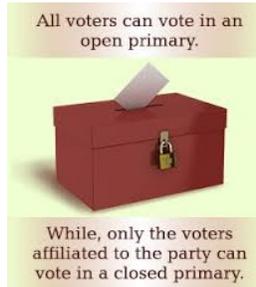


IN THIS ISSUE

February Meeting	1
Co presidents' Message	2
You Want...	2
Voter Service Report	2
Pipeline to Prison VII	3
Calendar	4
New Members	4
Contributions	4
Ban the Bag	7
International Relations	7
Membership Form	8



How To Improve Florida's Voter Turnout Consensus Saturday, February 18, 2017

Tryon Library, 1200 Langley Ave.
Coffee 10:15 Program 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Ray Hudkins, LWV Florida Open Primary Study Committee member, will lead the discussion and consensus meeting on the Florida Open Primary Study. Plan on two hours for the discussion in the process to determine member consensus on this issue.

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Officers:

Haley Richards and
Ellen Roston, *Co Presidents*
Charlyle Parrish, *1st Vice Pres.*
Vivian Faircloth, *2nd Vice Pres.*
Amy Newburn, *Treasurer*
Janet deLorge, *Secretary*

Directors:

Mary Collins - *Women's Issues*
Ray Hudkins - *Open Primaries Study*
Elizabeth King - *Program*
Shirley Lewis-Brown - *Social Policy*
Paula Montgomery, *Education*
Cathy Scott, *Membership,*

Nominating Committee

Ann Davis, *Chair*
Carol Pulley Vivian Faircloth
Peter Young Elizabeth King

Contact Us

www.lwvpba.org
LWVPBA [facebook page](#)
lwvpba at gmail.com
Phone: (850) 937-7769

www.TheFloridaVoter.org
LWVF [facebook page](#)

www.lwv.org
LWVUS [Facebook page](#)

Did you know:

1. Florida averaged less than 23 percent turnout from 2000 to 2016.
2. In 2016 open primary states averaged over 37 percent turnout.
3. In 2016 76% of open primary states had better turnout than Florida.
4. Over 3.4 Million No Party Affiliates and minor parties can't vote in Florida's closed primary unless they register with the party.

This study material is lengthy; however the material is concise and is designed to be easily read and understood. The links found in this study material will provide more in-depth information in each section.

The discussion and consensus will last for approximately two hours and a light lunch will be available for members and guests.

Open Study Primary Material

(Read the complete study [here.](#))

The 2016 Election challenged many of the assumptions about what voters want and how elections work. This comprehensive study on primaries and improving voter turnout is an opportunity to evaluate and reinvent the current process.

More than a million new voters have registered as non-party affiliated (NPAs) between 2004-2016. This 64% increase in non-party affiliated registered voters is unprecedented, to the best of our knowledge.

Forty percent (40%) of this increase in NPAs are millennials, ages 18-34 years. Therefore, our study committee felt the need to address the issue of millennials and what, if anything, should be done to increase their participation in the election process. Florida is a closed primary election system state. This means that NPAs are excluded from voting in candidate primary elections unless they register with a recognized political party within the time frame allowed by law. The results from the survey of millennials are also included in the study.

Five Key Findings of the Study

- The voter turnout in Florida's closed primary election system is significantly lower when compared with voter turnout data from open election systems. Seventy six (76%) percent of all open primary states have a higher turnout than Florida. Also, there are a few states with closed primary election systems with higher voter turnout than Florida's.
- Voter turnout in Florida's primary election system is influenced by a complex set of factors. No single solution may succeed in improving turnout in primary



Haley Richards

Co Presidents' Message

On January 21, 2017 millions of women and men around the world turned out to demand their voices be heard.



Ellen Roston

The Women's March was an historic day that brought attention to important issues. Now What? Even the largest, most inspiring demonstration becomes an empty gesture if it is not followed by the day-to-day commitment and work required to accomplish real change.

