



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS® of VIRGINIA

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**ELECTION 2010: SECRET MONEY, INCIVILITY LEAVE LASTING IMPACT**

**LWV Calls on Congress to Fix Secret Cash in American Elections**

The League of Women Voters of Virginia joins the League of Women Voters of the U.S. in expressing grave concern about the conduct of the 2010 elections with respect to secret money spent on campaigns and the increased incivility in campaigning.

"The tens of millions of dollars in secret money spent in this election are disturbing, said League of Women Voters of Virginia President Olga Hernandez. "Virginia voters were overwhelmed by millions of dollars in negative ads but didn't know who paid for many of them. Although many of our elected officials have paid lip service to the notion of transparency in politics, this election demonstrated just the opposite."

"This election demonstrated the critical need to improve our governmental structures," said Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. "Because of the failure of Congress to act, there are no disclosure requirements governing the huge amounts of money that the Supreme Court recently turned loose in American politics. Voters will be hard pressed to know if their elected officials are in Washington to serve the public interest or the special interests."

"The League calls on Congress to pass [the DISCLOSE Act](#), which would restore transparency to U.S. elections by requiring disclosure of corporate and union spending in candidate elections. We also call on Congress to preserve and extend ethics enforcement. With the election awash in special interest money, it is no time to cut back on the enforcement of ethics standards in Washington."

"The money poured into recent elections has been unprecedented. The League believes that voters, not money, should be at the center of our democracy," concluded MacNamara and Hernandez. "We will continue our decades of work in helping citizens debate the issues in a civil and effective way and fighting for transparency, accountability and disclosure in America's elections."

*The League of Women Voters, 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 is open to men and women of all ages. The League is one of the nation's most trusted organizations.*