



The Blake Annex | 1 Steuben Place | Albany, NY 12207  
ph. 518.465.4162 | fx. 518.465.0812 | www.lwvny.org | email: lwvny@lwvny.org

March 22, 2023

The League of Women Voters of New York State has reviewed and assessed the Assembly one-house budget. We were pleased to see support for many of the issue areas on which we work. This statement identifies the decisions we support and those we oppose.

**The League supports:**

*Division of Criminal Justice Services:*

- The omission of the Executive proposal to amend New York State bail laws.

*Board of Elections*

- Sustained funding of 14.5 million in administrative funds and \$25 million in matching funds for the public campaign finance program
- The inclusion of \$10M in Aid to Localities to go to local boards of elections.

*Elementary and Secondary Education:*

- \$1 million for a Foundation Aid and Prekindergarten funding formula study to allow the State Education Department (SED) to recommend updates and changes to both formulas
- Eliminating the Executive Article VII proposals that would remove the regional charter school cap in New York City and authorize the reissuance of zombie charters;

*Department of Health:*

- Indexing of minimum wage and fair pay for homecare workers. The wage rate for home care workers must remain at least \$3 above the minimum wage rate so that it may continue to rise jointly with the rest of the State. Such wages cannot be weakened or frozen by any future increases to, or indexing of, the minimum wage.
- Commitment to ensuring that the funding designated for higher wages for home care workers is received by workers. It is vital that all actors are held accountable and pass through these critical funds so all home care workers can receive the fair payment they deserve.
- \$3.82 million to restore funding for School Based Health Centers
- Expanding eligibility for certain Medicaid services provided to individuals in a correctional institution within 30 days of release
- Commitment to providing coverage for all remaining low-income New Yorkers who are left without access to health care coverage. All income-eligible New York State residents, including all immigrants, should be included in the planned submission of a 1332 Demonstration Waiver to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- The allocation of \$7.6 million for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) funding and the establishment of a public service campaign and mental health and wellness program to recruit additional personnel into the EMS field and retain current personnel. The proposal to enable the State Emergency Medical Services Council (SEMSCO) and Regional Emergency Medical Services Councils (REMSCO) to advise the Commissioner of Health on additional EMS topics. The creation of a statewide comprehensive EMS system plan and establish a mobile integrated healthcare program. All of these provisions would greatly aid struggling rural EMS programs.

- Proposal to include legislation to guarantee that Federally Qualified Health Centers are paid their full Medicaid reimbursement rate for telehealth services regardless of the location of the patient or the provider or the modality of service. The inclusion of \$50 million to Community Based Organizations including \$30 million to increase Federally Qualified Health Center telehealth rates, and \$10 million to further expand the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Program.

*Environmental Conservation:*

- Language to amend the Executive All Electric Building Act to apply to new buildings, include an evaluation by the Department of Public Service of electric power grid infrastructure capacity for the resulting increase in electrical load, and establish requirements for the decarbonization of existing State buildings.
- The inclusion of \$435 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), an additional \$35 million over the Executive proposal.
- Additional \$100 million for clean water infrastructure
- Rejection of the Executive proposals to create an extended producer responsibility program for packaging and paper products

*Article VII*

- Accepting the Executive proposal to extend the Indigent Care Pool (ICP) through FY 2026; the proposal to reject the Executive proposal to reduce ICP distributions to non-major public general hospitals; and modifying the Executive proposal to provide a uniform Medicaid rate increase of five percent for hospital inpatient services to increase the rate by 10 percent.
- Proposal to reject the Executive proposal to delay the expansion of Medicaid eligibility for undocumented seniors to January 1, 2024.

**The League opposes:**

*Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government*

- The Assembly rejects the Executive proposal to stagger terms of the initial appointees to the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government.

*Article VII*

- Rejection of Executive proposal to require SUNY/CUNY campuses to provide access to medication abortion prescription drugs to all enrolled students
- The Assembly's rejection of the proposal to create a statewide comprehensive EMS system plan, and to establish a mobile integrated healthcare program.
- The rejection of the proposal to require health insurers to provide coverage for behavioral health services and to provide reimbursement parity for behavioral health services via telehealth.