

June 2023



# Frankly Speaking...

## Rep. Frankel Votes to Prevent Devastating Default



Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22) released the following statement after voting in favor of a bipartisan agreement to suspend the debt limit until 2025, preventing a catastrophic default that would trigger a job-killing recession and raise costs for working families.

“President Biden’s Bipartisan Budget Agreement protects the American people and our economy from the devastation of a Republican-driven default on our debt,” **said Rep. Frankel.** “Like any compromise, no one got everything they wanted, but I’m thankful President Biden successfully rejected Republicans’ most extreme attacks on American seniors, veterans, and families. This agreement largely protects the critical lifelines everyday Americans rely on like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, VA benefits, and keeps the historic progress Democrats have made over the past two years in place. Now it’s time to get back to work.”

### The Bipartisan Budget Agreement:

#### Prevents Devastating Default on Our Debt

- The agreement suspends the debt limit through January 2025, ensuring the United States **avoids the job-killing recession and skyrocketing costs for working families** that would result from a default on our debt.

#### Protects Critical Services for Children and Families

- The agreement **protects critical funding for education, health care, and housing** in contrast to extreme MAGA Republicans’ proposal for 22 percent cuts and a decade of harmful budget cuts.

#### Protects Veterans’ Health Care:

- The agreement **fully funds medical care for veterans, including increasing for funding the PACT Act’s toxic exposure fund (TEF) by nearly \$15 billion over enacted levels** – a key

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demand made by Democrats that eliminates extreme MAGA Republicans' ability to play politics with veterans' health care.

#### **Protects Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security:**

- The agreement **protects Medicaid** – which House Republicans voted to take away from as many as 21 million Americans – and **blocks extreme MAGA Republican efforts to end Social Security and Medicare** as we know it.

#### **Protects Historic Clean Energy, Infrastructure Investments**

- The agreement **protects historic investments in clean energy** in the Inflation Reduction Act, including for disadvantaged communities, and the **generational investments in infrastructure** included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

#### **Protects Student Loan Borrowers**

- The agreement **protects the 40 million borrowers in President Biden's student debt relief plan** and the Income-Driven Repayment plan, which cuts student loan payments in half for eligible borrowers.

#### **Protects Lifelines for Vulnerable Americans**

- The agreement **helps more veterans, people experiencing housing instability, and young people aging out of foster care access SNAP**, while avoiding the most devastating changes extreme MAGA Republicans sought to SNAP and TANF.

The agreement passed the House by a vote of 314 to 117 and President Joe Biden signed it into law on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **HURRICANE SEASON 2023 IS HERE ARE YOU READY?**

**DO YOU HAVE A PLAN? DOES YOUR FAMILY KNOW THE PLAN? [CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE PALM BEACH COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER'S HURRICANE GUIDE AND TAKE SOME TIME TO BE SURE YOU ARE READY!**

### **Rep. Frankel Sounds Alarm on Devastating Impact of Republican Default, Budget Cuts for Veterans**

Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22) hosted a press conference to highlight the devastating impacts of Republicans' manufactured default crisis and proposed budget cuts on veterans and their families. **Frankel was joined by Cary Reibach, a U.S. Army Veteran and the founder and board president of the Grey Team, a local nonprofit that works to reduce veteran suicides.**



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Republicans threatened to default on our nation's debt—essentially refusing to pay America's bills—taking our economy hostage to force Democrats to agree to devastating budget cuts. A default would destroy our nation's credit and cause an economic catastrophe. It was a [Republican-manufactured crisis](#) over a simple government function that's a lose-lose for the American people: either we default and enter an economic recession or cut programs everyday Americans, including veterans, depend on.

The proposed Republican budget cuts would have gut veterans' health programs and decimate dedicated funding created by the [PACT Act](#), reneging on the bipartisan promise to deliver health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service. Worse yet, a debt default could freeze payments of all VA benefits and render VA medical care virtually inaccessible.

[Click here](#) to watch.

## Rep. Frankel Announce Funding for Critical Public Safety Tower



Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22) hosted a press conference in Boynton Beach alongside Mayor Penserger, Police Chief Joe Degiulio, and Karl Maracotta, IT manager of the Boynton Beach Police Department, 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 Boynton Beach radio 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. This will head off any potential catastrophic communication gap.

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. [Click here](#) to watch.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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 (FDC) at [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov)**

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## Rep. Frankel Commemorates Jewish American Heritage Month, Remembers the Late-Ben Ferencz

Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22), spoke on the House Floor in honor of Jewish American Heritage Month. During her speech, she honored Ben Ferencz, a hero of the Jewish American community, who recently passed away at 103. Ferencz was the last living Nuremberg Prosecutor, and at just 27 years old, brought 22 Nazi officials to justice for the murder of over one million people. Rep. Frankel championed legislation last Congress to award Ferencz with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow.



