



THE VOTER

LWV of the Villages/Tri-County Area ♦ September 2010 ♦ Vol. 5 Issue 3
www.lwvtri.org
Nationally recognized! Locally active!

AMENDMENTS 4 & 5

Q. How would proposed new redistricting standards for congressional and legislative districts affect county commission and school board district lines?

A. *Karen Krauss, Supervisor of Elections, Sumter County*, will address this issue.

AMENDMENT 8

Q. Can existing class-size rules, set in 2002, be eased by changing the per-class maximum calculations to school-wide averages?

A. *Debbie Moffitt, Senior Director of Curriculum and Instructional Programs for Sumter County School Districts* will address this issue.

Join us for our September General Meeting
on
Monday, September 27, 2010, 10:00 a.m.,
at
Community Bank & Trust Co.
CR466
The Villages.

These are only three of the amendments that will be on the November 2010 ballot.
Come and learn!

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

I hope that everyone has had a good summer and that our "snow birds" are getting ready to return to the tri-county area.

During the summer, our League website, www.lwvtri.org, was totally revised, and I hope you have had a chance to check it out. Contact information for elected officials, the League calendar, and our newsletter are just some of the items you can access. In addition, there is a link to the Pros & Cons for the amendments. Check it out!

Our joint celebration with AAUW of the ratification of the 19th amendment was a great success. Over 80 men and women gathered at the Lady Lake Community Center. Pictures are posted on the website, www.lwvtri.org. Many thanks to **Nancy Bell**, who wrote and narrated the dramatic reading and the ladies who participated in the reading. I hope that you were able to see the taped showing on LSCC TV. We are hopeful of getting some copies of the presentation for our members. A very big thank you to **Sally Bard** and **Carolyn Johnson** for the decorations and refreshments and to **Rich Tisovec** for providing the music. Thanks to **Richard Coen, Steven Cooper** and **Tom Johnson** for help in setting up. To everyone that helped, thank you. It was a wonderful afternoon, and we look forward to working with AAUW again in March for Women's History Month.

The August Primary elections are over, and now we are looking at the General Election in November. The next several weeks will be busy for the League. The Committee is working on their presentation on the amendments to 10 groups in the tri-county area. Please see the **Voters Service Committee** notice elsewhere in this issue and plan on helping out with the activities.

Our September meeting will cover the redistricting and class room size amendments. These are very important issues, so plan to be at the meeting. **Don't forget to invite a friend!**

In League,

Joanne

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Tuesday, Sept. 7,** 10 a.m., Voters Service Meeting. Home of Joanne M. Coen.
- Monday, Sept. 13,** 10 a.m., Board Meeting. Home of Joanne M. Coen. All members welcomed.
- Monday, Sept. 27,** 10 a.m. General Meeting. Community Bank & Trust Co., CR466, The Villages.
- 1 p.m. Taping of Amendment 4 Forum at LSCC TV.
- Wednesday, Oct. 6,** 7-9 p.m., Candidate and Issues Forum. Lincoln Theater, Laurel Manor, The Villages.
- Monday, Oct. 11,** 10 a.m., Board Meeting. Home of Joanne M. Coen., All members welcomed.
- Thursday, Oct. 14,** 8-10:30 p.m., Governor & Senate Debate. LWVF Cosponsored debate on PBS stations.

MEMBERSHIP

Long time League member, **Gladys Corbin**, passed away after a short illness. She was a board member and "cheerleader" for the League. **Nancy Bell** and her husband moved from The Villages to the Steeplechase Apartments in Oxford. Welcome to new member, **Beth Hicks**, and get well wishes to **Margie Hunt** who is recuperating from surgery. An updated membership list was sent to all members. If you did not receive one, please let **Frances Spedding** know.

"On account of being a democracy and run by the people, we are the only nation in the world that has to keep a government four years, no matter what it does."

-- **Will Rogers**

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 General Election went to an early site." *St. Pete Times*, Dec. 12, 2008

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

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

**Voter Registration Closes –
Oct. 4**
Early Voting Begins – Oct. 18
Early Voting Ends – Oct. 31
General Election – Nov. 2



VOTERS' SERVICE COMMITTEE

The committee has been meeting as they ready their talk. The number of amendments has shrunk by three. The Florida Supreme Court threw amendments 3, 7 and 9 off the November ballot. The League is especially glad of the ruling on amendment 7 as the Court ruled "that the proposed amendment could undermine a current requirement that districts be "contiguous," or that all portions of a district touch another part. The ruling said the amendment was misleading because it did not tell voters about its effect on that requirement. Our presentation will cover the remaining amendments and referendum. Help might be needed in distributing material at these presentations. Can you help?

Sharon Walker is coordinating the Amendment 4 forum which will be taped on Sept. 27 at LSCC TV for later broadcast.

