

## Editorial: Voter registration Legislation doesn't seem to address any 'problem'

Staff Reports

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The Collier County and Florida League of Women Voters organizations say they have stopped their important volunteer roles as voter registrars, at least for now.

They blame pending state legislation that says field helpers for supervisors of elections must turn in their sign-up paperwork within 48 hours. The league organizations fear legal backlash and fines on good Samaritans.

The leagues go on to say they hope Gov. Rick Scott vetoes this legislation when it gets to his desk.

We have two comments:

n We hope the leagues rethink their positions and give this legislation a chance to work. They provide an important opportunity to register voters and get more people involved in the democratic process. They do so under the careful eye of the elected supervisors in each county.

Quitting may be exactly what the legislation's Republican proponents want them to do.

n It would be bold for Republican Scott to carry out such a veto. This has been an extremely partisan session of the Legislature, and this voter-registration restriction is an example. The president of the Senate, fellow Republican Mike Haridopolos, acknowledged as much in an interview with the Daily News this week, calling the statewide League of Women Voters "left of center." Later in the interview he acknowledged that should not make any difference.

Scott and other Republicans seem to be driven by an agenda rather than considering issues one at a time.

They went after teachers and others who pay into the state pension fund, while backing off police and firefighter unions.

They had greyhounds and gambling in their sights, then backed away.

At times their actions seemed to appease a flurry of single-issue interests rather than the state as a whole.

The voter-registration legislation is a prime example.



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