



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

November 28, 2012

To: Members of the California Congressional Delegation  
From: Jennifer A. Waggoner, President  
Re: The "Fiscal Cliff," Taxes and the Budget

**By Fax—2 pages**

The League of Women Voters of California adds its voice to the message you recently received from Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the League of Women Voters, urging your action to set a new direction for federal fiscal policy. (See attached copy.) It is time to provide a long-term solution to our financial crisis by:

- Raising taxes on the top two percent by repealing the Bush tax cuts for high-income tax payers and ending the special treatment for capital gains and dividends
- Reducing the deficit over the long term but protecting our fragile economy against steep deficit cutbacks
- Protecting the social safety net, including Medicaid, Social Security and Medicare
- Reducing military spending.

We urge you to take advantage of this historic opportunity to restore a fair and progressive tax system, provide for social needs, and move the country forward with careful management of the deficit and the economy.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE UNITED STATES

November 15, 2012

*President*  
**Elisabeth MacNamara**  
Atlanta, Georgia

To: Members of the U.S. Congress

From: Elisabeth MacNamara, President

*Vice Presidents*  
**Janis McMillen**  
Overland Park, Kansas

Re: The "Fiscal Cliff," Taxes and the Budget

**Mary T. Klenz**  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Congress now has an historic opportunity to set federal fiscal policy on a fair and stable path. While avoiding the spending and tax changes scheduled for January 1 is important, it is much more important to provide a long-term solution by substantially increasing revenue, protecting the social safety net, reducing defense spending and carefully managing the deficit. The League of Women Voters strongly urges you not to miss this opportunity.

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
**Patricia L. Donath**  
Lansing, Michigan

Congress must restore a fair and progressive tax system in order to provide needed revenue and ensure social equity. We urge you to allow tax cuts that benefit only the richest two percent to expire on schedule, which would provide nearly \$1 trillion. The League also supports an effective estate tax, ending special treatment of capital gains and dividends, and increasing the maximum for Social Security tax withholding. Securing substantial new revenue from those with the greatest ability to contribute will allow our nation to meet reasonable deficit reduction goals, invest in education and infrastructure and protect the programs that meet basic human needs.

*Directors*  
**Peggy Appler**  
Charleston, South Carolina

Long-term deficit reduction is an important goal, but it is also vital to recognize that deficit spending is appropriate and effective for stimulating the economy during recession, meeting social needs in times of high unemployment, and meeting defense needs in times of national security crises. Over the last several years, and still today, our nation faces these problems. Early deficit reduction must not overtake the need for establishing economic growth and meeting vital needs. The Bowles-Simpson proposal, for example, cuts the deficit well beyond what is needed to stabilize the deficit over the long term.

**Carolyn V Brown**  
Douglas, Alaska

Any budget agreement must protect basic social spending. Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and essential services for low-income people must be maintained. Millions of seniors, children, people with disabilities and others depend on these programs and they should not be cut.

**Toni E. Larson**  
Denver, Colorado

**Karen Nicholson**  
Midland, Texas

**Anne B. Schink**  
South Portland, Maine

**Norman Turrill**  
Portland, Oregon

**Linda P. Wassenich**  
Dallas, Texas

Today, more than 20 million people are in need of full-time work, and unemployment continues to hover around 8 percent. With the current state of the economy, our nation must have a truly balanced approach to spending and taxes.

**Susan Morris Wilson**  
Redding, California

The League of Women Voters urges you to support a new direction for federal fiscal policy, one that recognizes the importance of a fair tax system, one that provides for social needs, and one that will carefully manage the deficit and the economy.

*Executive Director*  
**Nancy E. Tate**