



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

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:
A.8582A (Kavanagh)/S.3813B (Stewart-Cousins)

TO: NYS Senate Elections Committee
DATE: May 9th 2016

Subject: An act to amend the election law, in relation to early voting; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto.

The League of Women Voters of New York State supports legislation to allow for early voting in New York State. The proposed bill would allow for early voting up to 12 days before the actual election with up to seven polling locations in each county. This bill is a great first step to modernize New York's archaic voting procedures and ensure all citizens have the opportunity to vote in person.

New York is one of only 13 states that does not allow for some form of early voting. Studies have shown that residents in states that allow for early voting overwhelmingly choose to vote before Election Day. Early voting has the power to reduce inequities in areas where voters have problems getting to the polls within a certain time frame due to family and work commitments. Early voting also reduces lines on Election Day and empowers voters to cast a ballot when it is most convenient for them. Spreading out an election can alleviate the burden on poll workers and prevent some instances of error that occur when poll workers have been forced to work for over 12 hours in a single day.

Our state has one of the worst voter turnout rates nationwide. Now more than ever the legislature must act to allow voters to cast their ballot ahead of Election Day and ensure all voters have the opportunity to vote regardless of their other obligations.

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly urges your support of A.8582A (Kavanagh)/S.3813B (Stewart-Cousins).