Our League members have been working hard since the Women's March by conducting Legislative Interviews, giving testimony at the Public Service Commission hearing opposing the Gulf Power Rate Increase, updating the 2017-2019 Guide to Elected Officials, hosting another documentary screening about the Pipeline to Prison and more!

Ellen and I also traveled to Orlando, Florida last month to participate in the League of Women Voters of Florida 2017 Kickoff: *Powerful Leaders Demanding Action* training event accompanied by Ray Hudkins, Mary Collins, Paula Montgomery and Bill Caplinger. We participated in numerous workshops focused on membership engagement, social media, broadcast media, fundraising, public speaking, etc. LWVUS CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris gave a keynote address about growing the League in Membership and Power. The event ended with Legislative Advocacy kickoff and meeting with State Action Groups. Check out all materials from this LWVFL event on the State website [here](#).

Mark your calendar to Lobby with the League during the March 28-29, 2017 Legislative Summit in Tallahassee! The Summit marks the half-way point of discussions and debates on the five issue areas of the LWVFL 2017 Legislative Priorities:

- The BEST Education possible for our youth
- Election Reform and Voter Protection
- Sensible Gun Legislation
- Healthcare for ALL Floridians
- Protection of our land and water resources

If you are interested in attending the Legislative Summit contact the Co-Presidents [here](#).

The February League meeting will be a Consensus Meeting for the *State Open Primary Study*. Board member Ray Hudkins has been working on this Study for the past 18 months along with his fellow committee members. Consensus by group discussion is the technique most often used in the League for reaching member agreement. It is a process whereby League members only participate in a group discussion of an issue. The consensus reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall sense of the group

as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions, whether in a membership meeting or a series of membership meetings. PLEASE REVIEW THE STUDY KIT BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 18TH MEETING TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN CONSENSUS!

Thank you all for your unwavering commitment to make democracy work for all!

Ellen & Haley

You Want the League to do What Next Year?

Is there a local governmental issue the local League should study next year? Now is the time to propose a *local program item*. Please contact any board member with your suggestions. The Board will evaluate all suggestions and recommend one or more Action and/or Study items to be chosen for our work next year.

Do you think any changes should be made to the *Bylaws* of the local League? If so, please contact Janet deLorge, 607-9170 or jjgde1@aol.com or Mary Collins, 346-5520 or mcollins5349@gmail.com.

The *Budget* Committee can also use your suggestions on the allocation of League funds. Contact Ellen Roston, 453-0730, or any Board member with your proposed recommendations. Remember, the League of Women Voters is a grassroots organization, depending upon its members for direction to the leadership.

Voter Service Committee Report

Charlyle Parrish, 932-0854

The Committee is moving forward in 2017 and taking the challenge presented by Chris Carson, LWVUS President. We are looking for more members who can give us suggestions, advice, time and energy to carry out our mission. We will be working with our Board in keeping our League members and the community up to date on bills in Tallahassee related to voting rights. Watch for emails and Facebook for the latest information.

The Voter Service Committee will meet Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at the Gulf Breeze Library, 1060 Shoreline Dr. Gulf Breeze, 4:00pm - 5:30pm. We will be planning our voter registration events for the year in addition to completing work on the Guide of Elected Officials.

In order to stay compliant as a qualified person to conduct voter registration, it will be necessary that each individual review the updated "Ten Steps to Registering Voters in Florida" [here](#). Following the slide program, you will find a link to the 12 question quiz that is required for you to continue to register voters. Once you complete the program and test, you will be sent email verification. Please forward the email to me so I can maintain an updated list for our League.

Voter registration or updates to our voter registration records is an ongoing project. Please assist friends, family and neighbors to register or update their records. Remember: request for a Vote-By Mail ballot needs to be renewed periodically. You can check your current status at either [Santa Rosa](#) or [Escambia](#) websites. Don't forget that Santa Rosa County has an election March 28, 2017. Be prepared!

