



# THE VOTER

LWV of The Villages/Tri County Area ♦ May 2008 ♦ Vol. 3 Issue 2

<http://lwvtri.googlepages.com/>

Nationally recognized! Locally active!

## Special Election Notice!

League Members who live in  
Sumter County, please note--  
a Special Election

on

**Tuesday, June 17, 2008.**

On the ballot will be the following  
question:

“Do you favor the existence of a Quarter Horse Racing  
and Wagering Facility in Sumter County?”

Early voting will take place June 9-18, 2008.

Contact the Sumter County Supervisor of Elections for times and  
locations. Absentee ballots are also available.



## **DUES**

While the dues notice will continue to come from the League office in Tallahassee, the board has decided to make a change as to where you send your payment. Rather than send your check directly to Tallahassee, we are asking that you ***send your dues renewal to our treasurer, Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Dr., The Villages, 32162.*** In addition, we are also asking that you continue to make a **\$10** contribution to our League. As you know, we keep none of the dues. The additional \$10 will stay in our treasury.

You can make your renewal check payable to LWVF or to the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area.



On June 2, we had Karen Krauss, Supervisor of Elections, Sumter County address our members. As you know, the voters in Lake & Sumter counties will be switching to the digital scan voting machines beginning with the August primary. This will bring us in line with our neighbors to the north in Marion County as well as counties across the state of Florida.

The equipment is easy to use and understand. However, Karen and her assistants stressed that when voters go to the polls, they pay attention to the directions on the paper ballot. Unlike the touch screen machines that we have been using, you do not see a recap of your ballot before you vote. You will be advised if you have "overvoted", i.e. you choose more than what is allowed in one or more races. You will have the opportunity to correct this. However, if you "undervote," you will not be alerted.

As you know, there is a Special Election for residents of Sumter County on June 17th. This relates to the building of a horse park and wagering facility on CR 301, just north of 466. This special election is required by state law. The developer of the proposed facility is paying for all costs incurred by this election. You can find out more about this development by going to <http://voteyesforhorsepark.com/index.html>, a website set up by proponents of this measure. In addition, you can go to <http://sumtercountyfl.gov/plandevlop/devreview/drc/minutes/2008/05-12-08.pdf>, which has the Minutes of the May 12 meeting of the Development Review Committee. Please take the time to educate yourself and your neighbors about this very important issue.

## **CALENDAR**

### **June**

**Fri.-Tues., June 13-20, LWVUS Convention  
Portland, Oregon.**

**Mon., June 23, 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at the home of Joanne M. Coen. All members are welcomed to attend.**

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to the following new member:  
Steven Cooper  
1299 Trellis Lane  
Liberty Park, 32162  
259-0874, [Mr.MercedesB@comcast.net](mailto:Mr.MercedesB@comcast.net)

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization. We encourage informed and active participation in government; we work to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Just a reminder when you go to vote, **bring a picture i.d.**, preferably a driver's license. For those who live in The Villages, your Villages' i.d. card **will not be accepted** as proof of identification. In addition, a buyer's club card, such as Costco or Sam's **will not be accepted**.

We will be working over the summer on plans for both candidate and ballot issue forums. There will be nine amendments on the November ballot and we have much to learn about them.

We are small, and maybe we can't change the world, but we can be of service in the tri-county area. Please give serious thought to helping us in the next few months as we plan our forums and programs.

"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."  
--Margaret Mead

JOANNE

## CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

### Awareness Forum on Ballot Issues for November Election

We are planning to sponsor an educational forum that will address several issues on the November ballot. A mid-October date is our goal. We hope to find speakers to discuss both sides of these broad issues ranging from a Marriage Protection Amendment, Tax Issues, State financial aid to churches and religious organizations to Local school and Community College Funding.

You can check out the proposed amendments by going to <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/initiatives/initiativelist.asp?year=2008&initstatus=ALL&MadeBallot=Y&ElecType=GEN>. As was mentioned in last month's *Voter*, seven of the nine amendments are being proposed by the Florida Budget & Taxation Commission. Of the remaining two, one is proposed by the Florida Legislature and the other by the Florida4Marriage group. These are issues that will affect us all; we would welcome your interest and help in planning this forum. Several interested League members met after the June 2<sup>nd</sup>

General Meeting and if you would like to work on this, please let me know.

**Bernice Cozewith**  
[berncoz@yahoo.com](mailto:berncoz@yahoo.com)



## HEALTH CARE

One of the items we adopted at our Annual Meeting in April was to continue to advocate for an equitable health care system based on LWVUS positions.

Health care is a broad umbrella and one aspect of this issue is universal health care. As the election season continues on, we will be hearing more and more from the candidates with their proposals.

We would like to have a forum on health care in early 2009 and in order to get us started, I have included a synopsis of the national League's position on health care. This is the position under which we operate as a League unit. For the history and background of this position, you can go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) and read "Impact on Issues." You can access this publication by clicking on the Members section; go to Tools for Leaders; go to Training & Resources; click on "Impact on Issues."

