



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MEDIA ADVISORY –
Wednesday, October 21, 11:30-1:00 p.m.**

MOBILE – Buoyed by the successful effort to limit campaign contributions to \$250 in local elections in Tallahassee last year, a diverse group of citizens in Mobile is trying to garner support for similar reform, although it faces greater challenges because of Mobile's lack of a referendum process.

"Anyone who has felt concerned about the obscene amounts of money raised in election campaigning would find it worthwhile to learn more about this organization," said LWV-Mobile President Betsey Wooten.

The League of Women Voters of Mobile welcomes representatives of the Mobile chapter of Represent US who will speak at LWV's October luncheon. Calling the post-2012 campaign finance realities "legal bribery," Represent US has been encouraging Americans of all political viewpoints – from moderate to far right and far left – to fight together for an end of secret money, known as "dark money," and what it calls political bribery in election cycles. LWV-Mobile is participating in the formation of an updated national position on money in elections, and this luncheon talk is part of a study of the issue.

Like the national leadership team, Represent Mobile's chapter has built a coalition of active members from across the political spectrum together to pass an anti-corruption act that restricts campaign contributions. The national Represent.US board brought together disgraced former lobbyist Jack Abramoff, Teddy Roosevelt's great grandson, Theodore IV, Tea Party Network Chair Catherine Baer and Cecelia Frontero of Occupy Wall Street – in addition to former high ranking elected officials, law professors, political advisors and presidential consultants.

"Represent Mobile's purpose is to demand transparency in government, control campaign finance and end the revolving door between elected officials, lobbyists and companies that are regulated by government or do business with it," said Represent Mobile founding member Gary Revere. Revere and John Graham, another founding member and spokesman for the organization, will speak at the luncheon. Represent Mobile serves as Alabama's only chapter and one of only a handful of chapters in the Southeast.

The first anti-corruption act passed in Tallahassee last year. Efforts were spear-headed by the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee and included Common Cause and Tea Party representatives. Assisted by Represent US, the Tallahassee group pushed through a referendum that limits campaign contributions to city candidates to \$250 per donor. It was backed by 67 percent of the voters.

The nonpartisan League of Women Voters last updated its position on campaign finance more than 30 years ago. At its 2014 convention, delegates from around the country voted to study money in elections, particularly in light of the drastically increased campaign spending and dark money that appeared after Citizens United and the 2014 Supreme Court decision in *McCutcheon v. FEC* that removed limits on aggregate federal campaign contributions.

Please join us on Wednesday, **Oct. 21, from 11:30am-1:00pm.** at the Marriott Hotel near Bel Air Mall at 3101 Airport Blvd. The buffet lunch is \$17.00. **Please RSVP to lovjan42@comcast.net or 401-3321 by Monday, Oct. 19.** This event is open to the public.

The League of Women Voters, a national, nonpartisan, political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.