

My name is Jara Burnett and I am co-President of the League of Women Voters of Connecticut, a nonpartisan, political organization of more than 2600 members statewide

Connecticut stands on the verge of making history. For the first time, all of the elements are in place to pass sweeping campaign finance reform. The Governor, Senate and House leadership have all endorsed the idea of voluntary public financing of campaigns as an alternative to our current system which is overly dependent on special interest money. If the bill announced by the legislative leadership today passes, it will be the first time that a state legislature has adopted a system of public campaign finance—a truly remarkable and momentous achievement.

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut supports legislation that includes bans and limits on lobbyists and state contractor contributions, bans on ad books and corporate contributions, restrictions on PACs and public financing of campaigns. These reforms will reduce the influence of special interest money, level the political playing field, and allow more candidates to run for office and re-connect with ordinary people. Because the bill contains the reforms sought by Governor Rell and endorsed by the bi-partisan Campaign Finance Working Group, this is legislation that lawmakers from both sides of the aisle can and should get behind.

The League of Women Voters has often said that “we cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good.” The bill is not just “good,” it is very good. We applaud the efforts of Governor Rell, Senators Williams and Looney, Representatives Amann and Donovan and the thousands of Connecticut’s citizens whose efforts have brought us to this historic moment.

We call upon legislators from both parties to pass the bill and the Governor to sign it.

### **LET’S MAKE HISTORY!**

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November 28, 2005