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Groups Push Redistricting Reform Now

Los Angeles, California — Now that the state budget impasse has been broken, California Common Cause and the League of Women Voters of California are ready to seize the opportunity for redistricting reform.

“We support a redistricting process with three major components: an independent commission that will represent the interests of all Californians; an open process that invites participation by everyone interested; and fair criteria for drawing districts,” said Janis R. Hirohama, president of the League of Women Voters of California. “There’s still some work to do, but we’re nearly there with a proposal that Californians will vote for next February.”

Recognizing that redistricting reform will need an amendment to the state constitution, both organizations have long supported the legislative process as the way to place a reform proposal before the people. With input from all corners, a legislative bill can be improved and honed in ways that an initiative cannot.

A reasonable, workable solution is at hand. The League and Common Cause have been working with legislators and the governor to craft the best possible bill to put before the people.

“Californians’ voices have been heard,” stated Kathay Feng, executive director of California Common Cause. “They want a process for drawing districts that reflect our communities and changing demographics, not incumbents’ political interests.”

“We’re thankful for the Governor’s leadership, and we believe that there is a real commitment from the legislature to follow through,” added Hirohama. “This is the time! Legislators can step up to the plate and act now.”

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The League of Women Voters of California, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Common Cause California is a nonpartisan citizens lobby committed to governance, election, and media reform.