



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES AND THE LOS ANGELES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEAD CITY GOVERNMENT AND ETHICS REFORM EFFORT

LOS ANGELES, CA – The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles (LWV of Los Angeles) and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (L.A. Chamber) today resolved to seek voter approval of the *City Government Responsibility, Lobbying and Ethics Reform Act*. The comprehensive ethics reform package, including term limits reform, jointly authored by the LWV of Los Angeles and the L.A. Chamber, is intended to create greater efficiency, accountability and transparency within Los Angeles City government. The organizations are part of a growing coalition of civic and business leaders and local residents who are working to ensure that the ethics measure is added to the November 7, 2006 election ballot for voter consideration.

The *City Government Responsibility, Lobbying and Ethics Reform Act* consists of common sense reforms that will:

- Prohibit City officials and candidates from accepting campaign contributions or gifts from registered City lobbyists and lobbying firms
- Prohibit registered lobbyists from sitting on City boards and commissions
- Promote greater compliance with the City's lobbying rules
- Require City contractors verify compliance with the City's lobbying laws
- Specify terms for city elected officials at three four-year terms
- Prohibit former City officials, commissioners and other employees from certain lobbying activities for two years after leaving City service
- Other common sense reforms to promote campaign finance transparency

“We respectfully urge the City Council and its President, Eric Garcetti, to consider the will of concerned citizens and voters and take the necessary steps to place the ethics reform package on the November ballot without delay or modification,” said Liza White, President, LWV of Los Angeles. “Voters deserve transparent, responsive government without undue influences. The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles is confident that this ethics reform package will enhance the mandate of the Ethics Commission, and serve as a national model of responsible and accountable governance by ensuring that elected officials are serving community interests without undue influence from special interests.”

“Our region’s future economy and well-being depends on the vision and integrity of our city’s leaders,” said Gary Toebben, President and CEO, L.A. Chamber. “The economy and quality of life in Los Angeles will flourish only if it is empowered by a political system that operates under the rule of accountability and efficiency.”

Wednesday, July 19, is the City Council’s deadline to begin the required process for this measure to be added to the November election. The measure would require a simple majority, or 50 percent +1 of voter support, in order to pass. The *City Government Responsibility, Lobbying and Ethics Reform Act* will be presented to the L.A. City Council with a petition requesting review by the City Attorney and the Ethics Commission, and placement on the November ballot for voter consideration.

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League of Women Voters of Los Angeles: *Serving Los Angeles, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Culver City, San Fernando, Westlake Village, and West Hollywood, California, the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. The League has been a trusted, respected and effective organization at the community, state and national levels for 85 years. For more information, visit www.LWVLosAngeles.org.*

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce: *The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit www.lachamber.org.*