Pipeline to Prison VII Report

Paula Montgomery, 438-8891

On Monday evening January 30th a capacity crowd of 75 gathered at the Bowden Building to watch the documentary, "Resilience: The Biology of Stress and The Science of Hope." After the showing, a panel of experts spoke and then were actively questioned by the very engaged audience. The panel included academics in social work and psychology as well as a clinical counselor, a physician and a citizen with personal experience.



(L - R) Dr. Dione King, Dr. James Arrude, Ms. Tranassa S. White, Ms. Sabrina Conklin, Dr. James Burns, Dr. Kinberly Day

The topic was the lifelong effects of *Adverse Childhood Experiences* (ACEs) on the developing brain of children. A situation of insecurity and constant stress physically remodels a child brain in a way that can be seen on brain scans. This remodeling emphasizes the fight or flight responses and minimizes the ability to make logical judgments. This remodeling affects the child's ability to focus on learning in school and for resolving conflict peacefully. The effects, unless countered, have lifelong impacts on the child's life trajectory as far as earning a living and staying out of jail, as well as on physical health.

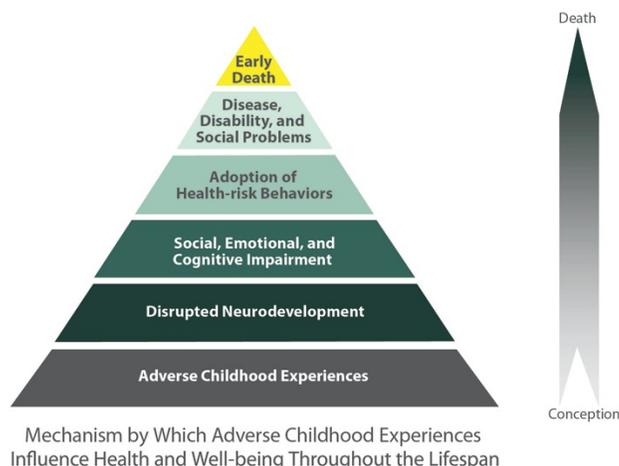
The attendees were given a copy of the 10 questions used to determine the extent of childhood trauma. Each positive answer is given a weight of 1. When added together, the answers are called the *ACE* score. A child with an ACE score of 4 or greater is at risk for heart disease and cancer. A child with an ACE score of 6 or greater can anticipate a 20 year reduction in life expectancy!

The American Pediatric Association has called this the number one untreated health problem in America. The audience was very interested in how widespread the information is in Escambia County. The answer is that there is growing awareness but not much response. It is part of the duty of this audience to discuss this issue with any groups or individuals they encounter.

"*Trauma Informed Care*" is the treatment with the best hope for reversing these effects. This is a deliberate effort to give the child a sense of security and control. Fortunately Trauma Informed Care is a system that can

be instituted anywhere. Several cities in the United States have instituted training for and implementation of Trauma Informed Care in all their governmental, health service and school interfaces with the public. Trauma Informed Care is a system of interacting with others who may be difficult to deal with using deliberate empathy and kindness. In other words they avoid confrontational and defensive interactions. I call this deliberate kindness. Scientifically it has been shown to work. If implemented in schools, police forces and judicial systems, it has the potential to slow and possibly stop the Pipeline to Prison for many of our troubled youths.

This program was sponsored by the Education Committee of the League of Women Voters of the Pensacola Bay Area, the local chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the ACLU, The Coffee Party, and the Social Work Department of the University of West Florida. For further information call Paula Montgomery, Education Chair 438 8891



James Scamanaci has again video taped this program. This program and all in the series can be viewed on his blogspot [here](#).

