



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.4015/KAVANAGH

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

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

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports the above referenced bill (A.4015) which provides that the affidavit ballot envelope be designed to serve as an application for registration and enrollment and that if a prospective voter who completes the affidavit is determined by the Board of Elections not to be registered or enrolled as the voter claims, that the voter shall be registered or have his enrollment changed pursuant to the information on the affidavit envelope.

This bill would allow the affidavit ballot envelope to register new voters and correct mistakes on voter registration forms for the future. The current process is a two-step one. Under the provisions of this legislation the process is made simpler and will remove an additional barrier for individuals who wish to register to vote.

For the above reasons, the League of Women Voters of New York State strongly urges your support of A.4015.



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**THE LEAGUE
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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.)



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