

# League of Women Voters of Florida

## State Program 2007-09

Adopted May 2007

- GOVERNMENT IN FLORIDA**      **Promote an open government that is responsive to the people of the state.**
- Issues for action:**
- Promote laws that require state legislators to be responsible and accountable to the people.
  - Promote Sunshine Law protections.
- Florida Constitution**      **Support basic law that assures a government responsive and accountable to the people of the state.**
- Issues for action:**
- Promote a citizen statutory initiative process.
  - Promote an independent reapportionment process.
- Finance and Taxation**      **Support a state fiscal structure that is equitable in its distribution of the tax responsibility and responsive to public needs.**
- Issue for action:**  
Promote equitable tax policy reform.
- Election Law**      **Support measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise and to advocate fair methods of financing political campaigns.**
- Issues for action:**
- Educate re: alternative voting method (IRV).
  - Promote voter verified paper ballots for all voters.
  - Support automatic restoration of voting rights.
  - Promote integrity of process for matching voters to statewide data-base under HAVA.
- EDUCATION IN FLORIDA**      **Support for a free public school system for Florida with high standards for student achievement and with equality of educational**

**opportunity for all, that is financed adequately by the state through an equitable funding formula. Support education governance policies that increase professionalism and remove politics from the selection and election processes at both state and district levels and allow for more local control at the individual school site, with improved student performance as the highest priority. Support high standards for teacher certification and compensation; increased professionalism for teachers and administrators. Support expanded public school parental choice under controlled conditions determined by each school district.**

**Issue for Action:**

Promote civic education in public & private schools.

**Study:**

Does Florida have a reliable accountability system that measures the achievement of all students whose education is provided by public expenditures?

**JUSTICE IN FLORIDA**

**Support a judicial system that provides a unified court structure, improved provisions for judicial selection and merit retention and equal access to legal services. Support a criminal justice system that emphasizes rehabilitation and alternatives to incarceration.**

**Issue for Action:**

Oppose capital punishment through coalition.

**SOCIAL POLICY IN FLORIDA**

**Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice, and the health and safety of all Americans.**

**Issue for Action:**

Promote access to safe, decent and affordable housing.

**Financing & Delivery of  
Healthcare**

**Support measures to implement Florida health care in a manner consistent with the LWVUS position on health care reform.**

**Issue for Action:**

Promote a health care system that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all Florida residents and controls health care costs.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

**Support governmental action that results in sustainability: Meeting the needs of the present without endangering the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.**

**Environment, society and the economy must be integrated and balanced to achieve a sustainable Florida.**

**Issue for Action:**

Continue to defend and strengthen the 1985 Growth Management Act, as amended.

**NATURAL RESOURCES IN FLORIDA**

**Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationship of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.**

**Energy**

**Support state legislation for energy conservation and greater use of renewable sources such as solar energy.**

**Issue for Action:**

Support energy conservation and use of environmentally sound renewable resources to seek maximum protection of public health and the environment.

**Freshwater Resources**

**Support public policies that promote conservation of freshwater and its availability for environmental, public supply, agricultural, industrial and mining uses on a priority basis.**

**Issue for Action:**

Support the protection of freshwater resources.

**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.**

**Issue for Action:**

Support protection of Florida's coasts.