



April 30, 2025

Members of Congress:

Congress must stand up for the American people and use its authority to uphold the rule of law, defend the Constitution, and put an end to the executive branch's overreach. In his first 100 days, President Trump has issued a series of executive orders (EOs) and directed actions that violate the law and encroach upon Congressional authority as elected representatives of the American people.

A core value of the League of Women Voters is the belief that all powers of the US government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. Consequently, it is very concerning that Congress has abdicated its duty and authority under Article I of the US Constitution and failed to protect the rule of law, defend the Constitution, and end the overreach by the executive branch of government.

The Trump administration has, through wide-ranging executive actions, sought to seize power from Congress and the states to set voter registration rules, end birthright citizenship for some persons born in the United States, pause the distribution of federal funds already allocated by Congress, dismantle federal agencies such as the US Agency for International Development and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, allow private citizens to access sensitive government systems, and reduce the federal workforce through unorthodox means that deny them due process.

President Trump has issued numerous EOs that extend beyond the limit of presidential power and into those that are granted to Congress and thus, violate both the US Constitution and federal law. These EOs directly threaten our democracy. Presidents commonly use executive orders, but they must be issued lawfully and within the scope of the Constitution. To be lawful and enforceable, an executive order *must* be rooted in either the president's powers granted in the Constitution or a law passed by Congress. Further, the authority of an EO is not final; federal courts can review an order to determine whether it is a valid exercise of the president's power or violates the Constitution, federal law, or the fundamental rights of Americans. **We must honor democratic processes and protect our republic.**

However, Congress cannot rely on the judicial branch exclusively to check the executive branch. In fact, expeditious action from Congress is essential to restore order. Current executive branch actions, such as the firing of federal workers, freezing federal funds, and the "Department of Government Efficiency's" access to the critical and sensitive personal information of millions of Americans, rob individuals of due process. An individual's right to due process is a fundamental principle of democracy. Such actions threaten the individual liberties of our citizens. Congress is the key to restoring faith in our systems and government.

So far, the League has not seen any meaningful action or response from Congress to assert its constitutional authority under Article I to protect our system of checks and balances, the rights of Americans, or our democracy. Congress's constitutional duty is to provide a check on the administration's weaponization of government against its own citizens. **All members of Congress, regardless of political affiliation, must stand in their authority.**

Congress has the power of oversight but has yet to utilize its powers of checks and balances given to it by the US Constitution. This is unacceptable. Congress *must* step up and act now. The time to act is more important than ever. Your constituents demand it.