



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LOS ANGELES**

Trusted, Nonpartisan Grassroots Leadership Since 1920.
Women and Men: We Invite Your Membership.

May 30, 2012

Paul H. Turner, President
Valerie Vanaman, Vice-President
Marlene Canter, Commissioner
Nathan J. Hochman, Commissioner
Ralph D. Fertig, Commissioner
Los Angeles City Ethics Commission

via email: ethics.commission@lacity.org

Dear City Ethics Commission:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles, I am writing to support the LA City Ethics Commission's efforts to strengthen the public matching fund system in time for the upcoming 2013 elections.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. The League advocates measures to ensure full disclosure of campaign contributions, and to enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office. To those ends, the League supports the Ethics Commission's vote to increase the match ratio from 1:1 to 4:1 for candidates opting into the public matching funds system. This will give candidates a greater incentive to participate, plan their campaigns, and get their message out. The League supports increasing that match in time for the 2013 elections.

Shockingly, 45% of City Council candidate donations come from outside the City of Los Angeles. The League strongly supports requiring that all donations that are matched by public funds come from city residents. This sends the elected officials the message that they are accountable first and foremost to the residents of Los Angeles.

For City Council Candidate races, the League supports the proposal to incentivize candidates to connect with constituents by requiring 200 qualifying contributions to come from individuals living within their district – no dollar amount or percentage specified, but 200 contributions from within their district. The League supports implementation of this requirement for the 2013 election cycle.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Holtzman".

David Holtzman, President
League of Women Voters of Los Angeles