



The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE PENSACOLA BAY AREA

Volume 58, Issue 8
April 2009

National Popular Vote Compact Study Presentation



**League members to consider
study questions on popular vote
for US president.
Saturday, April 18, 2009**

Coffee and Program start at 9:00 am
(Please note coffee and program start at 9:am.)
Institute of Human & Machine Cognition (IHMC)
40 S. Alcaniz St, Pensacola.

Leaders: NPV Study Committee members

The League has a long-standing position in support of the direct election of the president by popular vote. Now, League members have the opportunity to consider whether to support the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) as a viable process to achieve that result. The NPV Compact would avoid the need for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College (EC), and would assure that the individual receiving the most votes would become president.

NPV study committee members are Kathy Kerr, chair, Dr. Don Freeman, Elizabeth King, Gloria Dawson, Betty Enfinger and Vivian Faircloth.

Note: Additional information about the NPV Compact Study, is found on pages 7-9 and at www.lwvpba.org and www.lwv.org. »

Annual Meeting Saturday, May 2, 2009

Please attend and participate in the important decisions to be made.

New World Landing
(600 S. Palafox Street)

Registration 10:00 am - business meeting
10:15 am - buffet lunch at noon
Speaker: Dr. Carol Malt

"Women in the Muslim World"

Reservations are due by April 27. Send your check, payable to LWVPBA, P.O. Box 2023, Pensacola Florida 32513. E-mail: Bettyenfinger@cox.net or 932-3077 for

further information. The registration form is found on page 10.



Dr. Carol Malt has traveled and lived in the Middle East since the 1960's, sometimes as a tourist, other times a teacher and adjunct professor, researcher and Fulbright scholar or an expert witness. She has been a museum consultant and evaluator, as well as a co-founder or executive director of museums in Switzerland, Miami area, Georgia and

Pensacola. She has written numerous books on the subject of museums, women and empowerment. She has made friendships with other women abroad that continue today. Her extensive experience with women in the Muslim world give her rare insight, which she will share with us at the Annual Meeting luncheon. »

President's Message



This month the League participated in Escambia County's growth management process by reviewing and commenting on the Comprehensive Plan proposed for future

implementation. We are encouraged by Escambia's move towards smart, sustainable growth oversight, and are hoping the more promising elements of the Plan make it to the final implementation stages unscathed.

We remain concerned, however, about reports of politically-based efforts to dismantle Florida's Department of Community Affairs. The DCA comes up for "sunset review" this year, and the vultures are already circling. Legislators must write, and then pass, a bill to keep DCA alive – otherwise the agency will be decommissioned and its functions passed off to the Department of State and other agencies.

With developers free to run rampant in Florida's fragile ecosystems and natural resources, the impact on our environment, ecology and communities, statewide, could be irreversibly damaging for generations of Floridians. We will be keeping a close eye on developments in this year's Legislative session.

In the meantime, it would be a good idea to contact your legislative representatives and let them know how you feel about the possible disappearance of DCA and its growth management oversight.

Growth management is an inherently politicized issue. We can all be proud of the great work our Natural Resources Committee has done on the grueling task of monitoring and keeping straight Escambia's complex Comp Plan information. League members have been a fixture at Plan meetings thorough the years; as such, they have preserved a storehouse of community institutional knowledge, and created a civic continuity that perhaps might not exist without their efforts.

Nobody has been more involved in this process than former Escambia Commissioner Muriel Wagner.

Muriel has worked on the Comp Plan process since it began a number of years ago. She brings a wealth of expertise to the table, including seven years experience in Escambia's Board of Adjustments.

Muriel recently offered some background on that process, as well as some commentary, which follows:

"Counties all over Florida are periodically required to update their Comprehensive Plans. This process is called **Evaluation and Appraisal (EAR)**. For those who are new to the subject, our League has been actively involved in Comprehensive Planning for many years.

The process has taken us throughout the state, and encompasses a wealth of League history.

