



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
CITRUS COUNTY FLORIDA
NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER, 2023

Vicky Iozzia is the Editor of this newsletter.

Our mailing address is LWVCC. P. O. Box 1903,

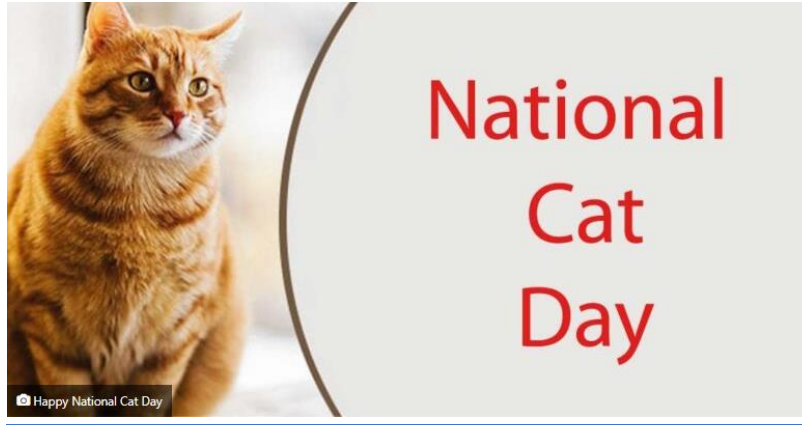
Lecanto, FL 34460

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON OCTOBER 10, 2023, AT THE
COASTAL REGION LIBRARY IN CRYSTAL RIVER, AT 10 AM.
SCROLL DOWN TO THE END TO SEE THE FLYER**

Please visit our facebook page and "like" us!

<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvotersofcitruscounty>





October 29 is National Cat Day!

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Nancy Tomaselli, Co-President

How to Respond to Police while Registering People to Vote

Every other week we have a LWVFL educational meeting called Lunch and Learn. The presentation and discussion today prepared us with advice on how to proceed if we are approached by the police when registering people to vote. A representative from the National Association of Criminal Defense, Ramon de la Cabada, Esq, shared information about how we can protect ourselves if we are questioned by the police while registering people to vote. This was followed by discussion, questions, and answers.

He advised us to make sure that when we select a location, we must be sure that it is legal to engage in registering people to vote in that location. He said if we are questioned by the police it is appropriate to ask for identification. He stressed the importance of not challenging the police by saying things like, "We have the right to help people register to vote". He said it is best to leave the environment if possible, politely. If the police want information he said to try not to engage in conversation because anything we say can be used as evidence. He advised us to tell them, "Thank you, I will have my lawyer call you". They told us to feel free to email or call either or both co-Presidents of the league, Cecile Scoon, Esq and Debbie Chandler, Esq.

A question that was raised was whether or not we should record the incident as it is developing. He advised us to use our judgment, as sometimes this could provoke an escalation. Someone raised concern also about the new election police that have been appointed. Because of geography it was felt that if the police were to intervene, it would be local police.

With the new technique of educating people to register to vote on the internet and just handing out voter registration forms so people can complete the process independently, the process should be less complicated. Don't let unnecessary fears stop us from trying to register people to vote. We don't want the effort to stifle votes with intimidation to be successful.

Nancy Tomaselli, co-President
LWVCC

The League of Women Voters is made up of good people

The League of Women Voters is made up of people who have a love of democracy and government. They are not political virgins but have spent their lives belonging to one or more political parties over the years, which is a history we expect of anyone in a political organization. Normally when a religious person wants to serve God in a religious organization, they are not atheist's. Just so, those that join the League have a personal belief system and will generally belong to a political party. If they didn't, how could they vote and try to encourage others to do so?