As a starting point, an informal survey prepared by the Health Care Committee of the LWV of Tallahassee is included in this newsletter. This survey was designed to get an insight on members' knowledge of this topic. Please take the time to complete the survey and send your responses to me, [joannejon@aol.com](mailto:joannejon@aol.com). If you were not at our June meeting and would like to be participate in this project, please let me know. Again, we are small, but we can make a contribution to the tri-county area. So become involved!

**Joanne M. Coen**

***Statement of Position on Health Care,  
as Announced by National Board,  
April 1993:***

**GOALS:** The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care.

**BASIC LEVEL OF QUALITY CARE:** Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care. Dental, vision and hearing care also are important but lower in priority. The League believes that under any system of health care reform, consumers/patients should be permitted to purchase services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level.

**FINANCING AND ADMINISTRATION:** The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums. As the United States moves toward a national health insurance plan, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable to the League. The League supports administration of the U.S. health care system either by a combination of the private and public sectors or by a combination of federal, state and/or regional government agencies. The League is opposed to a strictly private market-based model of financing the health care system. The League also is opposed to the administration of the health care system solely by the private sector or the states.

**TAXES:** The League supports increased taxes to finance a basic level of health care for all U.S. residents, provided health care reforms contain effective cost control strategies.

**COST CONTROL:** The League believes that efficient and economical delivery of care can be enhanced by such cost control methods as:

- the reduction of administrative costs,
- regional planning for the allocation of personnel, facilities and equipment,
- the establishment of maximum levels of public reimbursement to providers,
- malpractice reform,
- the use of managed care,
- utilization review of treatment,
- mandatory second opinions before surgery or extensive treatment, consumer accountability through deductibles and co-payments.

**EQUITY ISSUES:** The League believes that health care services could be more equitably distributed by:

- allocating medical resources to underserved areas,
- providing for training health care professionals in needed fields of care,
- standardizing basic levels of service for publicly funded health care programs,
- requiring insurance plans to use community rating instead of experience rating,
- establishing insurance pools for small businesses and organizations.

**ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO**

**INDIVIDUALS:** The League believes that the ability of a patient to pay for services should not be a consideration in the allocation of health care resources. Limited resources should be allocated based on the following criteria considered together: the urgency of the medical condition, the life expectancy of the patient, the expected outcome of the treatment, the cost of the procedure, the duration of care, the quality of life of the patient after treatment, and the wishes of the patient and the family.

## HEALTH CARE SURVEY

Disclaimer: This is a local, casual survey to get a feel for our members' position on health care and not a formal survey endorsed by the League's leadership.

(ANSWERS AT THE END OF THE SURVEY—NO CHEATING!)

TRUE OR FALSE?	<i>Indicate your response below</i>		
	TRUE	<i>I Need More Information</i>	FALSE
1- A universal health system will cost less than what Americans are now paying.	T	[ ]	F
2- Americans pay the highest health care tax in the world.	T	[ ]	F
3- The business-run American health system is ranked 37 <sup>th</sup> in the world.	T	[ ]	F
4- Canadians spend less per capita for health care, have better access and are healthier than Americans.	T	[ ]	F
5- Waiting time for services is shorter in the United States than in countries with universal health care.	T	[ ]	F
6- Much of the current medical research in the United States is publicly financed through the National Institute of Health.	T	[ ]	F
7- Americans have the most bureaucratic health care system in the world with over 31% of every health care dollar going to administrative non-clinical costs compared to 3% for Medicare and in Canada.	T	[ ]	F
8- Every American has access to medical insurance but many choose to go without health insurance coverage.	T	[ ]	F
9- Compared to other industrialized nations, you are more likely to die of a treatable condition in United States.	T	[ ]	F
10- United States is ranked 41 <sup>st</sup> in infant mortality rate, close to countries such as Bosnia.	T	[ ]	F
11- In a universal health care system the government does not deliver the health care and you are free to choose your own doctor and hospital.	T	[ ]	F
12- All medically necessary care, including doctor visits, hospital care, mental health services, and eye care are generally included in universal health care systems	T	[ ]	F

Any comments or specific questions you may have:

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**(Answers: 1 T, 2 T, 3 T, 4 T, 5 F, 6 T, 7 T, 8 F, 9 T, 10 T, 11T, 12 T)**

## JOIN THE LEAGUE

- **Be a Voice for Citizens! Be a Force for Change!**
- **Be Involved in the Process!**

Become a member of the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area MAL Unit.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Village, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Community, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Former League Member: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in:

Government in Florida \_\_\_\_\_

Education in Florida \_\_\_\_\_

Justice in Florida \_\_\_\_\_

Social Policy in Florida \_\_\_\_\_

Natural Resources \_\_\_\_\_

Sustainability \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are paid annually:

Individual \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Household \$75.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to  
MAL Unit \$10.00  
or more \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to LWV of Florida and mailed to Joanne M. Coen,  
1960 Ardmore Way, The Villages 32161,

Your dues include a subscription to *The Florida Voter* from the state League (LWVF) as well as *The National Voter* from the national League (LWVUS).