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**THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
*of New York State*

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:**  
***S.5945 FOLEY/A.7061 & A.9368 EDDINGTON***

**DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2010**

**SUBJECT: *An act to amend the election law, in relation to authorizing registration records of victims of domestic violence to be kept confidential in certain cases.***

***The League of Women Voters of New York State supports the above referenced legislation that adds to the New York State Election Law to allow a victim of domestic violence to seek a court order directing that his or her voter registration records be kept confidential.***

Under current state law, local boards of election must provide the address of any registered voter, as long as the request is in writing and the applicable law is cited. Victims of domestic violence that have moved and wish to keep their new addresses out of the hands of their abusers simply do not register to vote because of the availability of their registration information to others. Keeping these records separate and apart from other registration records would afford domestic violence victims the security they deserve.

Such victims often cannot identify their new addresses after they have left home due to fear of harassment by their former partner. This new legislation incorporates by reference the broad definitions of “domestic violence” and “family member” as contained in the Domestic Violence Prevention Act in the Social Security Law.

The League of Women Voters of New York State has had a position for many years that supports services needed to provide for the safety of the victims of domestic violence because of the ever present physical and psychological danger to them. This clarifying legislation furthers this goal with no fiscal implications.

***The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly urges your support of S.5945.***