

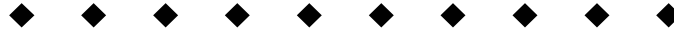
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

THE VOTER

November/December 2005

Visit our Web site at: <http://www.stetson.edu/~bjohnson/LWVVC.html>

LWV Purpose: To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected issues.



Let's Discuss the *Smart Growth Report



Saturday, November 19

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Light Refreshments



VCOG/MPO/WAV Offices
1190 Pelican Bay Drive
Daytona Beach

(Located in the Professional Village Shopping Center, on Beville Rd, west of Clyde Morris, between the East and West entrances to Pelican Bay Subdivision)

At this meeting LWVVC Board members will present and discuss the various sections of the Volusia Smart Growth Implementation Committee's *Final Report*. In addition, the Board would like to address some of the following questions with members:

What is the LWVVC's response to this report?

Are there provisions in the report that can be supported by LWV positions?

Is it important for the LWVVC to thoroughly understand this document?

How will this report affect the Volusia County Comprehensive report?

What should be the Charter Review Commission's response to the plan?

Members who attend this meeting may want to get started on reading the 40+ page report before we meet to discuss it. It is available online at www.volusia.org/growth, or you may call Rosemarie Gore, 426-8854, to order a hard copy. The cost is \$5.00.

**The 18 members of the Volusia Smart Growth Implementation Committee have completed their task, and they presented the results of their year-long planning, the Smart Growth Implementation Committee Final Report was presented to the County Council at its September 8, 2005 meeting.*

President's Column: "I'm So Proud That I'm About to Bust My Buttons!"



Smart Growth Report

The final report of the Smart Growth Implementation Committee has been completed and is available online to read, <http://volusia.org/growth/smarthgrowth.htm>. Members of the committee are currently scheduling and making presentations of their report to Volusia County municipalities, the school board, and the Charter Review Commission.

Several LWVVC members attended the October 10 presentation to the Charter Review Commission, at which Committee members Clay Henderson, Ormond Beach Mayor Fred Costello, and School Board member Candace Lankford addressed the need to implement the report's recommendations. Representing the 18-member committee, they strongly supported these recommendations as a realistic and viable way for Volusia County to direct and control development, to preserve its green spaces, and to provide a clean and healthy environment for its citizens.

Just two days later, at our October 12 meeting, members of the LWVVC Board of Directors discussed the report and the League's role regarding the recommendations. When it was suggested that board members each take small sections to read and digest, the response was quite positive. Nine board members have agreed to study small sections of the 46-page report, to determine if we have League positions that are supportive of its findings. Furthermore, we would like to involve League members in this discussion. At our November 19th general meeting, we will present our conclusions so that we can all learn and take part in this discussion.

It's also important to note that all the members of the League's local government study committee, that is examining the Volusia County Comprehensive Plan, were at the October 10 Smart Growth presentation. This smart growth initiative certainly has our attention, and we are eager to understand its content and implications.



Charter Review Commission

The Charter Review Commission began its task by holding five "listening sessions" in August and September in different locations in the County in order to learn about citizens' concerns. The commission was then divided into six sub-committees that will each tackle over the coming year an aspect of charter government: (1) Ordinance Review and Management Recommendations; (2) Meeting the Infrastructure of Smart Growth; (3) Intergovernmental Relations; (4) Structure of Government; (5) Integrating Economic Development and Education; and (6) Protecting the Environmental Core. Growth Management will be the preview of the entire Charter Review Commission. More information is available at www.volusia.org.

Once again, as with the Smart Growth report, the League will examine its role in this process. Furthermore, it's important for us to be present and to learn at all of the convened meetings. League members were in attendance at all the listening sessions, and at all of the sub-committee meetings so far. When an email went out to League leaders last month to "**Follow your Charter Review passion for one year,**" we responded by studying the choices, checking our calendars, and choosing the sub-committee we are willing to observe for the next year. Our next step is to involve other members in this task. So, please look closely at the meeting schedule for the Charter Review Commission and the six sub-committees on the opposing page.

Is it any wonder that as president of this committed, dedicated, and incredibly active League, I'm so proud that I'm about to bust my buttons!

Judy Moore



Follow your Charter Review passion for one year.

