

Sep 2007

# League of Women Voters of Okaloosa County



**“Everybody counts in applying democracy.”**  
*Carrie Chapman Catt, founder, League of Women Voters*

## LWVOC

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This month's Voter sponsored by Advanced Concepts Enterprises, Inc., of Mary Esther, FL, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business



### Mission:

*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.*

## LWVUS Immigration Study

In 2006 the League of Women Voters launched a study of immigration aimed at helping communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state and federal level. The study is exploring the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration in American society.

League members should make every effort to educate themselves during the study, because ultimately they must come to some broad agreement on their values regarding immigration. *The League calls this consensus.* LWVUS will use this consensus to form a position that will be used for years to come to affect national policy. Helping to reach consensus and form a position for the

League's national program may be a League member's most important role.

LWVOC will be studying the issue from Sep 07 - Jan 08. There will be a study session in November in addition to a general meeting on the local impact of illegal immigration. The consensus meeting will be held on Jan 5, 2008.

To prepare for study sessions, go to [www.lwv.org/ImmigrationStudy/](http://www.lwv.org/ImmigrationStudy/) and review the study materials. These include a historical perspective on immigration, two study briefs, eight background papers on various aspects of the issue and numerous other resources.

Your League is depending on you, so step up and participate in the consensus process. Get involved and start studying today!

## Action Alert: Protect America Act

The League of Women Voters believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by our Constitution, and that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged.

In August Congress passed the Protect America Act (S. 1927). This bill permits massive, untargeted collection of international communications without a court order or meaningful oversight by either

Congress or the courts. It also has virtually no protections for the U.S. end of the phone call or email, leaving decisions about collection, mining and use of Americans' private communications solely up to the executive branch.

Contact your Senators and Representatives now, and let them know you oppose this expansion of governmental powers and its infringement of civil liberties.

Senator Mel Martinez  
Phone: 850-433-2603  
Address: 1 N. Palafox St., Suite 159,  
Pensacola FL 32502

Senator Bill Nelson  
Phone: 850-942-8415  
Address: 111 North Adams St.,  
Tallahassee FL 32301

Representative Allen Boyd  
Phone: 850-785-0812  
Address: 30 W. Government St., Suite  
203, Panama City FL 32401

Representative Jeff Miller  
Phone: 850-664-1266  
Address: 348 SW Miracle Strip Pkwy,  
Suite 24, FWB FL 32548

The Voter is published 8 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Okaloosa County, PO Box 4546, Ft. Walton Beach FL 32549.

## State League 2008 Legislative Priorities

**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 responsive to public needs and distributes tax responsibility equitably.

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

- **Citizen Initiatives including the Statutory Initiative:** Support the right of citizens 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.

## The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Celebrates its 87<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In August 1920, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was one state shy of ratification when it came up for vote in Tennessee. With the vote pending on August 18, the amendment seemed headed for defeat. However, Rep. Banks Turner came over to the Suffragist's side in the first roll call, tying the vote at 48 to 48. The vote was still deadlocked after the second roll call.

The legislators had squared off for the third roll call when Harry Burn—wearing the red rose of the anti-suffragists—voted in favor of the bill. With his "yea," Burn delivered universal suffrage to all American women. Outraged opponents

chased Burn around the room, and he was forced to climb out a window and hide in the Capitol attic to save himself.

Burns later explained that the red rose on his lapel covered the telegram in his pocket, in which his mother urged him to do the right thing and vote in favor of the amendment. Over 144 years after the Declaration of Independence, American women finally had the right to vote—thanks to Febb Ensminger Burn and her son, Harry.

*And it all came down to a single vote!*

Source: [www.blueshoenashville.com](http://www.blueshoenashville.com)

## Special Session to Address State Budget Issues

The Florida legislature will begin a Special Session on Sept 18, 2007, to address the state's budget deficit and

declining revenues. Contact your representatives today and make your concerns known.

District 2: Senator Durell Peaden, Jr.  
Phone: 850-689-0556  
District Office: 598 North Ferdon Blvd,  
Crestview FL 32536-2753

District 4: Senator Don Gaetz  
Phone: 850-897-5747  
District Office: 217 Miracle Strip Pkwy,  
FWB FL 32548

House District 1: Rep. Greg Evers  
Phone: 850-983-5550  
District Office: 5224 Willing St, Milton FL  
32570-4971

House District 4: Rep. Ray Sansom  
Phone: 850-833-9328  
District Office: Suite 18, 99 Eglin Pkwy  
NW, FWB FL 32548-4973

House District 5: Rep. Don Brown  
Phone: 850-892-8431  
District Office: OWC, 908 US Hwy 90  
West, DeFuniak Springs FL 32433-1436

House District 7: Rep. Marti Coley  
Phone: 850-718-0047  
District Office: 3094 Indian Cir, Marianna  
FL 32446-1701

## Taxation & Budget Reform Commission Hearing Set

The Florida Taxation & Budget Reform Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, Oct 18, 2007, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the Mattie Kelly Fine & Performing Arts Center at Okaloosa Walton College, 100 College Boulevard, Niceville.

