Officers Association of America.



Rep. Frankel with Laurence Milstein, Regional Director of AJC Palm Beach County and Lisa Beers, AJC Palm Beach County President, at the relaunch of the Latino Jewish Congressional Caucus. ▶

Please contact my local office with your concerns, comments, or if you need help at 561-998-9045.

Follow me on Twitter | Facebook | Instagram at @RepLoisFrankel