

Dear Editor,

*Governor Cuomo's 2014-2015 budget proposal includes important steps in the direction of campaign finance reform and The League of Women Voters calls upon the legislature and governor to make comprehensive reform a reality with the passage of this budget.*

*Our current campaign finance system erodes public trust and negatively effects democratic engagement. New York needs robust and independent enforcement of campaign finance laws, lower contribution limits, elimination of loopholes, robust disclosure and a small donor match public financing system of elections, all of which were recommended by the Moreland Commission. The inclusion of the campaign finance reform in the budget presents an opportunity to get the reforms we so desperately need. The legislature and governor must not let this opportunity pass.*

If you would like to revise or make some additions to the above sample letter, below are points that can be included (except please make sure that the focus remains that we need ALL of the reforms, not just public financing):

What current campaign finance laws do to our democracy. Touch on the following:

- Lax laws create an environment in which influence and access can be bought by wealthy individuals, corporations, unions, lobbyists and other organizations
- The influence of money in politics eats away at the public's faith in government
- Legislators spend inordinate amounts of time raising money to finance their campaigns
- People who would seek office are prevented from doing so by lack of access to funds

How the problem can be fixed. Touch on the following:

- Reduce all contribution limits
- Close all loopholes and place appropriate limits on corporations and unions
- Significantly improve disclosure
- Create an adequately funded, truly independent, and robust campaign finance enforcement body
- And enact a publicly-funded matching grants system that multiplies the impact of small donations