One of our members commented at nearly 40 different meetings of the Escambia County Board of Commissioners and we still have the tapes and records of that experience. Our members traveled to Tallahassee so many times that we knew exactly where to find hidden parking spots. We let our voices be heard on this particular document, as it traveled to an administrative hearing and then to a final settlement before the governor and cabinet.

The comprehensive plan is the basic document under which development occurs. Muriel calls it "The Skeleton." The Plan is made up of broad-ranging elements, and more specific goals and objectives (goals, objectives and policies, or "GOPs").

The comprehensive plan is the basic document under which development occurs. Muriel calls it "The Skeleton." The Plan is made up of broad-ranging elements, and more specific goals and objectives (goals, objectives and policies, or "GOPs"). Policies are more specific means to achieve broader goals.

Escambia County is currently working on revisions to the plan to be submitted as EAR-based amendments. Those documents are available to any League member who would like to review them. In them you will find elements carried over from the existing plan, while some are new (and they are clearly labeled as NEW).

After the Plan is approved, a set of county Land Development Codes (LDCs) are drawn up, based on the GOPs. The specificity of the GOPs enables decision-makers to use it in reviewing and approving plans. So, when a request is made for code enforcement officers to make a decision, the LDC offers solid guidelines on which that decision is made.

See President's Message on page 3.

President's Message continued from page 2.

When a resident wants to build a structure there is a readable document to which they can refer.

As newcomers and businesses look Escambia County over, wouldn't it be wonderful for them to see growth and development patterns that are well-planned and organized?

If we pass a Comprehensive Plan that emphasizes smart, sustainable growth management, we can help make that a reality. Now is the time for everyone to become more acquainted with the nuts and bolts of growth management. Take part by reviewing portions of the new or existing documents and urge your commissioners to pass a Comprehensive Plan that works for us, and for Escambia's future generations.

In the '80s and '90s, after much debate and discussion, an unfavorable plan from Escambia County was placed into an Administrative Procedure, something like a court hearing, before an administrative judge. Let's all help make sure that doesn't happen again.

This is the time for everyone to make their voices heard by each County Commissioner and in public meetings. >>

Deborah, 449-1746



**News from the
National League**

National League at work:

- Urged Senators to Support Strong Health Care Legislation - The League sent a letter to Senators urging them to support strong and effective health care legislation.
- Applauded Obama on Executive Order on Ethics - The League and coalition partners voiced their support for President Obama's new executive order aimed at slowing down the "revolving door" for Washington lobbyists.
- Urged Congress to Fully Fund HAVA - The League, with coalition partners, sent a letter to members of Congress urging them to fully fund the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).
- Commented on Failure to Protect and Encourage Voter Registration - League President Mary Wilson sent a letter to Senate Rules committee Chair Charles Schumer regarding a number of voter registration concerns.
- **League of Women Voters is a 2010 Census National Partner**

"The 2010 Census is an enormously important government effort that sets out to count all Americans," said Mary G Wilson, national President of the League of Women Voters. "The League is joining this effort as a national partner to enable our local, grassroots members to help achieve this goal."

"We join with the U.S. Census Bureau and other organizations in emphasizing the importance of every single resident being counted in the community in which they live," Wilson stated. "Many Americans may not be aware of how important Census data is to almost every aspect of their lives. This data is used as the basis for most federal funding to states and communities as well as for determining the number of representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives and to state legislatures. Since Leagues around the country are well-known and trusted sources of civic information, they can play an important role in educating the public that the 2010 Census is important, easy, and fair."

For more information, visit www.lwv.org.

State League in action:

- Met with The Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy and other groups to discuss the raising of revenues that the Legislature could address.
 - Joined Common Cause, FPIRG, and ACLU in a meeting with Secretary of State Browning to discuss elections legislation he will present this session.
 - At the request of counsel in the 3rd party voter registration lawsuit, signed on to a letter to Secretary of State Browning concerning interpretation of the law.
 - Joined with the Advancement Project and other like minded groups to send a letter to Secretary Browning with suggestions for enhancing election procedures.
- For more information, visit www.lwvfla.org*

Calendar

April

- 2 Thursday, 4:00 pm, **Education Committee** celebration at Azalea Trace, Contact Barbara Goggins for information 478-2953.
- 7 Tuesday, 5:30 pm **Board Meeting** at Tryon Branch Library, 9th Ave. Members are welcome.
- 9 Thursday, 10 am, **NPV study committee**, Azalea Trace, 3rd floor card room. For information: 477-6626

General Meeting

National Popular Vote Compact Study Presentation



The Saturday April 18th meeting at the Institute of Human & Machine Cognition (IHMC) will begin at 9:00 am

with light refreshments while we talk.

