



THE VOTER

LWV of the Villages/Tri-County Area ♦ October 2010 ♦ Vol. 5 Issue 4

www.lwvtri.org

Nationally recognized! Locally active!



AMENDMENT 1 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

AMENDMENT 2- YES OR NO?

AMENDMENT 4 – YOU WANT ME TO VOTE ON COMP. PLANS?

AMENDMENTS 5 & 6 – WHY TWO AMENDMENTS?

AMENDMENT 8 – CLASS SIZES AGAIN?

PLUS WHAT HAPPENED TO AMENDMENTS 3, 7 & 9?

**WANT ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS?
COME TO A FORUM COSPONSORED BY THE
LEAGUE AND AAUW**

ON

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2010

7 – 9 P.M.

LINCOLN THEATER, LAUREL MANOR, THE VILLAGES.

**CANDIDATES FROM THE TRI-COUNTY AREA HAVE ALSO BEEN
INVITED TO ATTEND.**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. We do not endorse political parties or candidates. We encourage informed and active participation in government and work to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, the election season has started and the League is on the speaking trail. So far, we have made three presentations on the amendments, and have seven more to go. In addition, we were very proud to be involved in a forum on Amendment 4 which was taped at LSCC TV on Monday, Sept. 27. For airing times, go to www.lwvtri.org, and click on Elections.

I would like to thank Charlene Walker for overseeing the Amendment 4 forum. She worked so hard to bring all the parties together, and we are all very proud of the final product.

In addition to speaking engagements, the League will have a table at the Lady Lake's Farmer's Market on Tuesdays in October.

By now you know that the Special Election Edition of "The Florida Voter" has been published and if you need any copies for your neighbors, etc., please let me know. I have plenty on hand. We have distributed this publication to the Lake County Supervisor of Elections and Library System; the Marion County Supervisor of Elections and Library System; the Sumter County Supervisor of Elections and Library System, and finally to the Villages Community Development District for the Recreation Centers. This publication can also be viewed online at our website, www.lwvtri.org.

Please note that in lieu of an October general meeting, we will be having a "Coffee with the League" at Panera's in Spanish Springs, The Villages, on Monday, October 25, from 9-11 a.m. Please join us and bring a friend.

Our November general meeting has been moved up to Monday, Nov. 8 because of other conflicts. At that meeting, we will be discussing program planning in preparation for the LWVF Convention which will be held in March and our Annual Meeting. Please be sure to attend this meeting. We need everyone's input.

Don't forget early starts on Monday, October 18. See you at the Forum and I repeat, bring a friend!

Joanne

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday, Oct. 6, 7-9 p.m., Candidate and Issues Forum.	Lincoln Theater, Laurel Manor, Buena Vista Blvd. & CR466, The Villages.
Monday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m., Board Meeting.	Home of Joanne M. Coen., All members welcomed.
Monday, Oct. 25, 9-11 a.m., Coffee with the League.	Panera's, Spanish Springs, The Villages.
Monday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m., Program Planning. Brief board meeting to follow.	Community Bank & Trust Co., CR466, The Villages.
Monday, Dec. 6, 12 noon, Holiday Party.	Home of Carolyn Johnson.

MEMBERSHIP

Get well wishes to **Betsy Brody, Carolyn Moores** and **Charlene Walker**. It was good to see **Margie Hunt** and **Thelma Kuperberg** at the September meeting. It is dues times for the following people: **September/Carolyn Moores; October/Diane Jacobsen, Bernice Cozewith, Carol Dodd and Phyllis Cohen; November/Sally Bard, Janet Duncan, Helen Gozdanovic and Carolyn & Tom Johnson**. Dues checks, including the \$10 contribution, can be sent to **Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Dr., The Villages, FL 32162**.

VOTEANYWHERE.ORG.

What: A statewide voter awareness campaign sponsored by the **LWV of Florida**. This is "one-stop" shopping assistance for any voter.

Message: There are three ways to cast your ballot:

- Vote by Mail (Absentee)
- Vote Early
- Vote on Election Day.

Fact: "Nearly one in three of 8.4 million Florida voters who cast ballots in the November 2008

If you are going to be away in November, go to **voteanywhere.org**. and you can request your absentee ballot.

IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

- Early Voting Begins – **Oct. 18**
- Early Voting Locations-
Lake County:
Lady Lake Town Hall
Leesburg Public Library
County Administration Building, Tavares
- **Marion County:**
Bellevue Public Library
S/E Main Office, Ocala
- **Sumter County:**
S/E Main Office, Bushnell
S/E Office, 372 Shopping Center Dr.,
Wildwood
S/E The Villages Annex Branch Office
The Villages Library
- Early Voting Ends – **Oct. 31**
- General Election – **Nov. 2.**

VOTERS' SERVICE COMMITTEE

During the month of October, we will be staffing a table at the **Lady Lake Farmer's Market**, on **27/441**, on **Tuesdays**, from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** We would like to have two shifts of two League members covering the period **9 a.m. to 11 a.m.** and **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** There are still some spaces that need to be filled, so please contact **Steven Cooper** or **Richard Coen** to volunteer to help out. We will be distributing the special election edition of "The Florida Voter" and answering any questions about the League, voting, etc.



HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE TO BE ACTIVE IN THE LEAGUE?

Do you have an extra **5 minutes** once a year?

In **5 minutes** you can pay your dues.

In **5 minutes** you can join click a button to make your voice be heard.

In **5 minutes** you can:

- Check www.lwvtri.org
- Check www.lwvfla.org
- Check www.lwv.org

THAT IS BEING ACTIVE IN LEAGUE

Do you have an extra **20 minutes** a month?

In **20 minutes** you can read what your dues and contribution pays for:

- The Voter
- The Florida Voter

THAT IS BEING ACTIVE IN LEAGUE

Do you have **an extra hour or two here and there?**

Look at the things you can do at that time:

- Distribute voters guides around town
- Observe a public meeting
- Staff a table at the Lady Lake Market
- Make phone calls
- Attend a League meeting
- Welcome guests at a candidate forum
- Join a study committee

THAT IS BEING ACTIVE IN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!

"A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." **Margaret Mead**

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

A large turn-out of members and guests at our September general meeting came to hear (i) Karen Krauss, Sumter County Supervisor of Elections, and (ii) Debbie Moffit, Director of Curriculum & Informational Services, Sumter County School District. Also in attendance was Sumter County School Board member Linda Winchester.

Ms. Krauss spoke to us about pending Florida Constitution Amendments Numbers 5 and 6 and their effect on local boards and precincts. She also talked about the large number of voting precincts in Sumter County and the possibility of reducing that number and the money that would be saved by combining precincts into Voting Centers. In response to a question from the audience, she discussed the costs of holding special elections should the need arise if Amendment Number 4 is approved by the voters.

Ms. Moffit spoke to us about implications to the Sumter County school system if Amendment Number 8 is not approved by the voters. It was particularly informative to hear about the difficulties currently being encountered by local schools as they endeavor to comply with existing class room size limitations. Additionally, we heard about the cost to the local school system and the resulting need to move monies around the school budget to pay for additional teachers; and the effect on the students as they are moved from one classroom to another classroom in order for their schools to comply with class room size limitations.

Richard Coen

TAPING OF FORUM ON AMENDMENT 4

On Monday, September 27th, LWVTRI sponsored a Forum on Amendment 4 otherwise known as the Hometown Democracy Amendment. The forum was taped by **the LSCC Educational TV Station**.

Jerry Fallstrom, Editor of the Lake County Section of the *Orlando Sentinel* served as moderator. **Scott Ales**, former Mayor of Eustis and past LWVTRI speaker, spoke in favor of passage of the amendment. **Ryan Houck**, Executive Director of the Citizens for Lower Taxes and a Stronger Economy Inc., spoke against the amendment. Taped in front a small audience,

both speakers gave articulate and well thought out statements and answers to questions prepared by the League.

LSCC will run the half hour program on Channel 13 (Comcast) and Channel 199 (Bright House). Both stations will rerun the tape multiple times. The program will also be simulcast on the website whenever it runs. Airing times are available on our website, www.lwvtri.org

I was, and you will be, so proud that LWVTRI sponsored this Voter Service event. Charlene Walker was the facilitator of this very professional presentation. Watch with pride that you are a part of LWVTRI.

Carolyn Johnson

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



Our Holiday Luncheon this year will be a repeat of the salad lunch we had in 2009 plus surprises. A reminder: the hostess provides the greens and each of you provides your favorite salad addition. (Suggestions: fruit; hard boiled eggs; bacon; cheese; sliced almonds; radishes; celery; etc.) Rolls and dessert will also be provided. Rather than meeting at a local restaurant, we will be having our luncheon at the home of **Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive (Village of Santiago), The Villages**. So mark your calendars for **12 noon on Monday, December 6, 2010**.

