LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MINNESOTA

For Immediate Release – March 8, 2025

Contact: Ruth Ann Webster, President, League of Women Voters New Ulm 507.766.3527
Theresa Keaveny, Action Chair, League of Women Voters New Ulm 507.766.9159

League of Women Voters New Ulm Observes International Women's Day
Called on Rep. Finstad to vote "NO" on SAVE Act

The League of Women Voters New Ulm celebrated International Women's Day, held annually on March 8th, as part of its monthly Second Saturday gathering. International Women's Day uplifts the economic, cultural, social and political achievements of women around the globe. This year's theme is "Accelerate Action."

> "This International Women's Day, we are calling on Congressman Brad Finstad to vote NO on the SAVE Act," said Ruth Ann Webster, League President. "The SAVE Act is unnecessary; every state requires persons registering to vote to verity or affirm their status as citizens. By requiring specific documentation to be presented in-person at the time of registering or reregistering to vote, the SAVE Act puts up insurmountable and unnecessary barriers to voting—especially for women, women who successfully fought for the right to vote a century ago and will not give up that right now."

Webster said that registering to vote under the SAVE Act would require an original copy of a birth certificate in the name of the person registering. However almost eight in ten married women have changed their surname, meaning they do not possess a birth certificate that matches their current legal name, and therefore could not use it as a valid proof of citizenship. A valid passport could be used, but obtaining a valid passport can be expensive and time-consuming. The SAVE Act erects unfair and unnecessary voting barriers to thousands of women in Congressman Finstad's district.

Members of the local League of Women Voters shared examples of how the SAVE Act, if passed, would make it difficult to register to vote. Pat Booker, retired military, said that members of the US Military could not use their ID unless it is accompanied by their military service record AND that record shows they were born in the US. Many noncitizens serve in the military.

Tribal IDs would not be acceptable unless the ID includes the holder's place of birth.

Many League members noted that rural people, working men and women, people with mobility limitations or who have lost birth certificates or have expired passports would, under the SAVE Act, have hurdles to register or update voter registration.

Other League members, familiar with the work of local election officials, noted the extra burden placed on local officials with this unnecessary layer of federal government interference.

Cong. Finstad voted once on the SAVE Act, saying it was needed to stop non-citizens from voting. However, state and federal laws already prohibit non-citizens from voting, and, moreover, dozens of studies have shown that non-citizens are not voting.

Cong. Finstad can be contacted at 507.577.6151, New Ulm or 202.225.2472, Washington, DC. Or, email at https://finstad.house.gov/contact Contact him and urge him to vote "No" on the SAVE Act.

The League of Women Voters – New Ulm is a trusted source of nonpartisan voter information, serving New Ulm and the Brown County area to ensure free, fair and safe elections. Visit lwvmn.org.