



100 East Main Street
Leesburg, Florida 34748
(352) 728-9790 | leesburgflorida.gov/library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leesburg Public Library Hosts Opening Celebration for Smithsonian Exhibition

"Voices and Votes: Democracy in America"

LEESBURG, FL — The Leesburg Public Library proudly unveiled the highly anticipated Smithsonian exhibition *"Voices and Votes: Democracy in America"* on Monday, November 18th, during a grand opening celebration. The event, attended by local leaders, community members, and special guests, highlighted the enduring significance of democracy in American history and culture.

The gala commenced with a rousing performance of three patriotic songs by the Lake County Ladies Chorus, setting the tone for an inspiring evening. Attendees heard remarks from a distinguished lineup of speakers, including Library Director Dusty Matthews, Leesburg City Commissioners Alan Reisman and Allyson Berry, Congressman Daniel Webster's Community Relations Representative Cindy Brown, Lake County Supervisor of Elections Alan Hays, and League of Women Voters Tri-County Co-President Carol Van Noy. Each speaker emphasized the importance of civic engagement and expressed enthusiastic support for the exhibition. Lakefront TV filmed the event and will soon be available on their channel.

"This exhibit is an invitation to reflect on the values that shape our nation and an opportunity to celebrate the power of every voice in shaping democracy," said Dusty Matthews.

Voices and Votes: Democracy in America is a traveling exhibition curated by the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program. It explores themes such as the history of voting rights, the role of the media in democracy, and the power of civic participation. The exhibition is designed to engage visitors of all ages through interactive displays, historical artifacts, and thought-provoking narratives.

The exhibition will be open to the public at the Leesburg Public Library through January 11, 2025, during all Library open hours. A variety of accompanying events and programs are planned to encourage community involvement. Admission and parking is free.

For more information about the exhibition and upcoming events, please visit www.leesburgflorida.gov/library, or contact the Leesburg Public Library at (352) 728-9790. The

exhibition is self-guided. Trained staff are available for small group tours, including student groups. Please contact the Library to schedule.

About the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street

Museum on Main Street is a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Florida Humanities, bringing high-quality cultural experiences to small communities.

[Florida Humanities Exhibit Information](#)

Contact:

Deb Bussinger

Leesburg Public Library

(352) 728-9790

librarian@leesburgflorida.gov

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