



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

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### **League of Women Voters of California Praises Honest Approach to Budget Woes**

Sacramento—The League of Women Voters of California applauds the balanced approach taken in the Governor’s proposed budget. Recent years have shown that California’s dire fiscal situation can’t be adequately addressed without looking at both the revenue and the expenditure sides of the balance sheet. As the legislature responds and proposals are refined, we encourage everyone involved to approach these difficult discussions thoughtfully and with an open mind.

The proposed cuts are beyond painful—they are excruciating. While we know that expenditures need to be examined, the League is concerned that these cuts will further deteriorate essential safety-net programs as well as other programs throughout the budget.

“It’s about time that we have a budget that works towards long-term solutions, rather than relying on one-time fixes and accounting gimmicks,” said Janis R. Hirohama, LWVC President. “This budget faces up to the reality of California’s structural deficit. California taxpayers want to be dealt with honestly and forthrightly.”

The proposed extension of the current taxes is appropriate. It’s impossible to deal with this size of a deficit without increased revenue. California voters have indicated they want services; voters should have a clear choice and a better opportunity to see what the consequences of not passing these taxes will be. We hope that the legislature agrees that the voters should have a chance for an up or down vote on this proposal.

The governor’s budget includes major restructuring of some government programs to shift responsibility and control for many locally delivered services to local government. We will be closely following the discussion on realignment. One question that needs to be considered is how much money now provided by the state or passed through from the federal government will follow the responsibility.

Local governments differ in their ability or willingness to approve local taxes for services, which could mean distinct and perhaps inequitable differences in how well local funding would match local needs in the long run.

“There will be difficult debates to come over the governor's proposals, but at least we are finally facing up to hard reality,” said Hirohama. “The picture painted by the governor’s budget isn’t pretty, but it is an honest one.”

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