

## LWVCC Education Committee Remarks to Legislative Delegation – December 8, 2021

Good morning/afternoon. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you today. I am Diane Preston Moore, Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Collier County and the Chair of the Education Committee.

We recognize that education has the power to change lives, and the League believes that an equitable, quality public education is critical for students and for our communities. While there may be times that the federal government needs to get involved in education, the League recognizes that states -- and the state legislature -- have a pivotal role in shaping and funding public education.

Today, I'd like to comment on 4 areas of education that are priorities for the League.

1. **Curriculum** - The League supports curriculum and standards that are developed by education experts. These should include the teaching of the Holocaust, antisemitism, and African American History, along with messages of tolerance and understanding that should accompany these subjects.
2. **Civics education** - The League believes that public schools should deepen students' understanding of civics and our government and encourage participation and engagement in our democracy. We support the new Florida standard to teach civics.
3. **Funding** - The League supports adequate and equitable funding of public education. We do not want to see public money used to fund private education, including through the voucher program, because private schools are not accountable for the way that public funds are used.
4. **Accessibility** - Public education should be available to all students. The League supports legislation that promotes diversity and prohibits discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, nationality, and ability in all publicly funded schools. We do not support any legislation that gives tax dollars to private schools that discriminate (either in policy or in practice) based on these criteria.

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan and encourages informed and active participation in government. Our goal is to empower citizens to take an active role in shaping better communities, and to that end, we are always ready to work with you on any effort to better this community.

Thank you.