



# The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE PENSACOLA BAY AREA

Volume 57, Issue 2  
September 2007

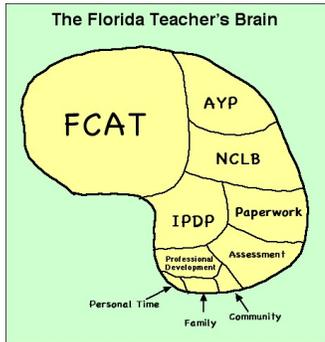
## “FCAT: PASS or FAIL?”

**Saturday, September 15, 2007**  
**Speaker: Gloria Pipkin, Florida**

Coalition for Assessment Reform (FCAR)  
Coffee at 9:00am, 9:30 am program  
Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC)  
40 S. Alcaniz Street

On Saturday, September 15 the League of Women Voters of the Pensacola Bay Area will host a public forum on FCAT with Gloria Pipkin, president of the Florida Coalition for Assessment Reform (FCAR).

In 2000 Pipkin organized FCAR as a grassroots organization of parents, teachers, students, and other concerned citizens in more than 50 Florida school districts. The group monitors the uses and abuses of FCAT, promotes public policies that support constructive assessment of all Florida students, and publicizes the onerous burdens and



By Florida music teacher Jeffrey Henson  
FCAR website

negative effects of the federal No Child Left Behind Act on education in Florida.

Ms. Pipkin will discuss the complexity of learning and its assessment with respect to the diversity of learners. She will also present an update on the Governor’s FCAT study. Information: 449-1746.

## Guide to Elected Officials Enclosed

A copy of the latest Guide to Elected Officials is enclosed. This brochure is full of valuable information, including a listing of elected officials for national, state, city, Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, courts and election information.

Thanks for all the hard work go to Janet deLorge, Betty Enfinger, Betsy Bowers, Vivian Faircloth, Gene Feicht, Carolann Holmes, Miriam Jennings, Susan Metzger, Deborah Nelson, Ellen Roston and Fay Walker. Additional copies of the guide are available at the library systems, various governmental offices, by contacting [lwvpba@Gmail.com](mailto:lwvpba@Gmail.com) or calling 458-5806.

## Senator Graham to Speak on “Civic Education Initiatives” at Special November meeting

The Board is pleased to announce a special event on Tuesday, November 27 at the IHMC, 5:30 - 7 pm.

Former Senator Bob Graham will speak to the League on "Civic Education Initiatives". This engagement has been anticipated since March 2005, when Sen. Graham was in town on a book signing tour for "Intelligence Matters". Attendance for this event will be by reservation, due to the limited room capacity. Leaguers may request a reservation by replying to Betty Enfinger at 438-2842 or [bettyenfinger@cox.net](mailto:bettyenfinger@cox.net). If we do not receive 100 reservations, the event will be open to guests.

For those of you who are not able to attend on Tuesday, November 27th, Senator Graham will be speaking to students, faculty, and the public at UWF on Wednesday morning. The UWF schedule will be announced.

Carolann Holmes, President

## NW Florida Regional Environmental Fall Symposium

**Friday October 5, 2007**

to address air, water and land quality and management in the NW Florida area at the UWF conference center. (Bldg.22)

Pre-registration \$25. After September 14<sup>th</sup>, \$35  
Registration begins at 7:30 am A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

[www.wfrpc.org/barc/barc.htm](http://www.wfrpc.org/barc/barc.htm).

**Send your reservation to Mary Gutierrez,** Environmental Planner, West Florida Regional Planning Council P.O. Box 11399 Pensacola, FL 32524-1399, (850) 332-7976 x 226  
**Sponsors:** The Bay Area Resource Council (BARC), the University of West Florida, and the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (FAEP)

### The VOTER

Volume 57, Issue 2, September 2007

Established in 1949, the Pensacola Bay Area League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a member. All members receive the *National Voter*, the *Florida Voter* and this publication.

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## LOCAL ACTION:

## City of Pensacola Passes Recommendation for Comprehensive Charter Review.

By Sharon Barnett, director

On August 20, 2007, the City of Pensacola Committee of the Whole unanimously passed a recommendation that the City undertake comprehensive charter review. The recommendation was passed largely at the urging of the group seeking to change the form of city government to a strong mayor form. Based on our discussions with that group, the strong mayor faction

agreed to broaden their goal to encompass comprehensive charter review, and they proved their commitment at the August 20th committee meeting.