Schedule of Charter Review Commission Meetings and Six Sub-Committee Meetings

All of the sub-committee meetings, except one, will take place at 5:30 p.m., at the Volusia County School Facilities Building, 3750 Olson Dr., which is off Indian Lake Rd., in Daytona Beach. **Join one of the LWV Observers below:**

1st Monday: Ordinance Review and Management Recommendations

John Graham, Chair **Judy Moore, 386-760-0034**

Members: Pat Drago, Alex Ford, Tom McClelland, Glenn Storch

1st Wednesday: Meeting the Infrastructure Needs of Smart Growth

Tom McClelland, Chair **Rosemarie Gore, 386-426-8854**

Members: Joe Benedict, Bo Davenport, John Graham, Charles Matousek

2nd Monday: Growth Management, Entire Charter Review Commission

Bill Scovell, Chair **Rosemarie Gore, 386-426-8854**

Wayne Bailey, Joe Benedict, Bo Davenport, Pat Drago, Bud Fleuchaus, Alex Ford, Richard Gunter, Peter Heebner, Charles Matousek, Tom McClelland, Pat Northey, Ezell Reaves, Glenn Storch

2nd Wednesday: Intergovernmental Relations

Joe Benedict, Chair **Jean Snyder, 386-258-6718**

Members: Bo Davenport, Rich Gunter, Pete Heebner, Pat Northey

3rd Monday: Structure of Government **Nancy Ryan, 299-3793**

Wayne Bailey, Chair **Ann Smith, 386-677-4188**

Members: Bud Fleuchaus, Pete Heebner, Charles Matousek, Ezell Reaves

4th Monday: Integrating Economic Development and Education

Pat Drago, Chair **Sandy Horikami, 386-785-2038**

Members: Wayne Bailey, Bo Davenport, Bud Fleuchaus, Ezell Reaves

One sub-committee, Protecting the Environmental Core, will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Training Room, County Administration Center, DeLand

3rd Thursday: Protecting the Environmental Core

Alex Ford, Chair **Mary Derr, 407-321-9257**

Members: Joe Benedict, Rick Gunter, Pat Northey, Glenn Storch

Observer



Corps

The minutes from almost every city council in the County include zoning changes. This is worrisome. Cities throughout the County are struggling with our population explosion as developers are pushing from every direction. Some cities may think of it as a blessing, bringing in new tax bases. But for this writer it spells doom. More people translates to a need for more roads with inevitable congestion. More people portends more needs for schools, police forces, firemen, grocery stores, shopping centers, medical care facilities. Condominiums pave land and block out light and air for single family homes. More people means fewer pristine waterways, less space on the beach, and fewer open spaces. I, for one, liked not being discovered.

Perhaps related to the increase in population density, many cities are struggling with what to do with the “sexual predators” in our midst.

Smart Growth and Water of Volusia (WAV) are programs moving us in the right direction to preserve as much of our land and water as feasible. Let’s remain vigilant that the cities don’t break that promise to the citizens.

Pat Gadbau

Daytona Beach: Better regulation of rental units has been a hot topic. The ordinance as written requires the registration, licensing, and inspection of all residential rental units. It has created a storm of controversy

because of high fees and because landlords would be required to collect personal information from tenants. As expected, it was rejected unanimously. However, commissioners agreed that there is a need for regulation. Another ordinance, less far-reaching, will be prepared for the next meeting.

Daytona Beach’s participation in Water Authority of Volusia (WAV) is in question. The city is not happy with the interlocal agreement and wrote a letter in April outlining its concerns. However, the concern have not yet been resolved. Commissioners discussed a resolution that would bring these matters to mediation, a necessary step in any litigation or in withdrawing from the organization. LWVVC President Judy Moore spoke against the resolution, emphasizing the importance of WAV as a central water authority and of continuing to build on its efforts. All commissioners voiced support for a central water authority, but the majority think Daytona Beach is not well served by the current agreement. Final vote was 5-2, with McKay and Azama-Edwards dissenting. Thus, the city will begin the mediation process.

The commission also passed (unanimously) a resolution updating its investment policy. Changes will provide more oversight by the commission and city manager, and will require quarterly instead of annual reporting.

Lynn Lempel

Daytona Beach Shores: The October 12th agenda included a temporary moratorium on consideration of conversion of hotels and/or motels to condominium use.

They are amending their comprehensive plan referencing the Future Land Use Element - providing for revised residential low and medium density requirements.

They are further looking into the minimum requirements for fencing and sand.

