



VOTER

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The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County is a nonpartisan political organization of men and women that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. The League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy at the local, state, and national levels. The League does not endorse or support political candidates or parties. For more information about the League of Women Voters see www.lwv.org or call (813) 831-9774.

League Reaches Out to South County



Buddy Johnson, Supervisor of Elections

By Greg Vawter
Vice President

The Hillsborough League will hold a membership meeting on Tuesday, November 6, 3:30 p.m., at the SouthShore Regional Library. This branch is located at 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin (off 19th Avenue, NE). For directions, call the library's reference section at 813.273.3652 or just go to <http://www.hcplc.org/hcplc/liblocales/sho/> and click on the picture of the library for a Google map.

We are reaching out to potential new (and previous) members who live in South County, particularly retirees in Sun City Center, with an afternoon gathering in the meeting room of the SouthShore Regional Library. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

The featured speaker is our County's Supervisor of Elections, the Hon. Buddy Johnson. Mr. Johnson was appointed in 2003 and elected to the position the following year. Last Fall, he earned a Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA) designation through the Election Centers Professional Education Program. Buddy will discuss what's on the ballot for the upcoming (January 29) election, his plans to administer that election, and plans to change the County's voting equipment from electronic to optical scanning before July 1, 2008. He will also entertain questions from anyone in attendance.

There will be information about the League of Women Voters, too, as well as Board Members who want to hear what South County members and potential members may want from their League. Please plan to join us!



Happy Thanksgiving



President's Message . . .

November 2007

Our League's involvement in the initiatives and issues that influence the political, physical, educational, cultural, and financial health and stability of our community is ongoing. As part of our mission to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues we addressed a number of critical issues over the past month.

1. The environmental impact of the EPC's new "Wetlands Hybrid" plan: The League welcomed Dr. Rick Garrity, Executive Director of the EPC, to its recent FYI Luncheon. Dr. Garrity explained how the hybrid plan differed from, and streamlined, the previous process.
2. The Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission: Representing the three Bay Area Leagues, we presented the League's position that our state fiscal structure should be both equitable in its distribution of the tax responsibility and responsive to public needs.
3. In conjunction with the LVWUS we encouraged our legislators to override the President's veto of the State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Although we were unsuccessful in this effort we are prepared to address this critical issue again in the near future.

Looking ahead, I am sure your calendars are beginning to look like mine . . . filled up! It's hard to believe that the holiday season is right around the corner . . . Halloween is next week and it's all down hill from there. There are events coming up that you should know about. So here goes . . . get out your calendars and plug these in! More detailed information on many of these events appear later in this issue of The Voter.

1. November 6 - - NEW LWVHC Event: A Sun City Center Outreach Program presented by the LWVHC Voter Services Co-Chairs (Greg Vawter and Rich Brown), will feature Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections, Buddy Johnson as guest speaker.
2. November 8 - - Event Co-Sponsored by the LWVHC: The Bay Area Leagues, in conjunction with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program Advisory Committee, and Weedon Island Preserve, will present "The Cost of Green." This panel discussion will be held at the Weedon Island Preserve Environmental Education Center from 4:30 - 6:00. Space is limited so reservations are a must - - over 100 interested citizens have already signed up!
3. November 10 - - Mayor Pam Iorio (City of Tampa) and President Gwendolyn Stephenson (Hillsborough Community College) invite us to join them from 2:30 to 4:30 for "An Afternoon of Remembering While Looking to the Future" in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the 1977 National Women's Conference. Women's historian, author, and LWVHC member Doris Weatherford, will moderate the discussion.

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League Reaffirms Non-partisan Policy

At its October 16, 2007 meeting, the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County voted unanimously to reaffirm its commitment to the League's long-standing nonpartisanship policy. To ensure that all members remain familiar with the policies adopted by our League the policy is published below.

Nonpartisanship Policy - July 14, 2000 Policy Reaffirmed October 16, 2007

The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County since its inception has proudly safeguarded its nonpartisanship. These guidelines express the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County's continued strong endorsement of the positive role nonpartisanship plays in the League's effectiveness.

The League does not support nor oppose political parties or slates of candidates in either partisan or nonpartisan elections, or office holders. The League does not join coalitions that support candidates as part of the efforts of the coalition itself.

Board members may:

- * Contribute to political parties and candidates on the basis of individual judgment.
- * Attend political meetings, particularly to hear individual candidates for office.
- * Hold office in other community organizations (including governmental advisory boards) so long as those organizations do not support candidates.
- * Express publicity through letters to the editor, etc., views on non-League issues, keeping in mind that there is the possibility of these being mistakenly assumed to represent the League.

