



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 25, 2013

Contact:
Deirdre Macnab
League of Women Voters of Florida
407-415-4559
floridaleague@earthlink.net

League of Women Voters of Florida Responds to Supreme Court Decision on Voting Rights Act

Tallahassee, FL -- In a major setback for voting rights today, the Supreme Court of the United States struck down a fundamental component of the Voting Rights Act, a decision that will have a real, detrimental impact on all voters.

With a 5-4 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, the Supreme Court struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, invalidating the procedure by which counties and states are required to seek preclearance from the federal government before implementing any changes to their voting laws. In their ruling, the justices made it clear that lawmakers need to update the formula for determining which areas of the country must seek federal approval of their voting laws.

"It should be disturbing to every Florida voter that the Supreme Court seems not to have noticed what happened in Florida over the last two years, where we have battled the legislature's partisan manipulation of our voting rights," said Deirdre Macnab, President of the League of Women Voters of Florida. "Today's decision undermines 40 years of fundamental protections against discriminatory voting laws and the League urges Congress to act quickly to restore the Voting Rights Act."

The Voting Rights Act was just as vital in last year's elections as it was in 1965, and continues to serve as a critical tool in preventing voter discrimination on the basis of race. Florida has 5 counties that required preclearance from the federal government (Hillsborough, Hendry, Hardee, Monroe and Collier), and the preclearance requirement successfully ensured that voters in those counties were not negatively impacted by the reduction in early voting hours that the state of Florida passed in 2011.

###

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.