



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARTIN COUNTY

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League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

October 2016 VOTER

President: Linda Grand
Editor: Jennifer Durrant

Florida's Challenges - Gun Safety

Patti Brigham

First Vice President, League of Women Voters of Florida

Monday, October 17, 2016



Patti Brigham, LWV Florida first vice president, grew up in Orlando and attended the University of Central Florida where she earned a B.A. in philosophy and an M.A. in Liberal Studies. After several years at We Care, Inc., a suicide prevention/crisis intervention center, Patti forged a career in radio with responsibilities as a reporter, writer and producer. During this time she was recognized with several awards from media organizations including American Women in Radio and Television and the Associated Press. She also worked as a freelance reporter for the Orlando Weekly, writing about the arts.



Patti formed the League's statewide Gun Safety Committee, which she chairs. She is also chair of the steering committee for The Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence.

In her spare time, Patti volunteers for a marathon training program and cares for her retired racing greyhound, Callie, who is the fastest runner in the family.



Manero's Restaurant
2851 SW High Meadows Avenue
Palm City
11:30 a.m. (serving at 12:00 noon)
RSVP by October 13

Send to
Alice Kraus
2784 SW Bear Paw Trail
Palm City, FL 34990
Phone: 772-223-9010

Please include your menu choice with your reservation

- Fish
- Chicken
- Vegetarian
- Dessert and beverage included

\$18.00 (\$20.00 if paid at door, but reserved ahead)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Donna Dupuy

ANOTHER Amendment 1?

Because LWV/Florida just got through asking people to vote FOR an amendment giving a tax break to businesses that convert to solar power during the August 30th primary, people are likely to be confused about our opposition to this one, especially since it has the same “ballot name,” i.e. “Amendment One.”

So our first priority as Leaguers is to be prepared to explain that this is a different issue, in several ways. Most importantly, the amendment on the August 30th ballot created a tax break for the little guy, while the amendment on the November 8th ballot would create a bonanza for the corporate giants. Straight from the source, meaning Floridians for Solar Choice, here’s the 4-1-1:

Amendment 1 is funded by the big utilities to protect their monopoly markets and limit customer-owned solar.

Florida Power & Light (FPL), Duke Energy and other big power companies have monopoly control on profits from electricity sales and limit customer-owned solar, and they want to maintain it. But solar power is poised to grow in the Sunshine State, which would allow customers to generate their own power and buy less from the electric utilities. This amendment would protect their power sales, and that’s why to date, the monopoly utilities have contributed the majority of the \$20-million-plus collected to promote it. They claim to be pro-solar, but in reality, the big utilities only support limited amounts of solar power that they own and from which they can profit. *BTW: No non-utility solar company supports Amendment 1.*

Amendment 1 paves the way for barriers that would penalize solar customers.

Amendment 1 would add to the State Constitution the false assumption that solar customers are “subsidized” by non-solar customers and non-solar customers are in need of additional protections. In fact, reputable studies in ten states show that solar customers provide a net-benefit for the utility and all electricity customers. The monopoly utilities are looking for ways to limit customer-owned solar and will use this false claim as a justification to implement unfair fees and discriminatory penalties for solar customers. Restrictions and unfair fees would make solar more expensive, limit the expansion of solar, and hurt consumers by denying a cost-effective way to lower power bills.

Amendment 1 misleads Florida voters by promising rights and protections that Florida citizens already have.

The monopoly utilities wrote Amendment 1 to sound good by promising that it would add new solar rights and consumer protections. Floridians already have the right to purchase or lease solar equipment and are fully protected under Florida’s existing consumer protection laws. The false promises of additional rights are designed to gain support for the Amendment, not to grow the solar market in Florida.

It takes 60% of the vote for an amendment to pass. The “good” Amendment 1 received 73% of the vote. Let’s do our best to keep the “bad” Amendment 1 from succeeding.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Linda Grand

Welcome back to all our members! The Board of Directors looks forward to seeing everyone at the October 17 luncheon meeting.

First and foremost, we must acknowledge Jennifer Durrant who has again agreed to serve as our Voter editor. Jennifer has broad experience in the fields of publishing and marketing. We thank her for her time and efforts on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Martin County. She will be assisted by LWV Martin board members Alice Kraus and Jane Shubert.

Our board and officers have had a busy summer, especially during the state of emergency in Martin County due to the algae problems. Board member Pat La Susa and I have been attending The Rivers Coalition meetings, and our board voted to include the water problems as our first legislative priority this year.

Our Martin County Supervisor of Elections (LWV Martin member and Susan B. Anthony Award winner) Vicki Davis is hosting a Project Vote History documentary now playing on Martin County Television (MCTV). LWV Martin member and 5-term Martin County Commissioner, Maggy Hurchalla (also a Susan B. Anthony Award winner), and I were among the residents that Vicki interviewed about the history of voting in Martin County.

Our webmaster at LWVMartinCounty.org is one of our most capable and organized members, Sue Yorke. Sue continues to volunteer to keep our website up to date. Please take a look, there is a lot of useful information shared, including a PowerPoint on the upcoming ballot amendments for the November 8 election.

Candidate forums are an integral part of the Martin LWV. Please mark your calendar for the upcoming LWV forum, co-sponsored with Sandhill Cove, October 5, 2 PM at Sandhill Cove in Palm City. Our LWV Martin past president Noreen Fisher will be moderating.

Also please RSVP to our October 17 luncheon featuring Patti Brigham, LWV Florida first vice president. She is a dynamic and passionate speaker. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the luncheon, featuring future Hot Topics and discussion groups. A new effort will include an Observer Corps, to cover County Commission and School Board meetings. This will be a great opportunity to watch the legislative process in action and be involved in your community.

We look forward to a great 2016-17 year. Please contact me or any of our board members with your suggestions and comments, we encourage your input.



Noreen Fisher, past president of LWV Martin, will be moderating the October 5 candidate forum at Sandhill Cove in Palm City. Noreen is President and Director of the Martin County Library Foundation. A former mayor of Scarsdale, NY, she is also a director of the Sailfish Point Homeowners Association.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

October 17

Florida's Challenges - Luncheon

November 21

Martin County's Future - Luncheon

Dec 4

Holiday Get-Together

Jan 16

Hot Topics - Luncheon

Feb 20

Susan B. Anthony Award - Luncheon

Mar 20

National Issues – Luncheon

Apr 17

Annual Meeting – Luncheon



(L) Martin County Deputy of Elections Outreach Kherry Anderson, and Supervisor of Elections and LWV Martin member, Vicki Davis, with a well-deserved award for outstanding professional practice in election administration.

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