

# OPENING DOORS TO DEMOCRACY



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
LWVUS/LWVEF 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

From the League President:

I am pleased to present the 2009 Annual Report of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and its Education Fund (LWVEF). The report highlights our programmatic activities throughout the calendar year, while the financial report covers our fiscal year from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009.

With a new Administration in the White House, 2009 brought a new set of political realities—both challenges and opportunities. For example, the League has long been a tenacious advocate for universal health care and environmental issues. So this year, the League seized the chance to significantly ramp up our work on these issues, pressing Congress and President Obama to achieve comprehensive health care reform and meaningful action to address global climate change.

Of course, it was often a trying year. The League—like our fellow Americans—felt the impact of the ongoing economic recession. Furthermore, many of our most important initiatives fell short of fruition by year's end, from health care reform to action on climate change to D.C. voting rights. Yet, on balance, 2009 was a productive year for the League.

The League made remarkable progress in our new legislative campaigns, as well as on issues of long-term concern to our members, including open government, redistricting and judicial independence. Also, anticipating a revenue shortfall early in the fiscal year, the League took stock of our options and made tough choices about where we could cut our operating costs. This led us to institute innovative changes and adopt new technologies that not only helped us address the shortfall in 2009, but will strengthen the League's capacity to communicate with our members and carry out our work in 2010 and beyond.

What's more, contributions from supporters and members held steady throughout the year, allowing the League to close out 2009 on sound financial footing despite the difficult economy. That we were so successful last year is a testament to the generous support, energy and determination of the more than 150,000 League members and supporters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, who fuel our efforts.

In 2010, the League of Women Voters proudly celebrates our 90th anniversary. For the past nine decades, we have empowered citizens to do the hands-on work to strengthen and safeguard our democracy. Today, that work is as vital and important as it was for the woman suffrage activists, who founded the League generations ago—and this report proves that we have never done it better.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in the good work described herein. We couldn't have done it without you.

Sincerely,



Mary G. Wilson

*President, League of Women Voters of the United States*

*Chair, League of Women Voters Education Fund*



## I. NEW APPROACHES IN A NEW ERA

### GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

The new political landscape in Washington offered the League the opportunity to greatly increase our environmental work, focusing on one of the most urgent issues facing humanity today: global climate change.

Believing it to be one of the most important bills of our time, the League was a forceful advocate for the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES), which would set an economy-wide cap on greenhouse gas pollution and drive the nation's economy toward clean energy. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill in June, and the League continues to lobby the Senate to pass its companion bill.

Throughout the year, the League worked in partnership with Oxfam America. We hosted educational forums in California, Indiana, Michigan and New Mexico, and conferences in Washington, DC, and New Mexico that brought together citizens and government officials. The League distributed 850 copies of Oxfam's DVD, "Sisters on the Planet," to state and local Leagues. It held dozens of showings of the film, which features the inspirational story of four women who are fighting back against climate change. At the same time, League volunteer task force members produced a series of educational papers to help citizens understand the key issues at stake—and the need for them to get involved in the legislative process.

National League President Mary Wilson also led a number of advocacy actions. She met with members of congressional appropriations committees to call for funding of international adaptation strategies, travelled to several states in support of strong climate legislation, and spoke at public events in

Indiana, Michigan, New York and North Dakota. The League and Oxfam made joint visits to Capitol Hill, while supporting each other's grassroots activism in several states, whose Senators will be instrumental in determining whether the ACES Act becomes law in 2010. At the end of the year, the League was thrilled to have the opportunity to take our work on this issue to the international stage, sending an official non-governmental organization delegation to Copenhagen, Denmark, for the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change.



*The League took to the airwaves and internet with paid advertising urging Congress to support health care reform.*

### HEALTH CARE REFORM

The League of Women Voters has long fought for universal health care coverage, and the opportunity to fundamentally reform the nation's health care system spurred us to take an even stronger role on this issue in 2009. In a national debate about health care reform

that was too often colored by misinformation, partisan attacks and fear-mongering, the League stood out as a voice for civility and nonpartisan information. Another volunteer League task force produced a series of educational papers covering the complexities involved in this important topic.



