



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA
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League Urges Real Budget Solutions That Protect Californians

Sacramento, CA – The League of Women Voters of California today called on the Governor and legislators to think of the people of California—and think of our future—as they work to resolve our budget crisis.

The declining economic situation has made matters far worse than was imagined even a short time ago. State revenues are way down and unemployment is up. Recent cuts in health care, social programs, education and other services—as well as new cuts proposed—will chiefly affect those Californians who are least able to bear the burden, including children, the elderly, and the disabled.

“The impact of the budget crisis on California families and our basic quality of life is nearing the breaking point,” said Janis R. Hirohama, president of the League. “We have seen programs for the poor, sick, young and elderly cut back, funding for schools at all levels diminished, and important environmental and transportation programs substantially reduced.”

Hirohama urged our elected officials not to destroy viable public programs by drastic short-term reductions. “California’s long-term potential cannot be realized if we abandon our investments in education, health and social services, and our physical and natural infrastructure,” continued Hirohama. Any cuts should be carefully tailored to get us through the crisis but allow the programs to be restored as the economy recovers.

The League of Women Voters has long supported revenues that are sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services and that ensure fair sharing of the tax burden. A number of viable revenue sources are on the table, and it’s imperative that the Legislature and the Governor adopt adequate funding for the services that Californians depend on. “The economic meltdown has shown that recent years’ cobbling together of cuts, borrowing, and fund shifts is an irresponsible approach to a budget. It’s time to find real solutions,” stated Hirohama.

The League of Women Voters of California, 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.

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