



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

The Voter

lwvsanibel.org

League of Women Voters of Sanibel Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 5

March 2016

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



Greetings from Robin Krivanek, LWV Sanibel President

Dear Leaguers:

I am pleased to announce that our March 17th luncheon speaker, Linda Doggett, has recently been designated Public Official of the Year by the Fort Myers News-Press. Her presentation will provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about an office that is integral to the official governmental functions of Lee County and to a citizen's right to know about those functions.

I note with pride that LWV Florida's Action Alert asking Leaguers around the state to contact their state representatives and express opposition to SB 318, "Regulation of Oil and Gas Resources (Fracking)" was a successful effort in that the bill has been withdrawn from further consideration.

This month brings the March 12th Open Government Forum (see the article below), Florida's March 15th Presidential Preference Primary, and the wrap-up of this year's Legislative session. In this crazy, busy season, do try to make time to share your opinions with your legislators as they finalize their activities; we know doing so can have an impact. Our job as Leaguers is to work together to influence public policy.



Lee County Clerk of Courts Office: What Does It Do For You?

Reserve your place now.
**LWV Sanibel Luncheon and
Program, March 17.**

Speaker:
**Linda Doggett, Clerk of the Circuit
Court and Comptroller, Lee County**

Named Public Official of the Year by the News-Press

Linda Doggett is an active supporter of transparency in government and the citizenry's right to know what is being done in their name. She will describe the role of her office in county government and will give an update on the activities of the Florida Commission on Access to Civil Justice of which she is a member.

Linda Doggett was sworn into office on January 8, 2013 for a four-year term. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management Information Systems (MIS) from Hodges University. As Clerk, Ms. Doggett oversees a staff of 350 employees and is Clerk of the Circuit Court, Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, Auditor, County Recorder and Comptroller.

In addition to her day-to-day responsibilities as Clerk, Ms. Doggett currently serves on six statewide Court committees and the United Way Board. Florida Weekly named Linda one of ten SW Florida Power Women in 2014.

Ms. Doggett's pledge to the citizens of Lee County is to lead the office to better technology and efficiencies. Her goal has been to keep costs down and, at the same time, provide better services and conveniences to community.

Linda is married to Don Doggett and has two daughters, Adeline and Andrea.

Where:

Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Dr, Sanibel.

When:

Thursday, March 17, 2016, Registration at 11:30 a.m., Luncheon and Program

at 12:00, noon.

Reservations and Cost:

[Click here](#) to email LWV Sanibel Treasurer, Ellen Strobel, with your reservation. Cost is \$25 per person. You can pay at the door or send your check to LWV Sanibel, P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957.

RSVP Deadline is Noon, Monday, March 14, 2016.

SAVE THE DATE!!
Saturday, March 12

Florida's Sunshine Laws Are Being Weakened

Learn more about the background and what citizens can do at this free, public event.

**OPEN GOVERNMENT & YOU:
A PUBLIC FORUM ON THE
CURRENT STATE OF OUR SUNSHINE LAWS**

Keynote speaker:

Barbara Peterson, President, The First Amendment Foundation

Panels:

- Shutting the Door on Open Government
- An Informed Media = An Informed Community
- When You Don't Know: The Impact of Weakened Sunshine Laws

Hosted by: The LWV Lee County and The News-Press Media Group

WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016, 1-5 p.m. Registration at 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: THE NEWS-PRESS BUILDING, 2442 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers, FL.



Cost: Free and open to the public.

Democratic government depends on the active participation of informed citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect citizens' access to public information by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible.

Florida has traditionally been a leader in providing its citizens oversight and review of the actions of its elected officials at every level through its Sunshine laws. Unfortunately, privacy concerns and influential special interests are working to erode these laws and erect barriers to transparency and accountability.

[Click here](#) for details on the LWV Lee County website.

LWV Visits Cuba with the Sisters Across the Straits Delegation!

**May 23 - 28, 2016
Registration closes March 23rd.**

- See Historic Havana.
- Visit Ernest Hemingway's home.
- Participate in discussion sessions with Cuban professionals.
- Enjoy a worry-free trip with all arrangements made by the League.



[Click here](#) to learn more.