*The League's Facebook page, "Do the Right Thing Joe!"*

In October, the League began airing a television ad in Arkansas, Maine and North Dakota condemning the intentional lies and scare tactics being used by health care reform opponents. This was an unusual step for us. But as a nonpartisan organization that believes in reasoned debate, the League felt an obligation to get the facts out. In Connecticut, the League aired radio ads and conducted a unique advocacy campaign using Facebook that

generated hundreds of comments from residents urging Senator Joseph Lieberman to reconsider his threats to oppose any health care reform bill that included a public option.

At the end of the year, the House and Senate passed their own health care reform legislation. While both bills are flawed, this is a massive step toward providing health care coverage to all Americans. In 2010, the League will continue working to improve the final bill and see it delivered to President Obama's desk.

## THE 2010 U.S. CENSUS

In early 2009, the League of Women Voters became an official partner of the decennial U.S. Census, which takes place on April 1, 2010. The data gathered will be used not only as the basis for most federal funding to states and communities, but also to determine each state's number of representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives. In January 2009, Leagues across the country began preparing to participate in Census 2010. The League is particularly determined to eliminate the "undercount" that has routinely shortchanged low-income and minority populations. To date, 107 local and state Leagues in 35 states have committed to being part of Complete Count Committees, and are organizing educational forums and partnering with local organizations to develop outreach efforts in hard-to-count communities.

## REDISTRICTING REFORM

The decennial congressional redistricting process will take place in 2011, one year after the U.S. Census. For years, the League of Women Voters and our members have worked to reform the redistricting systems in this country from top to bottom. In 2009, however, the League shifted its focus from "process" to "outcomes"—on doing everything possible to

help engage the public and organizations we work with on this issue, to minimize partisan gerrymandering in 2011.

In July, with support from the Ford Foundation, The Joyce Foundation and Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the League convened a group of thought leaders and stakeholders from the reform community in Pocantico Hills, New York, to discuss how to make the redistricting process more transparent and open to citizen participation in 2011 and beyond. The Pocantico conference helped shape a groundbreaking document released by the League and its partners, a "Statement of Essential Principles on Redistricting." They call for an accurate and complete count, transparency in the process, opportunities for the public to have direct input, and strategies that allow elected bodies to reflect the diversity of the populace.

## OPENNESS IN GOVERNMENT

Nowhere was the new era in Washington more apparent than in our efforts to promote an open and accountable government. After years of working to mitigate the impacts of federal policies that withheld information and shut citizens out of our democracy, in 2009 the League was able to directly engage with The White House to promote government transparency.

From his first day in office, President Obama instituted a series of landmark open government policies. In addition, The White House hosted an online process for gathering input from individuals and groups to help shape its open government policies. The League was an active participant, sharing our expertise and experience and bringing together divergent groups in the participatory democracy and transparency communities to share ideas and evaluate the process. As the sole group working in both of these areas, the League became the de facto chair of this loose coalition of organizations, which have been providing feedback to help the Administration increase transparency and citizen involvement in government.

The League also coauthored the 21st Century Right-To-Know Agenda, a good government transparency report we presented to President Obama's transition team. Penned by a working group comprised of dozens of organizations, it included principles and policy recommendations to help guide the President in reversing the pattern of secrecy and improving the connection between our government and its people.

During the week of March 15, the League celebrated Sunshine Week—a national period dedicated to the importance of open government and freedom of information. The League reminded citizens that they have an important role in fostering and maintaining an open government, and cosponsored the 4th Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue, “Opening Doors: Finding the Keys to Open Government” in Washington, DC.

