



League of Women Voters of Alabama

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March 9, 2009

Senator Wendell Mitchell, Chairman
Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs
Room 733
State House
11 S. Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

Via Facsimile To: 334 242-8819

Dear Senator Mitchell,

The League of Women Voters of Alabama is a supporter of stronger ethics legislation that gives the Ethics Commission the proper resources to carry out its responsibilities to protect the public interest.

The League is concerned that given inadequate funding for the Commission, its lack of subpoena powers, and other resource issues, SB238 with its unqualified 30 day requirement for completing an investigation will hamper thorough investigations of alleged misconduct by public officials and public employees.

We understand the need to dispose of frivolous or malicious complaints with a minimum of harm to the innocent, but there must be a way to accomplish this goal without crippling the Commission's ability to investigate adequately more serious complaints.

The League opposes the bill as written.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynn Bates,
President

The League of Women Voters, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.