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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' PRESIDENT  
TO TALK ABOUT LAWSUIT, ELECTION RESULTS AND 2007 PLANS  
AT LOCAL LEAGUE MEETING; PUBLIC INVITED

Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti, president of the League of Women Voters of Florida (LWVF), will be guest speaker at the League of Women Voters of Collier County meeting on Monday, November 20 at 12:30 p.m. at the Norris Center in Naples. She will provide an update on the lawsuit LWVF filed in conjunction with plaintiffs, other civic organizations and voting rights groups opposing a new Florida law that imposes crippling fines on voter registration groups.

“The new Florida law cast such a chilling effect on voter registration efforts that voter registration operations were suspended by all 27 local Leagues across Florida,” reports Chris Straton, president of the local League. “Leagues in our state have been at the forefront of registering voters since 1939 but this new law put us at such risk that we couldn’t provide this voter service.”

The lawsuit asked the U.S. District Court in Miami to immediately suspend the fines imposed under the challenged law (Fla.Laws 2005-277, Secs. 2 and 7) that took effect on January 1, 2006. An injunction issued on August 28, 2006 suspended the Third-Party Voter Registration Organization law allowing the League to resume its voter registration efforts. However, Secretary of State Cobb filed an appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit.

In addition to the lawsuit status, Wheatley-Giliotti will also review the 2006 Election, talk about plans to initiate a Constitutional Amendment to take redistricting away from the Legislature, Florida League plans to address Voter Verifiable Paper Audits and lead a discussion of League priorities for the 2007 Legislative session.

The public is also invited to participate in a buffet luncheon at noon, preceding the talk by Wheatley-Giliotti. Cost is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members; call the League at 239-262-4656 by noon Friday, November 17, for reservations or further information.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters of Collier County, founded in 1975, holds general meetings on the third Monday of every month from October through April, at the Norris Center in downtown Naples.