



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

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### **League of Women Voters of Florida Responds to Secretary of State's New Directive on Absentee Ballots**

Tallahassee -- In response to the [directive](#) issued yesterday by Secretary of State Ken Detzner regarding the return of absentee ballots, League of Women Voters of Florida President Deirdre Macnab released the following statement:

*"Just before Thanksgiving, Secretary Detzner has issued an unwarranted directive which no Florida voter will be thankful for. In a state where voting by mail has become increasingly popular, it is unreasonable to restrict ballot drop-off locations to just Supervisors of Elections' offices, and it is unclear why the state would seek this change -- particularly when it has not been solicited by local SOEs.*

*While not all counties in Florida currently use remote drop-off sites for ballot collection, they are particularly important for large counties in which a significant percentage of citizens vote by mail. I echo*

*the sentiments of Pasco County Supervisor of Elections Brian Corley, who called the Secretary's new decree 'anti-voter,' and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Florida, I urge the Secretary to revoke this ill-conceived directive."*

Overall, absentee voting in the state is on the rise. In the 2012 presidential election, 2.4 million Floridians, or 28 percent, voted absentee -- up from 23 percent in 2008. Pinellas county, for example, processed a quarter of a million absentee ballots during the 2012 presidential election, and of those, 42 percent were dropped off at remote sites such as public libraries or tax collectors' offices.

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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).*

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