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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *of New York State*

Update on Campaign Finance Reform Lobby to Take Advantage of This Opportunity for Reform!

The Governor's 2014-2015 Executive Budget contained an extensive package of campaign finance reforms long sought by the League. Since this inclusion has moved consideration of these critical reforms forward in the legislative session, please ***contact your legislators now by calling or setting up a meeting*** and tell them that the League believes that we have an historic opportunity in this budget process to fix a broken system.

Specifically, the League has repeatedly advocated for the following reforms and strongly supports their inclusion in the budget. Items in *italics* are not contained in the Executive Budget.

- **Enforcement**

Strong enforcement is critical to reform. The League supports an independent, nonpartisan and adequately funded enforcement entity and *concurrent jurisdiction by the Attorney General to prosecute criminal violations of campaign finance laws*. Without effective independent enforcement, all other reforms are essentially compromised.

- **Public Financing**

The League has supported public financing in New York state elections for many years. The proposed budget implements a public financing system modeled on New York City's system and wisely builds it upon a firm structure of stronger enforcement and other needed reforms.

- **Contribution Limits, Loopholes and Personal Use**

All contribution limits should be reduced to levels more consistent with federal limits and those of other states, *limits on those doing business with the state further reduced*, loopholes closed, and the ban on personal use of campaign funds clarified.

- **Independent Expenditure Disclosure**

The League believes that voters deserve to know the sources of funding for election advertising so they can make informed decisions. This package of reforms increases disclosure of independent political spending in New York and puts in place rules to disclose major funders.

Each one of the above reforms is vitally important. More detailed information on the entire package of reforms in the Executive Budget can be found in our February 3, 2014 Summary, and more detailed information on the League's specific recommendations for reform can be found in our February 5, 2014 Budget Testimony, both of which are on our home page, www.lwvny.org.