ACE Test Score

Prior to your 18th birthday:

1. Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often... Swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you? or Act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?
2. No ___ If Yes, enter 1 ___
3. Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often... Push, grab, slap, or throw something at you? or Ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?
4. No ___ If Yes, enter 1 ___
5. Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you ever... Touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way? or Attempt or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?
6. No ___ If Yes, enter 1 ___

Continue on page 4... ACE

Continued from page 3... **ACE**

- 7 Did you often or very often feel that ... No one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special? or Your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?
- 8 No ___ If Yes, enter 1 ___
- 9 Did you often or very often feel that ... You didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you? or Your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?
- 10 No ___ If Yes, enter 1 ___
- 11 Were your parents ever separated or divorced?
- 12 No ___ If Yes, enter 1 ___
- 13 Was your mother or stepmother:
- 14 Often or very often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her? or Sometimes, often, or very often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard? or Ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?
- 15 No ___ If Yes, enter 1 ___
- 16 Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or who used street drugs?
- 17 No ___ If Yes, enter 1 ___
- 18 Was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?
- No ___ If Yes, enter 1 ___
- 19 Did a household member go to prison?
- 20 No ___ If Yes, enter 1 ___

Now add up your "Yes" answers: _ This is your ACE Score.



Calendar

February

- 8 **Wednesday, 4:00 pm, Women's Issues Committee** Mary Collins, 1126 E. La Rua Street, Pensacola, for information contact Mary at mcollins5439 @ gmail.com or 346-5520.
- 11 **Saturday, 2:30 pm, Education Committee** meeting at Paula Montgomery's 641 Connell Dr., 438-8891.
- 14 **Tuesday, Birthday of the League of Women Voters!**
- 14 **Tuesday, 5:30 pm, Board Meeting**, in the Conference room, Downtown Library on Spring Street. Members are always welcome.
- 16 **Thursday, 11:30 am, Nominating Committee** with Ann Davis, chair. For information, contact Ann at 505-4901 or danddavis@cox.net.
- 18 **Saturday, 10:30 am- 1:00 pm, General League Meeting**, Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave. "Open Primary Study", Ray Hudkins; light lunch will be available.

- 21 **Tuesday, 10:00 am Azalea Trace, International Relations**, Great Decisions discussion with John LeRoy, *U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum*. For details, contact Don Freeman, 477-6626.
- 22 **Wednesday, 4:00 am, Voter Service Committee** meeting at Gulf Breeze Library. Contact Charlyle Parrish, 932-0854 or ccparrish@usa.net

March

- 18 **Saturday, 10:30 am, General League Meeting**, Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave. Documentary, "Equal means Equal" Women's Issues Committee. For information contact Mary Collins, 346-5520.

Welcome New Members!

Virginia 'Ginny' Byers Deborah Ervin
 Carmella Miller Debora Miller
 Melanie Nichols Amy Parker
 Melinda Stultz

Members' contact information is contained in the *Membership Roster*. If you have not received the latest one, contact Cathy Scott, basketbabe at mchsi.com or 396-5727.

Thank You!

For your contributions to the mission of the League.

Susan B. Anthony Members

Sherlee & David Aronson	Bette & Ed Boddy
Janet deLorge	Vivian Faircloth
Susan Metzger	Charlyle & Art Parrish
Gene & Sandy Pettis	Haley Richards
Ellen Roston	Pam Schwartz
William Sloan	

Susan B. Anthony membership is a special category of League members who contribute \$100 or more, in addition to membership dues, during the League year. Contributions may be made to our local League or to the Education Fund, the tax deductible arm of the League.

Donors

Bea Belous	Mary Collins & Ray Hudkins
Gene Feicht	Jeffrey Elliot & Carolyn Tokson
Audrey Grill	Rosemary Hays-Thomas
Gail Honea	Carolyn Kolb
Paula Montgomery	Shirley Lewis-Brown
Julie Patton	Fredrica Prettyman
Penny Rice	Betty Vickers
Jackie Young	Bill & Muriel Wagner

Study Continued from Page 1...

(Read the complete study [here](#).)

elections. Isolating the root cause of other states' success with higher voter turnout was unachievably within our time frame.

- There are more than 3.4 million NPAs and minor party registered voters who are not allowed to vote in candidate primary elections unless they meet the terms described above. More than 1.2 million new voters registered as non-party affiliated (NPAs) between 2004-2016. This represents a 64% increase in non-party affiliated registered voters, and 40% of this increase in NPAs are millennials, ages 18-34 years.
- Administrative and legislative actions are not sufficient, in and of themselves, to address many of the reasons for low voter turnout, such as candidate quality or voter apathy.
- Replacement of the closed primary election system in Florida will require changes to Florida Statutes and/or Florida's Constitution. The costs associated with a replacement have not been ascertained and are not included in this study.

