

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 40

Introduced by Assembly Members Lieber and Leno

March 15, 2005

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 40—Relative to the 85th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 40, as introduced, Lieber. League of Women Voters' 85th Anniversary.

This measure would recognize the origins and accomplishments of the League of Women Voters, and would memorialize the 85th anniversary of that organization.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In the year 1911, California became the sixth
2 state to give women the right to vote; and

3 WHEREAS, In the year 1920, after decades of fighting for the
4 right to vote, women believed they had a responsibility to
5 participate in public debate, and to educate voters about the
6 important issues of the day; and

7 WHEREAS, On February 14, 1920, at the final convention of
8 the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Chicago,
9 the League of Women Voters was born, in anticipation of the
10 ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States
11 Constitution, which would provide a constitutional guarantee of
12 a woman's right to vote; and

13 WHEREAS, In the 1920's, the League of Women Voters
14 secured passage of the first federal maternal and infant health
15 care program, the Sheppard-Towner Act; and

1 WHEREAS, In the 1930's, the League worked diligently on
2 American foreign policy and received an award for its efforts
3 from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation; and

4 WHEREAS, In the 1960's the League fought against
5 discrimination in education, employment, and housing and built
6 citizen support for economic opportunities, and President
7 Johnson proclaimed "League of Women Voters Week"; and

8 WHEREAS, The League is a nonpartisan organization that has
9 fought for a wide variety of issues, from free trade and the
10 creation of the United Nations to civil rights and compulsory
11 public education; and

12 WHEREAS, Other causes the League has championed include
13 lend-lease aid to Britain during World War II, education
14 programs to counter Senator Joe McCarthy's attacks on civil
15 liberties, civil rights and antipoverty laws, resumption of United
16 States relations with China, nuclear arms control, environmental
17 regulation, free trade treaties, workplace laws protecting women
18 and children, the minimum wage, and unpaid family leave for
19 workers; and

20 WHEREAS, The League continues to battle in the halls of
21 Congress for campaign finance reform, United States support of
22 emerging democracies, and universal health care; and

23 WHEREAS, The League may best be known for its
24 sponsorship of political debates, and providing voters with a
25 nonpartisan, issue-oriented forum from which they may make
26 informed decisions; and

27 WHEREAS, The League has 1,100 chapters and 90,000
28 members nationwide; and

29 WHEREAS, The commitment of its members has transformed
30 the League of Women Voters from "the mighty political
31 experiment" that began in 1920, when it was designed to help 20
32 million newly enfranchised women carry out their voting
33 responsibilities, to what it is today: a unique, nonpartisan
34 organization of men and women recognized as a force in molding
35 political leaders, shaping public policy, and promoting informed
36 citizen participation at all levels of government; now, therefore,
37 be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
39 *thereof concurring,* That the people of California hereby
40 recognize the important and unique contributions of the League

1 of Women Voters during its 85th-year history as a nonpartisan
2 educational organization dedicated to increasing voter awareness
3 and participation; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
5 sufficient copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate
6 distribution.

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