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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TO LOOK AT CIVICS EDUCATION,
DIRECT ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, AT MARCH 16 MEETING

NAPLES, March 6 -- Concerned that so many American don't know the fundamentals about our country, the League of Women Voters of Collier County will hear Jack Bovee, Collier County School District Social Studies Coordinator, give an update on the county's curriculum at their March 16 afternoon and evening meetings that are open to the public.

The afternoon meeting on March 16 at 1 p.m. will follow lunch and 10 a.m. consensus session when members will vote on whether to support National Popular Vote Compact, a proposal to award electoral votes to whomever receives the most votes at the national level. Both meetings and luncheon will be held at the Collier Athletic Club, 710 Goodlette Rd. North, Naples.

The evening meeting on civics education will be held at 7 p.m. at the Club at Olde Cypress, 7165 Treeline Drive, Naples.

"Our League advocates for the inclusion of civics education in Florida's curriculum because a fundamental principle of the League is that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens," explains Chris Straton, president of the Collier League.

"For the third straight year, the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI) has found that a large number of Americans cannot pass a basic 33-question civics literacy test on their country's history and institutions and that is shocking," said Straton. "ISI is calling on everyone involved in education to re-evaluate curricula and standards of accountability."

During the 2006 legislative session, the Florida League and Common Cause successfully inserted a requirement for a semester of civics education into the middle school curriculum. Efforts to mandate student performance standards in civics education failed in the 2007 legislative session.

Members and public are invited to participate in a luncheon at the Collier Athletic Club on March 16 at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. For reservations, phone 263-4656 or e-mail Hospitality@lwvcolliercounty.org by 5 p.m. on March 12. For more information on the League, visit www.lwvcolliercounty.org.