

July 26, 2021

Governor Ron DeSantis

The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

PRESIDENT

Cecile M. Scoon, Esq.

CC: Agricultural & Consumer Services Commissioner Nicole "Nikki" Fried; Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis; Attorney General Ashely Moody; Senate President Wilton Simpson; Speaker of the House Chris Sprowls

First VICE PRESIDENT

Marisol Zenteno

Dear Governor DeSantis,

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Shawn Bartelt

Our planet is warming at an alarming rate with potentially devastating effects in Florida and around the world. The League of Women Voters of Florida supported the 2021 state resiliency budget allocations and the bills passed to provide support to local governments to mitigate flooding and sea level rise as steps in the right direction. However, we need to do more to mitigate the damage and to address the major causes, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Both adaptation and mitigation should be prioritized in governmental policy including a broad effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

TREASURER

Mark Songer

SECRETARY

Patricia Drago

In 2019, the League of Women Voters of Florida passed a Climate Emergency Resolution during our 37th Biennial State Convention. On June 5, 2021 during our 38th Biennial State Convention, our delegates went further, passing the attached resolution urging our Florida government to adopt an Integrative Approach to climate change.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Climate change disrupts sectors of our economy, our governmental systems, and every aspect of our lives. Many governments are taking an integrative approach by considering climate change when making decisions and setting policy in every area including transportation, resiliency, energy use, water and air quality, human health, agriculture, and coastal management. Because every decision in one area impacts the others, interrelationships of all these aspects should be considered in governmental policy and operations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Leah Nash
P.O. Box 1911
Orlando, FL 32802

Directing Florida departments and operations to take this integrative approach and supporting local and regional efforts to do so will go a long way toward protecting our state and way of life into the future. We hope you will give the Integrative Approach to addressing climate change in your administration serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Cecile M. Scoon, Esq.

President

League of Women Voters of Florida

League of Women Voters of Florida (LWVFL)
Integrative Climate Change Resolution
6/1/21

Whereas National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have agreed that the climate has warmed worldwide by 1.1 °C and that more severe warming is likely to continue;

Whereas Climate Change can disrupt all sectors of our economy as well as the reliability and efficiency of our governmental systems and services; and

Whereas Climate Change has a disproportionate effect on communities that typically have fewer resources for adapting to climate change and consequently are the most vulnerable; and

Whereas Climate Change does not just affect one aspect of our environment, but has a broad spectrum of effects; and

Whereas Climate Change was selected by the LWVUS as the second highest priority after “Making Democracy Work”™; and

Whereas the LWVUS and LWVFL have declared a “Climate Emergency” in accord with the UN Declaration; and

Whereas the Sunshine State has the potential to lead the nation in renewable energy and high-quality job creation; and

Whereas Florida contains more cities than any other state threatened by sea level rise; and

Whereas the Federal government has begun an integrative approach to Climate Change with each cabinet office identifying areas where its operations are likely to be affected and where it can take reasonable countermeasures; and

Whereas Florida counties and local governments are beginning the process of evaluating their vulnerabilities and identifying adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency strategies; and

Whereas money has been appropriated in the 2021 Florida budget for resiliency planning; and

Whereas it is imperative that the approach taken by these local entities be integrative considering long term impacts of energy use, transportation, water, human health, agriculture, coastal management, and personal habits of its citizens; and

Whereas LWVFL members can assist these county and local government entities in formulating an integrative plan.

Therefore, be it resolved,

We as delegates of Florida local Leagues assembled at the 2021 LWVFL Convention call upon the LWVFL Board to write to the Governor, the Cabinet, the Office of Resiliency and members of the FL Legislature to adopt the Integrative Climate Plan Resolution above.

Respectfully submitted,
LWVFL Caucus on Integrative Climate Change,
LWVFL Convention 2021