



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA  
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## BILL STATUS REPORT

May 18, 2005

This Bill Status Report lists all bills on which the LWVC has taken a position. Leagues are encouraged to take appropriate action on any of them.

**BILL NUMBER,  
 AUTHOR,  
 POSITION**

**DESCRIPTION**

**ACTION SUMMARY/STATUS**

### HONORING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

ACR 40  
 Lieber  
 SUPPORT

Recognizes the origins and accomplishments of the League of Women Voters and memorializes the 85th anniversary of the League.

Passed by Assembly Rules Committee (8-0); passed by Assembly. In Senate Rules Committee.

### CAMPAIGN FINANCING

AB 583  
 Hancock  
 SUPPORT

Establishes the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2005, a voluntary system for public financing of political campaigns for all legislative and statewide elective offices. Candidates who show a broad base of support by collecting a specified number of \$5 "qualifying contributions" and agree to spending limits would use only public funds for their campaigns. A Clean Money candidate who is outspent by a nonparticipating opponent or is targeted by independent expenditures can receive additional funding up to a specified maximum.

Testimony heard in Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee; no vote taken.

### EDUCATION

ACAX1 4  
 Keene  
 OPPOSE

See State and Local Finances.

**BILL NUMBER,  
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**ACTION SUMMARY/STATUS**

**ELECTION SYSTEMS**

SB 596 Bowen SUPPORT	Permits any city, county, or district to conduct a local election using ranked voting: i.e., instant runoff voting in an election to elect a single candidate to office (such as the office of mayor or a governing board position elected from a single-member district), or choice voting in an election to elect two or more candidates to office (such as an at-large election with multiple open seats on a governing board). A voting method authorized by this bill could be enacted by a measure placed on the ballot by the governing body or through the initiative process.	Testimony taken in Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee; no vote taken.
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**ENERGY**

SB 107 Simitian SUPPORT	Accelerates the Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) program timetable to require utilities to provide 20 percent of their electricity from renewable energy resources by 2010 instead of 2017; requires the California Energy Commission to evaluate the feasibility of requiring 33 percent by 2020. Requires the Energy Commission to develop tracking, accounting, verification and enforcement mechanisms for renewable energy credits that could be purchased by retail sellers of electricity who cannot meet the RPS.	Passed by Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee (7-3). In Senate Appropriations Committee; hearing 5-23-05.
SB 1059 Escutia SUPPORT	Authorizes the California Energy Commission (CEC) to designate electric "transmission corridor zones," in which high-voltage electric transmission lines may be built in the future. The designation is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. Requires cities and counties to update their general plans accordingly and to notify the CEC when accepting a development project application within a transmission corridor zone.	Passed by Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee (10-0), Senate Local Government Committee (9-0). On Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file; hearing 5-26-05.

**HEALTH CARE**

SB 23 Migden SUPPORT	Requires the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board to provide a "Healthy Families/Medi-Cal Workplace Notice" for employers to use to inform their employees about enrollment and eligibility, and to establish a process for employees to pay their family contribution payments through payroll withholding. Requires outreach and marketing activities in coordination with the Employment Development Department and the Department of Health Services.	Passed by Senate Banking, Finance and Insurance Committee (8-2), Senate Health Committee (9-1). On Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file; hearing 5-26-05.
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SB 840  
Kuehl  
SUPPORT

The California Health Insurance Reliability Act (CHIRA). Establishes the California Health Insurance System, administered by an elected commissioner, to provide comprehensive health care coverage to all California residents through a "single payer" system. Persons would choose their health care providers, who would be reimbursed for their services through a consolidated claims, financing, and administrative system. Requires the commissioner to seek waivers, agreements, etc., to merge various federal, state, and local health care funds into the system.

Passed by Senate Banking, Finance and Insurance Committee (7-4), Senate Health Committee (7-4). In Senate Appropriations Committee; hearing 5-23-05.

**INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PROCESS**

SB 469  
Bowen  
SUPPORT

Requires an initiative, referendum, or recall petition to contain a printed notice of whether it is being circulated by a paid circulator or a volunteer. Also requires the petition to disclose the five largest cumulative contributors in support of the measure, and requires this disclosure to be updated within seven days of any change.

Passed by Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee (4-1), Senate Appropriations Committee (7-4). On Senate floor.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE/DEPENDENCY**

SB 609  
Romero  
SUPPORT

Requires reform of the California Youth Authority by January 2009 according to specific standards for clothing rules, housing size, facility rehabilitation and risk design, ward classification systems, staffing ratios and training requirements, and classroom and other standards. Establishes a process for redesigning the Youth Authority using juvenile justice stakeholders. Requires individual reentry plans for parolees.

Passed by Senate Public Safety Committee (4-2). In Senate Appropriations Committee; hearing 5-23-05.

**REDISTRICTING**

ACAX1 3  
McCarthy  
SUPPORT IF  
AMENDED to  
remove mid-decade  
redistricting

Amends the California Constitution to require that congressional, state senate, state assembly, and state Board of Equalization district lines be drawn by an independent panel of five retired state or federal judges. To the extent practicable, requires diversity in the pool of judges from which selection is made. Requires an open, transparent redistricting process and establishes prioritized criteria for district boundaries. Requires a mid-decade redistricting—i.e., new district lines would be drawn immediately on passage of the measure by the voters.

Referred to District Representation Committee; no hearing set. Also referred to Constitutional Amendments and Ways and Means Committees.

ACAX1 5  
Canciamilla and  
Richman  
SUPPORT

Similar to SCA 3.

Bill is in print; has not been assigned to a committee.

