



# Alternate Voting Processes Study *Background Information*

PREPARED FOR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA BY THE  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA  
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## Alternative Voting Systems: Study and Consensus

It's finally here! The information you've been waiting for!

**A**t the 2005 Biennial League of Women Voters of Florida Convention, the delegates approved a study of Alternate Voting Processes. The LWVF Board appointed the LWV of the St. Petersburg Area (LWVSPA) to prepare background material and consensus questions to be used by Leagues statewide for the Alternative Voting Systems portion of the study.

The LWVSPA Study Committee determined that the LWV of Minnesota already had done an in-depth study and was given permission by LWVMN to use their comprehensive report as the foundation for Florida's study. Because Florida's election laws and procedures are different than Minnesota's, we also researched various sources to find out about voting issues related to the possible implementation of alternative voting systems in Florida. In addition we gathered information about some recent implementations of alternative voting systems in other states.

The following reports are the result of our information gathering and are available for your review on this Web site [www.lwvfla.org](http://www.lwvfla.org):

1. LWV of Minnesota Alternative Voting Systems: Facts and Issues
  - Part I. Facts and Issues: Introduction
  - Part II. Facts and Issues: Voting Systems
  - Part III. Issues: Determining the Will of the People
  - Part IV. Intensity vs. Breadth of Support for a Candidate
  - Part V. Summary, Glossary
  - Part VI. Bibliography
2. Issues Related to Alternative Voting Systems for the State of Florida
3. Issues Related to Alternative Voting Systems in Other States

4. Alternative Voting Systems Study Consensus Questions, a list of questions that each League needs to discuss and answer and return to LWVF. If consensus is reached LWVF will have a position on the subject.

Appoint a committee as soon as possible to review this information and disseminate it to your members. Schedule a consensus meeting for October or November. The deadline for sending your consensus report to LWVF is **December 15, 2006**.

This is an auspicious time to undertake this study because of a number of election changes that have taken place:

1. In 2005 the Florida Legislature permanently eliminated the second run-off primary because it was too costly. The run-off primary was almost continuously in effect since 1937. It was temporarily eliminated in 2000, and then permanently in 2005.

2. In 1998 the Florida Constitution Revision Commission placed an amendment on the ballot that made it easier for independent and minor party candidates to get on the ballot. It passed.

3. In 1994 independent and minor party registration in Florida was 8.64 percent of all registered voters. In 2004 the percentage was 20.85 percent.

We found this to be a fascinating and timely study. We hope you will feel it is important to participate. We take pride in our grassroots organization and that our positions reflect the conclusions of the membership following careful study. If consensus is reached, LWVF will be able to speak out knowledgeably from a well-thought-out position. Please join the process.

For further information: [LWVF1@comcast.net](mailto:LWVF1@comcast.net) or 850 224-2545.