

Tennessee

General Assembly

State of Tennessee

Diane Black
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Nashville

July 2, 2008

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Dear Sumner County League of Women Voters:

We regret to inform you that after much consideration and discussion, we have decided we must resign our membership from the League of Women Voters (LWV). We are saddened by this situation because we have many good friends in the League. We also believe strongly in the original mission of the league of encouraging citizens, especially women, to vote.

While we do not expect to agree with all positions of any organization, it is apparent that our differences on key issues have grown over the past few years. As conservative legislators, we now find our core values are at odds with too many of the LWV positions.

It is distressing to us, as members of the League, to find the legislation we consistently sponsor in both the House and the Senate to be denounced by the state and national organization. It is also a big concern that our dues are going to support the Tennessee LWV lobbyist, Stewart Clifton, who we see on a daily basis at the Capitol fighting good legislation that will benefit our districts, many of these in which we have sponsored.

Here are just a few examples of legislation we have sponsored that have been opposed by the League:

- ? SJR 127, a constitutional amendment to restore commonsense protections for women whose choose abortions
- ? Voter Photo ID, a bill to ensure integrity at the ballot box
- ? Legislation ensuring that Tennessee is not a magnet for illegal immigrants
- ? TABOR, a constitutional amendment to ensure that government lives within its means and protects taxpayers from runaway spending

The LWV also supports a state income tax which we strongly oppose.

We are disappointed that the mission of the League has shifted its direction from voter registration and encouraging citizens to vote, to lobbying for ideas and programs that are in conflict with the values of the vast majority of our constituents in the 45th House and 18th Senate districts.

Sincerely,

Diane Black Debra Young Maggart

Sen. Diane Black Rep. Debra Young Maggart