

HOT TOPICS LUNCHEON

The League of Women Voters of Orange County

Join us for lunch presentation at 11:30 a.m.
on Tuesday, September 16, 2008
at Sorosis Club, 501 E. Livingston Street (downtown)

\$20 member with reservation

\$25 all others

Reservations cancelled after September 14 will be invoiced

Election 2008:

Meet the Candidates!

Moderator: Judith Smelser, 90.7 WMFE News Director

Why are they Running? What will be their Legacy?

What do they think the Key Challenges and Solutions are?

With the August 26th Primary behind us, this month's Hot Topics will focus on those candidates and races on the ballot in November.

Questions fielded by LWVOC members....You decide!

Among the races to be covered:

Orange County Sheriff
Orange County Commission District 1
Orange County Commission District 2
Orange County School Board District 4
Orange County School Board District 7

Menu to include: Field of Greens Salad Freshly Baked Bread
Fresh Fruit Salad Grilled Vegetables
Chicken Milanese Herb Orzo
Gourmet Cookies & Brownie Bites
Ice Tea

Catering by Cuisiniers

RSVP by Friday, September 12, 2008 to
Andrea Kudlacz (407)579-0023 (kudlacz@bellsouth.net)

*For all the information you need as we approach the
November election, go to www.lwvoc.com and our
award-winning website: www.voteanywhere.org*

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CALENDAR

Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 2
4:30—6:00 p.m.
Rollins Philanthropy Center

You are Invited!
Sunset Soiree with
Hors d'oeuvres & Wine
In a Glamorous Setting!
Meet people who share your
interest or community concerns
Learn about the League:
How it Works—Key Issues
Advocacy Program
SUNSET @ STAR TOWER
~ FREE EVENT ~
Tuesday, September 9
6—7:30 pm
Top of Sunset Star Tower
S. Osceola Avenue @ Jackson St.
Free Valet Parking
RSVP by September 5
slmsegal@gmail.com

Board Meeting
Monday, October 6
4:30—6:00 p.m.
Rollins Philanthropy Center

LWVOC Hot Topics
Wednesday, October 8
Sorosis Club
*An Insider's Guide to
the Amendments*

www.lwvoc.org



~ Message from the President ~

“The penalty good men pay for not being interested in politics is to be governed by men worse than themselves.” Plato

Dear Members,

Voters are engaged...that's the good news this election year! Registrations are soaring, absentee ballot requests surging, and early votes are coming in already for the primary, surpassing usual records. We know that citizens are deeply concerned and interested in our country and our world's direction. It is our job as an organization to help ensure they have the information to cast an informed vote, and to remind them of the many ways they can cast a vote.

Your League has been playing a major role in Central Florida. And while our work is far from done, it is a great honor for our members to have won the top national LWV award for a Voter Campaign, to the recent recognition and awards by WMFE at their two recent women's events for over 2,000 women (*“Speaking of Women's Health”* and *“Hablando de la Salud de la Mujer”*)

If you've been attending Hot Topics lunches and reading the newsletter and saying: *“How can I get involved and make a difference in the history making 2008 election”*...here's how:

We need every available member to help on or after election day this November. Can you help?

Help Voters: Adopt a Precinct (*from four to 10 hours on election day Nov. 8*)

Make sure Florida's election is fair: Observer for statewide Election Audit (*approximately four hours on November 9*) We will be visiting Supervisor of Elections offices around the state.

Inform voters and Help Restore Fairness to our Election: Work the polls to pass out Special Edition Voter and get petitions signed for Fair Elections (*from one hour to four hours on November 8*)

There's lots to do, and the amount of our impact depends on each of you!

Please direct your friends, family and colleagues to **www.VOTEANYWHERE.org** to request an absentee ballot, and to go to **www.LWVOC.org** for information on the candidates and amendments.

We are also providing a speaker's bureau on the amendments...please contact me below if you would like a speaker for your organization.

Thank you for your support and help this past League year, and get ready to climb on board and help in this important election year, as we put on a number of candidate forums, publish voter guides and encourage a higher than ever turnout!

