

League of Women Voters of Collier County Endorses “Project Innovation”
(this article appeared in the February 2009 LWVCC newsletter, The VOTER)

In January, the LWVCC became an official sponsor of the Economic Development Council of Collier County’s “Project Innovation - Economy Building for Collier County.”

What is Project Innovation, and why did your Board decide to become an endorser?

Project Innovation is about diversifying our economy beyond its reliance on agriculture, tourism and construction. According to [its website](#), it is “an exploration into economic innovation and productivity, and how we can create a prosperous and sustainable business community in Collier County.” Its goal is “a specific, actionable plan to build a healthy economic foundation for current and future generations.”

The League is a firm believer in citizen participation in government, and citizen involvement in all the decisions that affect our community goes hand in hand with this belief.

As a Project Innovation endorser, our League joins the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Naples Better Government Committee, the Community Foundation of Collier County, the District School Board of Collier County, and many other community organizations ([click here](#) for list) that support its vision and share its premise that “given participation, ideas and support from people throughout Collier County, Project Innovation will put the means of building our economy in our hands.”

In her letter of endorsement of Project Innovation, LWVCC President Chris Straton said, “The League of Women Voters of Collier County Board of Directors unanimously voted at their January 5, 2009 meeting to become an endorser of Project Innovation. We support the process and are pleased to have been asked to participate in this important effort. The League’s 2008/2009 program includes ‘Support measures to provide adequate living and working conditions in Collier County.’ We, as the EDC, are hopeful that Project Innovation will provide a roadmap to achieving this goal. As we discussed earlier, we withhold any endorsement of the actual outcome.”

Upcoming Project Innovation programs exploring economic innovation and how it can be brought to Collier County are:

- Preparing for Global Competition – February 19, 2009, 3:30 - 5:30PM, Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club
- Research, Development and Commercialization of Innovation – March 19, 2009, 3:30 - 5:30PM, Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club
- Regionalism in the Innovation Economy – April 16, 2009, 3:30 - 5:30 PM, Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club
- It Pays to Be Creative – May 20, 2009, Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club

For more information about Project Innovation, visit www.projectinnovation.cc.