

PRESS RELEASE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY OFFERS “WHY SHOULD I VOTE?” FOR FREE LOCAL DISTRIBUTION

Naples, FL, July 30, 2006 – The League of Women Voters of Collier County, a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, announces the availability of a new publication by the League of Women Voters of Florida titled “Why Should I Vote?”

“Our goal is to help get out the vote for the September 5, 2006, primary election and the November 7, 2006, general election by offering this important and timely brochure free-of-charge to interested individuals and organizations in our area,” said Chris Straton, League of Women Voters of Collier County’s president.

“Why Should I Vote?” provides concise, easy-to-read information on a variety of voting-related topics, including:

- voter registration requirements – who can register, how to register, how to obtain voter registration forms, and, for convicted felons, how to apply for restoration of civil rights (including the right to vote);
- voter identification requirements – how to meet the new photo ID and signature ID requirements when you arrive at the polling place;
- voting in the precinct of current residence -- critical to ensuring your vote is counted;
- the right to a “provisional ballot” – the way to ensure your voice is heard, even if your registration or identity is questioned at the polling place;
- absentee ballots – who may use one (no reason is needed), how to obtain one, and how to make sure yours is counted; and
- sources of additional information, including the Supervisor of Elections office, the Florida Voter Assistance Hotline, and more.

The publication is available in both English and in Spanish.

“In recent years, citizens who are eligible to vote have stayed away from the polls in disturbing numbers,” Straton said. “Yet each of us has a stake in election outcomes whether we realize it or not. Citizens’ failure to vote leads elected officials to think that we are not concerned or interested in how they govern. They assume we think they are doing a good job – when that may not be what we think at all.

“The League of Women Voters believes that, with education and encouragement, communities can be energized to register and to vote,” Straton continued. “We are pleased to offer “Why Should I Vote?” free of charge as part of our ongoing mission to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government.”

Copies of “Why Should I Vote?” can be requested by calling the League office at 239-263-4656 or by emailing VoterService@lwvcolliercounty.org. They are also available at Collier County Library branches and county government centers. In addition, the publication can be downloaded from the League’s website at www.lwvcolliercounty.org.

Contact:

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