League members are not absent political leanings. How can you serve in a political organization and have no political history, ideas or ability to recognize issues of concern when they occur. They are not nuns who give up all of their personal history and memories. They are fervent in their beliefs so much so they spend hours in volunteer work. While they may not shed their political leanings, they try to function in a way that does not influence others when they are trying to register people to vote. This is not easy, but when representing the league they do their best to be neutral and not influence others to their way of thinking. When they are not wearing the league robes, they have the legal and ethical right to believe anything they like just like everyone else does and to speak their mind. They don't bury their ideas.

The early suffragettes spoke up

publicly demanding their right to vote. They went to prison for their speech because others feared the power women would have if they received the vote. Just so, the modern League of Women's Voters are not partisan publicly but they are political. They fight for non-partisan issues such as equality, reproductive health and justice, environmental health, educational freedom, poverty, human rights and other issues. These are universal goals and do not represent a political party.

Please recognize members of the League of Women Voters as intelligent, interesting and motivated individuals who care a great deal about where current events are leading us. They want others to recognize the power of the vote and to engage politically in shaping political events. You can't be absent ideas to engage in this effort.

**Nancy Tomaselli
Hernando**

Time for term limits

I won't tell my age. Let's say I remember Sputnik, the lunar landing, the Kennedy assassination, and Woodstock. So I am no "spring chicken" but still have a sharp mind. My body does not always cooperate, but that is part of growing old.

Speaking of old, we have a famous nursing home in Washington. It is called the U.S. Senate. The average age is 64. Sen. Chuck Grassley will be 95 years old at the end of his eighth term. There are five senators above 80 years old. Both Sen. Dianne Feinstein (90) and Sen. Mitch McConnell (81) have shown major health issues in recent months. The median age for the

Still fighting to register voters in Florida

Across our spacious skies, amber waves of grain, and the purple mountain majesties of our great but struggling nation, many people and organizations are working to extend the fundamental right to vote to all lawful citizens. Special plans for expanding the foundational right to vote to all lawful citizens are being made for National Voter Registration Day on

Cecile M. Scoon



Debra Chandler



September 19. In the face of efforts to expand the franchise, there are a number of states focused on making it harder for citizens to vote and adding difficulty to registering voters, including here in Florida. In a 2021 ruling, Chief U.S. District Judge Mark E. Walker found that Florida officials have spent the past 20 years intentionally making registering voters and voting more difficult by creating a variety of prohibitions erroneously. Since Judge Walker's order, the Florida Legislature has "gifted" Floridians with yet another nearly 100-page law with a slew of even more prohibitions, increased criminal penalties, and fines related to voting. This new government "fix," also known as Senate Bill 7050, directly impacts any organization that wishes to register voters in Florida.

The League of Women Voters, a more than a century-old nonpartisan organization, whose volunteer members are dedicated to registering and educating voters, has made the difficult decision to change its way of doing business in Florida due to this newly enacted law. Dedicated volunteers

will no longer collect completed paper voter registration forms and return them to their local Supervisor of Elections on a voter's behalf. Gone are the days when hundreds of skilled volunteers with paper registration forms, pens, and clipboards will register voters in neighborhoods and at community events. Senate Bill 7050 sets fines for even inadvertent errors so high, the League's yearly budget could be affected.

Fines for turning in voter registration applications late have also risen drastically, while the time allotted to turn in the applications has been shortened from two weeks to 10 days. Coupled with this, if a person wants to mail their voter registration form in, they run a risk that the application will not be received in time to vote because the United States Postal Service is no longer trusted to deliver mail in a timely fashion.

Despite the continued efforts to make registering voters more difficult and perilous, the League of Women Voters of Florida believes every lawfully eligible citizen should have the right to vote. The League is committed to continuing to provide Florida's citizens with expert voter registration assistance and nonpartisan education for all voters. To protect the organization from the harmful provisions of Senate Bill 7050, the League has purchased laptops, tablets, internet hotspots, and internet subscriptions to assist citizens in using Florida's online voter registration process. Instead of registering several voters at once, as possible with paper forms, the League is now limited by the number of devices it can afford to have on hand. Citizens who are not able to use the internet form will be provided a blank voter registration application, an envelope, the requisite Supervisor of Elections address, and a stamp. Sadly, due to the new pro-

