



October, 2010

Hello, Everyone,

Early Voting has begun and runs through October 31. Please get out and vote and encourage your friends, neighbors and relatives to do the same.

This is a critical election year for Florida - please visit our website to learn about the Amendments and the candidates. We have been running in the Sun newspaper, responses to questions posed to candidates as another means to help you vote this election year.

However, there is one critical "yes" vote that I urge you to cast on Amendments 5 & 6 which will end political gerrymandering in Florida.

Every 10 years Tallahassee politicians use the redistricting process to draw safe seats for themselves and their political allies.

The FL Constitution currently contains no rules or standards to guard against this political conflict of interest, leaving politicians free to rig districts for their own political protection. In the last 3 elections, with 420 state legislative seats up for election, only 3 incumbents were defeated.

Regardless of the political party that controls legislative and congressional districting, this political maneuvering must stop. Amendments 5 and 6 will create rules in the FL constitution to stop politicians from selfishly drawing districts that guarantee they can't lose.

You wouldn't play a game if you knew the rules were stacked against you. But thanks to the way Tallahassee politicians rig their districts, elections get decided long before you show up to vote. Think about House District 78 that includes parts of **4 counties and divided by Lake Okeechobee** - all to ensure a certain political outcome.

Please vote "**yes**" on **Amendments 5 and 6** and encourage anyone you know to do the same. Let's restore democracy by allowing voters to choose their representatives instead of representatives choosing their voters! Thanks for all that you do!

Teresa M. Jenkins
President
League of Women Voters of Charlotte County
www.lwvccfl.com
941 916-9021