



The League of Women Voters of New York State
62 Grand Street, Albany, New York 12207
Phone: 518-465-4162 Fax: 518-465-0812
www.lwvny.org E-Mail: lwvny@lwvny.org

**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS**
of New York State

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:
A.2042A Kavanagh**

TO: New York State Assembly

DATE: January 14, 2013

Subject: An act to amend the election law, in relation to voter registration

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports this legislation, which would allow 16 and 17 year olds to pre-register to vote with the county board of elections in which they reside. Pre-registered voters turning 18 retain their eligibility to vote and, upon review of their county board, would automatically be registered without having to submit any additional paperwork.

New York currently ranks 47th in the nation in voter registration with less than 64% of eligible residents registered to vote. Low registration rates lead to poor turnout at the polls, as demonstrated by New York's recent participation rates in the presidential election years. According to the United States Election Project report on voter turnout in the November 2012 general election (January 29, 2013), New York's voting eligible population turnout was 53.5%.

Voter registration among young people is much lower than for other age groups. This legislation will enable young people to pre-register to vote when they first obtain a driver's permit or license with the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles and become part of the DMV's intake process which integrates voter registration and motor vehicle processes.

Getting young people involved in the electoral process early is important so that their voting participation becomes routine before they attend college or enter the workforce.

The League of Women Voters of New York State urges your support of A.2042A.