Leaders: NPV Study Committee members

- 18 Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm EarthDay Pensacola 2009 at Bayview Park
- 20 Monday, 10 am **International Relations Committee**. Azalea Trace, Chaplain Larry Mosley will lead the **Great Decisions** discussion on "*Human rights in a new era: wars for peace?*" As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebrates its 60th anniversary, events in the Balkans, Sudan and Myanmar continue to challenge its idealism, while raising new questions about the prospects for humanitarian interventions. Do human rights transcend national borders and customs? Is the definition of human rights changing? Contact Gene Feicht at 479-3352 for information.
- 21 Tuesday, 5:30 pm **Natural Resources/Growth Management Committee** meeting at Caldwell and Associates Architects Inc.; contact Mary Gutierrez, gutmry@cox.net
- 21 Tuesday 11:30 am **Social Policy Committee** to discuss domestic violence, meeting place TBA Contact Dr. Paula Montgomery, 438-8891 for details.

May

- 2 Saturday 10:00 am Registration for **Annual Meeting**
- 5 Tuesday, 5:30 pm **Board Meeting** at Tryon Branch Library, 9th Ave. Members are welcome.

- 15-17 Friday -Sunday, **LWV Florida/Ed Fund Convention 2009** in Jacksonville, Hyatt Hotel. (Early bird registration deadline is April 20).
- 18 Monday, 10:00 am **International Relations Committee** meeting at Azalea Trace. Admiral Skip Furlong will lead the discussion on *Energy and the Global Economy*. Rising energy prices, driven by instability in key producing regions such as the Middle East and increasing demand from developing countries, are affecting the global economy. What are the potential consequences of huge wealth transfers to oil-exporting states? Are there any realistic alternative energy scenarios on the horizon? Contact Gene Feicht at 479-3352 for information.

City of Pensacola Charter Update

by Sharon Barnett

The charge and the current charter proposals are on the City website. To read Pensacola's charter or find out more about the Charter Review Commission's charge, visit their website at www.pensacolacharter.com

Yardstick for Good Local Government

(Position originally established in 1969;
to be re-adopted at the Annual Meeting.)

1. representative policy-making body of widely proportions elected by voters with home rule powers;
2. single administrative head or manager chosen by commission (council) and accountable to it to effectively administer county services and implement policy;
3. choice of professional department heads by the administrator;
4. flexibility in administrative structure to allow adjustment to changing local needs and conditions;
5. modern procedures for fiscal and personnel management and for planning;
6. public services of acceptable quality at reasonable cost, and without overlapping or duplication of services;
7. adequate and equitable revenue sources with service taxes in proportion to services required;
8. authority to cooperate with other governments and non-governmental agencies;
9. unified system of courts;
10. merit system for civil service.

Proposed Slate of Officers & Directors for 2009-2010

Officers:

President	Deborah Nelson	2009-2010
1 st Vice Pres.	Susan Metzger	2009-2010
2 nd Vice Pres.	Rosemary Hays-Thomas	2009-2011
Secretary	Haley Richards (unexpired term)	2008-2010
Treasurer	Marilyn Badessa	2009-2011

Directors:

Paula Montgomery	2008-2010 (unexpired term)
Dian Parsley	2009-2011
Ellen Roston	2009-2011
Mary Bishop	2009-2011

Nominating Committee

Vivian Faircloth, chair
Charlotte Schipman
Laurie McBee

Respectfully submitted by:

Rosemary Hays-Thomas, chair
Janet delorge, Carolyn Kolb
Betty Enfinger and Susan Metzger

Returning Board Members:

Directors:

Mary Gutierrez	2008-2010
Kathy Kerr	2008-2010

Proposed Bylaws Changes

The bylaws committee proposes no changes this year.

