



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS® of VIRGINIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Olga Hernandez

www.LWV-VA.org

703-831-8595

August 14, 2008

88 Years of Stronger Democracy

League of Women Voters of Virginia Marks Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

Washington, DC– This August 26 marks the 88th anniversary of the day that the U.S. Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote. The nonpartisan League of Women Voters, formed when women were first granted the right to vote, will mark this occasion with reflections on how far we have come as well as optimism that this year will bring even more Americans into the democratic process.

“What better day than the anniversary of the 19th amendment, Women’s Equality Day, to recognize the progress we have made on voting rights in the past 88 years,” said Mary G. Wilson, national League president.

“This election year has seen an unprecedented rise in the number of new voters register in Virginia. Over 200,000 have been added to the rolls especially women, young people and minorities, “ said League of Women Voters of Virginia president Olga Hernandez. “There is a tremendous sense of excitement and energy driving this election.”

“Right now the League is working to reach out to these rising populations of new voters, making sure that everyone is prepared for November 4th.” Our Voter Guide for the Senate and local Congressional races will be available on our websites and in print around the Commonwealth.

“These achievements do not mark the end of our journey. In communities across the country, citizens still lack real representation by their elected officials and the policies they pass. It is only with the continued work of citizens and leaders, of all backgrounds, that this can change.”

“Today, and especially this election year, is a time to celebrate the progress achieved by active citizens over the past eight decades. But it is also a time to look at what still needs to be done to make democracy work for all Americans. The League of Women Voters chapters across Virginia will continue to be the place where hands-on work leads to a better democracy for all.” We encourage everyone concerned about government policy and election issues to join us.

###

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With more than 88 years of experience and 850 local and state affiliates, the League is one of America’s most trusted grassroots organizations.