



## The League of Women Voters of Sacramento

1507 21ST STREET, SUITE 303, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 (916) 447-VOTE

March 10, 1998

Gerald J. Klass  
5109 Melvin Drive  
Carmichael, Ca 95608

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on your decision to become a candidate in the Primary Election on June 2, 1998. The League of Women Voters of Sacramento applauds your willingness to contribute your time, energy and skills for the benefit of Sacramento.

For 78 years, the League has worked to provide non-partisan voter education materials to assist voters in becoming informed about candidates and issues, so they can cast an informed vote on election day. With that goal in mind, the league has formed a partnership with the Neighbors section of the Sacramento Bee, to provide candidate information about the Primary Election on June 2. Neighbors will publish a special county section highlighting the candidates on May 7, 1998.

**We invite you to participate in this voter education effort by doing the following:**

- Complete the enclosed questionnaire.
- Compose a 4-5 sentence biographical note.
- Respond to questions concisely. (50-75 words)
- Enclose a 4x6 photo.
- Return in enclosed, stamped addressed envelope by **March 24, 1998.**

We reserve the right to edit your comments to conform to the allotted space.

If you have any questions please call the League office: (916) 447-8683  
(916) 447-8683\*51(Fax)

The League of Women Voters of Sacramento will also be co-sponsoring candidate forums with community organizations to provide the voters additional opportunity to meet the candidates. Information about these events will be announced, as they are scheduled.

Our best wishes to you for a successful campaign.

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hopkins  
Voter Service Director

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE ELECTION GUIDE

**To: Candidate for the June 2, 1998 Primary Election Position of California State Senate**

**From: League of Women Voters of Sacramento and the Neighbors Section of The Sacramento Bee**

**Re: Candidate Responses to Question that will appear in the Election Guide**

**We appreciate your contribution to the Election Guide for the Primary Election on June 2, 1998. This voter education publication is designed to give voters information about the candidates and their views on issues relevant to their elected office.**

**Please make your response concise and legible. Since the Election Guide will present candidate responses in a chart format, we reserve the right to edit the length of the response to fit the allotted space. Please enclose your completed questionnaire and 4x6 photo in the stamped addressed envelope enclosed and mail it to the League office before the March 24, 1998 deadline. Thank you for your contribution and cooperation.**

**Name** GERALD KLAAS  
**Address** 4711 El Camino Ave Suite #222 Carmichael CA 95608  
**Occupation** COMPUTER ANALYST / COMMUNITY COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR  
**Biographical Note:**

I was born and raised in Sacramento. I attended Jesuit High School ('81), American River College and Sac State. I earned my degree in Mathematics with an emphasis in statistics. Presently I work as a database and Internet programmer for the state, and night classes at ARC in Internet and web page programming. I am not a politician, and don't hope to be one. In five years, I plan to be a programmer, whether or not I spend four years in the Senate. You will find more of my views online at <http://sacto.com>

**1. What would be your priorities for addressing the critical issues facing California and your district?**

My primary goal is to reduce the size of government, and its influence in the personal lives of all citizens. I would work to repeal any law where the government infringes on the Bill of Rights and the right of citizens to make decisions involving their personal activities.

**2. What would you do to help improve the image of an unresponsive Legislature and reform the initiative process?**

I would like to see us return to a part time Legislature. Maybe with less time, they'll quit passing so many laws that nobody knows what's legal or illegal anymore. I would also support efforts to make legislators lose their pay when a budget isn't passed on time. I believe that the initiative process could be improved by requiring that the Circulator of Petition be a true volunteer, and not a "paid volunteer".

**3. What would you do to address the issues of public education? (Funding, Reform Construction/Renovation)**

Schools already get half of our state budget. I think that's plenty. What schools need is healthy market competition. I would like to see a system where parents can opt out of the public school system, much like some employers allow employees to opt out of the health care system. Parents would receive a 50% rebate of the cost of public school tuition. The instant savings would still go to schools, increasing the per pupil funds, and the free market would go after the increased demand for private education, shifting the burden of future construction projects away from the state.

