



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

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## **League of Women Voters of Florida Backs Campaign to Save Florida Forever**

Tallahassee, FL-- The League of Women Voters of Florida (LWVF) has endorsed a proposed amendment to Florida's constitution that would protect hundreds of thousands of acres of land needed to ensure the state's clean water supply and wildlife habitat for generations to come.

At least 683,000 petitions signed and verified by the supervisors of elections are needed to get the Water and Land Legacy proposal on the the 2014 ballot.

"We fully endorse this citizen-sponsored amendment, and encourage registered voters to sign a petition to place the amendment on the ballot," said Deirdre Macnab, LWVF President. "We are talking about Florida Forever -- not just Florida today or yesterday, but preserving our state for our grandchildren and their grandchildren."

The amendment would dedicate one-third of the existing documentary stamp tax, which is paid when real estate is sold, to restore the Everglades, protect drinking water sources, and revive the state's historic commitment to protecting natural lands and wildlife through the Florida Forever Program. The amendment would provide more than \$5 billion for water and land conservation in Florida over the next 10 years without any tax increase. It would take effect in 2015 and expire in 2035.

In 1968, Florida voters ratified a new constitution ordering the state to "conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty." The League of Women Voters of Florida has a long history of backing conservation efforts. Florida Forever was approved by the Legislature in 1999 as a \$300 million-a-year conservation land acquisition program. That funding ended in 2008 and since then the Legislature has reduced funding by an estimated 97.5 percent.

"I cannot emphasize enough how important the League of Women Voters' support is to the Legacy Amendment," said Pegeen Hanrahan, campaign manager of Florida's Water and Land Legacy initiative. "Florida's voters look to the League for analysis and thoughtful recommendations on how to vote on constitutional amendments."

For questions or further comments, please contact Deirdre Macnab at (407) 415-4559.

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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).*