On Thursday, August 22, 2007, Council adopted the committee recommendation unanimously and directed the City Manager to formulate a plan to select the body which will review and draft a new charter. The unanimous Council votes represent great achievement. When we began our efforts, League had zero votes on Council. We then obtained one vote--from the new Councilman, Sam Hall. Our votes increased to four at the July Committee of the Whole meeting, and with the joint efforts of the strong mayor group, there is now unanimous support of comprehensive charter review.

Janet deLorge and I met with John Peacock, spokesman for the strong mayor group, Dr. Clyde Teasley, and Dick Baker on August 28, 2007, to discuss providing the City Manager with a plan for selection of the charter review body. Those present agreed that the proposed charter review should be untrammelled, the review body diverse, and the members accomplished. There should be at least one outside advisor.

Dr. Teasley agreed to prepare a written proposal for his involvement in the charter review, including staffing and consultants. We hope to present jointly a workable plan to the City Manager by the September 10th Committee of the Whole meeting.

On September 10, 2007, the Committee of the Whole is scheduled to discuss the League's proposal to amend the City Charter referendum election provision. Sharon Barnett has asked the City Attorney to withdraw his proposed ordinance to amend the referendum provision, in view of Council adoption of comprehensive charter review; Mr. Fleming stated to Council and Ms. Barnett that withdrawal seems appropriate under the present circumstances.

Sharon Barnett will address the Committee of the Whole on September 10th and will amend, with Board approval, the League proposal to amend the referendum provision and endorse comprehensive charter review, which will include review of the referendum election provision.

The League can take credit for uncovering the fact that the City Charter has never been reviewed and that no charter has been adopted since Home Rule was implemented in 1973. We also identified numerous particular deficiencies in the current Charter that now can be corrected. If the League had not been active in this matter, a strong mayor faction would likely have been able to change the form of City government, without appropriate accompanying checks and balances. The result could have made a bad situation worse. At present, the City of Pensacola now has one of the best opportunities to move forward, and the League takes pride in our efforts to achieve stronger municipal government.

## The Work Goes On

The Natural Resources Committee, co-chaired by **Annie Griffin** and **Deborah Nelson**, continues its dedication to environmental issues in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. Members of the committee attend a large number of monthly meetings that cover various aspects of our water, air and land use.

In Santa Rosa County, the Coyote Landfill continues to be problematic. A proposed variance, if approved by the Commission, will exacerbate pollution problems for area residents.

The *Perdido River Walk Nature Trail* suffered severe damage from recent hurricanes. Escambia County officials have been involved in restoration of the area. **Barbara Goggins** reports the trail is now open. She will be checking the trail shortly and welcomes the company of fellow walkers. The nature trail is part of a conservation easement for the county owned Perdido Landfill. The signage, boardwalks and bridges along the Perdido River Walk were coordinated and funded by the LWV Pensacola Bay Area in 2000.

### Raise Money for the League by Searching the Web!

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue to the charities its users designate. Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), designate the League of Women Voters Education Fund, and start searching!

## Escambia County Commissioners Commit to Fund Journey Development Infrastructure

On August 17, 2007, the Escambia County Commissioners voted to approve the commitment of \$2,780,000 for the *Journey* development on Pensacola's west side. The vote was key to moving toward the eagerly anticipated groundbreaking for the 26.31 acre master-planned community for 250 workforce households.

## STATEMENT OF 2008 LWVF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Marilynn Wills, 1<sup>st</sup> V.P., ACTION

The LWVF board has selected Legislative Priorities for the 2008 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature. The priorities were selected using input from Local Leagues, the LWVF Board and other sources. A summary statement of the LWVF's position on each priority is included.



**Government in Florida:** Promote an open government that is responsive to the people of the state.

**Equitable Taxation:** Support a state fiscal structure that is

equitable in its distribution of the tax responsibility and responsive to public needs.

**Redistricting:** Support single-member election districts that are equal in population, provide access for minorities, and are not determined by the legislature.

**Citizen Initiatives including the Statutory Initiative:** Support the citizens' right to have both constitutional and statutory initiatives.

**Natural Resources and Sustainability:** Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest, and support governmental action that results in sustainability.

**Protection and restoration of the water supply:** Support public policies that promote conservation of freshwater and its availability for environmental, public supply, agricultural, industrial and mining uses on a priority basis.

**Coastal Management:** Support intergovernmental stewardship of and fiscal responsibility for the Florida coast, under the management of the state, while recognizing the dominance of nature and the role of the sand transport system.

**Energy:** Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

**Civics Education:** Promote the teaching of civics education in public and private schools.

See *Study & Action 2005-2007*, a LWVF publication, for a full statement of LWVF positions. Contact Vivian Faircloth, 438-5539 to order a copy.

