



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
O F S A N I B E L

The Voter

lwvsanibel.org

Special Notice

July 2015

Editor's Note: If you do not see a photo below, click on "display images" in your email program.



Petition for Solar Choice



LWV Sanibel is alerting its membership to an important petition drive to add an amendment to the Florida Constitution that would enable Florida citizens to buy solar energy from reliable vendors, not just from the big utility companies.

As the law stands now, Florida --- The Sunshine State --- **prohibits** citizens from buying electricity from any other source than an utility company. Florida is one of only four states in the US that have such a law. Florida's big utilities are not investing in solar power and due to the current Florida law, no alternative energy company can set up business in the state. Floridians should have the option of buying energy generated by our clean, abundant, and renewable sunshine.

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the website for Floridians for Solar Choice. The "Get the Facts" section provides the background and rationale for this grass-roots drive to give Floridians the option of contracting for renewal solar energy for their homes and businesses.

Please take a moment to download, print the petition (go to "Sign the Petition" in the website), and mail it to the address on the petition. Note that your signed petition is valid only if you are a registered voter in Florida. Please consider photocopying the blank petition and sharing it with your Florida friends and neighbors who are also registered Florida voters.

LWV Sanibel will be organizing a Solar Choice campaign in the fall, including a push to get more signed petitions. We need volunteers to help. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to send LWV President Robin Krivanek an email indicating your interest in helping and include your name and contact information.

Florida Supreme Court Requires Legislature to Redraw Congressional Districts

Your LWV Florida (along with other groups) has pressed this cause all the way to the State Supreme and won. This is a huge victory for fair and representative congressional districts. The Legislature must submit new maps within 100 days.

The significance of winning this legal battle cannot be underestimated. If you have not had a moment to read LWV Florida President Pamela Goodman's letter about "Redistricting in Florida" that was sent by email to the membership, we encourage you to take a few minutes to do so. [CLICK HERE](#) for the letter.

New Human Trafficking Federal Legislation

On May 29th, President Obama signed into law the bipartisan supported **Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act**. The law includes three critical, bipartisan provisions:

- The Rape Survivor Child Custody Act, which helps prevent sexual predators from suing for custody of children that are the result of rape. Recent studies have shown that there are 25,000 to 32,000 rape-related pregnancies annually in the USA and about one third of the women in these cases opt to raise the child. Twenty states and the District of Columbia have no statute allowing mothers to restrict or terminate parental rights of men who father a child through rape.

The new law will makes funds available to the states as incentives to enact legislation to protect the mothers.

- The HERO Act, which provides training for wounded military veterans to help law enforcement investigate child exploitation by training them to be part of an elite corps of cyber warriors.
- The Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act, which trains healthcare providers to identify and assist victims of trafficking. Twenty-eight percent of trafficked women see a healthcare professional while being held captive. This provision is a critical piece in breaking the cycle of abuse and trafficking.

Visit Cuba with LWV Florida



There can be no more exciting time to visit and learn about this isolated island country only 90 miles from our shores. The history between Cuba and the USA is being dramatically re-written. See the old Cuba before its world changes. Be a part of the of the League's Sisters Across the Straits program to increase understanding and trust on the personal level.

Don't delay -- the deadline to register for the October 12 - 18 trip is August 13th. Other trips will take place in November and December. [CLICK HERE](#) for details.



Membership Renewal & Records Update



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANIBEL**

Please copy this form and mail it along with your check (made out to LWV Sanibel) to LWV Sanibel, P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957

Questions: lwvsanibel@gmail.com

Name _____ Phone (Home) _____

Address _____ Phone (mobile) _____

_____ E-mail _____

Please Circle Annual Membership Level

\$125 Susan B. Anthony membership _____

\$95 Household membership _____

\$65 Individual membership _____

\$30 Student membership _____

TOTAL _____

Please Circle Your Interest Topics

Voter Services

Local Government

Fundraising

Health Care

Sustainability/Natural Resources

Publicity

Membership

Hot Topics

Education

Hospitality/Events

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



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Try it FREE today.

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