



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

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Tallahassee Mayor and League of Women Voters of Florida to Speak Out Against Open Carry Gun Legislation

Tallahassee, Fla. -- Tallahassee Mayor **Andrew Gillum** will speak out against proposed legislation to allow the open carry of guns in Florida at a 2:00 P.M. news conference Tuesday, February 2nd at Tallahassee City Hall.

The news conference is being hosted by the League of Women Voters of Florida, which also opposes the legislation that would allow people with carry permits to openly display firearms in public areas.

"This is not a Second Amendment issue," said **Patricia Brigham**, chair of the League's Gun Safety Committee. "This is a public safety issue."

Mayor Gillum stands with a growing number of city, state, and law enforcement officials in opposing the proposed legislation.

"State leaders ought to be doing all they can to make Florida communities safer for children and families," said Mayor Gillum. "This proposal does nothing to advance the well-being of our citizens, and needlessly creates a more dangerous environment for the people of Tallahassee and our State," he said.

Representative **Dave Kerner**, who has been leading the charge in the Legislature against the bills, agrees. "Florida should be moving toward more logical and effective gun laws, instead of passing legislation that will put our citizens, visitors, and law enforcement officers in heightened danger. We need to unite as a community now to make sure this bad bill does not pass," said Kerner.

In addition to fears about public safety, the League of Women Voters and others question the impact such a law would have on tourism -- a bread and butter industry for the state. "Vacationers might think twice about bringing their children to a place where men and women are walking around with guns in plain view," Brigham said.

The full House will hear the bill this week. The Senate version of the bill is in the Judiciary committee.

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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.