Factors Influencing Voter Turnout (*study page 3*) The factors influencing voter turnout have been organized into categories to facilitate understanding:

Awareness / Publicity / Education
 Voters' Feelings / Positions / Expressions
 Political Issues / Candidates
 Impact of Presidential Preference Primaries (PPP)
 Socioeconomic Indicators

Potential Solutions to Low Voter Turnout (*study page 4*)

Administrative
 Political
 Educational

Major Findings from Interviews with Supervisors of Elections and from Leaders of Political Parties (*Study page 5*)**Election Input from Other State Leagues with Different or Same Elections Systems** (*Study page 5*)**Election Input from the Twin Cities (Minneapolis / St. Paul, Minnesota) and from Pierce County Washington (Tacoma area)** (*Study page 5*)**Survey of Millennials** (*Study page 5 & 6 and [Survey Report summary](#)*)**Brief Preview of Study Elements** (*Study pages 6 & 20-28*)

Seven election systems were analyzed and evaluated to differentiate fact from opinion and to compare each system with the seven pre-established evaluation criteria..... Five election systems were evaluated in

detail:

- (1) Closed;
- (2) Open to Unaffiliated Voters;
- (3) Open;
- (4) Top Two; and
- (5) Instant Runoff Voting (IRV).

NOTE: In 2007 after a study completed by the St Petersburg League, the Florida League "recommended Instant Runoff Voting as an alternative to Florida's present system of plurality voting".

The seven pre-established evaluation criteria are: (*Study pages 6 & 19 - 20*)

- (1) Simple and Easy to Understand;
- (2) Verifiable and Auditable;
- (3) Fosters Competition;
- (4) Minimizes Political Manipulation;
- (5) Represents Demographics;
- (6) Technically and Fiscally Feasible;
- (7) Winner Achieves Majority Vote.

Not one of the systems met all evaluation criteria. Additional analysis and evaluation of Closed, Open, Open to Unaffiliated Voters, as well as Top Two and IRV are contained within the Study Kit and the body of the comprehensive study. Similarly, the charts with accompanying explanations provide clarifications and the effect on voter turnout by Presidential Preference Primaries and state caucuses. Lastly, each claim made is supported by hard data, or the source is cited.

Consensus Statements

The Open Primary Study Kit includes two types of consensus statements: (1) Potential changes to our primary election system and (2) Potential solutions that can be implemented without changing election systems.

1. Consensus statement: The current primary system in Florida hinders voter turnout. (*Discussion & graphs - Study pages 7-8*)

- Florida averaged less than 23% turnout in primary elections from 2000 to 2016
- Open style primaries averaged over 37% in 2016 primaries
- In 2016 over 76% of open primary states had higher voter turnout than Florida
- Political parties see a change as a loss of control and weakening of their structure
- In a 2012 Democracy Project report the Bipartisan Policy Center said, ". . . the inescapable conclusion to be drawn from the preponderance of the data is that open and modified open primaries have modestly higher turnout than closed primaries".

Agree Disagree No Opinion

2. Consensus Statement: NPAs (No Party Affiliation) and minor party voters should have an opportunity to vote in all primary elections. (Discussion & Graphs - Study pages 8-10)

- NPA registered voters have increased over 1.2 million from 2004 to 2016 (64%)
- There are 3.4 million NPA and minor party voters that can't vote in major party primaries unless they register with the party holding the primary
- According to Florida Division of Elections data including NPAs in the process would increase race/ethnicity by 21% White; 14% Black; 33% Hispanic, and 41% Other
- Political parties see a change as a loss of control and weakening of their structure

3. Consensus Statement: The primary system that would best serve the voters of Florida is

 Closed Open to Unaffiliated Open
 Top Two Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)

