



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN
EDUCATION FUND**

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To: All Senators

Re: Support Special Interest Electioneering Disclosure bill, SB 43

It has been more than 30 years since the League of Women Voters' state membership agreed upon the positions from which we support this bill, and campaign finance reform has been a League action priority all this time. We concluded in 1977 that adequate public financing for campaigns allows all candidates and issues equitable access to the electorate, without reliance on personal wealth or excessive special interest support or threat of such by opponents or independent committees. We are delighted that the state's new Impartial Justice law provides this for Supreme Court elections.

However, in order for the Impartial Justice law to be most effective, we need also to bring those claiming to produce "issue ads" while referencing candidates positively or negatively during campaigns into the regulations for independent spenders. While speech should not be restricted, the electorate has a right to know the funding sources of these campaign activities, and the producers of these ads should have to abide by the limits that apply to campaigns and registered political action committees.

Passage of the Special Interest Electioneering Disclosure bill would once again allow Wisconsin citizens to have confidence in the electoral process behind our elected officials. We urge you to support SB 43.

Thank you.