

CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON OF CALIFORNIA

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE PACKET:

**AFRICAN AMERICAN,
HISPANIC AND ASIAN FAMILIES**

*prepared by DC Staff
January 2012*

CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL RIGHTS AND MINORITY GROUPS

RELEVANT CAUCUSES

Prepared by D.C. Staff: January 2012

- 1. CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS**
- 2. CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN CAUCUS**
- 3. CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS**
- 4. CONGRESSIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS**
- 5. CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS**
- 6. CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAUCUS**
- 7. CONGRESSIONAL LGBT CAUCUS**
- 8. CONGRESSIONAL PRO-CHOICE CAUCUS**
- 9. CONGRESSIONAL URBAN CAUCUS**

CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL RIGHTS AND MINORITY ISSUES GROUP RATINGS

Prepared by D.C. Staff: January 2012

- **2009-2010** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the [American Civil Liberties Union](#) **94** percent in 2009-2010.
- **2009-2010** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the [Arab American Institute](#) **30** percent in 2009-2010.
- **2009-2010** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the [Human Rights Campaign](#) **90** percent in 2009-2010.
- **2009-2010** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the [Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights](#) **100** percent in 2009-2010.
- **2009-2010** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People](#) **95** percent in 2009-2010.

- **2009** On the votes used to calculate its ratings, the [American Library Association](#) attaches more value to those votes it considers more important. For 2009, the [American Library Association](#) gave Representative Richardson a rating of **13** percent.
- **2009** In 2009 the [Irregular Times/Progressive Patriots - Net Congressional Score - May 14, 2010](#) gave Representative Richardson a rating of **40**.
- **2009** Based on a point system, with points assigned for actions in support of or in opposition to the [Irregular Times/Progressive Patriots - Progressive Action Score - May 14, 2010](#)'s position, Representative Richardson received a rating of **45** percent.
- **2009** Based on a point system, with points assigned for actions in support of or in opposition to the [Irregular Times/Progressive Patriots - Regressive Action Score - May 14, 2010](#)'s position, Representative Richardson received a rating of **5** percent.
- **2009** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People](#) **92** percent in 2009.

- **2007-2008** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the [American Civil Liberties Union](#) **75** percent in 2007-2008.
- **2007-2008** Based on a point system, with points assigned for actions in support of or in opposition to [Arab American Institute](#)'s position, Representative Richardson received a rating of **50**.
- **2007-2008** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the [Human Rights Campaign](#) **100** percent in 2007-2008.
- **2007-2008** Based on a point system, with points assigned for actions in support of or in opposition to [Leadership Conference on Civil Rights](#)'s position, Representative Richardson received a rating of **48**.
- **2007-2008** Based on a point system, with points assigned for actions in support of or in opposition to [The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association](#)'s position, Representative Richardson received a rating of **26** percent.

- **2007** Based on a point system, with points assigned for actions in support of or in opposition to [Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality](#)'s position, Representative Richardson received a rating of **100**.

- **2007** Based on a point system, with points assigned for actions in support of or in opposition to Equality California's position, Representative Richardson received a rating of **100**.
- **2007** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights **20** percent in 2007.
- **2007** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the League of Women Voters **100** percent in 2007.

CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON OF CALIFORNIA

MAKING PROGRESS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN, HISPANIC AND ASIAN FAMILIES

KEY VOTES AND LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

112TH CONGRESS

Congresswoman Richardson's voting record for the 112th Congress shows that she cast key votes that are aligned with her district and the tri-caucus.

1. HAMP TERMINATION ACT (H.R. 839)

This bill terminates the authority of the Treasury Department to provide new assistance under the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), which provides financial incentives to mortgage servicers to support reductions in borrowers' monthly payments. It preserves assistance to homeowners who were already extended an offer to participate in the program.

CLR OPPOSED

2. FHA REFINANCE PROGRAM TERMINATION ACT (H.R. 830)

This bill would terminate the FHA short refinancing program. This program offers a cost effective approach to assisting underwater borrowers and will lead to sustainable long term homeownership.

CLR OPPOSED

3. EMERGENCY MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAM TERMINATION ACT (H.R. 836)

The bill would rescind and permanently cancel all unobligated balances pursuant to the \$1 billion Emergency Mortgage Relief Program. Under the program, \$1 billion is to be made available by HUD for loans to homeowners who are delinquent on their loans through no fault of their own – i.e. as a result of unemployment or medical conditions. The purpose is to provide assistance with mortgage payments until the homeowner can find a job or is otherwise able to resume mortgage payments.

CLR OPPOSED

4. ELECTION SUPPORT CONSOLIDATION AND EFFICIENCY ACT (H.R. 672)

This bill would end the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), the independent bipartisan commission charged with improving the conduct of elections in America to ensure that every vote counts. Elimination of the Election Assistance Commission would lead to disenfranchising minority and low-income voters.

CLR OPPOSED

5. NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION (H.R. 3)

The measure imposes a blanket ban on the use federal funding for abortion services; modifies tax breaks given for health insurance coverage to exclude abortion from such credits; prohibits federal medical facilities from providing abortion services; and establishes "conscience protections" for health care providers who object to providing abortion services.

