



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA

801 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 10, 2007**

www.lwvc.org

Contact: Elizabeth Leslie

916-442-7215

eleslie@lwvc.org

### **87 Years of Fighting for Political Equality**

*League of Women Voters Marks Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment*

**Washington, DC** – This August 26 marks the 87<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day that the U.S. Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote. While American women now comprise more than half of our nation's voting age population, according to the League of Women Voters of California, the struggle to become full participants in the political life of the country has yet to be fully realized.

"This anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, Women's Equality Day, provides us with an opportunity to reflect with pride on the progress made on voting rights in the past 87 years," said Mary G. Wilson, national League president.

"This year, we've witnessed a number of remarkable milestones for women. For the first time, a female has been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, and a major contender for the 2008 Presidential election is a woman.

"However, these achievements do not mark the end of our journey. In communities across the country, citizens still lack real representation by their elected officials and the policies they pass. It is only with the continued work of citizens and leaders, of all backgrounds, that this can change."

A few of the League's current projects include lobbying for support of single payer health care SB 840 (Kuehl), the voter education website [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) and the printed, multi-lingual Easy Voter Guides and companion website [www.easyvoter.org](http://www.easyvoter.org) designed for new and busy voters.

"It is crucial that we continue to engage more citizens in the democratic process, on every level. Citizens volunteering, educating, lobbying; that's absolutely necessary to democracy, and we need to see more of it," said League of Women Voters of California President, Janis R. Hirohama.

"Today is a time to celebrate the progress achieved by active citizens over the past eight decades, but it is also a time to look to what still needs to be done to make democracy work for all Americans. The League of Women Voters of California will continue to be the place where hands-on work leads to a better democracy for all."

###

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With more than 87 years of experience and 850 local and state affiliates, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.*