(Rank your top three (one 1 being your first choice)
(Discussion & Graphs - Study pages 10-11)

NOTE: Rank ordering is a means for each League to arrive at consensus not each individual member. See the National Conference of State Legislatures <http://www.ncsl.org>

- There is no perfect election system - - all have flaws; Consensus will determine which flaws may be acceptable
- All open type election systems require voters to vote a party ballot
- Top Two and Instant Runoff Voting feature a common ballot with all candidates, regardless of party affiliation on the ballot
- IRV is currently a League position (2015 - 2017 Study and Action Election Law)

4. Consensus Statement: The best election system for the Presidential Preference Primary would be which one of the following: (Discussion - page 12)

 Closed Open Open to Unaffiliated

- According to the NCSL 36 states hold PPP and state level primaries using the same election type. Twelve of the 36 states hold open to all voters' primaries
- Top Two doesn't down select to one candidate; therefore is not a viable option.
- IRV would be confusing given the change in focus from all candidates vying for state level office regardless of party to candidates vying for presidential nomination within a party
- If we had the same types of primaries for both State and Presidential primaries, voters would be less confused and it would be easier for our SOE's to administer.

5. Consensus statement: Threshold criteria should be established for write-in candidates that more closely mirror current requirements for announced candidates. (Discussion - Study pages 12-14)

- In the 2016 Primary, write-in candidates blocked full voter participation in six Senate and 14 House districts, disenfranchising 1.6 million voters.
- Because of the lack of criteria for write-in candidates, their validity is in question
- According to the Florida Constitution, any person who is seeking election as a write-in candidate shall not be required to pay a filing fee, election fee or party fee
- SOEs surveyed believe the "write-in" loophole should be closed

6. Consensus statements: Alone or in combination there are other factors that may improve voter turnout in primaries. These are:

A. Automatic registration of eligible voters at age 18 by an appropriate government agency (Study Pages 14-15)

- California (2015) and Oregon (2016) are the first states to implement automatic voter registration at age 18
- States that have modernized registration have saved money
- Electronic transmission of Voter Registrations Increases Registration Rates
- Electronic registration reduces errors by eliminating paper registration forms

Agree Disagree No Opinion

B. Exclusive Vote By Mail (Study pages 15 - 16)

- California & Colorado were in the top 10 turnout states (2014) that featured exclusive vote by mail; Washington finished #18
- Boosts registered voter turnout
- Eliminates voting lines
- Gives voters time to cast a more informed, complete ballot
- The most likely avenue for voter fraud is absentee balloting

Agree Disagree No Opinion

C. Make election voting portable within the county similar to early voting centers (Study pages 16-17)

- Eleven states now either permit jurisdictions to replace precincts with vote centers, or have authorized vote center pilot projects in selected jurisdictions
- Eliminates the problem of finding the right precinct to cast a ballot
- Reduces the need for some provisional ballots.
- Allows a voter to change addresses on Election Day and still vote a regular ballot.
- Will ultimately save counties money

Agree Disagree No Opinion

D. Statewide Election Day (same day) Registration (EDR) (Study pages 17-18)

- Election Day Registration exists in 13 states and the District of Columbia
- Seven of the top 10 turnout states featured EDR in 2014 primaries
- Experts and advocates interviewed for this study agree that EDR can improve turnout
- The Millennial survey yielded a 70% approval for EDR vote
- SOEs do not favor EDR due to current difficulty of checking voter eligibility

Agree Disagree No Opinion

Appendix (Study pages 19-28)

This section documents a detailed analysis of selected election types to determine if voter turnout can be improved by replacing the current closed primary with another type. Multiple state leagues have analyzed primary election types from a PRO/CON perspective. This analysis examines primary elections from a FACT versus Expert OPINION basis. The Voter Turnout Analysis section of this report investigated reasons for low voter turnout and possible solutions to improve turnout. Changing the election system is one of the potential solutions to improving turnout.