CLR OPPOSED

6. TO REPEAL THE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND (H.R. 1217)

This legislation would repeal funds for preventive care, such as prevention research, health screenings, health initiatives and immunization programs.

CLR OPPOSED

7. NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM TERMINATION ACT (H.R. 861)

This bill terminates the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which provides redevelopment assistance to cities that have been affected by blight and vacant properties as a result of high foreclosure rates. It also rescinds the third round of funding for the program.

CLR OPPOSED

8. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESULTS ACT (H.R. 471)

This bill would cut funds for DC public schools and provide vouchers for private schools.

CLR OPPOSED

9. FY 2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill

On June 16th, the House passed H.R. 2112, FY 2012 Agriculture Appropriations bill by a vote of 217-203. Overall, this bill provides \$17.25 billion in discretionary spending for FY 2012, \$2.9 billion below this year and \$5 billion below the Administration's request.

- The bill cuts WIC for pregnant women, infants and children by \$650 million or 10%—denying food and health counseling for up to 350,000 low-income women and young children for next year. (Click here for state by state numbers.) And Republicans are expected to offer an amendment to increase the WIC cut – because the rule permits the bill's ban on the payment to the Brazilian Cotton Institute to be stricken (\$147 million) and these savings were used by Rep. DeLauro to reduce the WIC funding cut in committee. The bill also cuts food aid for low-income seniors (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) and help for food banks (Emergency Food Assistance Program).
- The bill slashes the Food and Drug Administration by \$572 million or 21% below the President's request and by \$285 million or 12% below this year. These deep cuts will severely undermine food safety efforts and increase the risk of food-borne illnesses – preventing the implementation of the landmark Food Safety Act enacted at the end of the Democratic-controlled 111th Congress. This law requires the FDA to significantly step up scrutiny of domestic and imported food and requires development of a new food safety system that is focused on preventing

contamination before it occurs, rather than simply responding to contamination outbreaks.

- The bill slashes the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the agency charged with policing price speculation in commodities, futures, and derivatives markets and implementing common-sense Wall Street reforms to prevent another financial crisis, by 44 percent below the President's request. Instead of standing with Main Street, creating jobs and strengthening the middle class, this Republican bill will protect some of the Wall Street speculators that drive up the price of oil and undercut key Wall Street reforms necessary to protect American farmers, consumers, and hard-earned pension plans from another Wall Street led financial meltdown.

CLR opposed this legislation.

10. The Republican "Cut, Cap, and End Medicare Act"

On July 20th, the House passed H.R. 2560, the so-called "Cut, Cap and Balance Act" – which should be named the "Cut, Cap, and End Medicare Act" by a vote of 234-190. This bill is nothing more than an ideological piece of legislation for Republicans to pursue their policy agenda of ending Medicare and extreme spending cuts, while protecting tax breaks for special interests and the wealthiest Americans. The bill incorporates the House GOP budget that ends Medicare, and then calls for deeper cuts by requiring adoption of a radical GOP constitutional amendment.

The Bill's "Cut" Provisions

- Requires immediate spending cuts of \$111 billion in FY 2012, the level of FY 2012 cuts in the House GOP budget passed in April, despite the fact that there is currently 9.2% unemployment.
- Includes \$76 billion in domestic discretionary cuts and \$35 billion in various mandatory cuts.
- Puts in place the inadequate 302(a) cap on discretionary spending that was included in the House GOP budget passed in April. As Rep. Norm Dicks, Ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, has pointed out, "[This cap will] necessitate draconian cuts to programs that Americans depend on, including Pell Grants, Head Start, Food Safety, and WIC, as well as assistance to state and local governments for law enforcement, infrastructure improvements, housing, community development, public health, and other needs."

The Bill's "Cap" Provisions

- Imposes spending caps for the next 10 years, enforceable by sequestration.
- Includes spending caps that reflect the radical and damaging spending cuts over the next 10 years that were contained in the House GOP budget passed in April.

The Bill's "Balance" Provisions

- Cites three GOP balanced budget constitutional amendments (H.J.Res. 1 (Rep. Goodlatte), S.J.Res. 10 (Sen. Hatch), and H.J.Res. 56 (Rep. Walsh)) and requires that the House and Senate must approve one of them or a similar measure and send it to the states for ratification BEFORE the debt limit can be raised.

- Since passage of this type of radical GOP constitutional amendment will never happen (passage requires a two-thirds vote), these provisions recklessly bring the country closer to default.
- All three of these GOP constitutional amendments are virtually identical. Republicans claim that these are “balanced budget” amendments– but they all go far beyond requiring balanced budgets within the decade. They are very different from any balanced budget constitutional amendment ever considered by Congress. All three add the following three additional requirements to be placed in the Constitution:
 - Setting a spending cap of 18% of GDP within the decade.
 - Requiring a 2/3rds vote to raise revenue.
 - Requiring a 3/5ths vote to raise the debt ceiling.
- All three of these GOP constitutional amendments would require cuts deeper than those in the House GOP budget – since even the radical House GOP budget does not lower spending to 18% of GDP within the decade.
- The GOP constitutional amendment is not about balancing the budget; it’s about pursuing the radical and ideological policy goals of the Republicans, and enshrining Republicans’ extreme ideology into the U.S. Constitution.
- The GOP constitutional amendment protects tax breaks and tax subsidies for the wealthy and powerful by imposing a supermajority requirement for any measure that would raise revenue.
- The GOP constitutional amendment called for would impose a spending cap of 18% of GDP within the decade. Federal spending has not been 18.0% or less of GDP since 1966 – when the very first enrollees were first entering Medicare. There are now 46 million Americans enrolled in Medicare. An 18% of GDP spending cap would inevitably lead to drastic Medicare cuts.

