

## The Week Ahead January 22-26

On Wednesday, Senator **Victor M. Torres, Jr.** (Orlando) and Representative **Joseph Geller** (Aventura) held a joint press conference to discuss their legislation ([HB 367](#) and [SB 1374](#)) requiring Florida to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). States enacting the NPVIC can award their electors to the Presidential candidate who wins the national popular vote. To date, states accounting for **165 of the 270 electoral votes needed** to activate the Compact have passed such legislation, with more considering it.

I spoke about how the League has supported “one person, one vote” for years and has made the passage of NPVIC a priority. “Despite the fact that Florida is the third largest state, Floridians’ voices are not equal to those of residents of other states.”

Dr. **Kevin Wagner**, Chair of the Department of Political Science at Florida Atlantic University summarized a survey of 1,000 registered voters which they conducted on behalf of LWVFL. The study found **68 percent** of registered voters in Florida said it say the candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states should be elected President, while less than a third said the current Electoral College system.

[Learn more about the NPVIC at http://www.lwvfl.org/issue/npvic/](http://www.lwvfl.org/issue/npvic/)

## Gun Safety



Two firearms bills were scheduled in Thursday's Judiciary Committee meeting. [SB 1242](#) adds two broad categories of persons to the statutory list of those who may carry a weapon or firearm without the need for further authorization, such as a concealed weapon or firearms license. One such category: persons "engaged in, traveling to, or returning, but not limited to" the many activities listed in the bill. These activities range widely, from sporting activities like cast netting, or falconry, to leisure activities such as

**bird watching**, picnicking, or dog walking. Essentially, anybody can carry a gun without a permit. [SB 1048](#) would allow properties that rent schools for their congregations to allow guns on the property during the rental period. **This bill is meant to circumvent the current law and open the door to guns on campus.**

The committee room was packed with concerned citizens and gun safety advocates who had traveled from across the state for the opportunity to share their voice to protect children. **Well, that didn't happen.** The over-packed scheduled and lengthy legislator testimony pushed these

items from the agenda. The people's voice was not heard. The bills will return to the Judiciary Committee and the League will return to advocate for gun safety.

## Health Care

[SB 444 Pregnancy Support Services](#) (Bean) passed its last committee, Appropriations, on Thursday. The bill – which is very close to becoming law – provides taxpayer dollars for "crisis pregnancy centers" (CPCs), which are often anti-abortion organizations posing as legitimate health care clinics. Under the guise of providing reproductive health services and pregnancy-related information, these clinics shame women and mislead them to prevent them from accessing the care they want and need. The companion bill, [HB 41](#) (Toledo) passed the full House of Representatives (73-29) last week.

## Natural Resources

[SB 370](#) Land Acquisition Trust Fund - This a top priority for the League and one that we highly support. The bill requires a specified annual appropriation to the Florida Forever Trust Fund. The bill also prohibits money from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund from being used for specified costs. The appropriation of \$100 million was approved in committee and placed on the Senate Calendar for Second reading.

## Only 12 days left to register for Summit!



Does reading this report make you interested in lobbying on these issues? Join us in Tallahassee on Feb. 6 and 7 at our annual Legislative Summit! Learn how to lobby, meet with your legislators, and meet fellow League members from all around the state!

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