



The League of Women Voters of Polk County
VOTER

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***** Candidate Forums: Aug 2, 3, 10 & 11 *****



Forums Need Volunteers [Really!!]



We need volunteers to serve as greeters, questioners, question gatherers and timekeepers. In addition to the August dates, the tentative schedules for the General Election Forums are **October 5, 7, 12 & 13.**

Help make the LWV of Polk County a vibrant organization by volunteering.

Please call **Sue Schultz** to volunteer or with any questions to ask at the Forums at 646-4634 or email her at voterservice@lwvpolk.org.



Calendar

Wednesday, July 28, 11:30 am
Forum Organization Meeting, Fresco's Bakery & Bistro, 132 S Kentucky Ave, Lakeland

Monday, Aug 2, 7:00 pm
Congressional Candidates Forum, County Administration Bldg, 330 W Church St, Bartow

Tuesday, Aug 3, 7:00 pm
Legislative Candidates Forum, County Administration Bldg, 330 W Church St, Bartow

Tuesday, Aug 10, 7:00 pm
County Commission Candidates Forum, County Administration Bldg, 330 W Church St, Bartow

Wednesday, Aug 11, 7:00 pm
School Board Candidates Forum, County Administration Bldg, 330 W Church St, Bartow

Wednesday, Aug 18, noon
LWV Polk County Board Meeting, United Way, Highland City (bag lunch)

Tuesday, August 24: **Primary Election**

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Jul-Aug 2010
Volume 10, Issue 6

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Seen on a
Bumper Sticker:

"Ignore the
environment.
It'll go away."

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.

2010 Primary Election



Candidate Forums



The League of Women Voters of Polk County will sponsor two rounds of Candidate Forums this year to assist voters in learning about the candidates for Polk County elective offices. Primary Election Forums are scheduled for the following dates in August at the:

County Administration Building, Commission Chambers
330 West Church Street, Bartow

(PGTV Broadcasts on Brighthouse Ch 622, Comcast Ch 5, Verizon Ch 20)

Monday, August 2, 2010, 7 p.m.

Congressional Candidates:

Lori Edwards, Doug Tudor, John W. Lindsey, Dennis A. Ross

Tuesday, August 3, 2010, 7 p.m.

Legislative Candidates:

Ben Albritton, Chevon Baccus, Thomas Chalifoux, Mike Horner

Tuesday, August 10, 2010, 7 p.m.

County Commission Candidates:

Melony Bell, Tom Presley, Todd Dantzler, John Hall

Wednesday, August 11, 2010, 7 p.m.

School Board Candidates:

Victoria Meares, Hazel Sellers, Michael E. Bullard, Kay Fields, Margaret A. Lofton, David H. McCall, Terry Pittman, Lynn Wilson, Debra Smith Wright

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President's Message:

As I write this message, I wonder what will be the outcome of the Special Session in Tallahassee. Will there be another amendment on the ballot for voters to decide on as a Constitutional Amendment? When you receive this we all should have the answer.

This year there have been 9 Amendments placed on the ballot along with several referendums. Two of the most important that The League is supporting are Amendments 5 & 6. See an update on the Fair Districts Amendments on the next page.

I know many conscientious voters who vote in all the primary and general elections and yet, some have told me, that when it comes to the amendments, they skip them because they really aren't sure and haven't found the information to understand the amendments before they are in the Voter's Booth. The Ballots will be lengthy with amendments. The personal effort of understanding the amendments is important to you as a citizen of the State of Florida. I encourage you to go to our website for current links (especially http://www.collinscenter.org/page/FL_Amend_Home) and avail yourself of information before entering the voting booth. It will make the voting process faster and you will be more comfortable with your voting and won't be tempted to skip voting on these vital amendments.

Begin your research now. Don't Wait. Attend the Candidate Forums-- Learn about the views of candidates seeking your vote in this representative democracy--civic participation is a responsibility and a right.

The Florida League of Women Voters is hosting a *For Members Only: Florida On the Line* Monthly Call. The most recent call featured Eric Hand co-author with Bob Graham of the book "Government: The Owners Manual." I hope our membership was able to join in. What a wonderful way to learn more about how to participate and access various levels of government.

In League, Mary Jo

Its Election Time...Got any Questions to ask the Candidates???

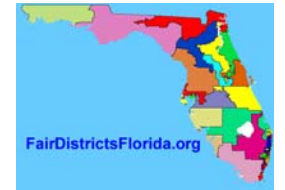
If so wear your Red, White & Blue and join your friends in the final, fun preparation for the candidate forums. We will gather for lunch, planning and questions at:

Fresco's Bakery & Bistro, 132 S Kentucky Ave, Lakeland
Wednesday, July 28th, 11:30 AM

We have a private dining room and Fresco's has a great lunch menu (dutch).

Bring questions in your head or on paper that you would like to submit to the candidates --school board, county commission, legislators or representatives. We have lots to do--let's enjoy the time together as we plan. There are still opportunities for you to participate the night of any of the forums. To volunteer for a position - Contact Sue Schultz, voterservice@lwvpolk.org or speak with her at the luncheon.

Fair Districts Update



Big surprise!!! The Legislature does not want the people telling them to stop using redistricting to protect their own seats. They put their own rival Amendment 7 on the ballot to confuse voters and to try to gut the other standards in the Constitution.

The Gainesville Sun and the Lakeland Ledger call it "despicable"! The Palm Beach Post says, "Everything about it stinks"! The NAACP calls it a "sham"! The Politicians' amendment shows total disrespect for the will of the people who signed the 1.7 million petitions to put Amendments 5 and 6 on the ballot. The people want districts drawn for them - not for the perpetuation of political power.

Good News!!! On July 8, in response to a lawsuit filed by LWV Florida and its partners, Judge Jim Shelfer threw the "Poison Pill" Amendment 7 off this November's ballot. Judge Shelfer said it was misleading and confusing, and "is clearly and convincingly an attempt [by the Legislature] to hide the ball" and "if it were passed, its [ballot summary] flies under false colors." His decision was quickly appealed by an attorney representing the Florida Legislature.

Another lawsuit has been filed against Amendments 5 & 6 by U.S. representatives Corrine Brown & Mario Diaz-Balart as diluting minorities' voting power in Florida. As expected, the Florida Legislature has joined this suit.

LWV Polk will be sponsoring activities supporting redistricting in the months before the General Election. If you wish to participate in any way, please contact Jerry Weeks at 648-4127 or email editor@lwvpolk.org.

LWV Polk Given Award Certificate by LWV Florida

