



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® O F F L O R I D A

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## **U.S. SENATE REFUSES TO DEBATE DISCLOSE ACT** *Voters deserve to know origins of secret money in elections*

Washington, DC -- Twice this week, the U.S. Senate refused to allow full debate on the DISCLOSE Act, which would require complete disclosure of spending on big-money advertising in candidate elections. Twice, the Senate failed to invoke cloture, the procedural motion that requires 60 votes before the Senate can even consider legislation.

"Huge sums of secret money are flooding into our elections, and without full disclosure the voters won't know who is trying to buy influence," said Deirdre Macnab, President of the League of Women Voters of Florida. "Secret money should have no place in our elections, but today we see it nationally and in Florida, drowning out the voices of everyday Americans."

How did Florida's Senators vote?

"Florida Senator Bill Nelson did vote to allow debate on this vital issue," said Macnab, "putting the interests of everyday voters first. Disappointingly, the yes votes were overwhelmed by those Senators who voted to terminate debate on the DISCLOSE Act, including Senator Marco Rubio."

"The League supports the DISCLOSE Act of 2012 because we believe that Americans deserve all the information they can get before they vote," said Macnab. "The DISCLOSE Act builds on disclosure requirements already approved by the Supreme Court in *Citizens United* when it said that disclosure is important to 'providing the electorate with information.'"

The League says: Tell us where the money is coming from and let the voters decide. "The DISCLOSE Act is an important step towards eliminating secret money, and we will not give up," concluded Macnab, speaking for the League of Women Voters of Florida.

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*The League of Women Voters of Florida, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information, please visit the League's website at: [www.TheFloridaVoter.org](http://www.TheFloridaVoter.org).*