CLR opposed this legislation.

11. Republican Attempts to Repeal of Grants to States to Set Up Health Insurance Exchanges

After voting in April to end Medicare as we know it for seniors, on May 3rd Republicans voted to reduce access to health care for small businesses and uninsured Americans. H.R. 1213, Repeal of Grants to States to Set Up Health Insurance Exchanges, passed by a vote of 238-183. The bill repeals the mandatory funding provided to states under the Affordable Care Act to establish exchanges. The bill thereby denies states the necessary funding to establish the new health insurance marketplaces and undermines the work they have already done to implement exchanges. The Obama Administration has threatened to veto this bill.

CLR opposed this legislation.

12. Republican Attempts to Repeal of Grants for Construction of School-Based Health Centers

After voting in April to end Medicare as we know it for seniors, on May 4th Republicans passed a bill by a vote of 235-191 to reduce access to health care for young people (H.R. 1214, Repeal of Grants for Construction of School-Based Health Centers). This bill would repeal grants for construction, renovation and equipment of school-based health centers and rescind unobligated balances. These funds support

the improvement and expansion of health centers in schools across the country to improve access to primary care health care services for children and adolescents.

CLR opposed this legislation.

13. The Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act, H.R. 2847

Despite some of the merits of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act, this bill's provisions fail to do the heavy lifting to provide a hand up for chronically unemployed Americans. The hand that's extended in this legislation, for the most part, takes the form of tax cuts for businesses that ought to be doing the right thing in the first place.

CLR opposed this legislation.

14. Private School Vouchers for DC

H.R. 471, Private School Vouchers for DC, introduced by Speaker John Boehner, which increases the deficit, violates House GOP legislative rules, reauthorizes and expands an expired program that had failed to improve student achievement, and tramples on home rule for the District of Columbia. The bill:

- Attempts to reauthorize and expand the five-year pilot private school voucher program that was forced on the District of Columbia by a GOP-controlled Congress in FY 2004. The program's authorization expired in FY 2008. The program was the first, and remains the only, federally created or funded private school voucher program. In FY 2009, the Congress continued to fund the program on the condition that no funds could be used in school year 2009-2010 unless Congress reauthorized the program. In FY 2010, the Obama Administration and the Democratic-led 111th Congress agreed to allow students enrolled in the program in school year 2009-2010 to continue until graduation, but not to admit new students. This policy is continuing.
- Authorizes \$300 Million, With No Offset; If Fully Appropriated, Would Increase Deficit by \$300 Million. The bill authorizes \$20 million in each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 for vouchers for District of Columbia students to attend religious and other private elementary and secondary schools in the District of Columbia – for a total authorization of \$100 million. It also authorizes \$20 million for D.C. public charter schools and \$20 million for D.C. public schools each year for the next five years. This bill in total authorizes \$300 million over the next five years, with no offset. If Congress appropriates the full amount authorized, the bill would increase the deficit by \$300 million. In addition, the bill breaks the House GOP's "CutGo" campaign promise for discretionary authorizations. To implement that promise, the House GOP Legislative Protocols for Floor consideration require that "[a]ny bill or joint resolution which authorizes the appropriation of funds for any new agency, office, program, activity, or benefit shall also include language offsetting the full value of such authorization through a reduction in the authorization of current ongoing spending." The bill violates these protocols.
- Reauthorizes An Expired Program That Didn't Work. The expired D.C. voucher program was a failure. The final congressionally mandated independent study of the program found "no conclusive evidence that the [program] affected student achievement", as measured by standardized reading and math tests.

Furthermore, though the program was designed to benefit students from the lowest performing public schools, it had “no significant impacts on [the] achievement” of these students.

- GOP Spends \$100 Money in New Money for Private Schools in the District of Columbia, While Slashing Public Education Funding by Billions of Dollars in All 50 States. While they say we need new funding for religious and other private schools in the District of Columbia, House Republicans passed H.R. 1, which slashes education funding by \$4.9 billion in FY 2011, including underfunding Pell Grants and slashing Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Education Technology State Grants, Mathematics and Science Partnerships, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, TRIO, Gear-Up, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants.
 - Tramples on Home Rule for District of Columbia. This bill is part and parcel of Republican efforts to undo the home-rule advances Democrats achieved for the District of Columbia over the last four years. Republicans, once again, are using the District of Columbia to impose their ideological and partisan agenda. Speaker Boehner never consulted with the District’s Member of Congress nor its local elected officials before introducing the bill.

CLR opposed this legislation.

15. The GOP Patients’ Rights Repeal Bill

Because of patients' rights protections, Americans are free from discrimination and can get the benefits they deserve. The GOP Patients’ Rights Repeal bill (H.R. 2) that passed the House this week will put insurance companies back in charge where:

- Children with pre-existing conditions are denied coverage.
- Young people age 26 can’t stay on their parents’ plans.
- Pregnant women and breast and prostate cancer patients could be thrown off the insurance rolls.
- Seniors pay more for their drugs.
- The deficit increases by \$230 billion.
- Small businesses pay higher taxes.

