

## Observer Corps

League of Women Voters of Lee County Observer Corps Procedures (Rev 11/16)

### What is the LWV Observer Corps?

- A structured way for individuals to exercise their right to know and to promote government transparency and accountability.
- LWV Observers attend meetings to gather information. Through the process, their presence encourages better, more transparent government.
- A LWV observer is an individual who attends a governmental meeting, notes what happens at the meeting, and reports back to the League and through the League to the community.
- Observers help to ensure that citizens are aware of government decisions that impact their lives. They help ensure that government is handling issues “in the sunshine,” in the open.
- Observers keep elected and appointed officials on notice; they let them know that someone is watching what decisions are being made and how they are being made. Ensuring that government meetings are conducted in an open and acceptable way is critical to all of the League’s efforts and the health of our democracy.
- Observer programs are not vehicles for individuals to work personal or partisan agendas.
- Observers generally do not “act” or speak on issues in meetings unless serving as a designated spokesperson for the League. Observers should not provide commentary or testimony on issues on behalf of the League. (from LWVUS #36)

### LWVLCF Observer Corps Procedures

- Sign up to observe. LWVLCF Members should send email to [observercorp@lwvlee.org](mailto:observercorp@lwvlee.org) with name, email address, phone number, and government meetings they wish to attend on behalf of LWVLCF.
- Attend government meetings as LWVLCF observer
  - Wear LWV button where visible.
  - Observe and take notes.
  - Pick up any handouts available.
  - Do not make comments/speak while wearing a LWV button (This connotes that the League of Women Voters is speaking.) Only the LWVLCF President or her/his designee may speak for the League.
- Report to LWVLCF. Send email to [observercorp@lwvlee.org](mailto:observercorp@lwvlee.org) about the meeting attended. Highlight issues important to LWVLCF. In addition, you may want to report at a LWVLCF meeting. NOTE: LWVLCF may use this information to notify our members, the public and/or to take action.
- HAVE FUN!!!

### League of Women Voters (LWV) Issues and Programs

- Impact on Issues LWVUS public policy positions and LWV Principles. <http://lwv.org/content/impact-issues-online-edition>
- *Study and Action*. LWV Florida Public Policy Positions [http://thefloridavoter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2015\\_17\\_Study-Action-Book-FINAL.pdf](http://thefloridavoter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2015_17_Study-Action-Book-FINAL.pdf)
- League of Women Voters Lee County [www.lwvlee.org](http://www.lwvlee.org)