visions, League members cannot even place sealed envelopes with completed forms in the mail on behalf of registrants.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it" is a saying we grew up with here in the South. This is especially true when applied to government actions. After the 2022 midterm election, Gov. DeSantis declared, "The way Florida did it, I think, inspires confidence. I think that's how elections should be run. We're now being looked at as the state that did it right, and the state that these other states should emulate." The governor and the secretary of state were proud to proclaim all states should follow Florida's lead in election laws and processing. Instead, we soon learned there would be additional unnecessary restrictions and penalties imposed. Fixing something that "ain't broke" is exactly what the Florida Legislature and the governor did when enacting Senate Bill 7050.

Nevertheless, the League of Women Voters is strong and its dedicated members are unyielding. Regardless of the unnecessary roadblocks erected, the League will continue to empower voters and defend democracy. Although the system wasn't broken and the government's "fix" just made things a whole lot worse, the League will continue to assist citizens in registering to vote in the same professional, experienced, and qualified manner just a lot less efficiently and with a significant increase in cost.

Cecile M. Scoon, Esq., and Debra Chandler, Esq., serve as co-presidents of the League of Women Voters of Florida. The League of Women Voters of Florida is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government, working to increase understanding of major policy issues, and advocating for legislative changes and policies for the public good.



Peg Primeau, Secretary

ARE YOU FERTILE IN FLORIDA?

News on Reproductive Health & Justice

We await the Florida Supreme Court's decision on the challenge to HB5, the 2022 law imposing a 15-week limit on legal abortions. If the Court rules that HB5 does not violate Article 1 Section 23 of the Florida Constitution, the 2023 ban imposing a 6-week limit on legal abortions will go into effect after 30 days.

New Court decisions are posted on supreme.court.flcourts.gov . each Thursday at 11am.

The Constitution says "Every natural person has the right to be let alone and free from government intrusion into the person's private life." This amendment, passed by voters in 1980, has been interpreted in multiple cases since then to mean privacy in reproductive choice. In order for the current Court to exclude abortion as a private matter, it has to decide that the original amendment was not intended to do so, and that previous Florida Supreme Court Justices were wrong.

Attorney Whitney L. White of the ACLU masterfully presented the plaintiffs' pro-privacy arguments to the Court. It is worth watching this extremely well-prepared and articulate woman. Search Youtube for "Oral Arguments Sept 8 Florida Supreme Court." The event is a window into the minds of the Justices.

Polls show that the majority of Floridians do not want government intrusion into their private lives, and definitely do not want punitive, discriminatory abortion bans. We have been disappointed by the Legislature, and expect to be disappointed by the Supreme Court. That's why Floridians Protecting Freedom launched the citizen initiative (petition drive) to amend the Constitution. LWVFL agrees: let the voters decide!

We have 3 months to collect another 300,000 signatures. When the threshold for validated petitions is reached early next year, the Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion will qualify to be on the 2024 ballot.

You've signed your petition already, right? For petitions and FAQs go to floridiansprotectingfreedom.com .

Want to help collect petitions? Call Peggy 708-466-1676.

From Linda Abels,
Membership Chair

Dues were due on June 1, 2023 and many members have forward their dues others have not. The dues for an individual membership are \$65 and household membership \$90. A large percentage of the dues received is forwarded to the National and State Leagues to support their efforts in voting rights, health issues, environmental issues, etc. Our local league keeps approximately \$20 of each individual's dues. We use this money to print educational materials, keep our website and Facebook page up to date, and to continue to work on the Leagues issues locally.

We appreciate your support of our League and ask that if you have not paid your dues to please forward your check to the League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 1903 Lecanto, FL 34460. If you prefer you can pay with a credit card via the league website: www.lwvcitrus.org

Again we appreciate your continued support of the League and look forward to working together in the coming year.



