

From Ballots to Beachside Democracy: A Palm Beach Tradition

Palm Beach is known for its beautiful beaches, iconic architecture, and vibrant seasonal life—but it also has a long and proud tradition of civic participation. From the town's earliest days to today's modern elections, residents have consistently shown that they care deeply about their community and its future.

Palm Beach was incorporated in 1911, and in those early years, voting was a simple, very local affair. Elections were small, neighbors often knew the candidates personally, and civic life felt personal and close to home. Even then, the idea was the same as it is today: local voices matter, and local decisions shape the character of the town.

Like the rest of the country, Palm Beach's voting history reflects the broader American journey toward a more inclusive democracy. The passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 expanded voting rights to women, and over time, further reforms continued to open the door to broader participation. Each step forward strengthened the principle that our town is best served when more residents take part in choosing its leaders.

As Palm Beach grew, so did the way elections were organized. What began as small-scale voting evolved into a well-structured system with dedicated polling places, voter registration, and eventually modern voting technology. More recently, options like early voting and vote-by-mail have made participating even more accessible—removing barriers and making it easier for busy residents to be part of the process.

Over the decades, Palm Beach has seen its share of spirited elections, especially when important local issues are on the ballot. From questions about growth and preservation to infrastructure and quality of life, these moments of civic decision-making have helped shape the town we know today. While Palm Beach is often associated with elegance and tradition, its voters have always brought energy and strong opinions to the polls.

There's also something reassuringly familiar about voting here. For many residents, it's a small but meaningful ritual—walking into a local polling place, greeting neighbors, casting a ballot, and leaving with that quiet sense of having done your part. Whether you vote early, by mail, or on Election Day, you're taking part in a tradition that connects generations of Palm Beach residents.

At the Citizens' Association of Palm Beach, we believe an informed and engaged community is a strong community. Voting is one of the simplest and most powerful ways residents can help guide the future of our town. As each election approaches, we encourage everyone to take advantage of the options available, stay informed on the issues, and, most importantly, make your voice heard.

Because in Palm Beach, civic pride isn't just a tradition—it's part of who we are.