According to CBO, here’s what the GOP Patients’ Rights Repeal bill means for Americans:

- Adds \$230 billion to the deficit over the first ten years and more than \$1.2 trillion in the second decade
- 32 million Americans will lose health coverage
- Americans will get fewer health benefits for their money
- Americans purchasing health insurance on their own will see their costs rise
- Health care premiums for Americans getting coverage through large employers will go up

In addition, Health and Human Services has found up to half of Americans under 65 have preexisting conditions and could lose their health coverage under repeal. The Washington Post:

As many as 129 million Americans under age 65 have medical problems that are red flags for health insurers, according to an analysis that marks the government's first attempt to quantify the number of people at risk of being rejected by insurance companies or paying more for coverage.

CLR opposed this legislation.

111TH CONGRESS

Congressional Republicans threaten to take us back to the failed policies that created the economic crisis — siding with the special interests: Wall Street banks, credit card companies, Big Oil, and insurance companies.

These Bush economic and fiscal policies created the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression — with job losses of nearly 800,000 a month—and nearly doubled our national debt.

Democrats in Congress will continue to take America in a New Direction for American families, working to create jobs and a strong new foundation for the economy, protecting Main Street and the middle class.

NEW LAWS WORKING FOR THE AMERICAN ECONOMY & MINORITY FAMILIES

1. AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

- Responsible for up to 2.8 million jobs already, including teachers, police and firefighters
- More than one-third was tax cuts for 98% of Americans and small businesses
- Rebuilding America with clean energy and 21st century jobs
- Key aid for workers most hurt by the recession — including extending and improving unemployment benefits, increasing food stamps, and expanding job training.

All House Republicans voted NO; CLR supported this legislation

2. WORKER, HOMEOWNERSHIP & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ACT

- Boosting the economy with emergency relief for Americans hit by the recession
- An expanded first-time homebuyer tax credit
- Enhanced small business tax relief for U.S. businesses with use of net operating loss provision
- Hispanics own an estimated 1.6 million small businesses with annual revenues of \$222 billion

93% of House Republicans voted NO; CLR supported this legislation

3. HIRING INCENTIVES TO RESTORE EMPLOYMENT (HIRE) ACT

- Will help create 300,000 jobs, with tax cuts for businesses to hire, accelerated write-offs for small businesses
- Unleash tens of billions of dollars to rebuild infrastructure
- Cracking down on offshore accounts for corporations and the wealthy

97% of House Republicans voted NO; CLR supported this legislation

4. HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

- Puts American families and small business owners—not the insurance companies—in control of their own health care
- Makes health insurance affordable for middle class and small businesses—one of largest tax cuts for health care in history – reducing premiums and out-of-pocket costs
- Holds insurance companies accountable to keep premiums down and prevent denials of care and coverage, including for pre-existing conditions
- Strengthens Medicare and lowers prescription drug costs
- Creates up to 4 million jobs, largely in small businesses
- Reduces deficit by largest amount in almost two decades, reining in waste, fraud and abuse
- Expands access to preventive care, fights health disparities and strengthens the focus on minority health

All House Republicans voted NO; CLR supported this legislation

5. STUDENT AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

- Increases the maximum Pell Grant from \$5,350 in 2009 to \$5,550 in 2010 and to nearly \$6,000 by 2017.
- Makes student loan repayments more affordable, helping an estimated 143,000 Hispanic students through 2020, by lowering the repayment cap on student loans from 15% to 10% of discretionary income in 2014
- Strengthens our nation’s Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) so that students can stay in school, graduate and succeed in our global economy
- Ends wasteful subsidies to banks through the federal guaranteed student loan programs

All House Republicans voted NO

6. COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

- Building on our historic investments, strengthening quality health care for more than 5 million veterans by investing 11% more for medical care, benefit claims processors, and facility improvements this year
- Ensuring reliable & timely funding for our veterans by providing advance appropriations for the first time
- Enacting “landmark legislation” to provide support to family members and others who care for wounded veterans and to enhance health services for the 1.8 million women veterans
- Implementing the New GI Bill, which provides our veterans serving in Iraq and Afghanistan with a full four-year college education and allows that benefit to be transferred to a family member, and improving it this year so that if a service member or woman dies in combat, this opportunity is provided to all of their children

7. STATE CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (SCHIP) REAUTHORIZATION: HEALTH CARE FOR 11 MILLION CHILDREN

- Provides cost-effective health coverage for 4 million more children and preserve coverage for 7 million children already enrolled
- Estimated to cover 1.5 million Hispanic children who previously did not have health insurance

77% of House Republicans voted NO; CLR supported this legislation

8. LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT

- Restores the rights of women and other workers to challenge unfair pay—to help close the wage gap where women earn 78 cents for every \$1 a man earns in America.
- For women of color, the numbers are even worse — African-American women earn 61 cents and Latinas earn 52 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men.

