



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

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LA PRENSA NEWSPAPER CREATES SPECIAL AWARD TO HONOR LEAGUE'S DEIRDRE MACNAB

Tallahassee, FL--La Prensa, the oldest Hispanic newspaper in Central Florida, has honored Deirdre Macnab, president of the League of Women Voters of Florida, with its prestigious Mujeres Destacadas award.

La Prensa publisher Dora Casanova said that the newspaper created the Community Ambassador Award this year specifically to honor Macnab for her instrumental role in helping to improve the voting process and experience for Floridians.

According to Casanova, "Deirdre transcended the barriers of nationalities and languages by providing election information in Spanish that empowered the Hispanic community to make informed decisions."

In partnering with La Prensa, Macnab made sure to include Hispanic voters in the League's work to get out the vote, including weekly columns and timely translations of proposed constitutional amendments and other information of importance to their readers.

The League's efforts included providing VamosAVotar.org, a Spanish version of the BeReadyToVote.org website, a one-stop source for election information.

Macnab responded to the announcement of the award, saying, "The Hispanic community overcame significant obstacles in 2012 to show strong and informed participation in a critical national and Florida election. The League will work to encourage ever-greater participation by Florida's Hispanic community on important issues such as expanding access to health care and improving education. "

Despite long lines and other obstacles that disproportionately affected Hispanic voters, Hispanic voter turnout nationally and in Florida hit new heights in 2012. The League fought



Photo credit: Inocencio Correa,
La Prensa

statewide against the reductions in early voting opportunities and last-minute efforts to purge voter files, actions that disproportionately affected the Hispanic community.

Macnab also pointed to the high-profile Hispanic members of the nonpartisan League's Board of Directors: former State Senator and Senate Majority Leader Alex Villalobos (R); member of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women and immigration attorney Elizabeth Pines; and former State Representative Annie Betancourt (D). The League does not endorse candidates or parties.

This is the third major award Macnab has received during her term in office. Last November she received an Achievement Award from the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, and in January she was named Central Floridian of the Year by the Orlando Sentinel.

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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.