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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *of New York State*

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Statement on Failure of Constitutional Convention Vote

The League of Women Voters of New York State is disheartened to see the convention question voted down by New York State voters. A constitutional convention would have allowed us to circumvent our gridlocked legislature and pass meaningful ethics and voting reforms. We have no current hopes that our state legislators will act to change the laws that line their pockets and ensure their re-election. How many corrupt officials need to be convicted before the legislature passes real reforms?

It is notable that many legislators and the Governor came out in opposition to holding a convention. Many cited the ability to change our constitution through legislative action. Now that the measure has failed, we challenge the legislature to take action. Our legislature needs to take responsibility and amend our constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting and a shorter voter registration deadline. The legislature needs to act to ensure true independent ethics enforcement in a notoriously corrupt state. Finally but not least importantly, the legislature must codify Roe v. Wade and ensure that women in New York State will maintain their right to choose regardless of future Supreme Court rulings.

The League supported a constitutional convention even though some of our valued partners in reform opposed it. Now that the measure has failed, we will redouble our efforts to fight for the reforms which we had hoped to accomplish in a constitutional convention. Despite the outcome of this vote, we continue to be committed to serving New York voters, breaking down barriers to voting, and ensuring civic engagement at all levels of government.