Jean Snyder

Voter Service

Voter Service was very busy prior to the primary on October 11, 2005. We successfully moderated Candidates Forums at a home in the Ocean Dunes neighborhood of Daytona Beach, Tiger Bay at Indigo, New Smyrna Beach municipal candidates in New Smyrna Beach, Pelican Bay in Daytona Beach, and Bishop's Glen in Holly Hill. Thank you to all of the League members who volunteered to help. We had many positive comments about how voters educated themselves on the candidates and made decisions about the candidate for whom they would vote. We are carrying out our mission!! We anticipate more requests before the general election, so if you are interested in being a timer, question screener, or

Subscription to Capitol Report

Our professional lobbyist produces a newsletter, *Capitol Report*, prior to and during the legislative session. This newsletter describes legislation pertaining to the LWV-Florida legislative priorities and gives tips on when and how to take action

EVERY MEMBER IS URGED TO SUBSCRIBE!

For 13 weeks of "insider information," the subscription price is \$20 by Email; \$25 by US Mail, or \$35 by FAX. Get your information hot, so you can respond quickly—the legislative is FAST during the session.

**League of Women Voters of Florida
540 Beverly Court, Tallahassee, FL 32301-2506**

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ FAX _____

Please check one: U.S. Mail--\$25

Email--\$20

FAX--\$35

Wanted: *A few good women or men, who would like to serve on the Board of the League of Women Voters of Volusia County! Please contact one of the members of the nominating committee if you are interested in becoming a board member for the coming term, 2006-2008, or if you would like to suggest another League member for that service.*

Mary Derr, 407-321-9257, mmderr@cfl.rr.com

Summer Clayton, 386-788-1108, summer_c2@bellsouth.net

Ann Harrell, 386-677-8220, aharrell595@aol.com

Sue Johnson, 386-788-4563, clara1910@aol.com

Cecile Rice, 386-253-7779, cecilerice@bellsouth.net

**Report: Florida Rights Restoration Coalition
Judy Moore, LWV-Volusia County, LWVF Liaison to the FRRC**

The League of Women Voters of Florida is an active participant in the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC), which is composed of over 50 organizations. Whenever a large number of citizens are excluded from the voting process, the League of Women Voters takes notice and becomes involved. We are alarmed that so many Florida citizens, somewhere between 400,000 and 600, 000, cannot vote because of a past felony conviction.

Background

According to the FRCC, Florida is one of four states that strip ex-felons of civil and voting rights after completion of their prison sentence. The practice dates back to the Reconstruction era, when it was instituted as a way to disenfranchise African-American men. Sociologist Christopher Uggen, University of Minnesota, researching for Johnson v. Bush, the federal lawsuit challenging the Florida law, notes that today one in three African-American men is prevented from voting as a result of this policy first placed in the state constitution in 1868. The restriction expands beyond the right to vote. It also includes the right to hold public office, to serve on a jury, and to qualify for licenses required for many jobs.

Ex-felons who want their civil rights restored must complete an application for Restoration of Civil Rights (CRC). Only the Governor and the Cabinet, sitting as the Executive Clemency Board, have the power to restore civil rights to an ex-felon. Because of the huge numbers of ex-felons in Florida who cannot vote, and because of the complicated and arbitrary restoration process, it often takes years before a person's rights are restored.

This archaic and racist practice is also costly. In 2003 Florida allocated \$1 million to hire additional employees to process the growing number of applications. Even more funding was required in 2004. Furthermore, this policy is especially costly and devastating to past felons, limiting their participation in the democratic process and preventing them from holding certain jobs.

FRRC Action Plan

In addition to statewide annual conferences and national retreats, members of the FRRC steering committee strategize monthly via a conference call, organized and moderated by Courtenay Strickland, Director, ACLU Voting Rights Project. The current emphasis is on local meetings with state legislators.

Update on Johnson v. Bush

A representative from the national Brennan Center for Justice often participates in the monthly FRCC onference calls and uses the time to discuss the progress of this case. The 11th Circuit Court has asked the Supreme Court to review the case, which should be done by the end of October.

According to LWV-Florida President, Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti, the LWVF filed an amicus brief on October 14. She notes that the court will have the League brief and the parties' briefs on Monday, October 24, and that it will probably take a couple of weeks before the court considers and rules on the petition.

FRRC Statewide Conference

The FRRC Training Academy is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 4201 W. Columbia St., Orlando, FL 32811. The academy will feature a series of workshops on legislative lobbying and communications strategies, planning sessions for a 2006 legislative lobbying day in Tallahassee, and effective use of media around specific actions.

Contact Judy Moore, 386-760-0034, if you are interested. "I would love to have company."

Local Study Committee Report—SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER MEETINGS AND BEYOND

We had our first meeting on Sept. 12, 2005, for our 2nd year of study on the Volusia County Comprehensive Plan as it relates to the Government Program passed by the LWVVC in April, 2005.