In a few weeks our fellow Americans will head to the voting booth...our job is to ensure every citizen has an unrestricted right to join that march, and useful information to cast a ballot that is accurately counted. Please join us in this work so imperative to a functioning democracy!

In League,

Deirdre Macnab

In Recognition:

We give a huge thanks to **Charley Williams** for his continued great leadership of our Voter Services, and to his team..... **Kaia Forget** for coordinating our outstanding and almost only available electronic voter guide for local candidates, **Laurie Wack** and **Jan Tunnell** for Adopt-a-Precinct, **Jaclyn Power** and **Mary Hamill** for their coordination with the media, and to **Flo Neidig** and **Andrea Kobrin** for their strong leadership of our Local Government Committee.

~ Voting in Florida ~

Florida took an important step toward trustworthy elections by adopting paper ballot voting systems, but to achieve secure and verified elections, a sample of paper ballots must be hand counted to audit computer vote tallies. This new legislation, SB 2544 and HB1521, will ensure strong audits and other important security safeguards.

Currently, only 1-2% of the votes are checked for any given race.

That means that as many as 66 counties may not verify presidential votes this year!

Senate Bill 2544 and House Bill H1521 could change that by requiring careful audits of more ballots in close races, and fewer ballots in races that are land-slides. It is more effective and more efficient than the current system.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Heather Walker	660-1918

VOTER EDITOR: Lynda Van Scoyoc
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LVANSCOYOC@cfl.rr.com

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORT

The Local Government Committee saw the culmination of its study and action of the last several months when both the Board of County Commissioners and the Charter Review Commission acted upon various ethics matters and also upon the matter of public input at county commission meetings. Both bodies were acting in response to the recommendations of the Ethics and Campaign Finance Reform Task Force, which made some nineteen reform proposals for implementation by the BCC.



Flo Neidig and Andrea Kobrin
Local Government

The LWV Local Government Committee has spent a busy year and a half attending meetings of the Task Force, the BCC, and the CRC. We have had opportunities to speak to all three groups several times, advocating reforms that would increase disclosure and ensure greater transparency in the political process. In order to enhance the ethical climate and to continue the scrutiny of ethics in government, we initiated a proposal for a permanent and independent Ethics Advisory Board, which was then included in the Task Force recommendations. The BCC considered this recommendation of the Task Force and included the Ethics Advisory Board in its subsequent action, but stated that it should be called for by Resolution and only if there was a need for it. It did provide that the members of such a board should be appointed by the Chief Judge if the Ninth Judicial Circuit, thus making possible an amount of independence, should it ever be called into being.

Even before final action by the County Commission the League had determined to support proposals to place a number of these reforms on the ballot for inclusion in the County Charter, feeling that that would make them more permanent, as they could not be repealed by any subsequent County Commission. We particularly urged campaign finance reforms and the Ethics Advisory Board, but the Charter Review Commission did not decide on any of these as possible amendments to the Charter. It did include mandatory ethics training, which had been suggested as a function of the Ethics Board, in question number 2, which will appear on the ballot. That question includes disclosure of financial and business relationship of county officials, restrictions on gifts to the Mayor and Commissioners, and restrictions on "post-County" employment for certain employees.

Another ballot question which LWV has strongly advocated will be one that speaks to the right of the citizen to be heard at County Commission meetings. This follows recent action by the BCC but makes it more permanent and specifies an early time for public comment. More information on these ballot issues will be coming soon in an electronic Voters Guide and the Local Government Committee will provide pros and cons on the three amendments to the Charter proposed by the CRC.

We shall also be doing a more complete analysis for a future Voter on the ethics ordinances passed by the County Commission in response to the report of the Ethics Task Force and we shall be recommending that the League continue its interest in Ethics, as this is the sort of issue which sometimes disappears after some preliminary actions are taken. LWV is the ideal group to keep the spotlight focused on ethics and campaign finance.

~submitted by Flo Neidig, Local Government Committee Co-chair

LYNX Report Shows Savings of Going by Bus versus Car

A study by LYNX and the American Public Transportation Association found it costs Motorist \$739 per month by car, versus \$44 per month by bus.....**a saving of \$695 per month!**



J.Marsh McLawhorn
LYNX

Learn more about how our Committees are working for better ideas in our community.....

