



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 23, 2013

Contact:
Deirdre Macnab
407-415-4559
FloridaLeague@earthlink.net

In Honor of Women's Equality Day, Congress Must Act
League of Women Voters Marks Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

Tallahassee, FL -- Monday, August 26 marks the 93rd anniversary of the constitutional amendment that granted American women the right to vote. This year, the League of Women Voters of Florida honors Women's Equality Day through its continued efforts to protect the voting rights of all eligible voters.

"Florida has a raw history of voter suppression," said LWVF president Deirdre Macnab. "We've witnessed recent attempts by the state to make voting more difficult, and eligible voters have been purged from the rolls due to simple database errors. Making matters worse, this summer a key part of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) known as Section 4 was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, leaving the law in limbo and Florida's citizens unprotected. We urge Congress to act, and swiftly, to restore the effectiveness of the VRA. Additionally, we call on Florida voters to urge Congress to put the Voting Rights Act back to work."

Before the ink was even dry on the Court's decision, several states rushed to implement racially discriminatory anti-voter laws, including regions where the League of Women Voters had previously succeeded in blocking new voting restrictions created by state legislatures. Sadly, this is only the beginning. Without a strong VRA, the ability of groups like the League to fight off anti-voter legislation and keep our elections free, fair and accessible is significantly weakened.

"Our foremothers and fathers understood that voting provides citizens the ability to have an impact on the critical issues facing their communities," concluded Macnab. "Women's Equality Day is the perfect time to celebrate and protect that right."

###

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 thorough education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women of all ages. With 31 affiliates across Florida, and 800 across the U.S., the League is one of the nation's most trusted organizations. Learn more at: www.TheFloridaVoter.org.