



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

August 28, 2017

The Honorable Henry Stern, Chair  
Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2203  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 249 (Mullin and Levine)—California Disclose Act—SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Stern:

The League of Women Voters of California is pleased to support AB 249 (Mullin and Levine), the California Disclose Act, which provides comprehensive regulation of advertisement disclosure and of the reporting of earmarking of funds.

The League believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure maximum participation by citizens in the political process, protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns, provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices, ensure transparency and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections, enable candidates to compete equitably for public office, ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. We support state campaign finance practices for candidates and advocates of ballot measure positions that will ensure full disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures.

The League has a history of supporting the advertisement disclosures specified in this bill. Over the past seven years the League has strongly supported making disclosures clearly legible, and disclosing the true funders of advertisements, not simply bland committee names. We continue to support these aspects of the bill which ensure the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections.

Last year we shared concerns with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) that amendments to the earmarking section of last session's version of the bill could make enforcement more difficult. We hope the author will consult with the FPPC about public education and outreach concerning the bill's new rules, and we would support any final improvements and clarifications to the bill that would enhance accountability and enforcement.

The California Disclose Act will be a significant step forward in making it clear to the public who are the top funders of campaigns and ballot measures. We urge your committee to support this bill and advance disclosure in California elections.

Sincerely,

Helen L. Hutchison  
President

cc: Assembly Member Kevin Mullin  
Assembly Member Marc Levine  
Trent Lange, President, California Clean Money Campaign

---

1107 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA  
95814-3608

916 442.7215  
888 870.8683  
916 442.7362 fax

lwvc@lwvc.org  
www.lwvc.org  
www.smartvoter.org  
www.easyvoter.org