



PRESIDENT

Patricia Brigham

August 27, 2019

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Cecile M. Scoon, Esq.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Shawn Bartelt

Dear Gov. DeSantis,

TREASURER

Mark Songer

SECRETARY

Lisa Hall

At its annual convention, the League of Women Voters of Florida adopted a resolution to recognize the report released by the United Nations on October 8, 2018 declaring a climate emergency. The report predicted that unless steps are taken immediately to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius in the next 12 years, there will be an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy. A copy of this resolution is attached.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The League of Women Voters of Florida believes the State of Florida must immediately address this threat to the planet and global ecosystem by considering the ramifications of its decisions on local, state, regional, national, and global populations: sea level rise, flooding, and economic and social disruptions on communities and populations.

Specifically, we must look at Florida's energy sources. As "The Sunshine State" we should make it easier for municipal, residential, and industrial clients to be sustainable by including solar in their energy plans. Solar technology has improved, and prices have decreased to make it a competitive option. Electric utilities cannot continue to monopolize power distribution and disadvantage solar. Offshore wind turbines are also a possibility.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lisa Calleja
P.O. Box 1911
Orlando, FL 32802

State regulations related to growth management should incorporate optimal use of alternate energy, energy conservation in building and community design to reduce residential miles traveled, protection of natural resources including threatened and endangered species, and improved quality of life.

Health departments need to be upgraded to be able to detect and manage increases in mosquito-borne diseases. There will also be new agricultural pests to be detected and mitigated. Agriculture will have to adapt to changes in temperature and precipitation.

Counties and municipalities will need guidance and funding to assess the potential impacts of sea level rise and storms on their properties. State-led efforts to identify optimal strategies for sustainability and adaptation will be highly beneficial and will reduce total funding required.

We are sure you realize that the climate emergency requires the state to act immediately. There is no time to lose.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Brigham".

Patricia Brigham
President

CC:

Senate President Bill Galvano

Speaker of the House Jose Oliva

Attorney General Ashley Moody

Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis

Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Nicole "Nikki" Fried

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee

League of Women Voters of Florida
Climate Emergency Resolution
Adopted June 8, 2019

Whereas, on October 8, 2018, the United Nations released a Special Report that projected that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius this century will require *an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy* over the next 12 years; and

Whereas, on November 23, 2018 the U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment was issued, which detailed the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy and underscored the need for *emergency climate action at all levels of government*; and

Whereas, the death and destruction already wrought by global warming of approximately 1.1 degrees Celsius above late 19th century levels demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by rising seas, increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and

Whereas, one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, according to a sweeping new United Nations report driving the sixth mass extinction of species and – if reached – would require 10 million years to recover; and

Whereas, the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification include increasingly a rise in sea levels resulting in flooding and the displacement of thousands of coastal businesses and residences, damage to marine ecosystems and food sources, extreme weather events, devastating wildfires, and introduction of new vectors for infectious disease, increased asthma, and other human health-related problems; and

Whereas, climate change has a disproportionate effect on communities who typically have fewer resources for adapting to climate change and consequently are the most vulnerable to displacement, adverse health effects, job loss, property damage, and other effects of climate change; and

Whereas, county and local governments throughout Florida are continuing to develop mitigation and adaptation strategies to address the effects of climate change, including sea level rise, flooding, and economic and social disruption on their communities and population; and

Whereas, Florida contains more cities than any other state threatened by sea level rise, with south Florida at ground zero; and

Whereas, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a “climate mobilization” on an extraordinary scale at all levels of government to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, in the absence of effective federal engagement it is the responsibility of the individual states and municipalities to take immediate leadership actions to address climate change.

Therefore, be it resolved,

We as delegates of Florida local Leagues assembled at the 2019 LWVFL Convention call upon the LWVFL Board for action which shall include sending the Climate Emergency Resolution to the Governor, all members of the Florida Cabinet, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, as well as encouraging local Leagues to advocate for the Climate Emergency Declaration and relevant action by county and local governments.