98% of House Republicans voted NO; CLR supported this legislation

9. HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT

- Builds on the President’s initiative to stem the foreclosure crisis, with significant incentives to lenders, servicers, and homeowners to modify loans
- Of the 2.2 million homes that were projected to be foreclosed upon by the end of 2009, nearly 400,000 were estimated to be Hispanic-owned

CLR supported this legislation

10. WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT -- passed by House and Senate

- A lack of accountability for Wall Street and big banks cost 8 million jobs
- Provides common sense new rules to protect retirement savings and other household wealth and spur lending to help create American jobs
- Puts an end to taxpayer-funded bailouts and the idea of “too big to fail”
- Protects and empowers consumers to make the best decisions on homes, credit cards, and their own financial future

All House Republicans voted NO; CLR supported this legislation

11. AMERICAN WORKERS, STATE, AND BUSINESS RELIEF ACT— passed by House and Senate

- Tax cuts to spur business innovation and for families with kids headed to college
- Economy-boosting relief for families whose breadwinner has lost their job (UI, COBRA)
- Protecting health care coverage for millions through Medicaid (FMAP), thereby reducing state budget cuts to help prevent layoffs, including teachers

93% of House Republicans voted NO; CLR supported this legislation

12. ADDITIONAL JOBS LEGISLATION (Jobs for Main Street, Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act, and Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act) – passed by House

- Tax cuts targeted to grow our small businesses
- 300,000 summer youth jobs – critical with nearly 1 in three Latino teens looking for work

- Jobs rebuilding American infrastructure
- Aid to keep teachers in the classroom

97% of House Republicans voted NO; CLR supported these bills

13. AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT -- *passed by house*

- Historic legislation that will create 1.7 million jobs (with the Recovery Act)
- Reduces our dangerous dependence on foreign oil that is funding terrorism
- Cuts the carbon pollution causing climate change
- Keeps costs low for Americans, with lower income Americans seeing no cost

95% of House Republicans voted NO; CLR supported this legislation

14. IMMIGRATION REFORM -- *Senate Democrats have presented framework*

- Republicans have blocked efforts to reform the U.S. immigration system, with some supporting the new Arizona law
- Democrats in Congress are committed to comprehensive immigration reform to secure our borders, keep our nation safe, uphold the rule of law, protect our workers and our economy, unite families, and provide a pathway to legalization

15. The DREAM Act would have created a path to legal residency and eventually citizenship for undocumented immigrants who go to college or serve in the military. It would have:

- Applied only to undocumented immigrants under age 30 at the enactment of the law who have shown good moral character since entry and who came to the U.S. at age 15 or younger at least five years before the date of the bill's enactment.
- Allowed such individuals to apply for conditional nonimmigrant status within one year of their acceptance to college, graduation from a U.S. high school, or being awarded a GED in the U.S. Approximately 65,000 undocumented students per year graduate from American high schools.
- Provided that individuals who, after 10 years as a conditional nonimmigrant, had completed two years of college or military service, and fulfilled other requirements, would have been eligible to become a legal permanent resident. After 3 years as a legal permanent resident, such individuals would have been eligible for U.S. citizenship.
- The Dream Act passed the House but the Senate failed to invoke cloture.

CLR supported this legislation

CLR LEGISLATION AFFECTING MINORITY COMMUNITIES

- 1.** H.R.1077 : CHEF Act
Sponsor: Rep Richardson, Laura [CA-37] (introduced 3/15/2011) Cosponsors (2)
Committees: House Judiciary
Latest Major Action: 3/21/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
- 2.** H.R.1472 : To designate a portion of Interstate Route 710 located between post mile 5.2 and post mile 6.2 in Los Angeles County, California, as the "Jenny Oropeza Highway".
Sponsor: Rep Richardson, Laura [CA-37] (introduced 4/8/2011) Cosponsors (10)
Committees: House Transportation and Infrastructure
Latest Major Action: 4/11/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.
- 3.** H.R.2019 : Transportation Opportunity and Accountability Act of 2011
Sponsor: Rep Richardson, Laura [CA-37] (introduced 5/26/2011) Cosponsors (51)
Committees: House Transportation and Infrastructure; House Judiciary
Latest Major Action: 7/11/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution.
- 4.** H.R.2160 : Jobs Through Environmental Safeguarding and Streamlining Act of 2011
Sponsor: Rep Richardson, Laura [CA-37] (introduced 6/14/2011) Cosponsors (1)
Committees: House Transportation and Infrastructure
Latest Major Action: 6/15/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.
- 5.** H.RES.225 : Honoring the victims of the Cambodian genocide that took place from April 1975 to January 1979.
Sponsor: Rep Richardson, Laura [CA-37] (introduced 4/14/2011) Cosponsors (5)
Committees: House Foreign Affairs
Latest Major Action: 5/13/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.
- 6.** H.RES.275 : Honoring the 113th anniversary of the independence of the Philippines.
Sponsor: Rep Richardson, Laura [CA-37] (introduced 5/24/2011) Cosponsors (9)
Committees: House Foreign Affairs; House Armed Services
Latest Major Action: 8/2/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