## Calendar

### September

- 6 Thursday, 4pm Education Committee in the third floor meeting room of Terrace 1 at Azalea Trace. Please email Barbara Goggins, [gog@att.net](mailto:gog@att.net). At the September meeting, reports of the visits to the third -grade summer-school programs in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties will be given.
- 11 *The scheduled meeting for "Social Issues Gathering" for Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm has been cancelled.* Cherie Isakson, Social Policy Chair at [cisakson@aol.com](mailto:cisakson@aol.com) or 791-6865.

### General Meeting at IHMC

Saturday, September 15, 2007

9:00 am coffee, 9:30 am program

### FCAT: Pass or Fail?

Speaker Gloria Pipkin, FCAR president

- 17 Monday, 10:00 am, **International Relations Committee, War Crimes**, Discussion leaders Dr. Charles Rogers and Dr. Lewis Killian
- 22 Saturday, 9:00am **Immigration Study Committee**, Azalea Trace. Contact Gene Feicht, 479-3352 for directions.

## League Web Site Revisited

by Susan Metzger, 932-4039

During the summer, the League Board began discussion of updating and maintaining our web site, [www.lwvpba.org](http://www.lwvpba.org). Since the membership chair no longer has the time to devote to it, the Board requested three bids from web site designers and chose Michael Perkinson's proposal to rework it and to maintain the site.

A Web Design task force was created to prepare the specifications. Task force members are Suzanne Bowen, Cherie Isakson, Marilyn Badessa, Betty Enfinger and Vivian Faircloth. Mockups of the pages have been prepared and task force members have begun reviewing and editing them. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm, at the Bank of Pensacola, 400 Garden Street, Pensacola. Leaguers who wish to participate should request copies of the files prepared by Betty Enfinger and make a reservation with Susan Metzger, [smetzger15@mchsi.com](mailto:smetzger15@mchsi.com)

## Condolences

The members of the League extend their deepest sympathy to Betty Retting on the death of her husband Hal Retting and to the family on the death of Gloria Fierke

This is the fifth article of background information for the two year LWVUS study on immigration. Previous parts were printed in the March through Summer issues of the Pensacola Bay Area Voter. Meetings to prepare to take consensus are scheduled for November and January. At LWVUS website (www.lwv.org) click on **For Members** on blue line in the header. Then click on the **Immigration Study**, which is found in the light blue box on the right column, and utilize the resources provided to gain a better understanding of the complex immigration issue as it relates to our community.

## LWVUS Immigration Study

### Immigration and the Economy

By Chris Carson

Although religious motivation significantly impacted the founding and early development of American colonies, economic motives outweighed religious ones beginning fairly early in our country's history. This is reflected not only in the influx of voluntary immigrants looking for a better life, but also in the importation of indentured servants or slaves to fill the labor requirements of colonists' farms and businesses. Immigration was at the core of nation-building, so much so that the Declaration of Independence listing the wrongdoings of King George III alleged that the British government had hindered and obstructed immigration into the colonies.<sup>1</sup>

#### Labor Force Requirements

Over the course of American history, numerous businesses have targeted specific immigrant groups for employment. For instance, they brought in the Chinese to work on the railroads, the Irish, in many parts of the country, to work in railroad building or mining, and Eastern and Southern Europeans for manufacturing enterprises. Overall, the flow of immigration throughout the 19th and early 20th century was directly tied to the strength or weakness of the American economy; levels of immigration fluctuated widely in response to economic cycles of boom and panic in this country.<sup>2</sup> Generally, peak immigration flows coincided with periods of fundamental transformations of the American economy.<sup>3</sup>

The current high volume of immigration is second only to that of a hundred years ago, prior to the introduction of significant immigration restrictions during the 1920's. This is the result of a complex interaction of changing U.S. demographics, global developments and a growing U.S. economy,

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 56 million new jobs will be created in this country between 2002 and 2012. During this same period, more than 75 million Americans will retire, and declining native-born fertility rates will be approaching replacement level. Half of the new jobs will require no more than a high school education, but native-born workers are becoming more educated with

every decade. Arguably the most important statistic for an understanding of the immigration situation in this country is that in 1960, half of all American men dropped out of high school to look for unskilled work, whereas less than ten percent do so now.<sup>4</sup>

The shortfall of unskilled labor—estimated to run to hundreds of thousands of workers a year—is showing up in sector after sector. The construction industry creates some 185,000 jobs annually, and although construction workers now earn between \$30,000 and \$50,000 a year, employers in trades such as masonry and dry-walling are unable to find enough young Americans to do the work.