Maxine Connor,
Natural Resources Chair

**NEWSLETTER UPDATE FOR LWVCC NATURAL RESOURCES
 OCTOBER, 2023**

**LWVFL MONTHLY CLEAN ENERGY ACTION TEAM SEPTEMBER ZOOM CALL
 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 5-6 PM**

Speakers to be announced. Members of the League of Women Voters of Citrus County will receive an email invitation.

**FLORIDIANS, PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION
 FOR THE RIGHT TO CLEAN AND HEALTHY WATERS**



<https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/>

Florida registered voters, please go to <https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/> to sign the statewide petition to get a state constitutional amendment for Right to Clean Water (RTCW) on the ballot for the 2024 election. The League of Women Voters of Florida supports this and the LWVFL Natural Resources Chair has made it a legislative priority. This is a grassroots citizen effort. Contact maxineconnor@gmail.com if you would like to help work on this in Citrus County.

We are continuing to work on this. I would be happy to collect your petition and send it in. We will collect petitions at any League event. Let us know of other groups you belong to or that we can talk to or you could bring the petitions to a meeting. Please email maxineconnor@gmail.com for assistance or questions.



Jan Hall

The more things change,
the more they stay the same

Jan will be going through the archives of notes from our League and sharing them with us. The following was written by Mary Pettibone in 2014.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CITRUS COUNTY

Missed Opportunities

The 2014 legislative session has come to a close and it will go down as a session full of missed opportunities.

Those missed opportunities include but are not limited to:

>Refusing to extend healthcare coverage to Florida's uninsured our state loses \$7 million dollars a day, and nearly 1 million working Floridians are not afforded the basic healthcare coverage they need and deserve.

>Turning down nearly \$51 million in federal dollars our state has lost out on an enormous economic stimulus that included approximately 120,000 new, high-paying jobs.

>Ignoring online voter registration (OVR) which would have made the process a lot smoother and less costly. The state of Arizona even determined that processing paper registrations costs \$.83 per registration while the cost for online registration was merely \$.03 per registration.

>Continuing to focus on expanding an alternate education system instead of working to improve our public schools. Private schools who accept students on the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship do not require teachers to be certified or students to take the same standardized tests as public schools. On the final day of session, the zombie-like legislation on vouchers once again rose from the dead and was finally passed, diverting millions of taxpayer dollars from public schools into private institutions with little accountability.

The League of Women Voters has been vigilant in our concern for our Florida legislative actions. Our concern for targeted areas that affect all of us is our primary objective. While maintaining a non-partisan stance on issues can be challenging, the League works hard to study every issue and determine a position after consensus has been reached. How the League approaches an issue is in itself a long process. Every member of the League is encouraged to participate in the process of "study and action" in its entirety, from the adoption of a study, through the achievement of a consensus, to its ultimate conclusion with action.

Our mission statement: The League, 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.

An example of this can be found in the recent study of Charter schools and other private educational institutions. In 2012-13, the League initiated a study to better understand the oversight of public moneys that are allocated to charter schools and other private educational institutions. The League

recognizes first and foremost it is a paramount duty of the state to provide for education and that charter schools, while privately owned and managed, are under contract to public school districts, funded by the public and must be accountable to the public. The League does not support direct or indirect tax credit funding for private schools. Local leagues were asked to participate in this study, conducted studies and held consensus meetings to formulate the League's positions on school choice.

The League has supported protection of Florida's Land and Water Legacy from early legislation in 1972, the Environmental Land and Water Management Act to the current support of a Yes vote on Amendment 1 on the November ballot: The League of Women Voters of Florida has endorsed a proposed amendment to Florida's constitution that would protect hundreds of thousands of acres of land needed to ensure the state's clean water supply and wildlife habitat for generations to come. The amendment would dedicate one-third of existing documentary stamp tax, which is paid when real estate is sold, to restore the Everglades, protect drinking water sources, and revive the state's historic commitment to protecting natural lands and wildlife through the Florida Forever Program. The amendment would provide more than \$5 billion for water and land conservation in Florida over the next 10 years without any tax increase. It would take effect in 2015 and expire in 2035.