Ellen Roston, chair
Vivian Faircloth

Proposed Local Program 2009-2010

The Recommended Local Program items for study and/or action are:

1. Continue to review and update the Solid Waste and Garbage Collection positions.
2. Continue to review and update Port of Pensacola positions.
3. Monitor the issue of consolidation for Escambia County.
4. Support curbside recycling of ~~reusable~~ appropriate materials. [Underline denotes word to be added. ~~Strikeout~~ denotes word to be deleted. See position statement #3 in **Solid Waste**.]

Proposed Budget 2009-2010

	<u>FY 08-09</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>FY 09-10</u> <u>Budget</u>
Receipts:		
Dues	\$6,500	\$6,625
Member Contribution	1,000	1,000
Non-member Contributions	0	0
Fundraiser	200	225
Publications	400	400
Annual Meeting	1,200	1,000
Miscellaneous Income	250	50
Interest	150	100
Guide to Elected Officials	0	1,000
Grants	900	1,125
Workshops/forums	0	100
From Reserves	<u>2,140</u>	<u>1,273</u>
Total Income	\$12,740	\$12,898

Disbursements:

<i>Operational Costs</i>		
Supplies	50	50
Postage	50	50
PO Box Rental	40	50
Bulk Mailing Permit	175	185
Insurance/Filing/Sol	375	375
Meeting Room Fees	0	50

Board and Administration

President Expenses	50	50
Board Expenses	50	50
Annual Meeting	1,200	1,000
Member Services	150	350
Committees	50	50

Delegate Travel/Affiliation

Florida Convention/Council	450	675
US Convention/Council	1,000	0
Legislative Seminar	420	420

Financial Support of League

State PMP	1,690	1,742
National PMP	3,625	3,901
Lobby Fund Drive	400	400

Voter

Printing	850	850
Bulk Mailing	400	350

Program

Publications	400	400
Voter Service	100	100
Guide to Elected Officials	0	1,000
NR/GM Brochure	500	0
Study Material	50	50
Action	100	100
Telephone	450	450
Website	100	100
Workshop/Forums	<u>0</u>	<u>100</u>
Total Expenditures	\$12,740	\$12,898

Submitted by the Budget Committee:

Fay Walker, chair
Hill Holbrook, Vivian Faircloth
Marilyn Badessa, (ex-officio)

Earth Day Pensacola 2009

Saturday, April 18th, 10am - 5pm

Bayview Park - East Hill



In an effort to combine the arts with the celebration of the Earth, *Earthday Pensacola* has accepted outdoor sculptures made from anything reused. Sculptures will be displayed at the Earth Day Festival at Bayview Park on April 18, 2009. Five sculptures made from reused materials will be chosen and displayed at the festival at Bayview Park.

The League booth is number 76. To volunteer to attend the booth, leave a message for Bonnie Yaste at 449-3029 or contact

Natural Resource chair, Mary Gutierrez at gutmry@cox.net. »

Social Policy Committee Report

by Dr. Paula Montgomery, 438-8891

The Social Policy Committee is focusing on the topic of Domestic Violence. This turns out to be a complex criminal problem with deep roots in the social and cultural attitudes prevalent in the United States and in our local Florida counties. In September we hope to have a program which will shed some light on how domestic violence is handled locally; how that process is being improved; what some of the roadblocks are to that improvement; and ways in which the League, or we as individuals, can assist in making things better. We also will have the inspiration of a local group which is engaged in primary prevention through education and mentoring.

The LWVPBA continues to support the National League Position, which promotes public and private development and coordination of programs that emphasize primary prevention, the active role of government and social institutions in preventing violent behavior, and the allocation of public monies in government programs to prevent violence.

