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Letter: A simple as that

Saturday, October 28, 2006

Editor, Daily News:

The League of Women Voters of Collier County, a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, commends the Daily News' editorial position opposing Amendment 3, "Broader Public Support for Constitutional Amendments and Petitions."

Amendment 3 would require a supermajority vote of 60 percent to amend the state constitution, rather than the current simple majority (50 percent plus one).

Contrary to popular belief, Amendment 3 would guarantee that the minority rules. Why is this so? If citizens proposed something that would make Florida a better place to live and work, opponents would only have to rally two out of five voters to defeat it. In a democracy, we expect the majority to rule. Amendment 3 would greatly limit citizens' access to the democratic process.

In 1996, the League adopted the position that Florida should have both constitutional and statutory initiatives and that criteria should be developed to determine whether an initiative should be placed in the constitution or in the statutes.

If citizens had the option of passing statutory initiatives in Florida, the League would favor requiring a supermajority of those voting to pass a constitutional amendment. For now, without a statutory initiative process, constitutional initiative is the only way citizens have to directly petition the government.

For more information about Amendment 3, the other ballot initiatives, or voting in general, contact the League of Women Voters at 263-4656 or go to our Web site, www.lwvcolliercounty.org

Sandy Parker, Naples, First Vice President, LWVCC

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