While we lament that this legislative session has missed opportunities we are hopeful that the next year will provide another chance to get it right. The League of Women Voters will continue to implement its mission and keep a vigilant eye on the workings of our legislature.



Vicky Iozzia, Vice President,
Speakers Bureau Chair,
Newsletter Editor

Our Tuesday, September 12, 2023 meeting



Our last meeting, at Café Aromas in Lecanto, featured our guest speaker, **Ginger Mundy**, Co-chair of the League of Women Voters of Florida Reproductive Health and Justice Action Team. Her presentation was titled, “Reproductive Health is a Personal Matter.”

She reported on the current law, which makes abortion legal up to 15 weeks. SB 300 was signed into law in April of this year and would make it illegal to have an abortion after 6 weeks gestation. It is currently being argued in the Florida Supreme Court.

Below are her suggestions on what those who disagree with SB300 can do:

Take Action!

- Join [FRF newsletter email list](#) and stay informed
- Write letters to the editor of local newspapers
- Let your friends and family know how these bans are impacting pregnant people
- Participate in local protests, rallies, and marches
- Let your representative and senator know why reproductive justice is important to you.
- Donate to local abortion funds and Planned Parenthood
- Volunteer as a patient escort

Take Action on Social Media

- Use social media to amplify reproductive justice messages
 - Follow Floridians for Reproductive Rights (FRF) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [TikTok](#)
 - Follow Progress Florida on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
 - Other FRF Coalition members include [Planned Parenthood](#), [Florida NOW](#), [Equality Florida](#), and [Florida Interfaith Coalition for Reproductive Health & Justice](#)
 - **SHARE** posts with your groups and friends!



BJ Ezell

BJ informed us about the following with her Health Department knowledge:

There were 142 Covid cases in April, 1,035 in August.

There were 14 Covid hospitalizations in April, 60 in August.

There were 6 Covid deaths in April, 16 in August.

Covid shots are now available.

We were warned not to eat armadillos, or be near them, because they can cause Jansen's disease, otherwise known as leprosy.

We are glad that BJ shares her knowledge with us at our meetings and after,

From the CDC website:

"Beginning [Monday] September 25, every U.S. household can again place an order to receive four more free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to their home. ***Before You Throw Out "Expired" Tests: Check FDA's website to see if your COVID-19 tests' expiration dates have been extended.***"

Here's the link to check expired dates on existing COVID test kits **AND** to order your new test kits:

<https://special.usps.com/testkits>

Also, read the information on the same web page that reminds you to check your expiration dates on any existing COVID test kits you may have on hand already. You can key the info requested into the website and learn the new extended expiration date.

What is wrong with this country? By Vicky Iozzia

Recently I wrote a PowerPoint presentation called “What is the League of Women Voters?” I presented it to my Toastmasters club for practice.

I asked for comments and suggestions and one person said, “It seems that people just don’t want to get together to solve problems.”

When I first heard this I thought it sounded naïve, but upon some thought I think he cut through to the essence of what is wrong with this country now.

I remember when Barack Obama became President. Many of us had so much hope that he could lead important changes. The first thing that Mitch McConnell said was, “We need to make sure that Obama is a one term President.”

President Obama said that he was disappointed that more people weren’t interested in solving problems. He did not get to make many of the changes he had hoped his administrations could make.

Congress is deadlocked and gridlocked. Problems that are threatening the country: environmental, immigration, women’s health, voting rights, among others, are not being discussed or addressed by the people who are elected to make changes.

