



July, 2010

## President's Message

After an almost imminent demise just two years ago and only seven League members, not only has our Local League gained 38 members, we have been recognized as an official League by the League of Women Voters U.S. I would like to thank everyone that helped make this possible.

We are off to a roaring start this election year. The League conducted a Meet the Candidates program on July 13 at Edison College. We partnered with the student government in hopes that it will spur our young people to vote in the Primary election. Our program was videotaped for Comcast broadcasting. The viewing dates and times are posted on this site and there is a link allowing you to view the program right now at your computer. We will host the pre-General Election Candidate Forum on September 21 also in the Auditorium at Edison College. The pros and cons of the proposed FL Constitutional Amendments will be addressed.

Besides voting assistance via our Candidate Forums, we are busy helping voters understand the importance of voting "yes" on proposed FL Constitutional Amendments 5 and 6 which will eliminate political gerrymandering. The lawsuit relating to proposed Amendment 7 is now at the Supreme Court and we are anticipating a ruling very soon. You can stay up to date on this issue of utmost importance to the League at [www.fairdistrictsflorida.org](http://www.fairdistrictsflorida.org). Your League is conducting a series of educational sessions on Fair Districts during the fall. The dates and locations are posted on this site.

Please get out and vote! Voting is a privilege that allows us to affect change on issues and offices. As ineffectual as one vote may seem, it can do a lot in the long run. If we take an active role in the political world, we can make something happen. That may seem idealistic, but through our right to vote, we can affect change.

So take advantage of our ability to change the system this election year and encourage your neighbors, friends and associates to do the same. Voting by mail will reduce costs for our local Supervisor of Elections and will make things much easier for you. The General Election ballot is expected to be two pages in length – vote early or by mail to save time and eliminate the potential for errors!

Nationally respected, locally engaged. That's our League...thanks to each of you for making that important difference.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Teresa M. Jenkins  
President, LWV Charlotte County