

Guest commentary: Take steps now so you can vote in the Naples City Council election

By Sandy Parker – President, and Chris Straton - Voter service chair, League of Women Voters of Collier County

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In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it is often easy to put things aside until “after the holidays.”

But don’t wait. If you want to participate in choosing your next Naples City Council, then you need to be registered by Jan. 4, because election day is Feb. 2.

If you have moved or changed your name or changed your signature, you need to update your voter registration. It is as easy as going to www.CollierVotes.com to get a form to download and mail in or call 252-8450 for more information.

Did you know that you can vote anywhere? You don’t have to go to the polls on Feb. 2. You can vote from the comfort of your favorite chair or your boat or anywhere — if you have requested a mail ballot. The ballot will be mailed to you in plenty of time for you to fill it out and mail it back.

Make sure that you provide the address where you want to receive the ballot since it will not be forwarded by the post office. Use a black pen to fill out the form, make sure that you sign the envelope where indicated, and drop it in the mail or at the Supervisor of Elections Office, 3301 U.S. 41 E. To be counted, she needs it by 7 p.m. on election day.

Go to www.CollierVotes.com to request your mail ballot or call 252-8450. You can even check on that Web site to make sure your ballot was received.

Not sure about who is running or their priorities? Join us for the League of Women Voters of Collier County’s Candidate Forum on Jan. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Naples City Hall. Questions will be taken from the public, the viewing audience via e-mail and maybe even via Twitter.

Our forum will be broadcast live on Comcast Cable Channel 98. If you miss the live broadcast, it will be replayed throughout the campaign season or on the League’s Web site, www.lwvcolliercounty.org.

Want to be reminded about registering, requesting a mail ballot, watching the candidate forum or voting? Send an e-mail to lwvcc@lwvcolliercounty.org and we will send you timely reminders. Just make sure you include your name and address as well as your e-mail address.

Still have questions? Call the League of Women Voters of Collier County at 263-4656. We will be hosting a hot line on election day to answer any last-minute questions or help you find your polling place.

Enjoy the holidays, but make sure you also register and vote in the upcoming election. Remember, democracy is not a spectator sport.



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