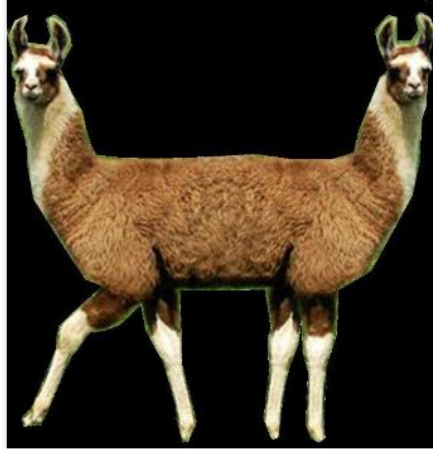
Abraham Lincoln said, “A house divided cannot stand.”

We are like a push-me-pull-you animal.

How can we make any progress when both sides are so convinced that they are completely right that they refuse to listen to each other?

What will it take for Americans to act like Americans instead of enemies in red or blue states?

I pray that America is spread with the fairy dust of common sense so that we can work together instead of pulling us all apart.





*Speakers Bureau
Available Presentations*

- * **Understanding School Choice**
- * **Gun Safety in Florida**
- * **Voter Empowerment**
- * **Ranked Choice Voting**
- * **Affordable Housing**
- * **Balance of Powers**
- * **Civics, Civility, and
Critical Thinking**
- * **Florida Government**
- * **Fracking in Florida**
- * **Healthcare**
- * **Importance of US Courts**
- * **Juvenile Justice in Florida**
- * **Lock it Up Program**
- * **National Popular Vote**
- * **News: Separating Fact from
Fiction**
- * **Plastics: Refuse, Reduce, Recycle**
- * **Women's Suffrage, Your Voice,
Your Vote**
- * **Voter Suppression, Then and Now**

We will bring a PowerPoint presentation with the latest information and research. To arrange for a speaker, contact Vicky Iozzia, vickyiozzia@gmail.com and you will receive a registration form to plan for the presentation.

League of Women Voters of Citrus County

When: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Where: Coastal Region Library

8619 W Crystal St, Crystal River, FL 34428

Guest Speaker : Kimberleigh Dinkins

Get to Know the Manatees



The League of Women Voters of Citrus County will be returning to their regular meeting schedule, the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM at the Coastal Region Library, beginning October 10, 2023.

The League has invited Kimberleigh Dinkins to speak on our most popular Florida resident, the gentle manatee. Kimberleigh is an employee of the Save the Manatee Club.

**All Who are Interested are Invited. For more information call
1-631-790-7933.**

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League of Women Voters of Citrus County

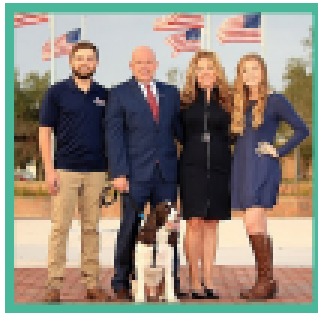
When: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 10:00AM

Where: ** Central Ridge Library

425 W Roosevelt Blvd. ,Beverly Hills, 34465 Fl. 34452

Guest Speaker : Cregg Dalton

Meet Our Property Appraiser



Mr. Dalton has been an avid volunteer both past and present, for military veterans and an advocate for improving the lives of students, citizens, businesses, and communities. He was elected as the 14th Citrus County Property Appraiser in 2020. He spends his days educating the public on every possible exemption allowed by law, providing fairness and consistency to residents and businesses, and is always accessible to the taxpayers. There will be a Q&A after his presentation.

** Please note: Due to a scheduling conflict, the November meeting will take place at Central Ridge Library instead of Lakes Region. The December meeting will be a Holiday Luncheon at Café Aromas. LWVCC meetings will resume in January at Lakes Region Library.

For more information call 1-631-790-7933

All Who are Interested are Invited

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



If you are interested in joining the
League of Women Voters of Citrus County,
Fill out the form below and mail it to us at
LWVCC, P. O. Box 1903, Lecanto, FL 34460

Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Phone (home) _____

Phone (cell) _____

Individual \$65 _____

Household \$90 _____

Student Free

Susan B. Anthony \$105*

Household \$150*

*Includes \$40 donation

Credit card name

Credit card number

Expiration Date, month and year