In 2003 we had a program on the topic of domestic violence, which focused on the services available to the victims. This is no less important today. We have an opportunity in May to support Favor House, our local shelter for victims of domestic violence, by attending their annual fundraiser, the White Rose luncheon on May 8th. If you are interested in attending with other League members, please contact Paula Montgomery at 438-8891. If there is sufficient interest, we will purchase a table.

Environmental Symposium

April 22 from 4 to 6 p.m.

University Commons Auditorium.

The University of West Florida will host an **Environmental Symposium** as part of this year's Earth Day Pensacola celebrations. Admission is free and open to the public. The Environmental Symposium is in addition to the Earth Day Pensacola Festival.



Earth Day Pensacola's mission is to bring together the community with local, state, and federal agencies, environmental and educational nonprofits, and local businesses, to take stock of the remaining resources of Mother Earth, to evaluate progress made during the past year in conserving and enhancing the health of the environment, and to set goals for the future of our Planet Earth.

The symposium at UWF is titled "Climate Change, Facts and Opinions" This year the symposium will feature a panel discussion on climate change by professionals from a variety of fields. The symposium will be held in a town hall meeting style; the public is welcome and encouraged to attend and participate. For more information contact Mary Gutierrez at gutmry@cox.net. »

Education Study Report

Sandy Edwards, Director of Comprehensive Planning for Escambia schools, joined Education Committee chair Barbara Goggins, to discuss the impact of the retention of third grade students in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. Ms. Edwards gave the large number of League members attending, an overview of the legislation related to third graders. She said the focus of the federal No Child Left Behind legislation focused on higher achievement and higher expectations - a child needs to achieve required reading skills by the third grade or face retention. The Florida A+ Plan focuses on student achievement through Sunshine State standards. Teachers are asked to focus on Sunshine State standards, then develop the curriculum around the standards.

The local Education Committee members completed their research on this aspect of the federal legislation, No Child Left Behind, and asked Leaguers to consider a consensus question at the monthly meeting in March. The board will determine the consensus results at the April board meeting, with a complete report of this important study to be included in the May Voter.

The Education Committee members are to be commended for all their efforts in this time-consuming study. Barbara Goggins, thanked her committee members - Marge Anderson, Nancy Lake, Gene Pettis, Charlotte Schipman and Pam Schwartz - with a well earned celebration.

National Popular Vote Compact Papers

Background Material

by Dr. Donald Freeman

The NPV Inter-State Compact is an effort to "reform" the Electoral College without amending the Constitution.

Two provisions of the Constitution make such a strategy **possible**.

Article II, Section 1, Clause 2 leaves the method of choosing electors up to the State Legislature in each state. Each State receives a number of Electors equal to the total of its representation in the House and in the Senate.

Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 forbids the States to enter into any treaty, compact, or agreement without the consent of Congress. This clause comes at the end of a long list of powers the States are denied in the Constitution. Interstate Compacts (or Agreements) were rarely used in the 19th century -- they have been used more often in the last 70 years, often with advanced approval by Congress to encourage the States to cooperate with one another to manage resources or solve problems.

The proposed *NPV Inter-State Compact* has been drafted in the form of five articles which the States and the District of Columbia have been asked to approve. Essentially, it asks

- (1) every state to conduct a presidential election by popular vote;
- (2) that the certifying authority in each state publish its total popular vote in a timely manner; and
- (3) that every member state agree to cast all of its electoral vote for the candidates for President and Vice President who win the national popular vote ***even if the national popular vote winner was not the state's popular vote winner.***

States are not required to cast their electoral votes for the national popular vote winner until the Compact member states have, collectively, 270 electoral votes (the current number required to elect the President and Vice President).

As of September, 2008 Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland and New Jersey had adopted the NPV Compact with a total of 50 electoral votes. It passed both houses in California and was vetoed. It is pending in New York and New Mexico. Efforts to repeal the NPV compact are underway in Maryland and New Jersey.

The single goal of the NPV Compact is that the popular vote winners will become President and Vice President.