CONTACT...

NEW COMMITTEE!

Natural Resources

Wednesday, September 17
8:30 a.m.

Stardust Video & Cafe
Winter Park Road & Corrine Drive

Patty Hattaway
407-860-2820
phattawa@mailers.fsu.edu

Voter Services

Charley Williams
Voter Guide,
Register Voters
407-898-1818 x 111
cjwilliams@g-e-c.com

Education

For information, call
Barbara Barry
407-677-1771
Kaia Forget
407-299-6964
kwforget@cfl.rr.com

Local Government

For information, call
Flo Neidig 407-872-0072
flonbert2@earthlink.net
Andrea Kobrin 407-647-5912
lulubelle@cfl.rr.com

Transportation

Lynn Eberly
407-420-4256
leberly@hdrinc.com
Lennon Moore
407-647-7229
lennonmoore@cfl.rr.com

Vamos A Votar

Ayme Rodriguez-Smith
Ayme@cfl.rr.com
Dora Casanova de Toro
Dora.Toro@laprensaorlando.com



Fran Pignone

How Can Orange County Improve Its School Board Governance?

Find Out the Results of a just released Executive Summary of

Orange County School Board Citizen Stakeholders Governance Structure Study Committee

Fran Pignone, Chairman

Sarah Sprinkel, League Designate to Committee



Sarah Sprinkel

Fran Pignone, chairperson, and **Sarah Sprinkel**, League of Women Voters representative on the Orange County School Board Citizen Stakeholders Governance Structure Study Committee met over a 5 month period to study governance alternatives for Orange County Public Schools. Check the League website for link to read the entire summary at

(www.lwvoc.org).

After hearing from many experts and studying the issues, the stakeholder group unanimously proposed that the Orange County School Board move to nine single-member districts in conjunction with district reapportionment as a result of the 2010 census. (Currently there are seven single member districts.)

Other important findings:

There is no demonstrated correlation between student achievement and any type of school board governance model; Consideration must be given to formalizing a rotating chairperson position to strengthen school board harmony and improve opportunities for minority leadership; Expanding school board membership from seven to nine single-member districts in conjunction with district reapportionment as a result of the 2010 census would provide representation opportunities to underrepresented groups; There was no evidence established to support a district-wide elected school board chairman utilizing an additional vote to break a tie; and There was no fact-based evidence established to support a district-wide elected school board chairperson as a best practice.

~submitted by Sarah Sprinkel, LWVOC representative

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND AFL-CIO ANNOUNCE INTENTION TO CONTINUE VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES AFTER COURT RULING

Nonpartisan Civic Groups Urge Florida Secretary of State to Adhere to Court's Limits on Prohibitive Fines and Penalties
Miami, FL – Following a federal court's recent ruling that narrowed Florida's voter registration law, the League of Women Voters of Florida, the Florida AFL-CIO, and voting rights advocates announced today their intention to continue voter registration drives through the 2008 election. The groups said the ruling reduces the possibility that the law would expose voter registration groups and their volunteers to debilitating fines in the course of voter registration drives.

"We believe that **Judge Altonaga's** decision in *LWVF v. Browning* has narrowed the voter registration law enough to allow plaintiffs to continue voter registration drives without fear of being subject to excessive fines. Assuming the Secretary of State follows the judge's decision, we are optimistic that it will resolve the most serious problems with the law," stated **Wendy Weiser**, Director of Voting Rights and Elections at the Brennan Center for Justice and one of the attorneys in the case.

The League of Women Voters of Florida and the Florida AFL-CIO sued to enjoin enforcement of the law in April because its strict deadlines and fines created a serious chilling effect and threatened to dampen turnout in November. Plaintiffs were also concerned that the law would disproportionately burden African-American and Hispanic voter applicants and applicants from Spanish-speaking households – who are twice as likely to register to vote through voter registration drives as white applicants or applicants from English-speaking households.

Concerned that the law made voter registration too risky, the League of Women Voters of Florida placed a moratorium on all voter registration efforts, to begin as soon as the

law became enforceable. The Florida AFL-CIO similarly announced its intention to cease voter registration drives, as did other civic groups.