At the same time, the national League began a new chapter in our efforts to help Leagues hold their state and local governments accountable. We did this through a new project,

conducting freedom-of-information audits in 11 states with funding from the Herb Block Foundation. Participating Leagues released the findings from their audits on July 4th, the 43rd anniversary of the landmark federal Freedom of Information Act. Our findings included the need for localities to make better use of technology to share information and respond to requests for public documents. The national League developed a toolkit based on the audits, entitled “Surveying Public Records: Protecting Your Right to Know,” which we will distribute to League affiliates and other organizations in 2010.



## II. NEW ACTIVITIES IN ON-GOING AREAS

### ELECTIONS AND VOTING

For 90 years, the League has led the fight to protect the voting process from unnecessary impediments and restrictions. Today this work continues in the fourth year of our Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project (PAVP), which is building the League’s capacity to prevent the disenfranchisement of eligible citizens at the state level, particularly underserved populations.

With the continued generosity of our long-time funder, in 2009 the national League supported the Leagues of Missouri and Indiana in their successful efforts to defeat onerous and unfair ID and proof of citizenship requirements for voting. In Arizona, Michigan and Pennsylvania, the national and state Leagues are working to ensure that state public assistance agencies fulfill their mandate under the National Voter

Registration Act (NVRA) to offer voter registration opportunities to people seeking assistance at the agencies. In Ohio, the League is working to oversee the implementation of our landmark lawsuit settlement agreement, which requires the state to take several critical steps to protect the rights of voters.

At the national level, the League worked with the Obama administration on implementing and enforcing federal laws that protect the rights of voters. For example, we worked with the U.S. Department of Justice, calling attention to long-ignored provisions of the NVRA, particularly those requiring that voter registration opportunities be made available at public assistance offices nationwide.



*VOTE411's award-winning homepage.*

The League also continued to improve VOTE411.org, our popular one-stop-shop

election website that has helped millions of Americans register to vote, find their polling place and get state-specific information they need prior to Election Day. We focused on technological upgrades to improve the site's functionality, so that it is more useful to local and state Leagues, local elections officials, and voters.

In conjunction with Project Vote, the League of Women Voters Education Fund laid the foundation for a groundbreaking High School Voter Registration Project. The goal is to determine the most effective method for registering high school students, especially minority students. The League aims to register approximately 27,000 students in 100 minority high schools in five states. The insights gleaned from this project will be used to produce a manual to help local Leagues and other civic and youth engagement groups plan and execute high school voter registration programs across the country in advance of the 2010 elections.

### **SAFEGUARDING DEMOCRACY THROUGH AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY**

Since 2001, the League has fought to protect the rights provided by the U.S. Constitution through our Safeguarding U.S. Democracy program—an educational campaign focused on addressing the critical issues facing the judiciary at the local, state and federal levels.

Today, a lack of diversity on state courts across the country threatens to undermine confidence in the judicial system. Therefore, in October, the League launched *Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary*, a new two-year campaign supported by the Open Society Institute Transparency and Integrity Fund, focusing on promoting diversity at all levels of the state judiciary. The campaign began in Kansas, whose problems with judicial diversity are emblematic of those facing nearly every other state. Over the next two years, Leagues across Kansas will develop and implement strategies for education and advocacy, such as community forums, town hall meetings, events at local law schools, and meetings with appointed and elected officials. Their experiences will serve as a guide for state and local Leagues across the country to promote judicial diversity in their own states.

In June, the League hailed the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Caperton v. Massey*, a historic case about the influence of campaign spending in state court elections. The League had filed an *amicus* brief that called on the Court to stem the flow of special interest money and politics into our courts. The Court's

ruling struck a blow against money-fueled influence for every American by reinforcing that due process and judicial independence will not be compromised for political gain.

### **PROMOTING GLOBAL DEMOCRACY**

As a "mighty political experiment" that succeeded, the League of Women Voters has much to offer individuals and civic institutions around the world, working to build democratic institutions and societies from the ground up. Hence, we share our expertise and provide technical support to others in emerging democracies.