[The complete White Paper on the Electoral College by Dr. Don Freeman originally published in the February 2001 Voter, may be read at the local website, www.lwvpba.org.] »

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

Opposition to the National Popular Vote Compact

There is little respect for the Electoral College (EC). The League opposes it and most voters want a direct popular vote. But is the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) an appropriate way to achieve that result?

Evaluating Fairness - Voters supporting the candidate who receives the majority of votes in their state want their state's electors to support their choice. Adoption of the NPV Compact may require a state elections official to direct its state's electors to cast their ballots in support of a candidate who was not favored by the voters of that state.

Passage of the NPV Compact will result in the emphasis of presidential campaigns shifting from the battleground states to areas of large concentrations of population. So, while some voters are disenfranchised by the EC, others might be disenfranchised by the NPV Compact. Because the Compact requires entry into a contract with other states, which binds state elections officials to direct electors to vote in a certain way, regardless of the outcome of the election in their state, states' rights are diminished.

In addition, one can question the advisability of a method that bypasses the normal constitutional amendment process in this manner.

Constitutional Issues - Many constitutional scholars argue that this plan will lead to extensive litigation involving challenges to the NPV Compact on issues such as the scope of constitutional powers, the Compact itself, the need for congressional approval, the concerns of non-compacting states, and constitutional protections of state interests and their role in elections.

Mechanical Issues/Flaws - The methods for enforcement of this plan are unclear. Opponents question the power and timing to withdraw from the Compact and the power to enforce compliance.

Others express concern about an onslaught of lawsuits between compacting and non-compacting states, as well as procedures in close elections.

The plan, allowing the election of a president by a plurality of votes, does not improve on the current system; neither the present system nor the NPV Compact requires that the president be elected by a majority.

Other Issues - The Voting Rights Act requires pre-clearance for legislative changes. This, too, has the capacity to engender lawsuits to ensure compliance.

League Issues - This proposal does nothing to achieve the goal of uniform standards of voting. The NPV Compact is effective when passed by states representing 270 electoral votes, effectively negating the impact on presidential elections of the voters in states which represent the other half of electoral votes. A system which assures no voter disenfranchisement is a better way to assure that every person's vote counts.

The League has long supported the abolition of the EC. Although the NPV Compact purports to foster the same result, it creates additional concerns. Amending the U.S. Constitution is a difficult process, and we should seriously consider supporting the normal amendment procedures to abolish the EC versus this specific "work-around." »

Support for the National Popular Vote Compact

Because the League already supports direct election of the president, arguments against the Electoral College (EC) are not included in the material supporting the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact).

Constitutional Issues - The NPV Compact is a way to assure that every person's vote counts equally and that the person receiving the most votes is the winner of the presidency. The same result would be achieved by constitutional amendment, but the U.S. Constitution is difficult to amend. The NPV Compact is a viable way to attain the same goal as amending the Constitution to eliminate the EC.

A constitutional amendment is not needed to effectuate the NPV Compact because states already have the right to implement changes in how electors are appointed.

The NPV Compact is a compact between states—a method of concerted state action that has long been sanctioned by the Constitution and the courts.

Evaluating Fairness - A candidate can be elected president by receiving the most electoral votes even though he or she did not receive the most popular votes. This is not a result voters expect or desire. As election campaigns are now waged, major emphasis and resources are concentrated in key EC battleground states because that is where elections are won or lost. The NPV Compact would eliminate the emphasis on battleground states and would be more apt to assure campaign strategies that appeal to a broad spectrum of the electorate which would foster greater voter participation.

The argument that the plan would negatively impact states' rights is countered by poll results showing that most voters want their individual vote to count, rather than allotting them to electors representing the state as a whole.

Any claim that the NPV Compact is an unprecedented disregard for the U.S. Constitution ignores the reality that voting rights have been changed through state action many times. Women's suffrage, for example, was instituted by twenty states before passage of the constitutional amendment that made the right universal.

Mechanical Considerations - Those opposed to the NPV Compact cite mechanical issues that might lead the NPV to fail, but the Compact includes provisions that address issues of enforcement, winning levels and recounts.

Other Issues - The Voting Rights Act and the NPV Compact are in harmony, assuring equality of votes throughout the United States.

