



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.3874B (Brennan)

To: NYS Assembly Election Law Committee

Date: June 3, 2015

Subject: *CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY proposing an amendment to section 2 of article 2 of the constitution, in relation to authorizing ballot by mail by removing cause for absentee ballot voting.*

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports A.3874-B, which would allow any voter to request to vote by mail without declaring any reason for doing so.

Currently, the New York State Constitution only allows absentee voting if a person expects to be absent from the county in which they live, or the City of New York, or because of illness for physical disability. As we have seen in the most recent election, many states have allowed for alternate ways of voting, including mail in voting without having to declare any reason for doing so.

No-excuse absentee voting is the most widely used type of early voting reform. It allows voters to obtain an absentee ballot without explaining why they will not be able to get to their polling place on Election day. Allowing voters to obtain absentee ballots with no questions asked leads to higher rates of voters requesting these ballots, completing them, and sending them in.

New York State currently ranks near the bottom in the nation in voter turnout rates. This legislation would help remedy low voter turnout and increase participation in electoral politics.

For the above stated reasons, the League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports A.3874b (Brennan).