

Letters to the editor: April 28, 2009

By Staff Reports

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Here are letters to the editor from Daily News editions of April 28, 2009:

Ones to watch

Editor, Daily News:

Two bills that are currently fast-tracking through the Florida Legislature are actively opposed by the League of Women Voters of Florida because they would seriously suppress the vote of many eligible citizens:

Senate Bill 956 and its companion House Bill 7149. Here are some of the league's concerns with these bills.

Third-party voter registration efforts would be severely restricted. Members of organizations like ours who actively register voters would have to register with the Florida secretary of state. Voter registration forms collected would have to be returned to the Division of Elections or Supervisor of Elections' Office within 48 hours — a tight turnaround for volunteer organizations.

Not meeting the deadline would result in a fine of \$250 per violation and a misdemeanor charge.

Seniors would no longer be able to use retirement center IDs or neighborhood association IDs for identification at the polls. Under the proposed bill, the governor would no longer be able to extend early voting hours as he did in 2008 unless there is an emergency.

Legal assistance or any other type of advice would not be allowed within 200 feet of the voting line at the polls. This is especially problematic because the line is constantly moving as voters enter the polls. This legislation should not be passed.

Call your Florida senator and representative and urge them to vote no on SB 956 and HB 7149. Find their phone numbers at www.lwvcolliercounty.org; click on "Find Your Representative."

Sandy Parker

Naples

President, League of Women Voters of Collier County