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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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League Leaders Tout “Landmark” Redistricting Proposal
National League of Women Voters President Mary Wilson Visits California

Sacramento- League of Women Voters President Mary G. Wilson will be in California next week in an effort to draw support and visibility to the critical need for redistricting reform in California and across the country. President Wilson, as well as LWV of California President Janis R. Hirohama, will have media availability on the afternoon of May 16, 2008 or at another pre-arranged time.

“Manipulative politicians have long drawn district lines in ways that protect their interests and ignore the interests of voters,” said Wilson. “It’s time to take these decisions out of back-room deals in state capitals and return them to the rightful hands of citizens. I’m proud that Leagues all over the country, including right here in California, are rolling up their sleeves to promote meaningful and nonpartisan redistricting reform—and hold elected officials accountable.”

Hirohama stated: “The League of Women Voters of California is proud to support the California Voters FIRST initiative, along with AARP, Common Cause, Governor Schwarzenegger, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, and many others from across the political spectrum. This landmark initiative will create a fair and transparent redistricting process that will put the voters back in charge and help end the partisan gridlock in Sacramento.”

Wilson and Hirohama will be available for comment May 16-18, and otherwise as arranged. Please contact Maggie Duncan (LWVUS) or Elizabeth Leslie (LWVC) to set up an interview.

WHO: Mary Wilson, President, League of Women Voters of the United States and Janis Hirohama, President, League of Women Voters of California

WHAT: Media availability highlighting redistricting reform (national and California)

WHERE: Sacramento, CA

WHEN: May 16-18 by appointment

WHY: The time to support fair and independent redistricting standards is now!