

## **YES on Proposition 5**

### **The Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act of 2008 (NORA)**

There are three essential components of Proposition 5, NORA:

- Treatment diversion programs for adults
- Prison system and parole reforms
- Youth-focused substance abuse treatment reforms.

The League of Women Voters' support for Proposition 5 is based on the aspects of the initiative that relate to juvenile justice.

As part of a comprehensive, common-sense solution to the prison overcrowding crisis, Proposition 5 will create a system of care for at-risk youth by:

- Dedicating annual funding of at least \$65 million per year for youth treatment programs, as well as about \$4 million more from fines collected from adults for low-level marijuana offenses
- Ensuring that the new system of care meets the spectrum of youth needs, including family therapy, mental health interventions, educational and employment stipends, and more
- Requiring science-based educational programs and counseling, instead of a misdemeanor conviction, for young people found in possession of small amounts of marijuana.

Too often today, young Californians with drug problems get entangled in the juvenile justice system and may even be incarcerated. During the past few years, juvenile arrest rates have increased 39 percent, and yet fewer than 10 percent of adolescents receive substance abuse treatment programs.

Proposition 5 will:

- Create an independent oversight panel, which would have authority over major aspects of the implementation of NORA
- Provide better opportunities for rehabilitation
- Save prison beds by requiring local sanctions, not prison, to punish minor parole violations by nonviolent offenders
- Require that all prisoners receive appropriate treatment prior to release from prison
- Require that all parolees receive appropriate services for up to one year after discharge
- Build on and improve Proposition 36, the voter-approved initiative of 2000 that provided treatment, not jail, for nonviolent drug users
- Link three existing, but disparate, systems of court-supervised treatment programs in order to provide a continuum of care
- Give priority to treatment for people with mental illness and substance abuse problems
- Provide judges with annual training on drug and addiction treatment
- Allow schools and medical doctors to recommend these treatment programs to their students and patients.