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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
of New York State

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF:
A.0516 (Rosenthal) / S.2543 (Hannon)

TO: Assembly Codes Committee

DATE: January 24, 2016

SUBJECT: *An act to amend the public health law, in relation to including electronic cigarettes within provisions regulating smoking in certain public areas and requiring vendors of electronic cigarettes to register*

The League of Women Voters of New York State (LWVNYS) supports this bill that would amend public health law to ban the use of electronic cigarettes under the Clean Indoor Air Act and certain outdoor areas. LWVNYS was an avid supporter of the Clean Indoor Air Act and lobbied extensively for its passage. We strongly believe that electronic cigarettes should fall under the purview of this legislation, which has helped protect the public's health for over a decade.

Electronic cigarettes, commonly known as e-cigarettes, are electronic devices that deliver nicotine to the user. These devices do not contain tobacco or emit smoke, rather they heat up liquid nicotine and emit water vapor. E- cigarettes are not currently regulated by the FDA and are not subject to tobacco laws since they do not contain tobacco. This lack of oversight is placing individuals at risk because there is little known about the chemical make-up of liquid nicotine or the possible harm to individuals from inhaling the water vapor directly or through secondhand exposure.

Furthermore, information from the federal government indicates an alarming increase in the use of e-cigarettes among youth, which is a serious public health concern. Failing to ban the use of electronic cigarettes from indoor and certain outdoor areas sends a dangerous message to our youth and will undermine progress made in reducing youth cigarette smoking rates. New York State should take advantage of this opportunity to challenge the notion that e-cigarettes are safe and should advance this policy which would shield bystanders, including youth, from the chemicals that emanate from these devices.

For the above reasons, the League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports the passage of A.0516 / S.2543.