**BILL NUMBER,  
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**ACTION SUMMARY/STATUS**

SCA 3  
Lowenthal  
SUPPORT

Amends the California Constitution to require that congressional, state senate, state assembly, and state Board of Equalization district lines be drawn by an independent redistricting commission of five members. Requires four commission members to be appointed by legislative leaders from a pool and a fifth, the chair, to be appointed by the other members. Requires an open, transparent redistricting process and establishes prioritized criteria for district boundaries.

Bill is in print. Referred to Senate Rules Committee for assignment.

**REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES**

Initiative #1067  
OPPOSE

Amends the California Constitution to bar an unemancipated minor from having an abortion until 48 hours after the physician notifies the minor's parent or legal guardian, except in a medical emergency or with a parental waiver. Permits judicial waiver of notice based on clear and convincing evidence of the minor's maturity or the minor's best interests. Requires the physician to report abortions performed on minors and the state to compile statistics.

Certified for placement on the next statewide election ballot.

**STATE AND LOCAL FINANCES**

AB 6  
Chan  
SUPPORT

Reinstates the top state personal income tax rates of 10 percent and 11 percent for tax years 2005 through 2009, at inflation-adjusted taxable income levels corresponding to those in effect from 1991 through 1995.

Passed by Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee (4-3) with amendment to remove actual rate information. To Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 168  
Ridley-Thomas  
SUPPORT

Establishes the California Tax Expenditure Accountability Act. Requires the Department of Finance (DOF) to submit an annual report of estimated losses in excess of \$10 million attributable to tax expenditures, based on a dynamic revenue analysis and on reports provided by the Franchise Tax Board and State Board of Equalization. Requires the Legislative Analyst's Office to make annual recommendations to the legislature as to which tax expenditures should be modified or repealed.

Passed by Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee (5-2). On Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

<b>BILL NUMBER, AUTHOR, POSITION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTION SUMMARY/STATUS</b>
ACAX1 4 Keene OPPOSE	Proposes an amendment to the California Constitution to make numerous changes in state budgeting and spending processes. Provides ongoing spending authority at the prior year's levels if a budget is late. Requires across-the-board spending reductions if the budget will be more than \$250 million out of balance and the legislature does not enact a solution. Eliminates "Test 3" under which the Proposition 98 school funding guarantee is reduced in a low revenue growth year; prohibits suspension of Proposition 98; reduces the funding level used to calculate subsequent years' funding guarantee when across-the-board cuts are made; ends the provision under which school funding in excess of the guarantee becomes part of the base for calculation of future years' guarantee. Repeals authority to suspend Proposition 42 transfers of the sales tax on gasoline to a Transportation Investment Fund. Prohibits loans from special funds to the General Fund.	In Assembly Budget Process Committee. Also referred to Constitutional Amendments and Ways and Means Committees.
<b><u>VOTING RIGHTS</u></b>		
AB 43 Vargus SUPPORT	Requires that, in the event of a recount, provisions of law governing the counting of write-in votes shall be liberally construed to ensure that each ballot is counted if the intent of the voter can be determined, even if the voter has not complied with the voting instructions.	Passed by Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee with amendments (4-1), Assembly Appropriations Committee (13-5), Assembly (45-33). In Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee.
AB 821 Ridley-Thomas SUPPORT	Requires county elections officials to provide voter registration forms and a "Guide to Inmate Voting" to state and local detention facilities so that inmates who are not yet convicted (awaiting a hearing or sentencing), are serving a sentence for a traffic offense or misdemeanor conditioned on probation, or have completed a sentence for a felony conviction (and are no longer on parole) may be notified of their right to vote.	Passed by Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee (4-2). In Assembly Appropriations Committee; hearing 5-18-05.
AB 867 Liu SUPPORT	Authorizes seven specified counties to participate in a pilot project in which all elections in the county would be held entirely by mail until 1-1-2011. Requires participating counties to report to the legislature on the effectiveness of the pilot project.	Failed passage in Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee (3-3); reconsidered and passed (4-2). In Assembly Appropriations Committee; hearing 5-18-05.
SB 316 Margett SUPPORT	Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to include a notice in any document promoting the National Voter Registration (Motor Voter) Act that persons registering to vote at a DMV office should contact their local elections officials or the Secretary of State if they have not received voter registration information within 30 days.	Passed by Senate Transportation and Housing Committee (12-0). On Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file; hearing 5-26-05.

<b>BILL NUMBER, AUTHOR, POSITION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTION SUMMARY/STATUS</b>
SB 1050 Bowen SUPPORT	Provides that a vote for a qualified write-in candidate shall be counted if the candidate's name is written in the space provided, and that failure to mark a voting space ("bubble") next to the write-in space shall not preclude the ballot from being counted, if the intent of the voter can be determined. States that the requirement that the voting space be marked or slotted is "for the convenience of the elections official counting the ballot."	Passed by Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee (4-2), Senate (23-15). In Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee.
<b><u>WATER</u></b>		
AB 802 Wolk SUPPORT	Requires that a city or county general plan consider and include flood management in the conservation element. Factors to be considered by the local planning agency include coordination with the land use element and possible means of using flood water to supplement the existing water supply.	Passed by Assembly Local Government Committee (5-1), Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee (8-4), Assembly Appropriations Committee (13-5). On Assembly floor.
AB 1168 Saldana SUPPORT	Requires that when the Department of Health Services reviews a desalination project application for an operating permit, it must identify potential contaminants and sources of contamination and ensure the safety and effectiveness of treatment processes.	Passed by Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee (5-2). On Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.
SB 866 Kehoe SUPPORT	Requires the Department of Water Resources, in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Health Services, to develop and implement a coordinated water use reporting database, and to make various progress reports to the legislature. Requires reporting of farm-gate deliveries and surface water diversions by 2010.	In Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

Note: Bills introduced in the 2005-06 First Extraordinary Session are identified by the presence of "X1" in the bill number, as for example ACAX1 3.