

**For a strong democracy,
'check the box'**

Over the next week, people in Mercer County will be working to complete and file their federal income taxes before the April 17 deadline. Lawrence League of Women Voters Co-President Adele Vexler issued a statement urging taxpayers to "check the box" in the first question and designate \$3 of their tax payment to the Presidential Election Fund.

"Already, we see big money and special interests pouring into the 2008 presidential election. As the campaign continues to heat up, we run the risk of electing our first billion-dollar president," said Vexler. "That kind of spending is not only irresponsible -- it harms the very integrity of our democracy. As you complete your taxes, we ask you to 'check the box' that helps reverse the big-money trend and allows Americans, not special interests, to elect the president."

"It is important that taxpayers know how the fund works. Checking the box will not increase the taxes you pay or reduce your refund," concludes Vexler. "It simply puts three dollars of the tax you've already paid into the Presidential Election Fund. The size of the fund and the strength of our democracy depend entirely on the number of people who choose to check the box."

The Lawrence League of Women Voters is a place where citizens are making democracy work in Mercer County.

LOIS RISKIN, Lawrence

The writer is membership chairwoman of Lawrence League of Women Voters. Contact her to get involved in the hands-on work of improving our community: 609-882-5376 or LRiskin@verizon.net.