CLR COSPONSORED LEGISLATION AFFECTING MINORITY COMMUNITIES

- 1.** H.R.44 : Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act
Sponsor: Rep Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [GU] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (40)
Committees: House Natural Resources
Latest Major Action: 7/14/2011 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- 2.** H.R.210 : Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011
Sponsor: Rep Speier, Jackie [CA-12] (introduced 1/6/2011) Cosponsors (64)
Committees: House Veterans' Affairs
Latest Major Action: 2/18/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
- 3.** H.R.363 : Housing Opportunity and Mortgage Equity Act of 2011
Sponsor: Rep Cardoza, Dennis A. [CA-18] (introduced 1/20/2011) Cosponsors (31)
Committees: House Financial Services
Latest Major Action: 3/23/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises.
- 4.** H.R.589 : Emergency Unemployment Compensation Expansion Act of 2011
Sponsor: Rep Lee, Barbara [CA-9] (introduced 2/9/2011) Cosponsors (89)
Committees: House Ways and Means
Latest Major Action: 2/14/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Human Resources.
- 5.** H.R.709 : Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Act
Sponsor: Rep Sires, Albio [NJ-13] (introduced 2/15/2011) Cosponsors (53)
Committees: House Financial Services; House Education and the Workforce
Latest Major Action: 3/23/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity.
- 6.** H.R.778 : Graduation Promise Act of 2011
Sponsor: Rep Hinojosa, Ruben [TX-15] (introduced 2/17/2011) Cosponsors (30)
Committees: House Education and the Workforce
Latest Major Action: 3/4/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.
- 7.** H.R.870 : Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act
Sponsor: Rep Conyers, John, Jr. [MI-14] (introduced 3/2/2011) Cosponsors (19)
Committees: House Education and the Workforce; House Ways and Means
Latest Major Action: 3/21/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.
- 8.** H.R.986 : To provide for American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas to be treated as States for certain criminal justice programs.
Sponsor: Rep Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho [MP] (introduced 3/9/2011)
Cosponsors (13)
Committees: House Judiciary
Latest Major Action: 3/9/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

- 9.** H.R.986 : To provide for American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas to be treated as States for certain criminal justice programs.
Sponsor: Rep Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho [MP] (introduced 3/9/2011)
Cosponsors (13)
Committees: House Judiciary
Latest Major Action: 3/9/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
- 10.** H.R.1113 : Fair Employment Act of 2011
Sponsor: Rep Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [GA-4] (introduced 3/16/2011)
Cosponsors (54)
Committees: House Education and the Workforce
Latest Major Action: 4/4/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.
- 11.** H.R.1462 : National Black Clergy for the Elimination of HIV/AIDS Act of 2011
Sponsor: Rep Rangel, Charles B. [NY-15] (introduced 4/8/2011) Cosponsors (44)
Committees: House Energy and Commerce
Latest Major Action: 4/8/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
- 12.** H.R.1542 : Supermarket Tax Credit for Underserved Areas Act
Sponsor: Rep Cohen, Steve [TN-9] (introduced 4/14/2011) Cosponsors (7)
Committees: House Ways and Means
Latest Major Action: 4/14/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
- 13.** H.R.1547 : Success in the Middle Act of 2011
Sponsor: Rep Grijalva, Raul M. [AZ-7] (introduced 4/14/2011) Cosponsors (15)
Committees: House Education and the Workforce
Latest Major Action: 5/20/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.
- 14.** H.R.1796 : Reuniting Families Act
Sponsor: Rep Honda, Michael M. [CA-15] (introduced 5/6/2011) Cosponsors (78)
Committees: House Judiciary
Latest Major Action: 6/1/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement.
- 15.** H.R.1902 : Minority Business Development Improvements Act of 2011
Sponsor: Rep Rush, Bobby L. [IL-1] (introduced 5/13/2011) Cosponsors (5)
Committees: House Financial Services; House Oversight and Government Reform
Latest Major Action: 7/29/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy and Technology.
- 16.** H.R.1903 : 21st Century STEM for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act
Sponsor: Rep Woolsey, Lynn C. [CA-6] (introduced 5/13/2011) Cosponsors (12)
Committees: House Education and the Workforce
Latest Major Action: 9/8/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.
- 17.** H.R.2705 : Education for All Act of 2011
Sponsor: Rep Lowey, Nita M. [NY-18] (introduced 7/29/2011) Cosponsors (36)

Committees: House Foreign Affairs

Latest Major Action: 7/29/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

18. H.R.2799 : To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to provide treatment for diabetes in minority communities.

Sponsor: Rep Waters, Maxine [CA-35] (introduced 8/5/2011) Cosponsors (18)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce

Latest Major Action: 8/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

19. H.R.2954 : Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Lee, Barbara [CA-9] (introduced 9/15/2011) Cosponsors (72)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce; House Ways and Means; House Education and the Workforce; House Budget; House Veterans' Affairs; House Armed Services; House Agriculture; House Judiciary; House Natural Resources

Latest Major Action: 10/3/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

20. H.CON.RES.19 : Honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 102nd anniversary.

Sponsor: Rep Green, Al [TX-9] (introduced 2/17/2011) Cosponsors (43)

Committees: House Judiciary

Latest Major Action: 2/28/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution.