The prospects for the restaurant business are even bleaker. With 12.5 million workers nationwide, restaurants are the nation's largest private-sector employer, and their demand for labor is expected to grow by 15 percent between 2005 and 2015. But the native-born work force will grow by only ten percent in that period, and the number of 16- to 24-year-old job seekers—the key demographic for the restaurant trade—will not expand at all. So, unless the share of older Americans willing to bus tables and flip hamburgers increases—and in truth, it is decreasing—without immigrants, the restaurant sector will have trouble growing through the next decade.<sup>5</sup>

#### Entrepreneurship

Immigration also helps fuel the entrepreneurship that is so significant to the growth of the national economy. The four countries with the highest proportionate creation of new businesses are the United States, Canada, Israel and Australia, all countries with high rates of immigration. In the United States, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses has grown at three times the national average, while the number of Asian-owned businesses has grown at twice the national average.<sup>6</sup>

#### Unemployment Among Immigrants

The informal market mechanisms that connect U.S. demand with foreign supply, particularly from Latin America, are surprisingly efficient. Immigrants already here communicate to their compatriots back home that the job market in one city is flat, while that in another is booming. This results in a just-in-time delivery of workers wherever they are most needed.

Statistics show that immigrants are less likely than natives to be unemployed. The vast majority of immigrants coming to the United States do so in order to work. After all, it is better to be unemployed in your home country than in New York or Chicago. Furthermore, even legal immigrants, who account for about two-thirds of the total influx, are not eligible during their first five to ten years in the United States for welfare transfers that could sustain them during periods of unemployment. And, illegal immigrants

receive virtually no such transfers. It is no surprise, then, that labor-force participation among foreign-born men exceeds that of the native-born. In fact, the employment figure for illegal immigrant men is the highest of any group—94 percent employed.

The added societal burden of immigrants on welfare is really not an issue here. Rather than futilely trying to block the realities of supply and demand as current policy does—our immigration policy must address them.

### Effect on American Workers

Opponents of immigration often suggest that if employers paid American workers more they could reduce the need for foreign labor. Many industries cannot pay more, because they would then be undercut by imports from abroad. Even in sectors such as construction and hospitality, in which the work must be done in the United States, it is necessary to decide whether it is better to lure an American to a less productive job than he or she is capable of by paying more compensation for less-skilled work. Meanwhile, because they complement rather than compete with most native-born workers (and this in turn attracts additional capital), immigrant workers are a factor in raising rather than lowering most Americans' wages.

### Immigration Reform

Some proposals for comprehensive reform are based on certain assumptions about the potential economic benefits of immigration and suggest that the U.S. immigration system should be market-based. The premise of these reform proposals is that enforcement of the legal limits is ineffective partly because the nation as a whole is ambivalent about how much it wants to control immigration and partly because, as statistics show, it is all but impossible to enforce unrealistic laws. For the past decade or so, market forces have attracted some 1.5-1.8 million skilled and unskilled immigrants to work in the United States each year. However, annual legal quotas admitted only about a million each year. The result is a significant imbalance.

A realistic immigration system is one in which the annual legal intake is more or less equal to the flow generated by supply and demand. The United States currently issues 5,000 visas a year to year-round unskilled workers, when 400,000-500,000 additional such workers are needed to keep the economy growing.

Current immigration law makes a distinction between temporary (non-immigrant) status and permanent (immigrant) status, but more than 60 percent of all permanent residence grants between FY2001 and FY2005 were merely adjustments to the status of people already in the United States rather than new arrivals.<sup>7</sup> This makes the legal distinction between temporary and permanent almost meaningless. And at the same time, the legal structure has become exceeding complex over the years, with additional sub classifications and exceptions being added to cover

special categories of individuals and families. While there are 24 temporary visa categories in the basic law, over the years more than 70 sub-categories have been created.<sup>8</sup>

A legitimate way to assess the role and value of immigration's contribution to America is to consider what would happen if the influx stopped or if those already here left the country. Those who favor comprehensive reform (bring in more workers) believe this would be disastrous. In some regions, they contend, whole sectors of the economy could collapse. The opposition maintains that a cutoff would mean at most a temporary inconvenience for a few employers, who would soon wean themselves away from their dependence on foreign workers

To assess the relative merits of the two arguments, one should consider the expected impact of the projected demographic changes that will result from the ever-slowing growth of the native-born work force. The business community, long the chief supporters of immigration, argues that there is no reason to forfeit immigrant-driven economic expansion and the concomitant improved standard of living that benefits all Americans. They say that whether the nation benefits a great deal or just modestly from the presence of newcomers, new immigrants make life in the United States better— not just with the work they do, but because they renew and reinvigorate the country's spirit with their energy, hard work and old-fashioned values. Opponents of increased immigration consider the costs and benefits of an expanding economy, and place greater emphasis on environmental and cultural issues. They argue for significant restrictions on total immigration.

