



VOTER

A monthly publication of the League of Women Voters of Polk County, P.O. Box 934, Lakeland, FL 33802

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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.

Fall Membership Meeting

Property Tax! Super Homestead Exemption! SOH!

Special Guest:

Ms. Marsha Faux, Polk County Property Appraiser

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

At

Michael Holley Chevrolet
925 Highway 98 South, Lakeland
New Car Showroom Community Room (2nd floor)

Agenda:

- 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Social Hour
- 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker

Meet new friends and renew old acquaintanceships.
Have fun and enjoy lively conversation.

Bring a friend along!

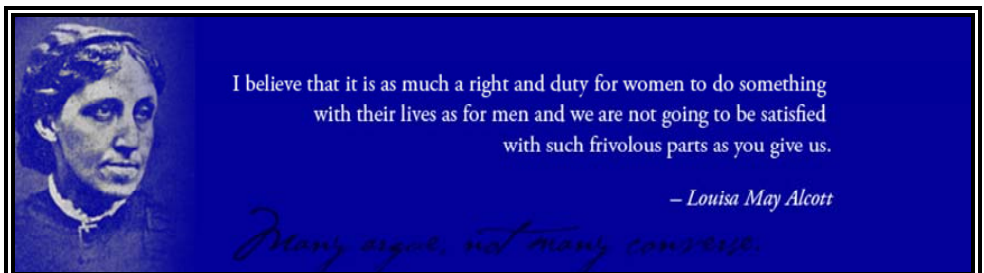
This Issue

- [Fall Meeting](#)
- [New Website](#)
- [Growth Committee](#)
- [2008 Priorities](#)
- [Consensus](#)
- [Election Dates](#)
- [Calendar](#)

ON THE LIGHT SIDE:

In a democracy, it's
your **vote** that counts;

In feudalism, it's your
Count that votes.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
POLK COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

(Vacant), President

Sue Schultz, Vice President and
Voter Service—Elections
646-4634
sueschultz1@verizon.net

Susan Lee, Secretary
3254-4517
Suezq11@verizon.net

Mary Thomas, Treasurer
859-7560
maryalict11@aol.com

Judy Walker, Voter Service—Guide
299-9285
judywalker@polkelections.com

Gail Auger
686-6203
gaaug81@aol.com

Dr. Larry Rankin
682-2513
LRankin@flumc.org

Helen Sears
619-2199
bobhelenfla@aol.com

Off-Board Specialists:

Membership, Joan Verret, retaining
682-7724
JoanClaireV@aol.com
and Ann Weeks, recording
bonaire37@yahoo.com

Fundraising and Government, Lisa
Parks
686-6482
lparksaicp@aol.com

Library, Barbara Stampfl
687-2787
stampfls@tampabay.rr.com

Civics Education, Susan Lee
324-4517
Suezq11@aol.com

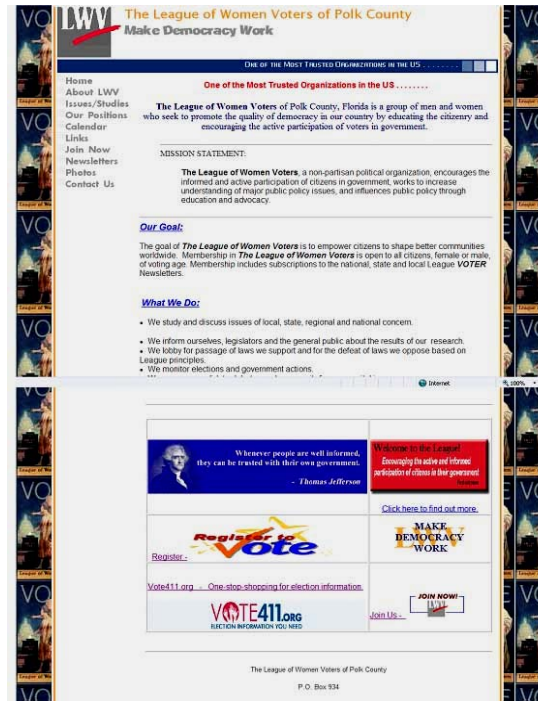
US Immigration, Robert Sears
619-2199
bobhelenfla@aol.com

VOTER Editor and Website, Jerry
Weeks
2weeks@tampabay.rr.com

www.lwvpolk.org

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE:

www.lwvpolk.org



Home Page - New Website

**New Website Up and
Running !!**

The League of Women Voters of Polk County has a new presence in cyberspace. Take a look at www.lwvpolk.org for the following:

- VOTER Newsletters
- News of the latest LWV happenings
- Photos
- Calendar of events
- Links to other relevant websites
- Application for new members to join

Growth Management Committee Notes

The Growth Management Committee has decided to remain a standing committee and meet when issues or concerns are raised either by the Polk County Chapter, or when a particular growth management matter in the County becomes or has the potential of becoming a serious issue.

Much has transpired since the inception of the committee; the hot real estate/development market cooled, resulting in less immediate growth pressure throughout the county. Perhaps more importantly, the Legislature, meeting in regular and special session addressed property insurance and tax matters in an effort to provide homeowners, in particular,

financial relief. Finally, Polk Countians and Floridians will decide, on January 29, 2008, whether they want additional property tax relief in the form of a super-homestead exemption and other property tax questions. These actions may create a different growth management climate that the committee may wish to explore in the future.

The committee examined many elements of growth management policy over the summer and, with this background, feels that it can provide additional analysis and information in the future.

By Marcia Staszko

LWVF STATEMENT OF 2008 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
Marilynn Wills, 1st V.P., ACTION

The **League of Women Voters of Florida** board has selected Legislative Priorities for the 2008 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature. The priorities were selected using input from Local Leagues, the LWVF Board and other sources.

Government in Florida: Promote an open government that is responsive to the people of the state.

Equitable Taxation: Support a state fiscal structure that is equitable in its distribution of the tax responsibility and responsive to public needs.

Redistricting: Support single-member election districts that are equal in population, provide access for minorities, and are not determined by the legislature.

Citizen Initiatives including the Statutory Initiative: Support the citizens' right to have both constitutional and statutory initiatives.

Natural Resources and Sustainability: Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest, and support governmental action that results in sustainability.

Protection and restoration of the water supply: Support public policies that promote conservation of freshwater and its availability for environmental, public supply agricultural, industrial and mining uses on a priority basis.

Coastal Management: Support intergovernmental stewardship of and fiscal responsibility for the Florida coast, under the management of the state, while recognizing the dominance of nature and the role of the sand transport system.

Energy: Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Civics Education: Promote the teaching of civics education in public and private schools.

For a full statement of LWVF positions, see *Study and Action 2005-2007*, a LWVF publication.



The League of Women Voters Of Polk County **VOTER**

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863-683-2328
www.lwvpc.20m.com

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Upcoming Municipal Elections!

- Auburndale - November 6
- Lakeland - November 6
- Winter Haven - September 4

Immigration Consensus Meeting

Mark your calendar for **November 13** to keep it free for our General Meeting to address consensus on the Immigration Study.

More information will be included in the next issues of the VOTER.

Calendar

Saturday, September 1: **Dues Due Reminder**

Tuesday, September 11, noon
Executive Committee
Helen Sears, 555 E. Church St, Bartow.
(bag lunch)

Wednesday, September 15, 7:00 pm
Immigration Committee
Bob Sears, 6471 Longwood Trace Ln N
Lakeland. 619-2199

Monday, September 17: **Constitution Day**
U.S. Constitution signed in 1787

Tuesday, September 25, noon
LWV Polk County BOARD Meeting
United Way Offices, Highland City.
(bag lunch)