Election System Evaluation Criteria (Study page 19-20)

Analysis of Specific Primary Election Systems (Study pages 20-26)

Study Evaluation Criteria Analysis (Study pages 26-28)

Note: The Study team is taping a webinar for viewing at your convenience. A link for the webinar, a Bibliography and Glossary will be available on at www.lwvpba.org and on our Facebook page when it is available.

League in Action

League opposes the end to the voting agency passed by house panel. Abolishing the Elections Assistance Commission is "irresponsible". [Read more...](#)

Tell Congress: Do not repeal the Affordable Care Act without an effective plan to replace it. [Read more...](#)

League statement on claims of voter fraud: [Read more...](#)

Florida Lawmakers Unveil Gun Safety Legislation That Targets Assault-Style Weapons [Read more...](#)

FL Senate Bill 352: unconstitutional mandates upon the Judiciary - Redistricting [Read more...](#)

Natural Resources News

Carolyn Kolb, 939-8653

The Natural Resources Committee is committed to reduce, and hopefully eliminate, the use of non-disposable plastic bags in our local area. This project will entail a lengthy education period in which residents will be urged to carry reusable bags when shopping.

The Pensacola City Council passed a resolution on January 12, to wit, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Pensacola, Florida Supporting Legislative Efforts to Repeal, or in the Alternative, Amend Section 403.7033, Florida Statutes, so that Local Governments Are No Longer Preempted From Enacting Legislation Regulating Non-Bio-Degradable Containers."

Several League members spoke in favor of the resolution that originated with Councilwoman Sherri Myers.

The Florida Legislature will meet from March through May of this year. One bill, already filed in the House of Representatives, is supported by League members and other environmentalists. It is HB 93/S 162, which would allow municipalities with populations of less than 100,000 to create a pilot project to regulate or ban non-disposal plastic bags. The pilot project would be operational until 2020 and is limited to coastal communities. At the present time, 26 municipalities across Florida have passed resolutions in support of this bill

Check out the new Facebook page for [‘Ban the Bag’](#)

International Relations Great Decisions

One position of the LWV is to promote peace in an interdependent world by cooperating with other nations, strengthening international organizations, fostering long-term development, negotiating arms control measures and encouraging the successful resolution of conflicts through nonmilitary means.

To this end, our local League uses the material produced by the Foreign Policy Association, Great Decisions. The program provides background information and policy options for the eight most critical issues facing America each year and serves as the focal text for discussion groups.

John LeRoy will lead the Great Decisions discussion on *U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum* February 21, 10:00 am in the auditorium at Azalea Trace.

What is the effect of U.S. petroleum security on foreign policy? For 45 years, the country has alternated between periods of energy security and insecurity, sometimes able to wield petroleum as a useful instrument of foreign policy, sometimes not. Despite the so-called "energy revolution," the U.S. today is by no means disentangled from foreign dependence and global trends. In order to be successful, policymakers must recognize both petroleum security circumstances and patterns in the relationship between petroleum and foreign policy.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Join the League of Women Voters Today!

It's easy! Just send your check to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ♦ P.O. Box 2023, Pensacola, FL 32513 or PayPal [here](#).

Name _____ Birth date _____ New Mbr? Yes/No

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone (____) _____ Other (____) _____ E-mail _____

Add Family Member(s): _____

DUES: \$55.00 _____ Additional Mbrs @ \$27.50 _____ Contribution _____ TOTAL _____

Dues are \$27.50 for a student enrolled in a certificate or degree program.

I'm renewing my membership.

I am interested in the following areas (Circle all interests)

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Education | Natural Resources | Social Policy | Speaker's Bureau |
| Voter Service | Growth Management | Website | Observer Corps |
| Membership | Legislative Action | Hospitality | Naturalization |
| Newsletter | Voter Registration | Publicity | Social Media |
| Women's Issues | | | |

Membership dues and gifts to the League of Women Voters are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes. (Tax deductible contributions require a separate check written to the LWV Florida Education Fund and should be sent to our local treasurer.)



**League of Women Voters
of the Pensacola Bay Area
PO. Box 2023
Pensacola, FL 32513**