



THE  
**OASIS**  
CENTER  
FOR WOMEN & GIRLS



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**Women Can Run! Program Encourages Public Service  
Initiative Kicks Off with Day-Long Training This Saturday**

TALLAHASSEE, FL -- The Oasis Center for Women and Girls, in partnership with Leadership Tallahassee and the League of Women Voters of Florida, will host the first component of a multifaceted leadership program, Women Can Run!, at City Hall (300 South Adams Street) this Saturday, July 21, 2012 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This nonpartisan program is designed for women who may consider running for elected office or working on a political campaign at some point in the future.

Saturday's one-day institute will include sessions on campaigning, mastering media messaging and Florida election law. Participants will also learn about the current status of women in elected leadership, hear a keynote address and enjoy several opportunities to connect with diverse women who have held or are currently holding elected positions via a mentor lunch. After the institute, participants will be invited for continued participation in ongoing forums to build their readiness to launch a campaign in the future.

Serving in public office is an incredibly important form of civic and community engagement, yet women remain seriously underrepresented in national, statewide and local public offices.

"Our objective is to foster greater community dialogue about the importance of women's representation in the political arena and to contribute to an empowering environment which encourages women to consider the opportunity of running for office," said Haley Cutler, Executive Director of The Oasis Center for Women & Girls. "We're incredibly excited about the Women Can Run! program and what it means for our community."

"We are pleased to participate in the Women Can Run! program," said Leadership Tallahassee Executive Director Barbara Boone. "Leadership Tallahassee supports a variety of programs to encourage leadership and citizen involvement in the community."

"Women Can Run! will be extremely helpful to citizens who are interested in working in politics or are considering running for elected office in the near or distant future," said League of Women Voters of Florida Executive Director Jessica Lowe-Minor. "This program will allow women to learn the skills necessary to excel and take charge within their communities, with the goal of making improvements for current and future generations."

The Women Can Run! program is possible due to the generous support of the John S. and James

L. Knight Foundation and there is no charge for participants to attend. For more information, please contact Haley Cutler at (954) 260-5601.

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