



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.5276A/GALEF, HOYT, ET AL

TO: ASSEMBLY ELECTION LAW COMMITTEE
DATE: JUNE 9, 2009

Subject: An act to amend the election law in relation to absentee ballots.

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports the above referenced legislation (A.5276A) which would simplify the absentee ballot application form to conform to the New York State Constitutional requirements.

The current application for an absentee ballot calls for a voter to provide unnecessary and intrusive personal information about the reason for her application.

Since 1993 when statewide hearings were held by the New York State Board of Elections on this topic the League has supported revising the application form so that eligible voters could participate in exercising their right to vote. Routinely, eligible voters choose not to vote by absentee although they are entitled to do so because of the personal information which the application requires. The New York State Constitution does not require the disclosure of personal details and the restrictions which the current form impose on the voter inhibits voters from participating. The simplified absentee ballot application requirements in this legislation will encourage eligible voters to exercise their right to vote.

For the above reasons, the League of Women Voters of New York State strongly urges your support of this important, and long overdue, legislation (A.5276A.)