Members of the public will be able to share their recommendations on taxation and budget issues with the Commission, which meets once every 20 years to examine the state's budget process,

revenue needs, tax structure, productivity and efficiency, and the ways state and local governments meet their revenue needs. The Commission may recommend any changes it deems appropriate to the constitution or taxation and budget laws. Because it meets so infrequently, the Commission must take a long-range view in all its recommendations and analyses.

Make your voice heard: plan to attend!

## Back to League Meeting: Sep 29, Niceville City Hall

Mark your calendars now for the "Back to League" meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the Niceville City Hall, 208 North Partin Drive in Niceville, across from Ruckel Middle School. Members are encouraged to bring a guest to introduce to League.

The theme will be "League in Your Life," as we focus on the Okaloosa County League's local impact over its 45-year history, in addition to the contributions of the State (since 1939) and National Leagues (since 1920).

Members and guests will be invited to test their knowledge of League history and how League activities have affected our community. A totally subjective panel of judges will award prizes for the most correct and most creative answers.

LWVOC will also present its new "Yellow Rose" award recognizing outstanding efforts to make democracy work in Okaloosa County.

Light refreshments and beverages will be served. The public is welcome.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Hall of Fame Induction

Okaloosa County should be proud it has a Hall of Fame that recognizes women who have made outstanding contributions to the community.

Inaugurated in 1995 by the Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women, the Hall of Fame inducted 59 women in its first 12 years, women who enriched the county in education, health fields, philanthropy, business, humanitarian efforts, government and other vital community activities.

At its 13<sup>th</sup> induction ceremony last month five more women were honored: Inez Bailey Hall, Betty Kentosh, Marty Lackey, Betty Robertson (posthumous) and Barbara Wall.

Our League has always had a close association with the Commission on the Status of Women. We've had a League representative on the Commission since its inception. Judy Byrne Riley served for many years, followed by Debra Self and now Nancy Mitchell.

We're also proud that 11 of the 64 Hall of Famers are present or former members of our League! Doris Berg, Susan Myers, Judy Byrne Riley and Rae Williams are members now. Grace Brown, Ida Mae Burritt, Cam Caley, Gayle Melich, and Alice Starkey were members at the time of their deaths. Pat Hollarn and Mary Jones are former members. Can you blame us for bragging a little?

## It's Time For Annual Membership Renewal



**We want you to pay  
your dues now!**

Members old and new: it's time to renew your membership in LWVOC. We have the lowest per member payment in Florida; our events are free of charge and open to the public; we have an enviable record of community service over our 45-year history; and we have an exciting year planned (see Hot Topics sidebar). League needs your continued involvement to successfully address voter education needs in a Presidential election year.

Please renew your membership today, using the form on the next page

## Hot Topics 2007-2008

### Back to League

• 29 Sep 07, 10:00-12:00, Niceville City Hall, 208 N. Partin Drive.

### Special Session Report

• 20 Oct 07, 10:00-12:00, Niceville City Hall, speakers TBD.

### November Study Meeting on Immigration

• 10 Nov 07, 10:00-12:00, Shalimar City Hall, 2 Cherokee Road, Shalimar. All members welcome.

### Immigration Law Enforcement in Okaloosa County

• 17 Nov 07, 10:00-12:00, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department, Shalimar.

### Potluck Holiday Party

• 9 Dec 07, 1:00-4:00 pm, 1562 Glenlake Circle, Niceville. All members welcome.

### Consensus Meeting

• 5 Jan 08, 10:00-12:00, Shalimar City Hall. All members welcome.

### Proposed Constitutional Amendment Review

• 12 Jan 08, 10:00-12:00, Shalimar City Hall, speakers TBD.

### Sustainability of Local Government:

• 9 Feb 08, 10:00-12:00, Shalimar City Hall, speakers TBD.

### Parties Discuss Local Issues:

• 8 Mar 08, 10:00-12:00, Niceville City Hall, with representatives from the Democratic, Libertarian and Republican parties.

### April Annual Meeting:

• Date, time, location TBD. All members welcome.

**Be a part of it:  
Democracy is  
not a spectator  
sport!**



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**The Sep 2007 Voter**  
*League of Women Voters of*  
*Okaloosa County*  
 P.O. Box 4546  
 Fort Walton Beach FL 32549



Yes, I want to join a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\$42.50 Individual     \$21.25 Additional Family Member     \$21.25 Student

Please make your check payable to LWVOC and mail to Carol Davis, Treasurer, 524 Dorado Drive, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548.

Please check (P) for participate or (I) for interest in activities below:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education       | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Services     | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment     | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising       | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health          | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Site               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Policy   | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership         | <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Team         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Int'l Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations   | <input type="checkbox"/> Observe Gov't Meetings |

***Make  
 Democracy  
 Work!***

***Join the League.  
 Be a Voice  
 for Citizens and  
 a Force for  
 Progress!***



**Men can join  
 League, too!**