



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, INC.  
AND  
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY EDUCATION FUND, INC.**

***2008-2009 Annual Meeting***

**Keynote Speaker**

**HON. CARLOS ALVAREZ  
Mayor, Miami-Dade County**

***“Are We Election Ready?”***

**Installation Ceremony by  
THE HONORABLE PATRICIA A. SEITZ  
*U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Florida***

**Wednesday, June 25, 2008**

Reception: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Annual Meeting: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Coral Reef Yacht Club**  
2484 South Bayshore Drive, Coconut Grove



May 20, 2008

Dear League Members and Friends,

As we come to the end of the first half of my term as your president, I wanted to extend a warm invitation to you to come to our Annual Meeting, an event you do not want to miss. Enclosed please find the Agenda and program materials for your perusal.

The League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County is proud to hold this meeting at a time of great political significance in our country – a presidential election this fall, the advent of new voting equipment, which will be displayed at our meeting, an unprecedented number of first-time voters, have all created high expectations in the minds of the electorate. Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez will deliver the keynote address precisely on this topic: Are We Election Ready? Many of us still remember the aftermath of the presidential election fiasco of 2000, compounded with voting rights constantly being challenged, the suspicion of voter fraud still lingers.

Our League has been active on several fronts, at the national, state and local levels. We completed a national study and reached consensus on Immigration Reform, at the state level we actively participated and testified before the Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, and the proposed constitutional amendments will appear on the November ballot. We will provide more information on the impact of these changes.

According to national public opinion polls, the League of Women Voters is the most trusted not for profit organization in America. As such, our local chapters are often called upon to convene community issue forums, host candidate debates, as well as register and mobilize people to vote. This year our League joined forces with several civic organizations to promote reform and increase awareness. We held forums on affordable housing, ethics in government, urban growth and juvenile justice.

The League works tirelessly to increase voter understanding of major public policy issues through education and advocacy but most of all, we need you, our members to be active and participate in our programs. I invite you to join me in the field and not sit on the sidelines. Remember, democracy is not a spectator sport.

With your continued support, I am deeply committed to make the second half of my term as your president a more spectacular year.

Sincerely,  
*Annie Betancourt*

# 2008-2009 *Annual Meeting*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2008

## AGENDA

Welcome..... Susan Windmiller, *Mistress of Ceremonies*

Introduction of Keynote Speaker..... Annie Betancourt, *President*

*The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County*

Call Meeting to Order ..... Annie Betancourt, *President*

Adoption of Agenda.....Dannie McMillon, *Parliamentarian*

Approval of 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes ..... Michael Anderson, *Secretary*

