



**League of Women Voters
Alameda County Council**

*Alameda
Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville
Eden Area
Fremont/Newark/Union City
Livermore/Amador Valley
Oakland
Piedmont*

Saturday, November 12, 2005

The Honorable Keith Carson, President
Alameda County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, #536
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Citizens' Oversight Committee for the Essential Health Care Services Tax Ordinance

The Alameda County Council of the League of Women Voters gave strong support to Measure A, Ordinance No. 2004-32, which was approved by the voters on March 3, 2004. One of the important considerations in our support of this measure was the provision calling for the Board of Supervisors to establish and appoint a Citizens' Oversight Committee. The ordinance calls for this committee to be established "...upon enactment of this ordinance..."

Over one and a half years have passed since the enactment of Measure A and millions of dollars have been expended over two fiscal years; yet your Board has not established the Citizens' Oversight Committee. We are pleased that you have accepted and appointed our nominations for two of the positions of the Committee, but we are deeply concerned about the nineteen month delay in establishing the functioning committee while expenditures continue to be made.

We strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to promptly comply with the Ordinance as approved by the voters of Alameda County and as supported by our combined Alameda Leagues. If both the Board of Supervisors and our Leagues are to maintain credibility with the voters, it is imperative that the Citizens' Oversight Committee be established and convened immediately, and certainly before the Board of Supervisors approve further expenditures of funds under the provisions of Section 2.08.241 D.

Very truly yours,

Nancy Bickel, Chair
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cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
Clerk of Board of Supervisors
Susan Muranishi, County Administrator
Ted Rose, President & Board of Trustees
David Kears, Director
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency