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**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS**
of New York State

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:
A.5547 (Cusick)/S.2788 (Akshar)

TO: NYS Assembly Elections Committee
DATE: March 7, 2017

Subject: An act to amend the election law, in relation to authorizing computer generated registration lists; in relation to the list of supplies to be delivered to poll sites.

The League of Women Voters of New York State supports A.5547/S.2788, legislation to update poll site equipment and utilize electronic poll books at all polling locations in New York State. The proposed bill would replace outdated printed poll books with computer generated lists of eligible voters; this change would ensure greater accuracy and efficiency on Election Day. The computerization of registration lists and their use at poll sites is already authorized by Election Law § 5-506(3)(c); the League strongly supports giving guidance to counties so that they can begin to use electronic poll books at all polling sites.

In 2011 an electronic poll book pilot was launched in Orange County. Their local Board of Elections office reported much faster check-in, reduction of calls by inspectors to the Board of Elections, greater access to the county electors lists, and faster electronic uploads and processing of voter history and voter registration updates. Demonstration projects using electronic poll books were also conducted in Chautauqua and Onondaga Counties.

New York State continues to have abysmal rates of voter participation. One reason many eligible voters choose not to cast their ballot on Election Day is because of difficulties they have faced at their polling locations. Long lines and inaccurate registration information have caused problems as recently as the April Presidential primary election. Electronic poll books would provide the most up-to-date information available for voters and reduce instances of voters being turned away at polling locations.

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly urges your support of A.5547 (Cusick)/S.2788 (Akshar).