



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

May 14, 2014

League of Women Voters of Florida Statement on Constitutional Challenge to Blind Trust Law

The 1970's were a painful chapter in Florida's ethical history. Cabinet members and even Supreme Court Justices were embroiled in a number of significant ethical lapses. In 1976, the Florida League was proud to support the first successful citizen initiative under Governor Askew's leadership, with League volunteers fanning out across the state to help collect the required signatures to place the Sunshine Amendment on the ballot; an amendment which would substantially raise the bar with regard to transparency and ethics for Florida's most senior state and constitutional officers.

That amendment passed with a resounding 80% of voters saying yes, and strong support in all 67 of Florida's counties. The League of Women Voters of Florida is proud to support the legal action announced today, as we honor the voices of our voters when this amendment was first passed and placed in the Florida Constitution.

The League has long been a historic supporter and participant in the citizen initiative process, playing an important role in developing and improving the Florida Constitution over the years. In 2013, the Legislature passed a statute allowing the use of blind trusts, and with the first major election since the passage of that statute approaching in November, today's legal action is timely as we ensure that our elected officials and constitutional officers follow the intent of voters and the law embodied in our state Constitution.

The League believes that transparency in our democracy is absolutely paramount to ensuring honest and ethical leadership. We salute the vision of Governor Askew, who ensured that Florida would lead the way into a future of full public disclosure, and we are dedicated to ensuring that transparency in government and measurable steps towards progress are protected and enforced.

*For more information, please contact the League of Women Voters of Florida at
(850) 224-2545 or visit our website: www.TheFloridaVoter.org*