Clearly, this is a many-faceted debate that arouses great passions, and will continue to do so. There are no easy answers.

*Chris Carson, LWV of Glendale-Burbank, CA, is a member of the Immigration Study Committee.*

### References

- 1 Astride Zolberg, *A Nation by Design: Immigration Policy in the Fashioning of America* (New York, Russell Sage Foundation and Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 2006), p. 24.
- 2 Zolberg, *A Nation by Design*, p. 186.
- 3 Doris Meissner et al, *Immigration and America's Future: A New Chapter*, (Migration Policy Institute, 2006), p. 1.
- 4 Tamar Jacoby, "Immigration Nation," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2006, p.52.
- 5 Jacoby, "Immigration Nation," p.52.
- 6 Meissner, *Immigration and America's Future*, p. 8.
- 7 Meissner, *Immigration and America's Future*, p. 33.
- 8 Meissner, *Immigration and America's Future*, p. 37.

### President's Message

I always thought the summer was a quiet time for the League. With a hiatus of monthly meetings and travel by many members, it has been difficult for board members to meet. As an educator, I had hoped for more time for camaraderie with friends and Leaguers. However, issues continue to affect Pensacola, Escambia County, and Santa Rosa residents. Your League committees have been busy planning, educating and advocating.

Attendance at LWVF Convention 2007 gave delegates opportunities to network and develop knowledge, skill and to set policy. June travel included LWVUS Council 2007 at Washington, DC where the highlight for me was networking with other League members throughout the United States, particularly LWVF President Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti.

Our League's 2008 Legislative Priority recommendations were sent in July to LWVF for consideration.

Natural Resources Committee has been advocating for Growth Management, protecting Wetlands, and observing proposed changes to Northwest Florida Environmental Resource Permit rule.

City Charter Committee has focused attention on support of protection of referendum rights of city voters. Through the committee's diligence and perseverance, the League has successfully secured Council support for full charter review.

Persistence pays for Betty Enfinger's efforts to host Senator Bob Graham as speaker on Civics Education. He will speak to League members in November.

Members will attempt to form consensus regarding the two-year long LWVUS study of Immigration. Committee members will address the questions in presentations over two meetings. Gene Feicht and Don Freeman have taken over the responsibilities from the late Hal Retting.

Library liaison, Fay Walker, has kept the board members informed on the funding of the library. Dian Parsley has begun a study the Port of Pensacola in accordance with the directions to the Board that were made during the Annual Meeting, Susan Metzger has led a Task Force to upgrade our LWVPBA Website.

The Education Committee continues to look into Third Grade Retention Effects in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. The monthly meetings for this year kick off on September 15 with speaker Gloria Pipkin, President of the Florida coalition for Assessment Reform (FCAR).

My greatest concern as your new president is to continue the fine established traditions of the LWVPBA.

*Carolann*, 477-6141

*Join the League of Women Voters today!*

It's easy! Just send your check to:  
 League of Women Voters, P O Box2023, Pensacola FL 32513  
 \$50 Individual membership ● + \$25 each additional household member ● \$25 student membership  
 Also, here's my extra contribution to the League \$ \_\_\_\_  
 I'm renewing my membership

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
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Our local Voter is currently mailed to the membership. If you prefer to receive an email copy, rather than having a hard copy sent to you through the mail, please contact Vivian Faircloth, 438-5539 or [vfaircloth@iname.com](mailto:vfaircloth@iname.com) If you wish to receive *The Voter* by email and have a problem doing so, let Faircloth know and arrangements can be made to assist you.

### Fundraising Continues

by Susan Metzger, 932-4039

**I**n the Spring of 2006, a used cell phone project was initiated. Since that time, **we have collected and sold more than 225 phones and have received more than \$660 for our effort.**

The cell phone project continues this year. You can assist by bringing unused cell phones to the next League meeting or call Susan Metzger, 923-4039, for pick-up.

Additionally, our League participates in a fundraising project through *Office Depot*. Each member can help when a purchase is made by simply telling the clerk you have an *Awards membership and giving Susan's phone number, 932-4039*. Each purchase of ink cartridges, paper, school supplies, equipment or computers benefits the League as our organization receives a percentage of each purchase.



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