



VOTER

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

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.

March/April 2008
Volume 08, Issue 3

This Issue

- [Quote of Day](#)
- [Betwixt & Between](#)
- [Board Notes](#)
- [Voter Statistics](#)
- [Cartoon](#)
- [Election Reform](#)
- [Calendar](#)

ON THE LIGHT SIDE:

"No one party can fool all of the people all of the time; that's why we have two parties."

- [Bob Hope](#)

Hot Topic Series:

"Betwixt and Between - What's in our Future?"

Polk County sits in the center of the state between two major metropolitan areas: Orlando on the east and Tampa-St Pete on the west. How is this impacting Polk County? The LWV of Polk County is hosting a series of **Betwixt and Between** speakers who will address various elements on this theme.

The first speaker in this series is representing the **Southwest Florida Water Management District** and will address balancing water needs and resource issues in the county.



Speaker: **Bryon Armstrong**
Date: **Thursday, April 24, 2008**
Time: **5:00 pm - Social**
5:30 pm - Speaker
Place: **Sleepy Hill YMCA**
Directors Conference Room
2125 Sleepy Hill Road
Lakeland, FL

Please call (863) 648-4127 for assistance in traveling to the meeting.



Board Considers New Non-Partisan Policy

(Vacant), President

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

Susan Lee, Secretary
324-4517
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

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@verizon.net

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

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

Website:

www.lwvpolk.org

March Board Meeting Notes

A major item on the Board's agenda is reevaluating the current Non-Partisan Policy. During this exciting election year, LWV Polk may suffer the loss of some Board members or potential members because of this policy.

Other Leagues have loosened the strict limitations on Board members by designating certain positions as "non-sensitive" positions and allowing them to become involved in some partisan activities while remaining active on the Board. Commonly, the President and the Voter Service Chair would be designated "sensitive" positions and adhere to strict limitations. The other Board positions would be designated "non-sensitive."

Other Notes from March Board Meeting

◆ The Board approved a motion allowing visitors and prospective members to receive local mailings free of charge/dues for a maximum period of six (6) months

◆ Susan Lee gave a brief report on her attendance at the 2008 Legislative Seminar in Tallahassee. Areas covered included Redistricting, Climate Change, and sessions with various representatives and agency heads. Susan's experience was generally positive except for the parking situation.

◆ Joan Verret, Chair of the Nominating Committee reported that good progress is being made in completing the slate of nominees. Any nominating suggestions should be provided to Joan or Bob Sears.

◆ The Board approved continuing sponsorship of the Water School for Polk County Decision Makers. Seven sessions will be held from April 17 to May 29 and are open to all citizens with an interest in local water issues. Registration is due by Friday April 11. There is no cost to attend the school. The next Water School will be in 2010. For more information call Karen Anderson, Polk County Extension Service on (863) 519-8677 ext 112 or email g8rkrae@ufl.edu.

From notes compiled by Susan Lee, Secretary

FLORIDA VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS

By Nancy Ryan, LWV St. Petersburg Area

Florida's Department of State has released new figures, the first in two years, on the state's registered voter population. The Associated Press reports that registration in general is slightly down, and DOS spokesman Sterling Ivey attributes that phenomenon to routine purging of voter rolls due to voters moving and failing to vote for two years.

The new figures represent registration as of the date the books closed for the presidential preference primary, December 31, 2007.

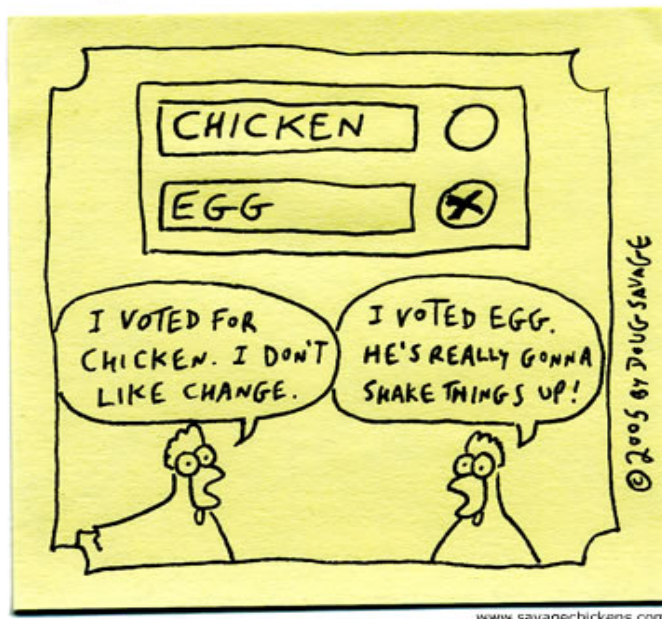
Among subgroups, Hispanic registration is significantly up and Hispanic registration in the Democratic Party is significantly up.

Supporting figures reported by the Associated Press

Total registered voters in Florida:	10.2 million
Total registered white voters:	7.3 million
Total registered black non-Hispanic voters:	1.2 million
Total registered Hispanic voters:	1.1 million
Total registered Democrats:	4.1 million
Total registered Republicans:	3.8 million
Total registered as NPAs:	1.9 million
Total registered in minor parties:	.3 million
Total Hispanic voters registered as Republicans:	408 thousand
Total Hispanic voters registered as Democrats:	384 thousand

Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage





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

PO Box 934, Lakeland, FL 33802
863-683-2328
www.lwvpolk.org

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 59
Lakeland, FL 33802

***** LWV Polk County Annual Meeting - May 2007 *****



Start a Dialog



Senator Bill Nelson has suggested the following election reform ideas:

- Abolish the Electoral College - requires a constitutional amendment.
- Create a system of rotating inter-regional primaries.
- Provide for nationwide early voting, which already as been instituted in Florida.
- Allow absentee ballots on demand. Some states require proof of inability to get to the polls.
- Improve voter verification, includes the elimination of touch-screen voting machines.
- Fund pilot programs for internet and vote-by-mail balloting.

What do you and your friends think?

Calendar

March: Women's History Month

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

Tuesday, April 22, noon
LWV Polk County BOARD Meeting
United Way Offices, Highland City.
(bag lunch)

Thursday, April 24, 5 pm: "Betwixt & Between"
Bryon Armstrong, SWFWMD
Sleepy Hill YMCA, Lakeland

May 20, 21 or 22: Tentative dates for
Annual Meeting Luncheon