

September 25, 2008

To: Mary Wilson, President, LWVUS

Dear Ms. Wilson,

The League of Women Voters of San Diego urges you to immediately issue a LWV statement of strong support for taxpayer protections in any legislation authorizing the bailout of our financial institutions and opposition to unprecedented attempts to centralize power. We are not recommending a stand on financial/economic details but on the specific issue of executive branch accountability.

We refer particularly to provisions like this one in Section 8 of the proposed legislation: *Decisions by the Secretary pursuant to the authority of this Act are non-reviewable and committed to agency discretion, and may not be reviewed by any court of law or any administrative agency.* This flies in the face of League's positions on an open government system and balance of powers between the Congress and the Presidency.

Some 50 national and regional organizations are calling on the leadership of Congress's financial regulation committees to oppose a dangerous power grab. Today's [Senate](#) letter to this effect concludes, "Any genuine solution must be grounded in transparency, with all relevant records publicly available and best practice whistleblower protection for all employees connected with the new law." Secrecy worsened this crisis, and taxpayers will not accept a law for secret solutions. What happens to our money is our business.

LWV belongs at the top of the list when this letter goes to Congress. Our credibility as a 21st century politically-relevant organization is on the line. Action will speak louder and more decisively than all the good words in our membership recruitment initiatives.

We were pleased to see LWV support for urging Senators Obama and McCain to move ahead with the September 26th presidential debate. And we look forward to applauding you again when the League takes a stand on an equitable and accountable agreement "that will simultaneously help our financial institutions regain solid ground and bring relief to the millions of Americans who are at risk of losing their homes and jobs. Please act now.

Yours truly,

NORMA DAMASHEK

ANNE HOIBERG

Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of San Diego