Below are Rep. Frankel's remarks as delivered. For a video of her speech, [click here](#).

*"I rise today to recognize Jewish American Heritage Month by sharing the story of my personal Jewish-American hero: Ben Ferencz. Ben was recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, he was the last living Nuremberg Prosecutor, who recently passed away at age 103. Ben enlisted in the U.S. army right out of law school. He was assigned to collect evidence of Nazi war crimes which he later used to prosecute the biggest murder case in the history of the world. At age 27, he convicted 22 Nazi leaders for their roles in the deaths of over 1 million people. Ben later dedicated his life to creating a world of acceptance and compassion, becoming a tireless advocate for the rule of law and international justice.*

*Ben Ferencz is a real American-Jewish hero. His legacy is one of peace, and justice, and humility.*

*May his memory be a blessing. And I yield back."*

## 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.

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## Democratic Women’s Caucus Hosts NASA’s Artemis II Crew Including First Woman to Travel to the Moon, Christina Hammock Koch



The Democratic Women’s Caucus, Chaired by Representative Lois Frankel (FL22), hosted a reception with the crew of NASA’s Artemis II mission, which includes several notable milestones, including [Christina Hammock Koch](#), who will be the first woman to travel to the moon, and [Victor Glover](#) who will be the first Black astronaut to travel to the moon.

At the reception, members of the Democratic Women’s Caucus congratulated the crew on their selection to join the Artemis II—which is NASA’s first mission with crew aboard a foundational deep space rocket and will venture around the Moon, paving the way for lunar surface missions and exploration capabilities. The Members also highlighted how Ms. Koch and the historic Artemis II crew will inspire the next generation of leaders and encourage young women across the country to dream big.

**“Every single day, the astronauts and scientists in our space program push the bounds of what’s possible and inspire generations to come. And for so many young women and girls, watching the Artemis II crew will be particularly meaningful,”** said DWC Chair Lois Frankel. **“We tell young women to dream big and ‘shoot for the moon.’ And it’s incredibly exciting that soon, for the first time ever, they will have footsteps to follow—because Christina Hammock Koch will become the first ever woman to travel to the moon!”**

**“She’ll be joined by the entire Artemis II crew—including Victor Glover, who will be the first Black man to travel to the moon. Their hard work, grit, and determination isn’t just contributing to our space program, it’s also inspiring children everywhere to get involved in STEM, aim high, and be trailblazers. All of us in the Democratic Women’s Caucus will be watching and cheering them on as the Artemis II crew takes to the skies!”**

[Click here](#) to watch Rep. Frankel’s conversation with Astronaut Christina Hammock Koch.

**THINKING OF TRAVELING INTERNATIONALLY SOON OR FOR THE WINTER HOLIDAYS?**

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- ✓ **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A PASSPORT.**
- ✓ **MAKE SURE IT DOES NOT EXPIRE IN A 3 MONTH PERIOD.**
- ✓ **MAKE SURE YOU ALLOW 10-15 WEEKS FOR A NEW PASSPORT TO ARRIVE.**

## Photo Gallery



◀ Rep. Frankel receiving the Alcee Hastings & John Lewis Trailblazer Award for commitment and service to Palm Beach County from the Palm Beach County Democratic Black Caucus.

Rep. Frankel fighting to protect women and families from a default. ▶

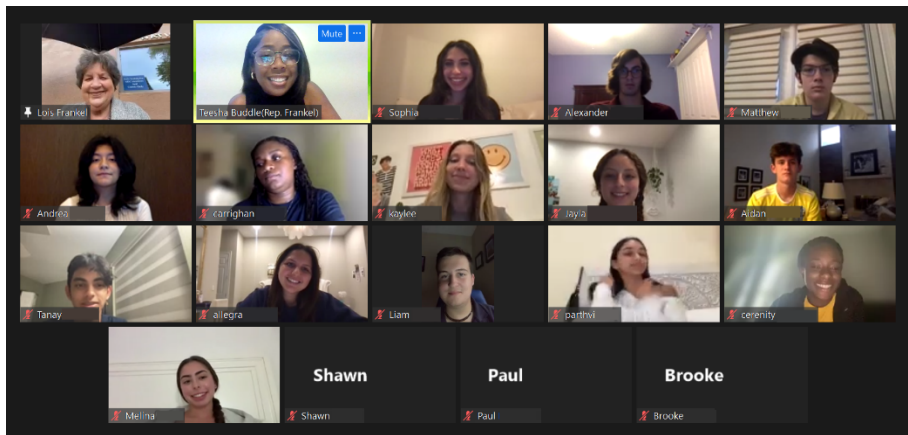


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◀ Rep. Frankel celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Rep. Frankel with the Equal Rights Amendment Caucus. ▶



◀ Rep. Frankel speaking at the last session of her 2023 Congressional Youth Council.

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

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