

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE

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NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

107 Washington Avenue, 2nd Floor □Albany, NY 12210 □518 436-0876

VIA E-MAIL

July 3, 2012

Ms. Mylan Denerstein
Counsel to the Governor
Executive Chamber
Capitol Building
Albany, New York. 12224

Re: Opposition to S.6296-A/A.9178-A, Legislation Concerning Local Elections

Dear Ms. Denerstein:

The League of Women Voters of New York State and the New York Public Interest Research Group **oppose the above-referenced bill and urge that you recommend that the governor disapprove it.**

Our organizations have historically worked to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of citizens voting in elections at every level of government. We believe that this bill, if signed into law, will not meet the important goal of providing a single, statewide uniform voting system for New Yorkers.

This legislation would permit the use of lever voting machines for school district, village and special districts for a two-year period thereby setting up a separate parallel voting system for specific classes of elections. Our organizations fully supported the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the New York State Election Reform Modernization Act (ERMA) and their goals of using voting systems that provide a permanent paper record and manual audit capacity and that promote accessibility for persons with disabilities. Lever voting machines do not meet these requirements.

A uniform and standardized voting system promotes confidence in the efficiency and reliability of our elections and is important for public understanding of our election system. In addition, the bill ignores the needs and rights of persons with disabilities who wish to participate in the civic life of their communities.

We urge that the governor veto S.6296-A/A.9178-A because it is a step backwards from achieving the goals of HAVA and ERMA.

Sincerely,

Sally Robinson, President
LWVNYS

Russ Haven, Legislative Counsel
NYPIRG