



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

March 12, 2010

Jeffrey Pearlman, Esq.
Peter Kiernan, Esq.
Office of the Counsel to the Governor
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

RE: A.1308/Wright

Dear Messrs. Pearlman and Kiernan,

A.1308/Wright was sent to Governor Paterson on March 5th for his signature. The League of Women Voters of New York States respectfully requests Governor Paterson to approve this measure.

The bill which amends the NYS Election Law to permit boards of elections to employ election inspectors to work half-day shifts, if enacted, would bring about a needed improvement to the conditions under which Election Day inspectors currently work. It would also enable boards of elections to hire eligible civic-minded citizens who have been unable, for reasons of health or work status, to serve in this capacity. For many eligible persons, including students and working individuals, the fifteen hour plus election work day prevents their participation in this vital role. America's poll workers, whose average age nationwide is 72, should also have the option of working or sharing a split shift on Election Day. As we prepare for complete rollout of HAVA compliant machines, the security of our elections depends, more than ever, on the availability of adequately trained, technically savvy election workers.

This measure has received the support of the NYS Election Commissioners Association.

For the above reasons, we urge you to approve this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy B. Swan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Betsy Swan, President