In 2009, the League extended our partnerships in former Soviet bloc nations and the Americas. With grants from the Open World Leadership Center, the League hosted delegations of leaders from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. While in the U.S., the delegates stayed in the homes of League members. They explored how American civil society and government work together to uphold the principles of transparency, accountability and the rule of law.

In May, the League undertook the first-ever exchange of League members to Russia. The purpose of the trip was to connect with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), strengthen the relationship between the two countries and explore current issues in Russian democracy, particularly as they impact women and elections. The League also followed up on our successful workshop series, "Coaching NGOs in Armenia on Coalition Building for Effective Advocacy." Five Armenian workshop participants traveled to Washington, DC, to gain first-hand knowledge of how federal officials and NGOs like the League work together on environmental issues.

### **ETHICS AND LOBBYING REFORM**

For too long, lobbyists, special interests and campaign contributors have exercised perverse influence over government decisions, at the great expense of the citizens of our country. On his first day in office, President Obama made good on his word to challenge this influence culture.

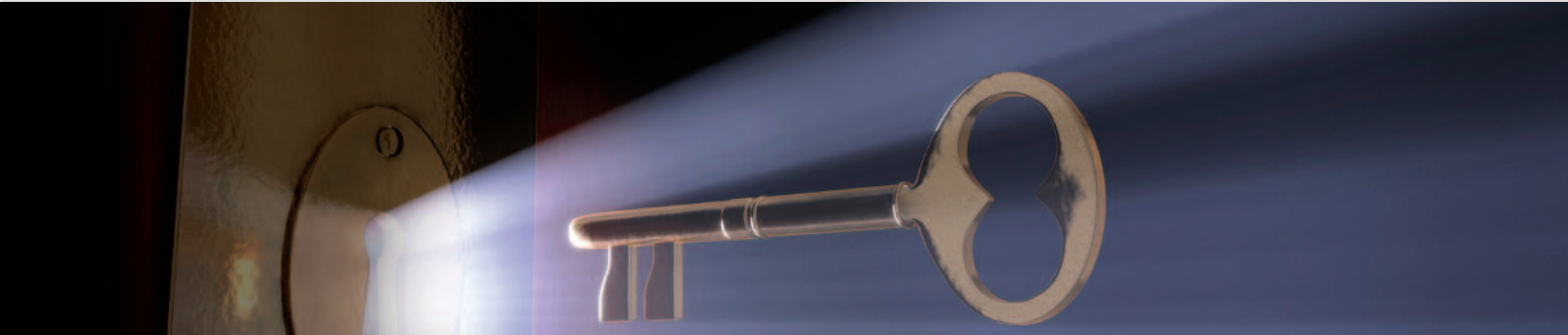
The President issued Executive Order 13490, which included the first-ever "reverse" revolving door provisions for lobbyists seeking to join the Administration, and a prohibition on presidential appointees accepting gifts from lobbyists. One year later, the League and other organizations released a "report card" giving the Administration high grades for these reforms. The report also acknowledged that these were only essential first steps, and outlined specific actions that must

be on The White House's reform agenda in 2010. These included rules and policies to clean up the corrupting effects of campaign money throughout our government.

### TAKING A STAND

The League's legislative priorities change to reflect both the needs of society and the concerns of our members. In 2009, we advocated for passage of the DC House Voting Rights Act, which would end one of the greatest civil rights tragedies of our time by giving residents of the District of Columbia

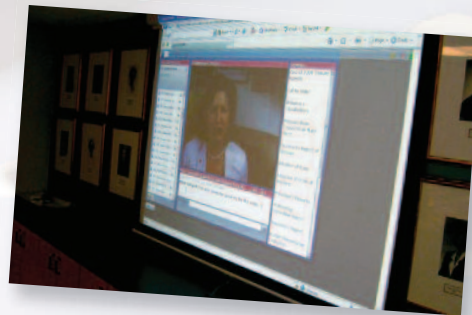
voting representation in Congress. We called for immigration reform policies that uphold due process and allow unauthorized immigrants currently living in this country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by working, paying taxes, learning English and meeting other criteria. We also called on Congress to pass the JUSTICE Act, which would restore fundamental civil liberties by amending the laws that have greatly diminished Americans' privacy over the past eight years.