As you recall from previous years, we have held a "Chinese Auction" which has been our major source of fundraising. A little twist for this year. Rather than having the auction, we are switching to a grab bag. So bring along your wrapped gift and find out what you will be taking home in return! Additionally, we are also asking that you make a \$10 contribution to the League. This money will go primarily to defer the annual cost of our new website. We will also have some door prizes, and there will be plenty of schmoozing and bonding and a guaranteed good lunch.

Please join us for this festive event and let me know by December 1st, if you plan on attending.

Carolyn Johnson

OBSTRUCTIONIST POLITICS PREVAILS OVER CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Voters on the Losing Side of Political Gamesmanship

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters of the U.S. issued the following statement by national League President Elisabeth MacNamara on the obstructionism that prevented the Senate from beginning debate on the DISCLOSE Act today. The DISCLOSE Act aims to restore transparency to U.S. elections after the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision.

"Voters lost and special interests won today. It is sad to see Senators cling to partisanship and obstructionism once again, instead of working together to find a middle ground on the DISCLOSE Act. This is a failure for which voters will have to pay this November and in elections to come. We were particularly disappointed that Senators Brown, Snowe and Collins, each of whom understands the importance of reform and of fair elections, chose not to stand up for their beliefs.

"In the wake of *Citizens United*, the DISCLOSE Act is essential. It requires CEOs to stand by their ads, and exposes special interest groups behind last-minute attacks. It stops manipulation of elections by fly-by-night hit groups, and prevents U.S. corporations controlled by foreign – or even hostile – governments from pumping secret money into our elections.

"How can individual voters compete with organizations that not only have vested interests in Washington, but millions of dollars to make sure those interests are protected?

"The bottom line is that voters deserve to know who is paying for election advertising. This is not only common sense – it is crucial if voters are to remain the cornerstone of our democracy.

"We would like to know what these opponents have to fear from disclosure of election advertising. Furthermore, what is to prevent them from falling victim to the deceitful advertising which they are refusing to bring into the sunlight? "The League will continue to fight for enhanced disclosure. Our democracy belongs to the voters -- not special interests."

LWVUS President Elisabeth McNamara will be visiting Florida and will be stopping in Orlando on **October 18, 2010**. A reception is planned and more information about attending will be forthcoming.

Legislative Seminar & Convention are being combined into one event and your attendance will help improve Florida!

When: March 23-26, 2011

Where: Tallahassee, Florida

Who: All of **YOU**, the MOST important, influential, and intelligent people in the state of Florida!

Why: Many of Leaguers look forward every year to attending **Legislative Seminar** and lobbying as a group during Legislative session for League issues. Many Leaguers also look forward to the biannual **State Convention** where the very important League work of electing new officers, passing our budget, and setting program items for the coming year is done. We know your time and resources are valuable! We don't want you to have to choose which event you have the time and resources to attend. We want everyone to have the opportunity to do **BOTH** in 2011!

Highlights: Work and Fun!

Welcome dinner on the 22nd floor of the Capitol overlooking beautiful Tallahassee, including a very important guest speaker to be announced soon!

Reception in the Historic Capitol Senate Chambers with all newly elected officials! Fun and informative **Convention surprise dinner** Friday night, including another guest speaker and League activity! Optional **tours and activities** to make your time as action packed and busy as you want it to be!

We are pleased to announce that we will be returning to **The Doubletree Hotel** as our central location for these two events at a special room rate of \$105/night. FREE parking, FREE breakfast, and walking distance to all activities!

Mark your calendars **TODAY!** If you have never attended one or both of these events, this is the year!!!



**League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area
Be a Voice for Citizens! Be a Force for Change!
Be Involved in the Process!
www.lwvtri.org**

Become a member of the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area MAL Unit.

Name _____ **Phone No.** _____

Address _____ **Email** _____

_____ **Zip Code** _____

Village, if applicable _____

Community, if applicable _____

Former League Member: Yes _____ **No** _____ **Where:** _____

Interested in:

Government in Florida _____

Education in Florida _____

Justice in Florida _____

Social Policy in Florida _____

Natural Resources _____

Growth Management _____

Dues are paid annually:

Susan B. Anthony	\$100.00	_____
Individual	\$ 50.00	_____
Household	\$ 75.00	_____
Student	\$ 25.00	_____
Add'l. Contribution	\$ 10.00	_____

**Checks should be made payable to
LWV of Florida
and mailed to
Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, FL 32162.**

**Your dues include membership in the LWVUS and LWVF as well as a subscription to
the *Florida Voter*.**