While the judge in *LWVF v. Browning* formally denied plaintiffs' request for an injunction to stop the law, based on an interpretation of the law that imposes tighter limits on the amount that organizations and individuals involved in voter registration activities could be fined

"Compared to the virtually unlimited fines groups like ours were potentially liable for before the court's ruling, we feel some degree of relief that we will be able to continue voter registration activities in this election cycle if the Secretary of State follows the judge's decision," said **Marilynn Wills**, president of the League of Women Voters of Florida and a plaintiff in the suit. "In order to continue our voter registration drives, plaintiffs request that the Secretary of State confirm that his office will follow the judge's interpretation of the law and will not act to shut down voter registration drives with prohibitive fines," said **Marilynn Wills**.

"We hope that the Secretary of State will be faithful to the judge's decision so that voter registration drives can continue in this election season," added **Cynthia Hall**, president of the Florida AFL-CIO.

Despite the narrowing of potential liability, plaintiffs still urge the Florida legislature to repeal the law. "Florida's law still needlessly subjects well-meaning civic groups to fines and unfair provisions as they seek to help the state's citizens register to vote," said **Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti**, former president of the League of Women Voters of Florida and current board member of the League of Women Voters of the United States. >> to page 11

LEAGUE OPPOSES COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

Waiting for Congressional Action on Climate Change Would be Too Late, League Says.

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters called for a moratorium on new construction of coal-fired electric power plants. “Global warming is happening now,” said national **League President Mary G. Wilson**. “If we wait for federal action from our congressional leaders, it will be too late. We must take immediate and aggressive action to halt climate change,” she said.

“Burning more coal is too big a risk for too many people,” **Wilson** said. “Coal is the single largest source of global warming pollution in the U.S., with power plants responsible for 33 percent of CO₂ emissions. Because of this pollution, we already face increasingly severe heat waves and droughts, intensifying hurricanes and floods, disappearing glaciers and more wildfires. If left unchecked, the effects will be catastrophic to us and our planet,” she said.

“We will be active in opposing the building of these plants,” said **Wilson**. “Coal-fired electric power plants have a very long lifespan and contribute huge amounts of pollution to the atmosphere. Building these new plants would foreclose the possibility of preventing dangerous global warming.”

“Today, there is no environmentally sound use of coal,” **Wilson** said. “Many hope that CO₂ can be captured and stored underground,” she observed, “but this technology has never been demonstrated on a commercial scale.”

“Instead of coal, we must look to clean energy alternatives,” according to **Wilson**. “California, which has been a leader in energy conservation and efficiency, has been able to keep per capita energy consumption essentially constant for three decades while enjoying a growing economy,” she noted.

“Wind and solar are also ready to make large contributions to economic growth,” she said.

The League carefully examined many facets of energy policy before taking its stand. “We support strong action in Congress to stop global climate change, but the planet can’t wait,” **Wilson** concluded.

AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION MAKES PROGRESS IN U. S. SENATE

On June 6, U.S. Senator **Bill Nelson (D - Florida)** introduced S. 3100, a bill that would encourage **advance voter registration for sixteen year olds**, and **automatic re-registration of voters** who changed their residence.

S. 3100 would create a grant program to provide the States with the funds needed to implement pre-registration for sixteen year olds, ensuring that they would be on the voter rolls when they turn eighteen.



**Adrienne
KatzKatz**

Keeping the League Alive, Strong and Vibrant— *What YOU Can DO!*

Help by introducing a new younger person to the work of the League. Continue the tradition of handing down the passion for citizen activism through the generations. Since so many people (from their 20’s to 60’s) are over-committed with their work and family activities, give friends and family the “*Gift of the League*” by bringing them to occasional Hot Topics luncheons and share the VOTER with them.

Even if their level of activity is minimal, they will be primed to become active when they are newly retired. Believe me, this upcoming generation of retirees is capable of being the most active, productive, involved, influential and aware older generation in the history of the world.

There are other answers at hand to keep the League strong and vibrant for our children, their children and those loved ones who will follow us:

- educate all of our members about the need to add the League of Women Voters of Orange County to their wills and in estate planning;
- make certain that family members and friends understand the importance of the League to you, and encourage them to carry on your legacy of support and involvement in the League of Women Voters of Orange County (or wherever they live);
- include the League in your regular charitable contributions; and...

