



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**  
**S.5172/Schneiderman**

**TO: Senate Elections Committee**  
**DATE: June 9, 2009**

*Subject: an Act to amend the election law, in relation to increasing penalties for certain violations. Increases penalties for campaign finance violations.*

*The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports the above referenced legislation (S.4061) which amends the Election Law, Labor Law, and Education Law to authorize persons seventeen years of age to serve as election inspectors and poll clerks.*

More than forty states permit 16-17 year old persons to serve in some capacity at the polls and these states have reported satisfactory results with incorporating this age group into election administration. This young tech-savvy population would be an asset at the polls when new voting machines come online in 2009-10 and opening the doors to active participation in the electoral process will stimulate life-long participation as a voter.

In addition, the long fifteen hour day which election personnel must serve has decreased the numbers of retired persons who are willing to take on this vital responsibility. We must begin to expand recruitment for these roles.

***THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE STRONGLY  
URGES YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS LEGISLATION.***