Committee Reports

Finance and Budget Committee

Treasurer’s Report.....Sherry Ulsh, *Treasurer*

Adoption of Budget..... Gigi Pardo, *Budget Chair*

Education Fund Treasurer’s Report .....Sherry Ulsh, *Treasurer*

Education Fund – Adoption of Budget..... Gigi Pardo, *Budget Chair*

Local Program - Consideration & Adoption ..... Terry Coble, *Program Chair*

Nominating Committee .....Dorrit Marks, *Committee Chair*

“State of the League”..... Annie Betancourt, *President*

Election/Installation of

Officers & Elected Directors ..... *The Honorable Patricia A. Seitz*

*U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Florida*

Adjournment of Business Meeting .....Dannie McMillon, *Parliamentarian*

Closing..... Susan Windmiller, *Emcee*

League of Women Voters, Miami-Dade County  
***2008-2009 Annual Meeting***

MINUTES  
JUNE 12, 2007

**Business Meeting**

- I. Michael Anderson, Emcee, welcomed everyone to the Coral Reef Yacht Club. The 2007 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County was called to order by President Judy Cannon at 6:45 pm. President Cannon welcomed everyone and appointed Gigi Pardo, Parliamentarian, as the meeting official.
- II. Gigi Pardo, Parliamentarian, called for an adoption of the Agenda. The Agenda was adopted as printed.
- III. Secretary Michael Anderson called for approval of the 2006 Annual meeting minutes.
- IV. Sherry Ulsh, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report and reported that as of May 31, 2007 we have a surplus of \$429.00 in our operating account. Sherry reported that dues were increased by \$5.00 because of national dues increases, which have to be covered in our local budget.
- V. Gigi Pardo, Budget Chair, presented the Annual Budget to the membership for approval and called for adoption of the budget. The budget report was approved.
- VI. Sherry Ulsh, Treasurer, presented the LWV Miami-Dade Education Fund Treasurer's Report and reported that as of May 31, 2007 we have a surplus of \$10,443.00 in the Education Fund.
- VII. Gigi Pardo, Budget Chair, presented the Education Fund Annual Budget to the membership for approval and called for adoption of the budget. The budget report was approved.
- VIII. Committee Reports:
  - A. Bylaws Committee - Sherry Ulsh, By-laws Committee Chair, presented the draft of the revised bylaws for approval. The bylaws were approved as drafted.
  - B. Program, Study & Action Committee - Terry Coble, Local Program Chair, presented the local program for consideration and adoption. The program was amended and adopted.
  - C. Nominating Committee – Michael Anderson presented the report of the nominating committee on the behalf of Donna Ginn, Nominating Committee Chair.

- IX. State of the League – The State of the League was presented by President Judy Cannon.
- X. Election/Installation of Board Members:  
The Board Members were sworn in by the Hon. Harvey Ruvin, Clerk, Miami-Dade County. Annie Betancourt, President, presented the appointed Board Members.
- XI. The Annual Awards were presented by Judy Cannon, Past President:
- The Margie Rankin Award was presented to Terry Coble, for her outstanding commitment and service to the League Board and Membership.
  - The Joanne Hayes 2004 Democracy and Mentoring Award were presented to Cathy Lynch for her outstanding leadership, service to the Miami-Dade community, and commitment to Democracy and Mentoring. Joanne Santivaschi, former mentee of Cathy Lynch from Miami Children’s Hospital, accepted the award on Cathy Lynch’s behalf.
  - President’s Appreciation and Recognition were presented to Carol Von Arx for coordination of the Housing Crisis in Miami-Dade Panel; Charles Bens and Joseph Keefe for the Academy for Civic Responsibility workshop pilot in Homestead; Angela Gittens, Anne Lee, Terry Coble, and Annie Betancourt for coordination of the Liberty Circle; and Debbie Curtin for her management of the League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade website, [www.lwvmiamidade.org](http://www.lwvmiamidade.org).
- XII. The Business Meeting was adjourned.
- XIII. Past President Judy Cannon introduced the keynote speaker, Ana M. Viamonte Ros, MD, MPH, Secretary, Florida Department of Health and Surgeon General. Dr. Viamonte Ros presented information on the mission and vision of healthcare in Florida and the Governor’s healthcare initiatives. The discussion continued with a lively interchange with the audience about the state of the nursing profession, juvenile crime as it relates to health issues and many other relevant issues. Afterward, many lingered to chat and to continue networking.
- XIV. The Annual Meeting Program was closed with remarks by Past President Judy Cannon.

Respectfully Submitted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Anderson, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





## *League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County*

### PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAMS FOR 2008-2009

#### 1. GOOD GOVERNMENT

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Local Governance</b>            | ➤ Support citizen input in public hearings held by local government<br>➤ Monitor local gov't issues, e.g., charter reform, global agreement |
| <b>Ethics &amp; Accountability</b> | ➤ Promote transparency, ethics and accountability in local gov't  |
| <b>State Legislative Issues</b>    | ➤ Perform interviews of state legislators for LWV-FL<br>➤ Participate in LWV-FL Legislative Action network                                  |