21. H.RES.36 : Recognizing the significance of Black History Month.

Sponsor: Rep Green, Al [TX-9] (introduced 1/12/2011) Cosponsors (63)

Committees: House Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Major Action: 1/12/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

22. H.RES.51 : Supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Sponsor: Rep Lee, Barbara [CA-9] (introduced 1/24/2011) Cosponsors (40)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce

Latest Major Action: 2/1/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

23. H.RES.130 : Expressing support for designation of the fourth Friday of March as "Cesar E. Chavez Day".

Sponsor: Rep Baca, Joe [CA-43] (introduced 3/1/2011) Cosponsors (15)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 3/1/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

24. H.RES.136 : Supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Donor Awareness Day.

Sponsor: Rep Clay, Wm. Lacy [MO-1] (introduced 3/2/2011) Cosponsors (12)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce

Latest Major Action: 3/8/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

- 25.** H.RES.243 : Celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.
Sponsor: Rep Chu, Judy [CA-32] (introduced 5/3/2011) Cosponsors (49)
Committees: House Oversight and Government Reform
Latest Major Action: 5/3/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.
- 26.** H.RES.265 : Supporting the goals and ideals of National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.
Sponsor: Rep Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [GU] (introduced 5/11/2011) Cosponsors (15)
Committees: House Energy and Commerce
Latest Major Action: 5/13/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- 27.** H.RES.289 : Recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.
Sponsor: Rep Lee, Barbara [CA-9] (introduced 6/1/2011) Cosponsors (32)
Committees: House Oversight and Government Reform
Latest Major Action: 6/1/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Miscellaneous Actions Benefiting the Tri Caucus

16. NOMINATION OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR

- In 2009, President Obama nominated and the Senate confirmed Sonia Sotomayor as the first Hispanic Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court in a 68-31 vote, with all Democrats supporting

Three-quarters of Senate Republicans voted NO

17. MINORITY CABINET MEMBERS SUPPORTED

- Hon. Hilda Solis, Secretary of Labor
- Hon. Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy
- Hon. Eric Holder, Attorney General
- Hon. Lisa Jackson, EPA Administrator

Relevant Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Caucuses

- Congressional Progressive Caucus
- Congressional Study Group on Public Health
- Congressional Black Caucus
- Congressional Human Rights Caucus
- Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC)
- Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues

Top National Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Organizations

- **American Civil Liberties Union (www.aclu.org)**
 - Organization that works to protect individual freedoms
- **Arab American Institute (www.aaiusa.org)**
 - AAI was created to nurture and encourage the direct participation of Arab Americans in political and civic life in the United States.
- **Human Rights Campaign (www.hrc.org)**
 - Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equal Rights
- **Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (www.civilrights.org)**
 - The nation's premier civil and human rights coalition
- **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (www.naacp.org)**
 - NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization
- **American Library Association (www.ala.org)**
 - created to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all
- **The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (www.ahepa.org)**
 - The mission of the AHEPA Family is to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence.
- **Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality (www.aacre.org)**
 - a progressive voice advocating for justice in California
- **Equality California (www.eqca.org)**
 - Equality California has strategically moved California from a state with extremely limited legal protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals to a state with some of the most comprehensive civil rights protections in the nation.
- **Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (www.nlpc.org)**
 - NLPC was founded to promote ethics, and to give the Code the visibility it deserves.
- **League of Women Voters (www.lwv.org)**
 - The League of Women Voters is a citizens' organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives

Missions and Goals From Organizations Websites

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

American Civil Liberties Union

- The ACLU is our nation's guardian of liberty, working daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country.

These rights include:

- Your **First Amendment rights** - freedom of speech, association and assembly; freedom of the press, and freedom of religion.
- Your right to **equal protection under the law** - protection against unlawful discrimination.
- Your right to **due process** - fair treatment by the government whenever the loss of your liberty or property is at stake.
- Your right to **privacy** - freedom from unwarranted government intrusion into your personal and private affairs.

The ACLU also works to extend rights to segments of our population that have traditionally been denied their rights, including people of color; women; lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people; prisoners; and people with disabilities.

If the rights of society's most vulnerable members are denied, everybody's rights are imperiled.

Arab American Institute

- Established in 1985 and based in Washington, DC, the Arab American Institute (AAI) is a non-profit, nonpartisan national leadership organization. AAI was created to nurture and encourage the direct participation of Arab Americans in political and civic life in the United States.
- AAI represents the policy and community interests of Arab Americans throughout the United States and strives to promote Arab American participation in the U.S. electoral system. The Institute focuses on two areas: campaigns and elections and policy formation and research. AAI strives to serve as a central resource to government officials, the media, political leaders and community groups on a variety of public policy issues that concern Arab Americans and U.S.–Arab relations.
- As the only national organization that promotes Arab American participation in the U.S. electoral system, AAI has developed a host of services, from voter education to liaison with the national parties, to support the community's activities. We are also the leading policy and research organization on domestic and policy concerns of Arab Americans. Through ongoing meetings with members of the Administration and Congress, a variety of publications and issue briefs, media and direct member

mobilization, AAI maintains a strong presence among policy makers who impact our issues.

Human Rights Campaign

- The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality.
- By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.
- HRC seeks to improve the lives of LGBT Americans by advocating for equal rights and benefits in the workplace, ensuring families are treated equally under the law and increasing public support among all Americans through innovative advocacy, education and outreach programs. HRC works to secure equal rights for LGBT individuals and families at the federal and state levels by lobbying elected officials, mobilizing grassroots supporters, educating Americans, investing strategically to elect fair-minded officials and partnering with other LGBT organizations.

