



VOTER

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

November 2008
Volume 08, Issue 10

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.

This Issue

- Quote of the Day
- President's Message
- Board of Directors
- Canvassing Board
- Forum Pictures
- Helpful Voting Information
- Member Update
- Calendar

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Do you ever get the feeling that the only reason we have elections is to find out if the polls were right?"

-Robert Orben



President's Message

Dear Members,

The country is voting on the direction that will be taken over the next four years. This involves not just the presidency but all elected offices. Remember, all politics are local.

The League of Women Voters of Polk County has participated by organizing and conducting six nights of candidate forums and round-table discussions since August. Sue Schultz, Voter Service Chair, as well as all the volunteers who shared their time and efforts deserve our wholehearted thanks for a job well done.

As LWV members our goal is for an election where all voters vote and all votes are counted: An election that is transparent. Democracy is a *participatory* form of government. Attend a Canvassing Board meeting. Work the polls. Observe a post-election Audit. Drive your neighbor to the polls. We the people are the difference.

I want to see Polk County, Florida lead the way in the highest percent of voter turnout in the state, if not the nation.

Ann Weeks, President
LWV of Polk County



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

Ann Weeks, President
648-4127
president@lwvpolk.org

Susan Lee, Secretary
324-4517
secretary@lwvpolk.org

Mary Thomas, Treasurer
859-7560
treasurer@lwvpolk.org

Sue Schultz, Voter Service—
Elections
646-4634
voterservice@lwvpolk.org

Mary Jo Jarrett
644-8527
mjjarrett@mac.com

Paula Mims
686-0356
pmmims@aol.com

Joan Verret
682-7724
JoanClaireV@aol.com

Jerry Weeks
648-4127
2weeks@tampabay.rr.com

Pete Wesley
682-2578
mjohnandpete@aol.com

Off-Board Specialists:

Membership, Joan Verret, 682-
7724
JoanClaireV@aol.com
and Ann Weeks, recording
membership@lwvpolk.org

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

VOTER Editor and Webmaster,
Jerry Weeks
webmaster@lwvpolk.org

Website:

www.lwvpolk.org

Polk County Canvassing Board

Okay, I voted - now what?

A "Canvassing Board" will meet to count the votes. The Canvassing Board is composed of the Supervisor of Elections, a county court judge, and the chair of the board of county commissioners. The Board will determine if a provisional ballot will be counted. This also applies to the mail-in ballots.

The Canvassing Board will submit, by 11:59 pm, on election night the preliminary returns to the Florida Department of State.

If the Canvassing Board determines the unofficial returns may contain a counting error in which the vote tabulation system failed to count voters the Board may:

- a) Correct the error and re-tabulate the affected ballots.
- b) Request that the Department of State verify the tabulation software. (Polk does use a tabulator for the Accu Vote Scan system. Think of it as an adding machine.)

If the unofficial return shows one half of a percent (1/2%) or less difference, a recount is triggered on the office or issue.

- a) Before starting the recount a test of the tabulating equipment will be conducted.
- b) Votes will be put through the tabulating equipment again.
- c) The Canvassing Board shall submit forms by 3pm on the ninth day after the election. (November 13, 2008)
- d) If the Canvassing Board is unable to complete the recount in time, an identical second set of returns and a detailed explanation as to why it is unable to complete recount in time shall be submitted to the Department of State.
- e) The Canvassing Board shall complete the recount.

- From 2008 Florida Statutes; Title IX; Ch 102 (www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes)

The Polk County Canvassing Board will meet beginning at 9:00 AM on the following days, to canvass absentee ballots for the 2008 Presidential Election.

◆ Wednesday	October 29, 2008
◆ Thursday	October 30, 2008
◆ Friday	October 31, 2008
◆ Monday	November 3, 2008
◆ Tuesday	November 4, 2008

The Polk County Canvassing Board will meet beginning at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 4, 2008, to canvass precinct returns for the 2008 Presidential Election.

All meeting times are subject to change. All meetings will be held at Election Headquarters, 250 South Broadway Avenue, Bartow. They will be noticed and open to the public.

October Candidate Forum Pictures



(Top) Mary Jo Jarrett & Mary Thomas, Questioners; Sue Schultz, Moderator

(Left) Audience for Congressional Forum



Constitutional Amendments Round Table



County Commission Panel



Congressional Panel



Legislative Panel



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

***** General Election: November 4 *****



Helpful Voting Information



Member Update

Ruby Stinson, former President, is back in town. She is feeling under the weather. So, if you get a chance, give her a call on 648-2370. I am sure she would like an update on League activities.

Calendar

Saturday, November 1: Early Voting Ends

Tuesday, November 4: **General Election - VOTE!**

Tuesday, November 11: Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 18, noon
LWV Polk County BOARD Meeting
United Way, Highland City
(bag lunch)

Thursday, November 27: Thanksgiving

Monday, December 15: Bill of Rights Day

Thursday, December 25: Christmas
