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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TO PROMOTE
POSITION ON IMMIGRATION**

**OPPOSES DEPORTATIONS, SUPPORTS EARNED CITIZENSHIP FOR
UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS**

NAPLES, April 21, 2008 – The League of Women Voters of Collier County will promote the national League’s position on immigration as part of its 2008-2009 activities, Collier League President Chris Straton announced at a meeting of the League’s membership today.

The National League’s position on immigration reform was announced in a [news release](#) on April 2 and will guide its advocacy work on federal legislation on this very important public policy issue.

The position was approved by the national League’s Board of Directors in March after a comprehensive study of this complex issue by the organization’s grassroots members for more than eighteen months. The policy achieved member consensus through a survey of the nearly 850 local Leagues.

The Collier County League participated in the National League’s survey through a series of local educational programs and consensus-seeking discussions led by Straton and newly-elected League board member Stuart Warshauer of Naples.

“The consensus of the members of our local League who participated in the grassroots process is reflected in that reached by the League as a whole,” said LWVCC President Chris Straton. “Immigration is an important issue in Collier County as well as the nation as a whole,” she continued. “We look forward to educating our members and our community about the League’s position, monitoring local government activities as they relate to immigration issues, and advocating for immigration reform in our community when we resume our activities in the fall.”

As part of overall immigration reform, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. The League opposes deportations of current unauthorized immigrants who have no history of serious criminal activity.

Other elements of the League's position include support for increased enforcement personnel at borders, more effective tracking of individuals who enter the U.S., and significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers. Furthermore, the League will champion due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment. The League position sets criteria for legal admission to the U.S., including family reunification of spouses or minor children; economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.; political persecution or humanitarian crises; and studying in the U.S.

For more information about the Collier County League and the League's position on immigration, visit www.lwvcolliercounty.org or call 239-263-4656.

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