Activities are permissible if they do not create doubt in the public's mind as to the nonpartisanship nature of the League or jeopardize the League's ability to deal with current issues. For example, campaign literature shall not be distributed except at League sponsored candidates' meetings held as Voter Service/Citizen Education events.

League officers and board members who intend to run for office must resign when that intention becomes public knowledge. Candidates and office holders are welcomed as members of the League at all times, although they may not hold a League office.

The Hillsborough County VOTER is a publication of the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County, Florida

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President	<i>Linda D'Aquila</i>
Pres. Elect	<i>Rich Brown</i>
Vice Pres.	<i>Greg Vawter</i>
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Voter Service	<i>Rich Brown Greg Vawter</i>
Commission on the Status of Women	<i>Cindy Kane</i>

New Redistricting Reform Effort Launched in Florida



The League of Women Voters of Florida and Common Cause Florida announced a new effort to reform the redistricting process. The political committee, FairDistrictsFlorida.org, has filed two petitions with the Division of Elections in the Secretary of State's Office. The petitions, which are now awaiting approval, would create new requirements for drawing congressional and legislative districts. If the proposed constitutional amendments are adopted by Florida voters, congressional and legislative districts could not be drawn to favor incumbents or political parties. Districts would have to ensure that racial or language minorities have the opportunity to fully participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice. They would also have to be compact, contiguous and utilize existing city, county and geographical boundaries. The petitions will give Florida voters the opportunity to end the political manipulation of districts by the legislature to protect incumbents and enhance political party power.

“The League of Women Voters of Florida strongly supports nonpartisan redistricting reform in Florida,” said Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti, President of the League of Women Voters of Florida. “Politicians should not be able to design their districts to benefit themselves and guarantee their own reelection.”

Under the current system, the Florida Legislature can draw bizarrely shaped districts that divide Florida's cities, counties and communities solely for political reasons. These gerrymandered districts discourage challengers and mean incumbent members of Congress and the legislature face little or no competitive opposition. “With the reforms we are proposing, politicians will not be allowed to draw districts in ways that ensure that they cannot be defeated,” said Ben Wilcox, executive director of Common Cause Florida. “We are committed to giving Florida voters the chance to enact meaningful, nonpartisan redistricting reform.”

A number of political figures have endorsed the reform effort and agreed to serve as honorary co-chairs for FairDistrictsFlorida.org. They include Republicans, former Comptroller Bob Milligan and former Judge Thom Rumberger; and Democrats, former U.S. Senator and Governor Bob Graham and former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. Miami attorney and former member of the 1998 Constitution Revision Commission Ellen Freidin is serving as the Campaign Chair. For further information, she can be reached at (305) 606-4300.



November 11

Celebrated

November 12, 2007



Dr. Rick Garrity. Executive Director of the Hillsborough County Environmental Commission explains the time-line for adoption of the “Hybrid Plan” to Leaguers at the October 17 FYI luncheon.

Presidents Message from page 2

- 4. November 13 - - LWVHC Board of Directors' Meeting
- 5. November 16 - - Hillsborough County Legislative Delegation Roundtable.
- 6. November 16 - - The Tiger Bay Club of Tampa will host a “Florida Hometown Democracy Debate” featuring Lesley Blackner, environmental attorney and Founder of the Florida Hometown Democracy Movement, and John Thrasher, former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives who is now with the Southern Strategy Group representing Save Our Constitution, the organization formed to oppose Florida Hometown Democracy. Call 813.741.0004 for reservations.
- 7. December 13 - - LWVHC Event: Please make sure that you have the League's Holiday Reception marked on your calendar. We are all looking forward to seeing old friends, welcoming new members, and sharing the joy of the season with you. We know that many members have not found it possible to participate in our other events and this is the perfect opportunity “get connected”, support the League, and let us know what else we can do for you. Please join us at Cathy Teti's home for this Board-sponsored social event. Spouses, significant others, potential members, and guests are more than welcome!

Your presence at any (or all) of these events will support our effort to increase the visibility of the League and to ensure that the League's positions are considered throughout the decision making process.

*Linda D'Aquila
President
Hillsborough County
League of Women Voters*

VOTER

LWVUS Identifies Legislative Priorities

- * Campaign Finance Reform
- * Civil Liberties
- * D C Voting Rights
- * Election Administration
- * Ethics and Lobbying Reform
- * Global Climate Change
- * Health Care Reform

Forum on Residential Fertilizer

There is still time to RSVP for the Forum on Residential Fertilizer being co-sponsored by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's Community Advisory Committee, Bay Area Chapters of the League of Women Voters and Weedon Island Preserve.

