



League of Women Voters of Alabama

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Dear Editor,

The League of Women Voters of Alabama has long supported stronger ethics legislation and open government. The citizens of Alabama have a rare opportunity to improve both significantly during the Special Session of the Alabama legislature. We urge legislation that:

- **establishes clear and enforceable standards of ethical conduct for elected and appointed officials**, public employees and lobbyists, with requirements ensuring public office be used for the public good, not private gain.
- **ends all PAC-to-PAC transfers.**
- **provides Ethics Commission with independent subpoena powers and ability to levy fines** against those late in filing statements of economic interests.
- requires candidates, public employees, and public officials be informed of mandatory procedures and rules.
- **requires statements of economic interest** be submitted to the Commission by all elected officials, all candidates for office, and specified appointed officials/ public employees.
- **requires all lobbyist expenditures be reported.**
- **requires public meetings be announced and open to all citizens** except discussion of a person's character/ good name.
- requires all elected/appointed officials follow **Open Meetings Law**; prohibits mechanisms to circumvent intent of the law.
- includes a provision **nullifying decisions made in illegally conducted meetings.**

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- requires candidates for elective office to disclose all contributions and names of campaign contributors before each election.
- requires governmental entities to take sealed bids on major purchases/ expenditures.
- Ensures all required financial reports be accessible to the public.

We strongly urge the citizens of Alabama to contact their legislators immediately about supporting strong ethics legislation.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Byrd
Co-President

Charlotte Ward
Co-President