



The League of Women Voters of New York State
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**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS**
of New York State

February 17, 2011

Via Fax

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
Executive Chamber
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

RE: A3093B, STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The League of Women Voters, a multi-issue nonpartisan organization which works to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of citizens in government, **OPPOSES THIS BILL.**

This bill which would permit the use of lever voting machines for village elections sets up a dual voting system for a specific class of elections and for that reason is contrary to the intent of the federal Help American Vote Act (HAVA) and the New York State Election Modernization Act (ERMA) which our organization fully supports and worked to achieve for New York voters.

A single statewide election system which provides a permanent paper record and manual audit capacity and accessibility for persons with disabilities cannot be met with the use of lever voting machines. A uniform and standardized voting system promotes confidence in the efficiency and reliability of our elections and is critical for public understanding.

In addition, this bill ignores the needs and rights of persons with disabilities who wish to participate in the civic life of their communities and for that reason should be vetoed.

Maintaining a dual system of voting, even if only for two years, undercuts the purpose of HAVA and, most importantly, denies accessible voting to persons with disabilities.

We urge you to veto A3093B which is a step backwards in achieving the laudable goals of the Help American Vote Act and New York's Election Modernization Reform Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aimee Allaud'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aimee Allaud, Elections Specialist

cc: Jeremy Creelan, Special Counsel for Public Integrity and Ethics Reform