We will be having tables at **the Farmer's Market in Lady Lake on Tuesdays** beginning in **October**, and at the **Grower's Market in Wildwood on Saturdays** beginning in **October**. The markets run from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** and we would like to have two shifts of two covering the period 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Can you help? If so, contact **Richard Coen** or **Steven Cooper** to volunteer.

Shortly, we will be receiving the "**Special Election Edition of The Florida Voter**." This special issue will contain information about national and state candidates as well as all the information on the amendments. We will need help in distributing these issues throughout the tri-county area to libraries, supervisor of elections, etc. Can you help?

Lastly, we will need help with our proposed candidate and issues forum on **October 6, 2010** at **Laurel Manor**. Can you help?

I think you get the idea.

Education is at the core of the League's mission, and this election season sees us with many requests. Your help is needed so please respond and help where you can.

"OH WHAT A DAY IS TODAY (AUGUST 26, 1920) NOTHING CAN STAND IN MY WAY"

Our League and the Lake-Sumter branch of the AAUW jointly celebrated the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States granting women the right to vote. Held at the Lady Lake Community Center on



Monday afternoon, August 16, 2010, over eighty women and a "few of us guys" met to celebrate this occasion. As our League President said "It's a celebration of the suffrage movement." Among the attendees were Lake County Commissioners, the Sumter County Clerk of the Courts, a County Judge, Leesburg Commissioner and Leesburg City

clerk. We were happy that they were able to take time out of their day to celebrate with us.

The highlight of the celebration was a dramatic reading from local AAUW and League members. **Nancy Bell** enlisted **Sally Bard, Carolyn Moores, Joyce Tisovec, Ancella Bickley, Judie Brown** and **Frances Spedding** respectively to read the parts of Abigail Adams, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony and Rose Winslow, all of whom played important, historical and influential roles in the movement.

The cake and punch weren't too bad either!

FROM LWVUS

Global Democracy: Celebrating the League's 90th Anniversary (NEW)

The Global Democracy Program continues to celebrate the League's 90th Anniversary around the world. LWVUS Deputy Executive Director Zaida Arguedas just returned from Azerbaijan, where she, together with former League President Kay Maxwell and former National Board Member Xandra Kayden, took part in a conference on women's participation in electoral activities. Next week, Arguedas and Global Democracy Specialist Cristina Atencio will travel to Colombia with a delegation of U.S. Legislative Fellows in an ongoing program sponsored by the U.S. State Department, "Connecting Future Legislators with Civil Society: Brazil and Colombia." In mid-September, Arguedas will travel to Madagascar for a program sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Antananarivo. She will lead a series of dialogues and workshops with 25 young leaders, focusing on increasing political and civic engagement in youth.

FROM LWVF

Candidates for Florida's Governor and Florida's U.S. Senate seats will face off on the topic of health care in an unprecedented back-to-back debates Thursday, October 14th, in Orlando. Florida Public Broadcasting Stations, in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Florida, are planning these historic debates, which will be hosted by the Florida Hospital

Association. Senior Correspondents of PBS's *The NewsHour*, **Gwen Ifill** and **Judy Woodruff**, will moderate.

These will be the last scheduled debates prior to the launch of early voting, giving Florida citizens a final opportunity to evaluate the candidates before casting their vote. The debates will have a focus on healthcare; however, will cover a wide range of issues important to Florida's citizens. Audience members, as well as the public, will be able to question the candidates by submitting questions in advance.

"With the national attention on these key races, and the importance of the subject of health care to our Florida citizens, these debates should be a must see for all," says Janyth Righter, President of PBS Florida.

League President Deirdre Macnab says, "With Florida having the third highest number of those with no health insurance in the country, this opportunity for the candidates to differentiate their vision and ideas on how to improve access and affordability of healthcare for Florida citizens could be a pivotal event in determining how Florida votes."

This stellar partnership will bring public broadcasting's top political analysts and Senior Correspondents of PBS's *The NewsHour*, Gwen Ifill and Judy Woodruff, to serve as moderators. The event will be hosted by the Florida Hospital Association's state convention at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando and is scheduled to air from 8 PM to 10:30 PM on your local PBS and NPR stations.

With a 99% reach into Florida homes, the debate is produced by Florida Public Broadcasting stations, with WEDU Tampa as the producing station, and the League of Women Voters of Florida, and sponsored by Florida Hospitals Foundation. Florida Public Broadcasting stations and the League of Women Voters of Florida bring extensive experience and expertise in producing and delivering political debates both on a statewide and local level. This fall's debate continues a strong tradition of raising the political conversation.



Check us Out!
www.lwvtri.org
Be a Voice for Citizens! Be a Force for Change!
Be Involved in the Process!

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*.