At the meeting, we had a good, enthusiastic discussion among committee members (Sandy Horikami, Rosemarie Gore, Summer Clayton and Larry Moore) sharing what they have learned and experienced being on city committees and by attending committee meetings. We also had discussion relating to the final report from Smart Growth and the potential changes that might occur if approved in total or in part by the Volusia County Charter Review Commission.

This would have a significant change in the direction this local study committee takes. Committee members hope that whatever happens, the change will provide a better future in our county.

Meanwhile, several members of the LWVVC Local Study Committee are active participants on county-wide and municipal groups all of which will have potential impact on the direction Volusia County takes on the comprehensive plan and our future land use. So, to get further knowledge of the possible impact Smart Growth might have on the Charter Review process, the October meeting of the local study committee was to attend the Smart Growth

Commission presentation to the Charter Review on Oct. 10, 2005, held at Daytona Beach Community College. And, as you must know by now the League of Women Voters of Volusia County was very well represented at this meeting.

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED; WHAT DOES THIS MEAN -- the LWVVC LOCAL STUDY 2005-06?

The beginnings of our Fall 2005-Spring 2006 Local Study of the Comprehensive Plan (phase 2) may have taken a few turns in order to more fully see the potential changes that the Plan may take in the next year or two - because of the Volusia County's Charter Review - taking place right now; the possible additions to both the charter and the County's Comprehensive Plan because of possible Smart Growth implementation and the CRC sub-committee work that may very well change the substance in wording of the Plan.

Many of the committee are already in key positions to keep the League (and community) updated on the dynamic changes which are occurring.

It has, however - with no bad feelings intended -- truly changed the initial process of completing the second phase of this Study. As Chair I defer to those who are so strongly vested in their respective areas of interest -- whether it is through their government committee work, their work in special interests or their insight from being involved -- and with a long view. Larry Moore and I are attending most of the sub-committee meetings of the Intergovernmental Coordination meeting for the CRC.

It is my hope that by November the Committee will again be able to come together, share some of this insight and try and begin to pull together some of the issues that face us; through our involvement and through the news articles saved and reviewed. It is our hope as citizens in this Volusia County community and as League members that this will more fully educate us before this year's study is over.

Thank you,
Jean Snyder
Chair, LWVVC 2005-06 Local Study - Volusia County Comprehensive Plan (Phase 2)

November-December 2005 - LWVVC Calendar

- Nov. 2 **Sunshine Seminar**, *Host: The Florida Times-Union, \$35*
One Riverside Ave, Jacksonville, Call Judy Moore, 760-0034
- 8 **General Election**
- 9 **LWVVC Board Meeting**, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
VCOG/MPO/WAV Offices, 1190 Pelican Bay Dr., Professional Village, Daytona Beach
- 12) **FRRC Training Academy**, 10:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 4201 W. Columbia St., Orlando
- 16) **Sunshine Seminar-Orlando** - *Host: The Orlando Sentinel, \$35 call Judy Moore*
633 N. Orange Ave, Orlando. Call Judy Moore, 760-0034
- 19 **General Membership: Let's Discuss the Smart Growth Report**, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
VCOG/MPO/WAV Offices, 1190 Pelican Bay Dr., Professional Village, Daytona Beach
- Dec. 9 **LWVVC Board Meeting**, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
VCOG/MPO/WAV Offices, 1190 Pelican Bay Dr., Professional Village, Daytona Beach



Redistricting Petition Report

The Committee for Fair Elections' petition drive is alive and well and right on track. As of mid-October, 475,000 signatures had been collected. As you know, the set of three petitions is a bipartisan and much-needed attempt to change Florida's redistricting process.

And yes, as you are undoubtedly aware, one of the petitions (the one setting up guidelines for districts) was tossed out because its ballot summary contained six words too many. But don't let that deter you! The far-more-important petition is the one establishing a bipartisan commission to draw the lines. It is independent of the others and intact.

We are continuing to take advantage of every opportunity to promote this effort. So far, our league has turned in more than 300 signed petitions! Members have been out in force at such events as a Labor Day union picnic in Daytona Beach, Port Orange Family Days, and a welcome-back fair at DBCC. We have also supplied the guest speaker for several community meetings.

You can help! Be alert to events where we could set up a petition table. Take petitions to meetings that you attend. Make sure your friends and neighbors have signed them. If you need petitions, or have ideas about promoting the drive, call Lynn Lempel (258-7725, llempe1@bellsouth.net).

Lynn Lempel

**League of Women Voters
of Volusia County, FL**
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