DIRTY WATER, AMENDMENT 1, VOTING

By Mary La Velle

The Florida Water and Land

Conservation Amendment

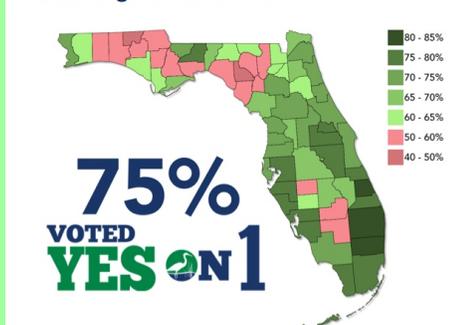
BALLOT TITLE:

Water and Land Conservation - Dedicates funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands

BALLOT SUMMARY:

Funds the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation lands including wetlands and forests; fish and wildlife habitat; lands protecting water resources and drinking water sources, including the Everglades, and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; beaches and shores; outdoor recreational lands; working farms and ranches; and historic or geologic sites, by dedicating 33 percent of net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents for 20 years.

You changed the world!



Were you one of the 75% of Florida voters who passed Amendment 1 in 2014? Did you expect legislators to return to bipartisan support for designated funds to buy sensitive environmental land for the people of Florida?

Think again.



Aliki Moncrief is Executive Director of Florida Conservation Voters (FCV), the organization that was formed out of the Florida Water and Land Legacy that shepherded Amendment 1 to its overwhelming win. On Thursday, February 18 she spoke with the Sanibel League of Women Voters on past and present environmental spending in Florida-and on FCV's continuing effort to see that the people's will be done.

Moncrief, a Harvard Law graduate, is a Miami native who was a child in 1963 when a long succession of Florida Governors and Legislatures--from both parties--began to preserve Florida's natural heritage while also allowing development, the engine of Florida's economy. The mechanism they chose was to dedicate one-third of funds collected from real estate transfer taxes to purchase land and water resources--

the more development, the more funds available. Brilliant.

This ongoing ethic was not seen as liberal or conservative, not as a luxury but a practical way to protect Florida's quality of life. Over those years, over 2.4 million acres were preserved for the people, lands that:

- safeguard our supply of clean drinking water

- keep floodplains open so homes are safe elsewhere
- promote recreation of all sorts
- ensure migration corridors for iconic species
- and preserve unique and fragile places that nurture human spirits as well as Florida's unique wildness.

Of the 35 million acres of open land left in Florida, 28% is publicly protected. 72% is in private hands. Sanibel remembers that our Bob Janes won protection for the Babcock Ranch—a significant step for Southwest Florida.

But in 2009, this bipartisan consensus broke down. Zero funds were directed toward preservation. Zero. This spurred efforts—through Amendment 1—to mandate spending of real estate transfer funds at previous levels.

Most Amendment 1 voters expected spending to grow and be directed to significant land purchases. Instead, budgets directed those funds to things like salaries and equipment, previously paid for with general funds. In fact, in 2014-15, spending on all environment-related items went down, not up.

Florida Conservation Voters, a privately funded umbrella organization with many member groups, is now taking a long view. Some organizations are suing to enforce the constitutional mandate; FCV's efforts are directed to education. Their goal: to reestablish Florida's bipartisan agreement on a healthy balance of growth and preservation.

Major obstacles lie ahead:

- Safe districts. The Fair Districts amendment has not yet achieved a balance in the legislature that reflects the balance of voters in the state. Those legislators need not listen to all voices.
- Term limits. New legislators may not have developed a deep understanding of issues, and rely on lobbyists for information. *There are 25 lobbyists for every legislator in Tallahassee—and most of them do not work for everyday people.*
- Money. 68% of campaign contributions are made by 1% of donors—who usually have an agenda.

A ray of hope: bills pending in the legislature—HB989, sponsored by Rep. Harrell, and SB1168, sponsored by Sen. Negron—would direct significant Amendment 1 funding for twenty years to Everglades restoration and protection for springs. Part of Everglades restoration is directing water south, so one day there may be fewer toxic releases from Lake O to the Caloosahatchee.

A caveat: in discussion following Moncrief's presentation, much concern was expressed over the lack of responsibility for agriculture—including Big Sugar—to clean up water from its lands before it reaches estuaries,

the Gulf, or the Everglades. Even the currently approved C43 reservoir will impound excess Lake O water but have zero effect on its heavy pollutant load.



Polluted Bay water near the Causeway_ Feb 2016



Membership Renewal & Records Update

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

LWV Sanibel annual membership is October 1 to September 30.

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	Publicity
Local Government	Membership
Fundraising	Hot Topics
Health Care	Education
Sustainability/Natural Resources	Hospitality/Events

LWV Sanibel Board Meetings 2016

Members are invited to attend all Board meetings which are held at 3:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday (excepting October and May) of the month. Meeting dates are March 9 and April 13. [Click here](#) to contact Robin Krivanek as to the meeting location.

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.

League of Women Voters of Sanibel, P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957

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