REMEMBER the LEAGUE

New Website and Phone for Upcoming Elections

*Orange County Elections Office Announces
Special Website/Phone for Elections*

ORLANDO, FL., July 18, 2008 --The Orange County Supervisor of Elections office is glad to announce a new website and phone number for the upcoming elections. These are special election additions; there will be no change to the existing contact information still in place.

Orangevotes2008.com is a new website customized for the upcoming elections to highlight key information and answer voters' most frequently asked questions. The website is geared to specifically answering voters' questions that include: whether or not they are registered, how to update their registration record, how to request an absentee ballot, how to find their polling place or to verify their absentee ballot was received by the elections office.

In addition to **Orangevotes2008.com**, a new phone number, **(407) 836-VOTE (8683)**, is now available for voter registration questions and absentee ballot requests in the upcoming elections. This number allows callers to go directly to the Orange County Supervisor of Elections customer service department to ask questions.

The current contact information for the Supervisor of Elections office remains the same. Voters can still contact the Orange County Supervisor of Elections office at **(407) 836-2070** or online at **www.ocfelections.com**.

~In Memoriam~

Longtime LWVOC member
ELINOR M. RUNDLES HALL

Ellie left us on August 1, 2008, after a courageous battle with Non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

A long time resident of Winter Park. She had a M.S. in Library Science from Wayne State University and joined the staff of the Orange County Library System. Her area of interest was in enhancing library services to the aging. She became active in the American Red Cross, League of Women Voters, National Organization for Women and Planned Parenthood. She retired in 1991.

RECRUITING FOR ADOPT-A-PRECINCT at HOT TOPICS....

*Kathy Traexler
and Laurie Wack*



Many thanks to **Jan Tunnell, Patricia Appel, Todd Ruopp, Christine Garton, Dede Caron, Kaia Forget, Jan Richmer, Karen Breakell, Lynn Eberly, Sandra Powers, Caroline Emmons-Schramm, Deirdre Macnab** and **Charley Williams** for all their hard work in running the **Adopt A Precinct #510** in Winter Park for the August 26th primary elections.

But there is no rest for the weary! The League of Women Voters of Orange County will be adopting **Precinct #510** again for the enormous and exciting 2008 **Presidential Election on November 4th**. There are still several full day and half-day positions to be filled. We desperately need a **bilingual Spanish speaker** for the entire day. Participants must be registered to vote in Orange County. **Jan Tunnell** and I will be volunteering as Clerks again. This is a wonderful fundraiser for the LWVOC and an intimate in-depth look at our democratic process at work. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Thanks...

Laurie Wack ~ allwack@earthlink.net

VOTER GUIDE ONLINE!



Thanks to our Voter Guide 2008 team for producing our second online Voter guide in time for the August 26th primary.

Kaia Forget led the charge contacting over 21 campaigns for candidate profiles covering 7 races in Orange County. Lending back-up support for our effort were:

Barbara and Jim Knapp
Elaine Wiggs
Laura Turner
Sandra Kiser

LWVOC also shared our Voter Guide information with the national LWV Website: **www.vote411.org**

*~Submitted by Charley Williams
Voter Services Chair*

~ Member Profile ~

Commissioner Teresa Jacobs



Teresa Jacobs, Orange County District 1 Commissioner is an intense, passionate, intelligent professional, with a strict code of ethics and a commitment to honor the trust that her constituents have in her. This has guided **Jacobs** during her two terms in office. She has been described as fair minded with good judgment and when she makes a decision she uses a thorough process of research and analysis; then she *"digs her heels in strongly."* She does not avoid controversy

Jacobs was born in Baltimore, Maryland, moving to Miami at five. She grew up in a stable apolitical environment with an older brother, a stay at home mother and her father worked for RCA as a computer programmer. She graduated Cum Laude with a B.A. in Economics from FSU where **Jacobs** says, *"She was voted least likely to run for political office."*

A younger **Teresa Jacobs** never imagined herself in the position she holds today as District 1 Orange County Commissioner.

