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

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**STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR CUOMO'S  
ANNOUNCEMENT AT FORDHAM UNIVERSITY**

In today's announcement, the Governor called attention to the broad problem of the influence of money in politics, and also reiterated his call for critical ethics and campaign finance reforms from earlier this year. The League believes that tightening anti-coordination rules between independent expenditure committees and candidates is one piece of the money in politics puzzle, and we look forward to seeing the details of the Governor's proposed legislation.

Money in state politics was a problem before Citizens United and little or nothing has been done in the last 30 years to improve state campaign finance laws. The League believes that it is critical to limit the influence of cash in the campaign system by lowering all limits (the highest of any state in the country that has limits), closing the LLC loophole, and dealing with pay-to-play by lowering contributions for those who do business with the state. The state must enact much stronger restrictions on personal use of campaign funds—a continuing scandal in our state. We also need to shed light on government spending that takes place in the shadows by requiring disclosure of all lump-sum appropriation funds.

We need to reform ethics oversight and enforcement by changing JCOPE's structure, scope, and voting procedures to boost public confidence in its actions. Changes should increase transparency of its operations, meetings and votes; expand jurisdiction to include all executive and legislative branch employees; and elevate the independence of the commissioners from their appointing authorities. We should strengthen financial reporting disclosure requirements for public officers to allow the public to more easily spot conflicts of interest, as well as streamlining and standardizing disclosure of lobbying activity for better analysis and easier evaluation by the public.

We believe that collectively all of the above reforms are important to assure the public that the state is ready to deal with the corruption scandals of this last legislative session.