#### 2. VOTER SERVICES & CIVIC EDUCATION

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Voter Services</b>           | ➤ Register voters and encourage participation in elections<br>➤ Conduct outreach to newly naturalized citizens and youth |
| <b>Voter Rights Restoration</b> | ➤ Support voter rights restoration   |
| <b>Election Reform</b>          | ➤ Monitor implementation of new voting system  |
| <b>Candidate Debates/Forums</b> | ➤ Hold candidate forums upon request   |
| <b>Issue Forums</b>             | ➤ Hold forums on selected issues and hot topics as they arise  |

#### 3. QUALITY OF LIFE

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Growth Management</b>      | ➤ Educate on Hometown Democracy initiative<br>➤ Monitor urban development boundary line<br>➤ Monitor County compliance with Consumptive Use Permit |
| <b>Transportation</b>         | ➤ Participate in CITT nominating committee   |
| <b>Living Wage</b>            | ➤ Support Living Wage efforts  |
| <b>Affordable Housing</b>     | ➤ Promote affordable housing in livable communities  |
| <b>Capital Infrastructure</b> | ➤ Monitor \$2.7 billion bond issue   |

#### 4. FAMILY ISSUES

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Health</b>      | ➤ Promote an accessible quality health care system                     |
| <b>Education</b>   | ➤ Monitor state, local & national efforts to support quality education |
| <b>Immigration</b> | ➤ Support national League on immigration reform                        |

## ***2008-2009 Annual Meeting***

### **SLATE OF NOMINATIONS**

#### **Officers / Directors for Election at 2008 Annual Meeting (6)**

		<b>Officer</b>	<b>Director</b>
		<b><u>Term Expires</u></b>	<b><u>Term Expires</u></b>
Annie Betancourt	President	June 2009	June 2009
Dorrit Marks	Vice-President - Administration	June 2009	June 2009
Terry Coble	Vice-President - Programs	June 2009	June 2009
Sherry Ulsh	Treasurer	June 2009	June 2009
Susan Windmiller	Secretary	June 2009	June 2009
Dannie McMillon	Historian / Parliamentarian	June 2009	June 2010

#### **Directors for Election at 2008 Annual Meeting (9)**

Karen Andre	Elected Director	June 2010
Alina Becker	Elected Director	June 2010
Fran Bohnsack	Elected Director	June 2010
Anita Cava	Elected Director	June 2010
Lourdes Diaz	Elected Director	June 2010
Caesar Phillips	Elected Director	June 2010
Georgina Pardo	Elected Director	June 2010
Elizabeth Pines	Elected Director	June 2010
Peter Roulhac	Elected Director	June 2010

#### **2008/2009 Nominating Committee for Election at 2008 Annual Meeting**

Donna Ginn, Chairperson  
Dorrit Marks  
Susan Windmiller

#### **Continuing with Unexpired Terms (3)**

Maribel Balbin	Elected Director	June 2009
Judy Cannon	Elected Director	June 2009
Donna Ginn	Elected Director	June 2009
Grace O'Donnell	Appointed Director	June 2009





*Special thanks to the following individuals, corporations and foundations who made a financial contribution to the League of Women Voters Education Fund to support the on-going activities of the League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade:*

LETTIE BIEN

NORMAN BRAMAN

DEMETRA (TRULY) BURTON

ARMANDO CODINA

JUDITH BLECKER COHEN

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT

MERLE FRANK

COMMISSIONER SALLY HEYMAN

SHIRLEY KNOX

NORMA LEMBERG

MARIN AND SON

DORRIT MARKS

ISABEL MAY

JANET MCALILEY

TISHRIA MINDINGALL

THE JOSEPH H. AND FLORENCE A. ROBLEE FOUNDATION

LIDA RODRIGUEZ-TASEFF

THE WILLIAM J. AND TINA ROSENBERG FOUNDATION

DEBORAH ROSENKRANZ

MURIEL RUSSELL

HELEN SAULSON

COMMISSIONER KATY SORENSON

DR. GRACE WANG

WASHINGTON MUTUAL