



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  
S. 1266/Montgomery**

**TO: Senate Elections Committee**  
**DATE: March 23, 2010**

**SUBJECT:** *AN ACT to amend the election law, the criminal procedure law, the correction law and the executive law, in relation to enacting the “voting right notification and registration act”*

***The League of Women Voters of New York State urges you to support for S.1266.***

The above referenced bill creates a mechanism for addressing the widespread misinformation surrounding the voting rights of convicted felons as well as those individuals incarcerated in local correctional facilities. It would mandate that state agencies provide accurate information to these populations concerning their voting rights.

A recent study by the Sentencing Project reveals that over 40 percent of people under supervision of the criminal justice system in New York believe that those convicted of a felony are permanently disenfranchised. Nearly 60 percent believe that they are not eligible to vote if they have ever been on probation.

NYS Election Law provides that a person convicted of a felony and incarcerated is not eligible to vote. However, such person’s right to vote is automatically restored once they have served their maximum sentence or been discharged from parole. Individuals who are sentenced to probation never lose their right to vote.

Increasing voter participation by persons coming out of the criminal justice system gives them a voice and a stake in the community and is critical to their reintegration into the community.

The League fully supports this legislation but we note that the sponsor’s memo does not provide information about the fiscal implications of this mandate upon the agencies of government which it impacts.

***The League of Women Voters of New York State urges you to support this important legislation.***