



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Sanibel Volume 1 Issue 3 June 2010

BREAKING NEWS!

We just received the eagerly awaited announcement that the LWV of the US, at their Board Meeting held at the convention in Atlanta, has recognized the former Sanibel MAL unit as a full league. The State Board had given their approval earlier, on March 21, 2001

Letter from the President

Some of you have told us that you are overwhelmed by League email. Your membership in the League includes emails from both national and the LWV of Florida. We cannot stop these, but YOU CAN. Simply scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on unsubscribe. It works! You will continue to receive Sanibel League meeting notices and newsletters by email.

After a very busy season, things seem to be slowing down on Sanibel. Many of you have left the island for cooler places while we have 90+ degree temperatures every day.

We - Linda and John Kramer, Benno and I - have just returned from Winter Park near Orlando where we attended a two day State League Council. About 70 league members attended. 20 out of 29 local leagues were represented.

It was very nice to meet the State Board Members as well as putting faces on their email addresses. We attended a number of workshops including one on Fair Districting. Voter service was another "Hot Topic". We were fortunate to spend some time with Pat Drago, State Voter Service Chairperson. She will provide us with a lot of voter service information. A gubernatorial debate has been scheduled for mid October and will air live on PBS. Additional debates are being scheduled for other statewide candidates' debates.

Our League won first place in the small leagues category (less than one hundred members) for increased membership, an honor for all of us.

Winter Park is a lovely town amid beautiful lakes. We went on an hour long boat trip to view the lakes and the incredible homes built along them.

It was a very well organized conference where we learned much.

Your Board will remain active during the next few months preparing for the next season as well as starting voter information for the November election.

I wish you all a happy and healthy summer and look forward to see you in October.

Carla Benninga, Carolyn Gray, Darlene Boda, Linda Kramer, Mary McLaughlin,
Linda Robison, Martha Ponader, Robert Winters

**The Florida Primary will be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2010.
Every State Office will be on the November 2 ballot this year.
IF YOU WILL NOT BE ON SANIBEL ON AUGUST 24 AND/OR
NOVEMBER 2, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO GET AN ABSENTEE BALLOT
LWVS makes voting easy: Just click on www.voteanywhere.org.**

From the LWVFL:

Citizens File Lawsuit to Remove Poison Pill, Amendment 7, from the November Ballot

On May 21, 2010 the Florida NAACP, Florida League of Women Voters, and Democracia Ahora filed suit in Tallahassee, seeking the removal of a misleading ballot amendment, Amendment 7 from the November ballot. This "poison pill" amendment, placed on the ballot by Tallahassee politicians, is a brazen attempt by those in power to continue their absolute control of the redistricting process. This "poison pill" amendment, placed on the ticket by Tallahassee politicians, is a brazen attempt by those in power to continue their absolute control of the redistricting process. Amendment 7 parades as an amendment measure to create "standards" for the legislature to follow when they draw their own district lines and those of congressional districts. But in reality, the legislature's amendment is an attempt to eliminate all rules and give the politician's free reign to draw districts that only serve to protect their own political futures. It is intentionally written to fool voters about its chief purpose and true effect.

Amendment 7 was passed in direct response to the placement of two citizen-initiated amendments on the ballot, Fair Districts Amendments 5 and 6. These two amendments will create real mandatory and enforceable standards for redistricting at the legislative and congressional level. Amendments 5 and 6 will prohibit the current practice of drawing districts to favor an incumbent or political party. By placing Amendment 7 on the ballot, a majority of legislators proved beyond a reasonable doubt that they want to continue to use redistricting as their own, personal political, incumbent protection plan.

Governor Christ Vetoes Ultrasound Bill.

Gov. Christ has vetoed a bill that would have required women seeking an abortion during the first trimester to undergo an ultrasound exam and pay for it. Crist said it put an inappropriate burden on women seeking an abortion.

From National:

Clean Air Act of 1990

Public Law 101-549

"An Act to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for attainment and maintenance of health protective national ambient air quality standards, and for other purposes."

After a decade of virtual dormancy, Congress finally drastically amended the Clean Air Act again to attempt to solve problems of the past as well as deal with new issues. As in the past, the federal government designated states as being responsible for non-attainment areas, but it allowed them to establish deadlines for each source considering the severity of its pollution. It also raised automobile emissions standards and set a definite timetable for reductions in order to tighten control in this area. Through this legislation, the government encouraged the use of low-sulfur fuels as well as alternative fuels as a means of reducing sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere which is a main component of acid precipitation, one of the new problems needing to be dealt with. Also, it mandated the installment of the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) to reduce the amount of air toxics. The government also called for a reduction in the amount of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) is being used as a way of preventing ozone depletion, a new issue needing to be addressed.

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