## III. STRENGTHENING THE LEAGUE IN NEW WAYS

While economic realities demanded that the League find new ways to communicate with members, train staff and carry out other essential activities in 2009, we saw this as an opportunity to adopt new technologies to complement and strengthen our work. From posting videos about judicial independence on YouTube to using Facebook as part of our advocacy in support of the League's position on health care reform, this year the League was on the cutting-edge of online education and activism.

In June, the League held our National Council, the biennial gathering of state League leaders, online for the first time using new "webinar" technology. The "virtual" Council enabled us to explore and experience new communications technologies that will enable us to expand our ability to reach out to each other and to the public. The League has since become a resource for other groups we work with, providing advice on using technology in this way. And "webinars" have become an integral part of the League's ongoing leadership training activities, enabling us to conduct online sessions with League leaders across the country.



*"Virtual" Council 2009 harnessed the power of the internet.*

The League also took a significant step forward in our Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI), which we launched in 2006 to ensure that there is a foundation at the state and local levels for long-term membership growth and leadership development. In 2009, a landmark donation from Walter Shur in memory of his late wife, Ruth S. Shur, a longtime League

member, established a permanent fund to support and strengthen emerging League leadership and membership recruitment. The MRI is now underway in ten states, and the nearly 100 participating local Leagues have begun to reverse a 30-year decline in membership, showing a cumulative four percent net growth over 18 months. With support

from the Shur grant, the League will expand these efforts to ten more states in the coming months, expand leadership training nationwide and establish an ongoing team of national leadership "coaches," who will build a coaching structure for Leagues in each state over the next few years.



## IV. LOOKING AHEAD

The progress the League made in 2009 has us positioned to achieve victory on some of our highest priorities. While we were severely disappointed that Congress failed to pass health care reform legislation last year, we are determined to make expanded quality health care coverage a reality in 2010. We will also continue our campaign to press the U.S. government to exert leadership in addressing climate change, domestically and abroad.

2010 is an election year, and the League will work as tirelessly as ever to provide election-related information and services to voters, and bring new voters, especially young minorities, into the electorate. At the same time, we will continue to address the multitude of issues plaguing our electoral system, from the toxic influence of corporate money to the undemocratic hurdles that have been erected to prevent eligible voters, particularly minority and low-income populations, from exercising this most fundamental right of our democracy.

For example, the League has already begun working with other organizations to develop legislative proposals to mitigate the worst impacts of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission (FEC)*. By a 5-4 decision, the Court overturned existing federal and state limits on corporate expenditures in elections, a decision that will unleash into our elections tremendous sums of money from for-profit corporations that cannot possibly be matched by ordinary citizens.

The national League also hopes to create a redistricting toolkit to help state and local Leagues affect redistricting outcomes nationwide in 2011, through such means as computer software to develop alternate redistricting plans that will combat partisan gerrymandering.

As part of our Global Democracy program, the League announced a new two-year exchange program with Colombia and Brazil, beginning in April 2010. The program will promote intercultural exchange and dialogue at the political level, while strengthening the bonds between citizens in the Americas.

As we celebrate our 90th year, the entire League community is taking pride in our storied history. The national League is preparing a range of materials to help state and local Leagues showcase the League's accomplishments, while focusing on making themselves more visible in their communities. The League is one of America's most important and enduring civic organizations, and this is an exciting opportunity to inspire more citizens to join us in this milestone year.



