



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

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League of Women Voters of California Urges Legislature to Place Tax Extensions before the Voters

Sacramento—Time is running short for an important step toward a balanced California budget.

The League of Women Voters of California supports a balanced approach to dealing with the state's dire fiscal situation. To bring our fiscal system back to health, both increased revenues and spending cuts will be needed. The League urges the Legislature to place a measure on a special election ballot to extend current taxes that will otherwise expire soon.

The League believes in representative government as the basis of our democracy. Our legislators are elected to come together and agree on the necessary functions of government. Adopting a budget and the revenues needed to provide for those functions is the single most important thing our representatives can—and should—do.

A two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature is needed to either pass revenue increases or put a measure on the ballot to ask voters to do so. Unfortunately, many members of the minority party have taken a pledge not to support increased taxes under any circumstances, making very real the possibility of even more Draconian cuts than those that are currently on the table.

“If a minority of legislators are unwilling to vote for an honest, balanced budget solution themselves, we urge them to at least let the voters do that job,” said Janis R. Hirohama, LWVC President. “Allow the voters to have the choice about whether to keep these taxes at their current rate or not.”

The budget being considered by the legislature makes significant cuts in social and human services that show the dire need for more revenue. Even election services that protect voter access and participation in elections could be cut. We as a society should be able to protect the sanctity of our vote and provide for the basic needs of the most vulnerable among us. Californians should have the chance to vote on revenues that would make that possible. “We urge the legislature to work with the Governor to put tax extensions on the ballot so that the voters have a chance to speak on this important issue,” stated Hirohama.

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