"This was never part of my plan for life," Jacobs, former President of the Orange County Homeowners Association said. *"I'm not all that impressed with politics or politicians, but I figured out while my kids were in elementary school that so much of what our local government and the school district does has a big impact on our daily lives and our quality of life. It almost seemed a necessity to start paying attention and showing up at community meetings."*

She became involved in local politics with an issue affecting her neighborhood. Her efforts were unsuccessful, but what bothered her most wasn't the end decision; it was the public-involvement process. Although then-**Orange County Chairman Linda Chapin** voted against **Jacobs** and her neighborhood, **Chapin** met with her afterwards and listened to her concerns and suggestions for how to revamp the public involvement process. **Chapin** agreed with **Jacobs** and subsequently revised the process for citizens who wanted to address the commissioners. *"That was the moment that I said, 'This is cool.' We lost the battle, but for every neighborhood after us, there was a better process in place."*

As commissioner, **Jacobs** said that she would work towards creating an environment where people feel like government is theirs, like they are a part of it. *"I really wanted to have a relationship with the people I represent, where they feel like I am their voice on the board. And I wanted to build a spirit of trust and cooperation. All the other accomplishments that you have along the way are important, but I don't think anything is as important as public trust."*

Jacobs says that land use decisions have been the most difficult for her. One can oftentimes argue both sides. The decisions are important for the applicant and the community and getting it right can be very difficult. One vehicle she uses to learn how her constituents are affected by issues is through public meetings she regularly schedules in her district.

Oftentimes the minority vote on issues, **Jacobs** is the driving force behind ethics and election reform in Orange County on

issues that have the full support of the League. In a July 13th meeting on ethics, Commissioners finally backed a new package of ethics reforms, but **Jacobs** pushed for more aggressive measures and lost on about half of her proposals. The disclosure rules, in particular, worry her. She fears the rules recently passed will still allow politicians to hide their business partners.

In October 2006, The First Baptist Church of Central Florida appealed to the commission to allow them to build a 199-foot-tall cross at its west Orange County campus. Orange County commissioners approved construction of the cross -- which is 5-1/2 times higher than zoning allows in that area. **Commissioner Jacobs** was the lone holdout.

"All the other accomplishments along the way are important, but I don't think anything is as important as public trust"

She proposed a *Public Participation Bill of Rights* as a charter ballot amendment because the public was blocked from commenting early on when the \$1.1 billion plan for a new arena, performing-arts center and renovated Citrus Bowl were being debated. **Jacobs** opted to hold her own town meeting. *"The board's rules have not been followed," Jacobs* said. *"Public participation is rarely if ever allowed at work sessions or during the board's morning discussions on matters where legislative action is foreseeable."*

Jacobs says that her eight years of service has been very rewarding, that influencing public policy has been very challenging, however, she *"does not like politics."* **Jacobs** feels deeply about her responsibility for and commitment to the people and takes very seriously the trust that the people in her district have put in her. At times it has been stressful and lonely, but she has always been heartened by the respect, loyalty and support she has received from citizens in her district and from the community at large.

Married for 26 years to marketing executive husband, Bruce, and mother to four children, Josh, 21, Lisa and Max, 18 year old twins, and Chase, 16, her family has given her continual support. **Jacobs** describes her husband as *"the secret to balancing her life."*

Jacobs is completing her two terms as commissioner and looks forward to spending more time with her family, and, as a former business executive, to whatever opportunities and challenges emerge in the business/corporate community. However, her instincts for and experience in public service will keep her open to responding to issues that affect the community.

~submitted by Susan Pins, Profile Writer



Candidates for Sheriff
Bill Armstrong-R, Jerry Demings-D
Malone Stewart-D, John Tegg-R

**Maritza Martinez
and Sara Au**

*Many Thanks to these volunteers who made the June 24th
Orange County Sheriff Candidate Forum
so very successful!*

**Deirdre Macnab
Laura Turner
Yvonne Opfell**



Laura Turner, LWVOC Moderator
Maritza Martinez, East Orlando Chamber President
Deirdre Macnab, LWVOC President
Yvonne Opfell, Official Timer
Annie Winterbottom, East Orlando Chamber
George Spaeth, East Orlando Chamber
Erika Spence, East Orlando Chamber
Sara Au, Insight Magazine
**Luis Suarez, Puerto Rican Association
of Central Florida**



**Way
to Go!**

Orange County Public Schools Earn an A Grade

The Florida Department of Education calculated and graded the OCPS district an A district for the first time. Orange County is one of three large districts in Florida to achieve the A rating.

