



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

The Voter

lwvsanibel.org

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

Message from Robin Krivanek, LWV Sanibel President

Greetings, Leaguers:

It's March so all eyes are on the Florida Legislature as it starts its two month session. Right out of the box, both houses voted to restore the presidential preference primary to March in 2016 and gave up on the idea of positioning Florida at the head of the pack. The effort to increase Florida's influence in the presidential race by reporting before states like Iowa and New Hampshire only lead to other states scrambling to change their election dates and ultimately brought penalties from the national Republican Party.



Wouldn't it be great to see the same kind of unanimity as the vote on the presidential primary also play out on extending health insurance to the uninsured, purchasing the sugar lands essential to moving water south into the Everglades, properly funding public schools and a myriad of other issues essential to the future of the state?

If you've never followed the workings of the Legislature, a good place to start is at www.leg.state.fl.us or at the websites of each chamber, www.flsenate.gov or www.myfloridahouse.gov (both of the latter two sites list meetings that are live-streamed). And most important, watch for emails from your LWV Florida with

streamed). And most important, watch for emails from your LWV Florida with the weekly Calls for Action which let us know when and how to respond to developing legislation. See box below for contact information for your local Senator and Representative.

On my mind at the moment is the future of the Sanibel League as Linda Kramer, past LWV Sanibel President and Nominating Committee Chair, prepares to report on next year's slate of officers and directors at our 25 March meeting (see details below). There's so much talent in our League membership (much of it already heavily committed, I know) but please contact Linda (kramer@zebis.com) if you think you could help us out.

How to Contact Your Florida State Legislative Representatives

Your Florida Legislature went into session on March 3rd. Legislative Sessions may take up to 60 days. Many issues important to Lee County and Sanibel will be on the docket. The LWV encourages its members to monitor the discussions and contact their legislators with concerns and questions.



Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto (District 30)

**330 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399**

Phone: 239-338-2570 or 850-487-5030

**Email:
benacquisto.lizbeth.web@flsenate.gov**



Rep. Ray Rodrigues (District 76)

**1302 The Capitol
492 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399**

Phone: 239-433-6501 or 850-717-5076

Email: Ray.Rodrigues@myfloridahouse.gov

**LWV Sanibel Hosts Successful Candidates' Forum for
City Council Candidates**

City Council Candidates



On Tuesday, March 3, 2015 City of Sanibel voters elected Chauncey Goss and re-elected Jim Jennings to the City Council. The third candidate, Frances Slane, did not gather enough votes for a council seat.

More than 150 people attended the

Candidates' Forum on February 11, 2015. All three candidates appeared and responded to questions from the moderator, Professor Roger Green, Chairman of the Department of Public Affairs at Florida Gulf Coast University, as well as to questions from the audience.



Special thanks to LWV Sanibel Vice President and Voter Services Chair Dick Calkins for organizing a very successful Forum and to Marcy Calkins for her artistic skills in creating clear and helpful signage.



Florida's 2015 Legislative Session: Water, Amendment 1, and Growth Management

LWV Sanibel Luncheon and Program

March 25, 2015



Guest Speaker: Rae Ann Wessel, Natural Resource Policy Director, Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation.

As the Florida Legislature begins its 2015 session, much discussion centers around how the new Amendment One funds for conservation will be implemented and protected. The LWV Florida is closely monitoring this debate. There is no one more qualified to speak about this critically important issue than Rae Ann Wessel.

Rae Ann Wessel, an expert in freshwater and marine ecosystems, is a gifted and knowledgeable speaker with more than 30 years of experience working in South Florida on environmental issues and policy. She was instrumental in the formation in 1994 of the non-profit Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association that focuses on improving the ecological health of the River, promoting public awareness of issues affecting the River, and monitoring governmental agencies responsible for management of the River and its watershed. Rae Ann is an appointee to the 2020 Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Committee and has received a number of awards for her environmental work.

When: Wednesday, March 25, 11:30 Registration, 12:00 noon, Luncheon and Program.

Where: Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Road, Sanibel.

Reservations and Cost:

[Click here](#) to email LWV Program Chair, Ellen O'Neill, with your reservation or call her at 239-395-1019. 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 March 23.**

If you already paid for 5 of the 6 LWV Sanibel programs, we have your name and reservation, but recommend that you confirm your attendance. [Click here](#) to send an email confirming that you plan to be at the luncheon.

On February 25th, Amira Fox, Chief Assistant State Attorney and member of the Judicial Nominating Commission, gave an outstanding presentation on the duties and responsibilities of the State's Attorney office for the 20th Judicial District that includes Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties -- the largest such district area in Florida. The State Attorney offices have responsibilities for all civil and criminal suits in which the State is a party. Ms. Fox also gave an overview of the judicial nominating process in Florida.



Up-Coming LWV Sanibel Luncheon and Special Programs

2015

March 25

"Florida's 2015 Legislative Session: Water, Amendment One, and Growth Management" with Rae Ann Wessel, SCCF Director of Natural Resource Policy

April 22

LWV Sanibel Annual Meeting. Sanibel Island Government and Policy Issues.

All luncheon programs will be held at the Sundial Beach Resort (1451 Middle Gulf Rd.) with registration beginning at 11:30 a.m.



Membership Renewal & Records Update



**LEAGUE OF
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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) _____

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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

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LWV Sanibel Board Meetings 2014-2015

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 11, April 8, and May 6th. The Board meets at the Bank of the Islands.

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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