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

- The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights is a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States. Through advocacy and outreach to targeted constituencies, The Leadership Conference works toward the goal of a more open and just society – an America as good as its ideals.
- The Leadership Conference is a 501(c)(4) organization that engages in legislative advocacy. It was founded in 1950 and has coordinated national lobbying efforts on behalf of every major civil rights law since 1957.
- The Leadership Conference Education Fund builds public will for federal policies that promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States. The Education Fund's campaigns empower and mobilize advocates around the country to push for progressive change in the United States.
- The Education Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax-deductible. It was founded in 1969 as the education and research arm of The Leadership Conference.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

- The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. The vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race. The

following statement of objectives is found on the first page of the NAACP Constitution - the principal objectives of the Association shall be:

- To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens
- To achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States
- To remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes
- To seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights
- To inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination
- To educate persons as to their constitutional rights and to take all lawful action to secure the exercise thereof, and to take any other lawful action in furtherance of these objectives, consistent with the NAACP's Articles of Incorporation and this Constitution.

American Library Association

- Founded on October 6, 1876 during the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, the American Library Association was created to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. Our current strategic plan, ALA Ahead to 2010, calls for continued work in the areas of Advocacy and Value of the Profession, Education, Public Policy and Standards, Building the Profession, Membership and Organizational Excellence.

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association

- AHEPA members are proud of the contributions the ancient Greeks gifted to Western Civilization. As Americans, we share many of the values put forth by them: civic responsibility, philanthropy, education, family and individual excellence, and the ideals of democracy. This is the essence of our heritage. This is the core of our mission.
- Moreover, throughout the span of its history, AHEPA has served as a vital vehicle for the progressive development and emergence of American citizens of Greek heritage into every facet of society: government, business, education, and the arts. This fulfillment illustrates the promise of the American Dream and symbolizes the hard work ethic of our immigrant forbearers who labored to achieve that dream with the principles of Hellenism rooted deep in their hearts.

Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality

- Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality (AACRE) is a progressive voice advocating for justice in California. As the first and only project based in California's capital with a focus on state legislative and budget advocacy for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, AACRE fights for critical legislation and funding on behalf of our diverse communities, and empowers APIAs to be an active and effective force in advancing civil rights and social justice.

Equality California

- Since it was founded in 1998, Equality California has strategically moved California from a state with extremely limited legal protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals to a state with some of the most comprehensive civil rights protections in the nation.
- In the past decade, Equality California has successfully passed 85 pieces of civil rights legislation for the LGBT community – more than any other statewide LGBT organization in the nation.
- Working in partnership with California's LGBT Legislative Caucus, Equality California is committed to building a better future for all Californians by protecting youth, strengthening families and empowering communities. Each year at the Capitol, Equality California monitors thousands of bills and leads the state's efforts to defeat legislation that could have a negative impact on LGBT Californians and their families.

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

- The National Legal and Policy Center was founded in late 1991 following the release of the Senate Ethics Committee report whitewashing the Keating Five. The report made reference to the Code of Ethics for Government, but not by name, presumably for fear of giving it greater standing. NLPC was founded to promote ethics, and to give the Code the visibility it deserves.
- The author of the Code is Sen. Paul Douglas (D-IL) who served from 1948 to 1964. A "Sense of Congress" resolution that passed on July 11, 1958 urged adherence to the Code by all government officials.
- NLPC promotes ethics in public life through research, investigation, education and legal action.
- We recognize that the bigger the government, the more opportunities for corruption; and the more intervention in the economy, the more reason for special interests to seek influence. We believe that the best way to promote ethics is to reduce the size of government.
- We do not believe that ethics are advanced through more laws or "better guidelines," even as existing ones are ignored. We don't believe the problem is with too few laws, or with too much freedom, but with men and women. We believe the missing ingredients are character, morality and common sense.
- A 501(c)(3) foundation, NLPC is headed by president Peter Flaherty and chairman Ken Boehm. Donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations are welcome in any amount.

League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a citizens' organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. We operate at national, state and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well in DC, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong.

Formed from the movement that secured the right to vote for women, the centerpiece of the League's efforts remain to expand participation and give a voice to all Americans. We do this at all three levels of government, engaging in both broad educational efforts as well as advocacy. Our issues are grounded in our respected **history** of making democracy work for all citizens.

The League is nonpartisan, which means we don't support or oppose candidates for public office. However, we are well known for hosting candidate debates and forums. We undertake this, and other important election work, because we believe deeply that the public should hear different views on the issues facing our communities and our nation. An honest and respectful sharing of ideas is vital to the functioning of American democracy.

Leagues at all levels conduct educational activities – whether they are related to understanding candidate views and ballot initiatives, or on a range of specific critical public policy issues. At the national level, the League of Women Voters Education Fund, a 501 (c)(3) organization, coordinates all of our elections and educational work.

But being nonpartisan does not mean we lack opinions, or the willingness to express them. Our opinions are formed after research, study and consensus. We are passionate advocates – both women and men – who work to influence policy on specific issues by speaking out and putting pressure on our elected leaders.

The League is a national organization, with strong and respected ties in states and localities around the country. Members are volunteers who work in their communities to help the realities of the America system of government live up to its ideals.