



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

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Citizens Win BIG With Passage of Amendments 5 & 6

FLORIDA -- Despite some incumbents' claims that efforts to pass rules to guide redistricting were partisan, last night's results indicate that a clear majority of voters from all parties want to be able to choose their elected officials instead of allowing those officials to choose their voters.

"This is a champagne day for Florida's voters. With the passage of Amendments 5 & 6, citizens will have a much stronger voice in Florida government," says League president Deirdre Macnab.

Over 62% of voters supported the measures, which establish new criteria that legislators must follow throughout the redistricting process. The League notes that passage of these two amendments does not eliminate citizens' need to be involved. "Vigilance and supervision will be critical as redistricting begins this Spring," said League president Deirdre Macnab. "To ensure transparency and fairness, the League will pay close attention as new district maps are drawn."

In other news, the League was pleased that Amendment 1, an effort to repeal the state's public campaign financing requirement, failed. "Despite the difficult recession we are in, and concern about public monies," said Macnab, "the public showed that they continue to support public campaign financing, which they passed by 64% in 1998." The League recommends that the Legislature, which put Amendment 1 on the ballot, reconsider its 300% increase in campaign spending limits and roll back limits to earlier amounts to save taxpayer money.

For more information on the League's view of the election and the amendments, please contact League president Deirdre Macnab at (407) 415-4559.

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