The forum is being held November 8 at 4:30 p. m. at the Environmental Education Center on Weedon Island.

To reserve a palce call Nanette O'Hara at (727) 893-2765 or e-mail: nanette@tbep.org.

An Afternoon of Remembering

In celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the 1977 National Women's Conference, City of Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio and Hillsborough County Community College President Gwendolyn Stephenson are hosting *An Afternoon of Remembering, While Looking to the Future*.

Two films will be shown during the afternoon:

“**Sisters of '77**”, by the National Women's History Project, celebrates the landmark meeting of feminists in Houston, Texas in November 1977. The meeting called by President Jimmie Carter set the course for the women's movement over the last 30 years.

“**Ten at the Top**”, a locally produced film, which captures an unprecedented time in Tampa/Hillsborough County's history for female, government leaders in positions traditionally held by men.

The films will be followed by a discussion period lead by women's historian, writer, and League of Women Voters member, Doris Weatherford.

Refreshments will be served and there is no charge for the event.

When: Saturday, November 10, 2:30 4:30 p.m.

*Where :HCC Corporate Training Center
39 Columbia Drive, Tampa 33606*

Reservations by November 6: tenatthetop@yahoo.com

More info: tenatthetop@yahoo.com or 813-610-3132

Holiday Party Planned

The Board of Directors has decided to revive a Hillsborough County League of Women Voters tradition. The annual member appreciation party for members and spouses during the holiday season provides an opportunity for members to get together on a purely social bases.

The Board will host the party at the home of Cathy Teti, 3315 Lawn Ave., Tampa 33611 on December 13, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Lawn Avenue dead ends into the Interbay YMCA at Lawn and Himes, just a block from Cathy's house. The parking lot at the Y is a City of Tampa public parking lot.

To RSVP contact Heidi at 813-253-2640 x 1216 or hiedi@liflinkfoundation.org.

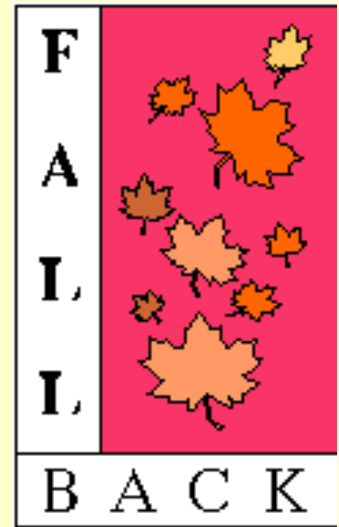
League Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 6: 3:30 South County Membership Meeting**
SouthShore Regional Library. This branch is located at 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin (off 19th Avenue, NE)
(See Page 1.)
- 8: 4:30 p.m. Forum on Residential Fertilizer**
Weedon Island Preserve
(See details page 6.)
- 10: 2:30 p.m. National Women's History Project**
Corporate Training Center, HCC
39 Columbia Drive, Tampa
(See details p. 6.)
- 16: 9:00 a. m. Legislative Delegation Roundtable**
Courthouse, 6th Floor
800 E. Twiggs Street, Tampa
- 13 4:00 p. m. Board Meeting**
LifeLink Building, Tampa

DECEMBER

- 7: 9:00 a.m. Legislative Delegation, Public Hearings**
County Center, 26th Fl.
601 E. Kennedy Blvd.
- 13: 5:30 - 7:00 Holiday Party**
3315 Lawn Ave., Tampa
(See details p 6.)
- 18: 4:00 p.m. Board Meeting**
LifeLink Building, Tampa



*Daylight Savings
Time*

Ends

*Sunday November 4,
2007*

Tampa, FL 33601-1801
P. O. Box 1801

The League of Women Voters
Of Hillsborough County



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**



Add my voice to yours. ***Please check appropriate box***

- I'm joining the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County.
- I'm renewing my membership League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County

I enclose: (please check one)

- _____ \$60.00 Individual
- _____ \$85.00 Household
- _____ \$39.50 Student membership

Please consider sending an add'l amount toward The League Revitalization Effort.

- _____ \$60.00 additional amount
- _____ Other amount for Revitalization

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ (H) _____ (W) _____ (FAX)

email Address _____

Your contact information will appear in our directory. _____ Check here to prevent publication.

Your areas of interest: _____

Please make your check payable to the LWVHC and mail to: LWVHC Membership
PO Box 1801, Tampa, FL 33601-1801. For more information, please call 813-831-9774.