



November 2011

Dear Friends:

The League of Women Voters in Florida is no longer conducting voter registration drives in that state. Shocked? I was until I learned that this decision is because of a new state law outlining very strict guidelines for third party voter registration. And this new law carries with it very stiff penalties. Teachers who registered students as part of their civics curriculum are facing fines of up to \$1000 for not turning in the forms within 48 hours, when the deadline previously was 10 days.

The new law is being replicated in states across our nation. Sponsors say the revisions are needed to prevent voting fraud; critics say such changes are part of a sweeping attempt across our nation to suppress voting by minorities, young people and the elderly.

You decide.

The United States is said to be the oldest democracy in the world. Yet, our country has the lowest percentage of voters. And now it's getting even harder to vote, with other new requirements like photo identification. Something's happening here.

In Saratoga County, your Voter Services Committee works hard to increase voter participation by facilitating candidate forums and creating on-line and paper voter guides. We conduct voter registration drives and work to instill in young people the importance of voting through programs such as *Take Me to Vote*, *LeaderSpark* and *First Vote*. In fact, we won a state award last year for our efforts. But we need your support to continue our work.

LWV's proud history is rooted in every citizen's right to the elective franchise. And on January 19 at 7pm at the Saratoga Spring Public Library, we will sponsor a program on the suppression of voting rights taking place in the United States of America. We hope you'll be there.

If standing up for democracy matters to you, please consider making a contribution to your local League of Women Voters. Because what happens in Florida may not stay in Florida.

Thank you for your past and continued support.

Sincerely,

Patricia Nugent  
President, League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters, 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.