League Issues - Opponents say that the NPV Compact conflicts with the League's support of uniform voting standards. Supporters of the Compact advocate its passage in all states, which would result in uniform voting standards. It is true that the NPV Compact could be in effect for an interlude when not all states had signed on to it. The same could be demonstrated for other laws, such as the Equal Rights Amendment. Nonetheless, it must be remembered that uniform voting standards are not now in effect. The NPV Compact could help assure that every vote would be counted equally.

Further, implementation of a method which assures direct election of the president by popular vote is in keeping with the League's long-held position. »

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of the Pensacola Bay Area. Published with funds from the League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund – Marjorie M. Hart Memorial Fund.

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Consensus Questions Amending the Constitution

1. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- A. Action to alter a basic element of the Constitutional framework, which is achievable by amendment to the Constitution, should be accomplished by amendment to the Constitution.
- B. Action by states through a compact process is an acceptable way to alter the method for electing the President and Vice-President.
- C. The group could not reach consensus.

2. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- A. Because a compact has never before been used to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the chance that it might set a precedent for the future leads to the conclusion that it is better that the League continue to work for an amendment to the Constitution to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College.
- B. Despite the novelty of the use of the compact approach to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the League should support the NPV Compact as a way of achieving an important goal.
- C. The group could not reach consensus.

Congressional Consent

3. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- A. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is not of sufficient concern to block the implementation of the plan.
- B. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is sufficient to conclude that the plan should not be implemented without obtaining such consent.
- C. The group could not reach consensus.

Enforcement

4. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- A. The NPV Compact contains sufficient enforcement provisions to assure smooth operation of the plan.
- B. Although it is not possible to determine whether the enforcement provisions will be sufficient to assure smooth operation of the plan, the plan should be passed anyway.
- C. Enforcement of the plan is likely to add uncertainty and bring the courts into the presidential election in ways that raise substantial concerns.
- D. The lack of adequate enforcement provisions is sufficient to conclude that the NPV is not a viable plan.
- E. The group could not reach consensus.

Uniformity

5. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- A. The uniformity of voting systems is more important to American democracy than the possibility that the NPV Compact can be adopted.
- B. The NPV Compact is more important than uniformity of voting systems because it would succeed in achieving the popular election of the President.
- C. The group could not reach consensus.

Popular Election of the President

6. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- A. It is more important to achieve the goal of national popular election of the President than it is to achieve the goal of abolition of the electoral college.
- B. It is more important to amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College than it is to achieve the goal of popular election of the President by alternative methods, such as the NPV Compact.
- C. The group could not reach consensus.

Achievability

7. Which statements reflect the views of the group?

- The NPV Compact will have problems being passed because of the need for congressional consideration and the need for action by so many states.
Agree Disagree No Consensus
- A constitutional amendment to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College will continue to have problems being passed.
Agree Disagree No Consensus



Additional information about the NPV Compact Study, including pros/cons and links to additional resources (such as the text of the NPV Compact and suggested resources), can be found at lwv.org or lwpbba.org.

Reaching Member Agreement by Consensus

It is essential that members become informed before being asked to make decisions on the issue under consideration. This is what makes League action on that issue uniquely credible and respected.

Participate in the process of “study and action”.

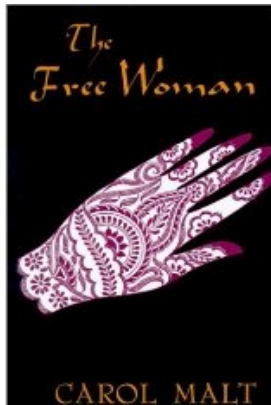
Annual Meeting

New World Landing, Pensacola
Saturday, May 2, 2009
Registration 10:00 am ✧ Business Meeting 10:15

Luncheon Speaker: Dr. Carol Malt

"Women in the Muslim World"

Buffet:	\$15	_____
Individual dues:	\$50	_____
Additional member:	\$25	_____
Contribution	\$	_____
Ed Fund Contribution	\$	_____
Total	\$	_____



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