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®



**League of Women Voters of the United States  
and League of Women Voters Education Fund**

**Consolidated Statements of Activities**

| <i>Year Ended June 30,</i>                         | 2009                | 2008                |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted activities</b>                     |                     |                     |
| Revenue and support                                |                     |                     |
| Grants and contributions                           | \$ 3,418,692        | \$ 3,290,738        |
| Per-member payments                                | 1,314,748           | 1,262,844           |
| Nationally recruited member dues                   | 343,077             | 366,974             |
| Contributions in lieu of per-member payments       | 203,568             | 216,390             |
| Publication sales and other income                 | 24,834              | 39,506              |
| Council and convention registration and other fees | 13,742              | 225,505             |
| Investment income                                  | (1,208,935)         | 49,889              |
|  | <b>4,109,726</b>    | <b>5,451,846</b>    |
| Net assets released from restrictions:             |                     |                     |
| Satisfaction of program restrictions               | 1,201,200           | 610,888             |
|  | <b>5,310,926</b>    | <b>6,062,734</b>    |
| Expense  |                     |                     |
| Program services                                   |                     |                     |
| Election services                                  | 1,141,038           | 622,138             |
| Communications                                     | 750,073             | 858,373             |
| Member services                                    | 693,072             | 808,660             |
| International programs                             | 436,615             | 293,248             |
| Lobbying   | 269,416             | 239,839             |
| Civic engagement                                   | 137,357             | 53,143              |
| Judicial independence                              | 122,133             | 164,026             |
| Council and convention                             | 34,398              | 238,074             |
| Immigration policy study                           |                     | 15,861              |
| Total program services                             | <b>3,584,102</b>    | <b>3,293,362</b>    |
| Supporting services                                |                     |                     |
| General and administrative                         | 1,116,016           | 1,257,636           |
| Fundraising  | 1,810,789           | 2,009,478           |
| Total supporting services                          | <b>2,926,805</b>    | <b>3,267,114</b>    |
| Total expenses                                     | <b>6,510,907</b>    | <b>6,560,476</b>    |
| Change in unrestricted net assets                  | <b>(1,199,981)</b>  | <b>(497,742)</b>    |
| <b>Temporarily restricted activities</b>           |                     |                     |
| Grants and contributions                           | 493,094             | 1,615,345           |
| Change in value of split interest agreements       | (2,941)             | 7,501               |
| Net assets released from restrictions:             |                     |                     |
| Satisfaction of program restrictions               | (1,201,200)         | (610,888)           |
| Change in temporarily restricted net assets        | <b>(711,047)</b>    | <b>1,011,958</b>    |
| Change in net assets                               | <b>(1,911,028)</b>  | <b>514,216</b>      |
| Net assets, beginning of year                      | <b>6,105,676</b>    | <b>5,591,460</b>    |
| <b>Net assets, end of year</b>                     | <b>\$ 4,194,648</b> | <b>\$ 6,105,676</b> |

