



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

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To Chairman Bulova and all Supervisors:

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area has become very concerned about the short and long-term implications of proposed cuts to the county budget for fiscal 2011. The County Executive's statement that cuts now should be considered permanent just increases our concern. The League feels that cuts of the last few years have already pared some services back as far as they should reasonably go. Fairfax County is widely respected for having one of the most competent, efficient and effective local governments in the nation.

We know that the Board cannot vote any higher tax rate than is advertised after your vote on this issue March 9. By the time we present our budget testimony on April 8, along with many, many other county citizens and organizations, the Board of Supervisors may lack flexibility to respond to concerns by restoring some of the currently proposed cuts. The League is asking the Board of Supervisors to maintain flexibility by voting a relatively high tax rate to advertise, thus maintaining flexibility to restore cuts to human services, public safety, schools, parks, libraries, transportation improvements, etc. All of these services evolved in response to community needs and citizen requests. Those community needs and citizen demands are still present and in some cases are even greater than they were in the past. Don't foreclose on the options and the county's future by voting to advertise a tax rate of 1.09 or even 1.12.

The League also would like to encourage consideration of some of the user fees rejected last year, such as the county decal fee, and other types of user fees. While we know no one likes to pay more taxes and fees, the League supports adequate funding of services and facilities to provide for a stable and reliable revenue stream. There comes a point where budget cuts can impair the competence and effectiveness of local government.

Janey George, President
League of Women Voters
of the Fairfax Area