



August, 2010

On the Ballot:

On November 2, 2010, voters will be making decisions on nine proposed Amendments to Florida's Constitution and one proposed Referendum.

Below are the Florida and the Charlotte County League's positions on these proposals.

Amendment 1: Repeal of public financing requirement. The League **opposes** this proposed Amendment as it is our belief that public financing of elections is the best way to ensure open elections and maximum citizen participation in the political process. The intent of the original Amendment was to help hold down campaign costs by providing an incentive to candidates who choose to abide by spending limits.

In 2005, the legislature raised the limits for the Governor's race from \$6 million to \$20 million; in 2009, legislators called this "welfare for politicians" and introduced Amendment 1. The League lobbied for keeping public financing for political campaigns. The LWVF supports the use of such funds for statewide candidate races, channeling these funds directly to the candidates.

Amendment 2. Homestead ad valorem tax credit for deployed military personnel

Amendment 3: Property tax limit for non-homestead property; additional homestead exemption for new homestead owners.

The League **opposes** Amendments 2 and 3. We believe that no tax sources or revenues should be specified, limited, exempted, or prohibited by the Florida Constitution.

Amendment 4. Referenda required for adoption and amendment for local government comprehensive land use plans. The League takes **no position** on Amendment 4. Voters now can choose their County Commissioners via the political process. If any citizen is dissatisfied with changes made to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan by County Commissioners, the electoral process is available for citizens to express their dissatisfaction. Citizens now have a say in changes to the Comprehensive Plan via public hearings.

Amendment 5. Standards for Legislature to follow in legislative redistricting.

Amendment 6. Standards for Legislature to follow in congressional redistricting.

The League **supports** Amendments 5 and 6. Reapportionment positions upon which the League acts are derived from both LWVF positions and principles and the LWVUS position on apportionment. The League supports single-member election districts that are equal in population, provide access for minorities, and when possible, take local characteristics such as political and geographical boundaries into consideration. Reapportionment has been one of the LWVF's priorities since 1992.

Amendment 7. Standards for Legislature to follow ion legislative and congressional redistricting. The League **opposes** this Amendment as, if passed, would nullify Amendments 5 and 6. LWVF joined the NAACP and Democracia Ahora in a lawsuit to remove Amendment 7 from the ballot. It was removed by the Circuit Court and is being appealed.

Amendment 8. Revision of the class size requirement for public schools. The League takes **no position** on Amendment 8. In 2002, the League of Women Voters opposed the original class size Amendment, stating it should not be in the Constitution. Therefore, the League does not have a position on amending the original Amendment. We believe that a good state Constitution should be simple and understandable, and be an integrated statement of basic law, free from obsolete and statutory detail. We also believe the Constitution should be flexible and free from unsound limitations binding upon the legislature.

Amendment 9. Health Care Services. The League **opposes** Amendment 9 as it tends to create a clash between federal and state laws. In 1993, the FL League took a position to support measures to implement Florida health care reform in a manner consistent with the LWVUS position which was and is supportive of federal health care reform.

Referendum for 2010 Election. The League **opposes** this Referendum. It is non-binding and would have no effect. While it requires the federal government to have a balanced budget, Florida was only able to balance its fiscal year budget by using federal stimulus money.