



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN  
EDUCATION FUND

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Common Cause  
In Wisconsin



July 10, 2008

**RE: Questionnaire for Fall 2008 Government Ethics Voter Guide**

Dear Candidate:

Congratulations on your commitment to run for office in Wisconsin's Legislature. It is our mission to help citizens be informed participants in government. In particular, we want them to know your commitment to ensuring that government is representative and responsive to the public.

Our Fall 2008 Government Ethics Voter Guide will be posted on our website ([www.lwvwi.org](http://www.lwvwi.org)), as well as those of Common Cause in Wisconsin ([www.commoncause.org/wisconsin](http://www.commoncause.org/wisconsin)) and Wisconsin Democracy Campaign ([www.wisd.org](http://www.wisd.org)). We will make it available to our respective memberships, the news media and the general public. In addition, the information will be included with the League of Women Voters state voter guide, which will be sent to local Leagues throughout Wisconsin. Some local Leagues invite their local newspaper editors to publish candidates' responses.

Please assist us by providing answers to the enclosed questionnaire on or before Friday, July 18, 2008. To help us offer fair, useful and timely information for voters, please follow these guidelines:

1. **FORMAT AND TRANSMITTAL:** We encourage you to complete this questionnaire online at <http://www.lwvwi.org/voter-guide>. Alternately, you may submit your answers via email to [lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org](mailto:lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org). If necessary, you may send your responses by U.S. mail to the above address or fax it to 608/256-1761. **RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE BY FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2008.**
2. **"NO REPLY":** Candidates who do not respond will have "did not respond" listed after their names. Responses received after the deadline will be treated the same way. If you state that it is your policy not to answer questionnaires that will be noted in the guide.
3. **WORD LIMIT:** You should provide a "yes" or "no" answer to each of the specific questions on the enclosed questionnaire. Additional responses of 100 words or less will be included in the League of Women Voters state voter guide. Longer responses will be cut off at 100 words with the notation: [word limit].
4. **PHOTOS FOR PUBLICATION:** You are encouraged to send a head-shot photo in electronic format. Please do so by the July 18 deadline.

If you have any questions, please call the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin office at 608/256-0827. Thank you in advance for helping to educate the residents of Wisconsin as they exercise their right to vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Melanie G. Ramey'.

Melanie Ramey, President



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## Fall 2008 Government Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

1. **YES OR NO:** Do you support and would you vote for bipartisan campaign finance reform legislation that would provide full, 100 percent public financing to candidates for the State Supreme Court who qualify for such funding and who agree to limit their spending, and would be eligible to receive additional matching funds if a non-complying opponent exceeds the spending limit, and/or if they are the target of outside spending in the form of independent expenditures or sham issue ads?"
  
2. **YES OR NO:** Do you support and would you vote for bipartisan, comprehensive campaign finance reform that would reduce special interest influence and the cost of campaigning by setting new voluntary campaign spending limits as a threshold condition for receiving public financing grants equal to at least 35 to 45 percent of the legally established spending limits for the offices they seek as well as:
  - Provide supplemental public grants to candidates who are the targets of outside interest group spending and/or are opposed by candidates who do not agree to limit their spending and exceed the spending limit;
  - Require increased disclosure and regulation of so-called "issue advocacy" by interest groups or individuals;
  - Prohibit campaign fundraising during the state budget process and ban contributions by anyone bidding for a state contract;
  - Eliminate leadership-controlled legislative campaign committees;
  - Limit out-of-state special interest money;
  - Ban the pooling of special interest political action committee money to create so-called "SuperPACs"?
  
3. **YES OR NO:** Do you support and would you vote for legislation mirroring the bipartisan 2007 Senate Bill 463 requiring the complete disclosure of the source of funding for so-called "issue ads" and requiring that the funds for such electioneering comply with campaign contribution limits in Wisconsin law?  
(This would limit individual donations and prohibit the use of money from the general treasuries of corporations, labor unions and Native American tribes to pay for such electioneering.)
  
4. **YES OR NO:** Do you support and would you vote for legislative measures making electoral competitiveness a legal or constitutional standard that must be applied by the Legislature and the courts in establishing state legislative and congressional district boundaries?
  
5. **YES OR NO:** Do you support and would you vote for legislative measures establishing an independent commission or authority to handle the task of redrawing legislative and congressional districts after each census beginning in 2011?
  
6. **YES OR NO:** Do you support and would you vote for legislation to tighten Wisconsin's "revolving door" policy by requiring at least a one-year "cooling off" period before former legislators, top legislative aides and key executive branch officials can become registered lobbyists and prohibiting persons convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor committed in their former capacity as a legislator, legislative aide or key executive branch official from becoming registered lobbyists?
  
7. In 100 words or less, please describe your particular priorities for your term in office and your specific qualifications to effectively address those issues.