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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**With Unanimous Vote, L.A. County Democratic Party Endorses Ridley-Thomas for Supervisor**

L.A. County Democratic Party Central Committee endorsement will strongly influence party members throughout the Second District.

**LOS ANGELES – Tuesday, April 8, 2008** – State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas today won the unanimous endorsement of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party in his campaign for Supervisor for the Second District in a vote by more than 250 party activists.

Senator Ridley-Thomas said, “Today’s unanimous endorsement by the L.A. County Democratic Party is a strong validation of my leadership in public service for the past 16-years and a huge vote of confidence in my campaign for L.A. County Supervisor. The Central Committee has given my campaign a tremendous boost as we continue our efforts to bring communities together to work for change in the Second District and the county as a whole.”

Eric C. Bauman, Chair of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party said, “The Democratic Party proudly and overwhelmingly endorsed Mark Ridley-Thomas for Los Angeles County Supervisor in District 2. Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas is an extraordinary leader who will stand up for the people of the Second Supervisorial District.”

“Mark has always been a tireless advocate for the community and its hard-working families, and we expect no less of him as a Supervisor. He has the experience to tackle the key issues of the district – from preventing crime and gang violence to creating jobs to leading the fight for better healthcare. He is a problem-solver and coalition-builder who will work hard and deliver results for a better quality of life for the residents of the Second District,” Mr. Bauman added.

“The L.A. County Democratic Party endorsement is one of the most cherished endorsements on the local political scene. I am pleased to have the support of my fellow Democrats, many of whom I have worked with closely on important issues over the years. I am proud to have their backing. I am gratified to have their support,” Senator Ridley-Thomas said.

Senator Ridley-Thomas is endorsed by L.A. Police Chief William Bratton, Sheriff Lee Baca, United Teachers of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Teachers Association, county firefighters, Sheriff’s deputies, police officers, emergency room nurses, United Farm Workers, business leaders, and L.A. County Medical Association Physicians’ Committee.

He is also endorsed by more than 75 state and local elected officials, including: Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez and Assembly Speaker-elect Karen Bass, Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata and Senate President Pro Tem-elect Darrell Steinberg, and four Congressional Democrats from L.A. County: Diane Watson, Hilda Solis, Jane Harman and Howard Berman. For his full list of endorsers, go to: <http://www.markridleythomas.com/endorsements.php>.

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Senator Ridley-Thomas is chair of the eight-member California Legislative Black Caucus. He chairs the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development, Senate Subcommittee on Economy, Workforce Preparation and Development and Senate Subcommittee on Professional Sports and Entertainment.

Senator Ridley-Thomas is a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and Senate Committee on Health. He serves on the 14-member Joint Legislative Audit Committee of the state Senate and Assembly.

He is a member of the Mental Health Services Act Oversight and Accountability Commission and serves on the state’s Prop 63 Mental Health Commission. As a member of the state Assembly, he chaired the Select Committee on the Los Angeles County Health Care Crisis.

Senator Ridley-Thomas represents more than 800,000 residents in Los Angeles and Culver City including Baldwin Hills, Baldwin Vista, Beverlywood, Carthay Circle, Century City, the Crenshaw District, Culver City, Hancock Park, Hollywood, Hyde Park, Jefferson Park, Ladera Heights, Lafayette Square, Larchmont, Leimert Park, Los Feliz, Miracle Mile, South Central Los Angeles, View Park, West Los Angeles and Windsor Hills, among others.

He has represented South and Southwest Los Angeles for 16-years as a three-term elected member of the Los Angeles City Council (8th District), California State Assembly (48th District) and California State Senate (26th District).

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