Superintendent Ronald Blocker said, "This is the result of hard work by faculty, staff and students and support from the community. We have 126 high-performing schools according to state standards (up from 115 last year). Among 18 high schools, four are rated A; Boone, Dr. Phillips, Olympia and Winter Park. "

All 4 of last year's F schools raised their grades. Evans High and Oak Ridge High moved up to D grades. Oak Ridge missed a C by one point. Orange Center Elementary soared all the way to an A grade, 1 of only 5 schools out of 81 F schools improving from F to A. Richmond Heights elevated to a B because of the goals set by the school board and Superintendent Blocker and a dedicated team focusing on student achievements.

Excerpts from OCPS Express

~ Thank You ~

To our LWVOC volunteer team for staffing our LWVOC booth at back-to-back Conferences at the Orange County Convention Center, August 8 and 9th. WMFE sponsored both events.

LWVOC Volunteer Event Coordinator:
Laura Bornfreund

Speaking of Women's Health, Friday, August 8th

**Kaia Forget
Lennon Moore**

**Hablado de la Salud de la Mujer
Saturday, August 9th**

**Ayme Smith
Todd Ruopp
Roberto Cancel
Mercedes Bermego**



Pat Duggins
WMFE
Moderator



School Board Candidates—District 4 and District 7



Craig Evans (center)
and audience

Orange County School Board Candidate Forum
Howard Middle School ~ July 28, 2008

Thanks to all who made this event possible:

Pat Duggins, WMFE, Moderator

Bill Suchy, Orange TV

Kaia Forget, LWVOC Education Chair

Scott Evans, Director

Orange County Arts Education Center

Craig Evans, Executive Director,

Foundation for Orange County Public Schools, Inc.

Rick Stout, LWVOC Tech Support A-Team

Yvonne Opfell, Official Timer

Todd Ruopp, LWVOC Board Member



Todd
Ruopp



Scott Evans, O.C. Arts
Craig Evans
Foundation for OCPS, Inc.



Laura Turner, Yvonne Opfell
Charley Williams, Voter Services
Kaia Forget, Education Chair



Fern Hurt & Jean Lawton



Yvonne Opfell
Timekeeper

Kaia Forget
Pat Duggins,
Moderator

Congressional District 8 Candidate Forum

**Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Orange County and
the Lake Formosa Neighborhood Association**

Approximately 60 persons and 6 candidates attended the forum at
Howard Middle School auditorium; **Representative Ric Keller** sent regrets.

Many Thanks to these Volunteers who made the August 5 event a Success!

Scott Harris, Central Florida News 13, Moderator

Bill Suchy, Orange TV

Gordon Spears, Vice President,
Lake Formosa Neighborhood Association

Charley Williams, LWVOC Voters Services Chair

Laura Turner, LWVOC

Rick Stout, A/V Tech/ LWVOC member

Yvonne Opfell, LWVOC Official Timer

Laurie Wack, LWVOC

Adopt-A-Precinct Co-Chair

Tracy Richardson, Local 6 TV

Kathy Pierson, Massey Communications



Group 22 Candidates
John Crotty, Fred Schott & Jim Turner

Left to Right:
Group 15
Brad Conway
Hon. Deborah Ansbro



Group 16
Hon. Mark Wixtrom
Ken Barlow



Jami Gentry
Patti Wismer
Kimberly Triplett

Sellout Attendance!
HOT TOPICS LUNCHEON
August 13, 2008
at Sorosis Club

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES FORUM
Scott Maxwell, Moderator
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Thanks to Bob Wesley, LWV OC Member and Program Coordinator
Yvonne Opfell, Timer, Rick Stout, A/V tech/LWVOC Member
Bill Suchy, Orange TV