



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

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League of Women Voters of Florida Responds to Governor's Actions on Alimony, Ethics and Campaign Finance Reform

Tallahassee, FL -- Yesterday, Governor Scott took action on three significant pieces of legislation: SB 718 (alimony), HB 569 (campaign finance) and SB 2 (ethics). The League of Women Voters of Florida opposed both the alimony and campaign finance bills, but was supportive of the ethics reform package.

Below, please find a statement from LWVF President Deirdre Macnab, responding to the Governor's decision to veto SB 718 and sign the other two bills into law.

"The League applauds Governor Scott for his decision to veto the unfair -- and possibly unconstitutional -- alimony bill (SB 718), which would have had an unfortunate impact on families in this state and undermined Floridians' right to enter into contracts. With his veto, Governor Scott put fairness first, circumventing unnecessary and disruptive chaos for families all across the state.

We were also pleased to see the Governor approve SB 2, relating to ethics. After 37 years of waiting, Florida's citizens will finally see improved ethics standards, including increased transparency of financial disclosures and a stronger Ethics Commission. Florida ranks as one of the nation's worst in terms of corruption by elected officials, and the Governor was right on point to approve this legislation.

Finally, the League is disappointed that the Governor approved the campaign finance bill (HB 569), which represents a poor bargain for Floridians. By increasing campaign contribution limits, HB 569 opens the door for even more political spending and undue influence of our democratic process. Gains in transparency and reporting were minimal, as new channels were created for ever-larger donations. Main Street Florida lost on this bill, while incumbents and deep-pocketed donors were the big winners.

The League will be watching closely to ensure that the long-promised election reform package (HB 7013) makes it to the Governor's desk. Florida's electoral dysfunction must be addressed in order for Floridians to regain confidence in our state's ability to conduct fair and timely elections."

For questions or further comments, please contact Deirdre Macnab at (407) 415-4559.

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The League of Women Voters of Florida, 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. For more information, please visit the League's website at: www.TheFloridaVoter.org.