



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

CGA Appropriations Committee

March 11, 2010 Public Hearing

GOVERNOR'S MARCH 1, 2010 DEFICIT MITIGATION PLAN

COMMENTS ON \$12 MILLION TRANSFER FROM CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND

Submitted by Christine S. Horrigan, Government Director

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut *strongly opposes* the Governor's proposal to transfer an additional \$12 million from the Citizens' Election Fund as part of her *March 1, 2010 Deficit Mitigation Plan*. A transfer of this size, coming on top of \$38.5 million in cuts over the past 15 months, will cripple the Citizens' Election Program, making it difficult, if not impossible, to fully fund the grants for the upcoming election. Candidates will be reluctant to participate in the program if they believe that the money will not be there.

The League realizes that some people ask why we should pay for campaigns—even *clean ones*—when we could be using scarce funds for other programs. We believe that it is precisely because funds are scarce that we must invest in clean elections so that *after* the election, legislators make decisions prompted by the public interest, not by the ability of lobbyists and deep-pocketed special interest groups to provide campaign contributions. The best way to ensure that human services, education and other worthy programs are funded is to elect legislators who are responsive to the people. Especially in tough economic times, the public needs to know that their government belongs to them, not to lobbyists and special interest groups.

For all of these reasons, the League urges you to reject the Governor's proposal to transfer another \$12 million from the Citizens' Election Fund and to fully fund the Citizens' Election Program for the 2010 election cycle.

Thank you.

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