

Rec'd. 8-22-05



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF VOLUSIA COUNTY**

Post Office Box 9418 \* Daytona Beach \* Florida \* 32120 \* 386-248-0511

I'm Judy Moore, President of the League of Women Voters of Volusia County. I live at 425 Pelican Bay Drive, Daytona Beach.

The League of Women Voters has a long history of advocating for the protection of our natural resources, for the wise management of land, and for public participation in the decision-making process. We are further guided by an abiding commitment to conservation. Our advocacy positions come as a result of careful studies followed by member consensus about what is needed in regards to policy reform. Only after this oft-times lengthy process do we appear at gatherings such as this to voice our concerns and urge our leaders to take action.

We, like so many who are appearing before this group, are concerned about the fast pace of development in Volusia County and its impact on the environment. If we read the Growth Management Act and its history, we know that citizens have not been reluctant to plan for the wise management of Florida's resources. Similarly, if we read Section 202.4, "Minimum Standards for Environmental Protection" of the County Charter, we know that former charter authors and reviewers have recognized the charter's role in providing an environment "necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens throughout Volusia County." Moreover, even a cursory reading of Volusia County's Comprehensive Plan, an outgrowth of the state Growth Management Act, encourages one to believe that good, sound plans have been laid to protect our lands and waterways, to establish parks and green space for the welfare of citizens, and to even provide for a high level of services.

However, in spite of all this excellent documentation about wise land use and the need to protect our fragile natural resources, we in Volusia County appear to be helpless as our municipalities move to incorporate more lands into their boundaries as a means to increase revenues. We watch as our green spaces diminish in proportion to an increase in population. What irony! A growing population requires more natural spaces and recreation areas, not fewer.

Another concern the League has is that water seems to be viewed primarily by some of our cities as a money-making venture, not as a basic human need. In its 1992 study of storm water, one conclusion the Volusia County League reached was that a county-wide entity should be established to govern water usage. Currently, we watch as at least one municipality wants to withdraw from this cooperative effort that has been developing and evolving for years. Does the fact that interconnects exist mean that Volusia County will be home to more than one water entity?

The League of Women Voters of Volusia urges you to strengthen provisions that protect the our unincorporated lands, to provide for a county-wide entity to govern water distribution, and to make coordination and cooperation among local governments a way of life in Volusia County.

Thank you.