# League of Women Voters Education Fund

## Statements of Activities

| <i>Year Ended June 30,</i>   | <b>2010</b>         | <b>2009</b>         |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted activities</b>   |                     |                     |
| Revenue and support  |                     |                     |
| Grants and contributions   | \$ 1,049,850        | \$ 1,465,257        |
| Investment income (loss) - Note C  | 520,067             | (875,542)           |
| Contributions in lieu of per-member payments   | 235,500             | 203,568             |
| Nationally recruited member dues   | 26,271              | 14,660              |
| Publication sales and other income   | 7,280               | 1,028               |
| Change in value of annuity agreements - Note E   | (2,667)             | 12,296              |
|  | <b>1,836,301</b>    | <b>821,267</b>      |
| Net assets released from restrictions -<br>satisfaction of program restrictions - Note G | <b>845,194</b>      | <b>1,190,864</b>    |
| Total revenue and support  | <b>2,681,495</b>    | <b>2,012,131</b>    |
| Expense  |                     |                     |
| Program services   |                     |                     |
| Election services  | 694,925             | 1,141,038           |
| International programs   | 347,549             | 436,615             |
| Civic engagement   | 231,936             | 137,357             |
| Judicial independence  | 148,142             | 122,133             |
| Total program services   | <b>1,422,552</b>    | <b>1,837,143</b>    |
| Supporting services  |                     |                     |
| Fund raising   | 414,785             | 396,876             |
| General and administrative   | 413,102             | 422,306             |
| Total supporting services  | <b>827,887</b>      | <b>819,182</b>      |
| Total expense  | <b>2,250,439</b>    | <b>2,656,325</b>    |
| Change in unrestricted net assets  | <b>431,056</b>      | <b>(644,194)</b>    |
| <b>Temporarily restricted activities</b>   |                     |                     |
| Grants and contributions   | 980,766             | 472,247             |
| Investment income - Note C   | 49,210              | -                   |
| Change in value of annuity agreements - Note E   | 6,912               | (2,941)             |
| Net assets released from restrictions - Note G   | (845,194)           | (1,190,864)         |
| Change in temporarily restricted net assets  | <b>191,694</b>      | <b>(721,558)</b>    |
| <b>Permanently restricted activities</b>   |                     |                     |
| Contributions - Note H   | 600,000             | -                   |
| Change in permanently restricted net assets  | <b>600,000</b>      | <b>-</b>            |
| <b>Change in net assets</b>  | <b>1,222,750</b>    | <b>(1,365,752)</b>  |
| Net assets, beginning of year  | <b>3,519,581</b>    | <b>4,885,333</b>    |
| <b>Net assets, end of year</b>   | <b>\$ 4,742,331</b> | <b>\$ 3,519,581</b> |

## A SPECIAL THANKS

The League's success is made possible by the thousands of members, supporters and partners, who contribute to our programs and help us realize our mission every day. We are enormously grateful for all they do, and we are pleased to recognize the donors who made gifts between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009.

### LEADERS FOR DEMOCRACY

#### *Champions (\$10,000+)*

Charles G. Talanian  
Ann S. Wolff  
Peter S. Vosbikian

#### *Visionaries (\$5,000+)*

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Judith M. Buechner  
Judith S. Davis  
Judy C. Duffy  
Shirley W. Eberly  
Ruth Gordon Hinerfeld  
Linnemann Family Foundation  
Elisabeth MacNamara

#### *Ambassadors (\$2,500+)*

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Catherine S. England  
Marianne Gabel  
Adelaide Park Gomer  
Chara C. Haas  
Julia M. Ladner  
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Lillie Anderson\*  
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Alpine and Don Bird  
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The Mitzvah Foundation  
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Heather Lorraine Hillman Mutz  
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*The following individuals have informed us that they have provided for the League of Women Voters in their estates by naming the League in their will, participating in our pooled income fund, obtaining a charitable gift annuity, designating the League as a beneficiary of their insurance policy, IRA, trust, or through other planned giving vehicles.*

Anonymous (3)  
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Golda Aders  
Margaret Anton  
Marguerite Bader  
Keller H. Barron  
June C. Bashkin  
Caryl Conry Beal  
Janice A. and George W. Beran  
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Ann S. Wolff  
Juliet Zavon

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Estate of Barbara P. Sherwood  
Estate of Barbara Stuhler  
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**OUR MISSION**

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences those policies through education and advocacy.

Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With 90 years of experience and 850 local and state affiliates, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations. At the national level, League activities are coordinated and staffed by two distinct but complementary organizations.

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) is a 501(c)(4) advocacy and membership organization. Dedicated to promoting political responsibility, the LWVUS encourages active and informed participation in government.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) is a 501(c)(3) citizen education and research organization. Established in 1957, the Education Fund provides research, publications, and conferences on public policy issues and disseminates information and training that help citizens, in the United States and abroad, to thoughtfully engage in the democratic process.

**2008-2010**

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