

March 22, 2023

The League of Women Voters of New York State has reviewed and assessed the Senate 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 inclusion of the Clean Slate Act (Part UU, S211) and associated \$1 million in funding for the program
- The omission of the Executive proposal to amend New York State bail laws.
- Sustained funding of \$250 million for Raise the Age

#### *State Board of Elections:*

- Sustained funding of \$14.5 million in administrative funds and \$25 million in matching funds for the public campaign finance program
- Modifications to provide \$15 million in funding for local boards of elections to increase salaries and hire new employees and \$2 million for the NYS Elections Database and Institute
- The addition of \$15 million for local boards of elections for new voting equipment and software/technology upgrades (S4004B)
- The inclusion of a package of election reform bills including:
  - o Establishment of the New York Voting and Elections Database and Institute (S.657) (PART DD)
  - o Prohibiting contributions by foreign-influenced business entities (S.371) (PART EE)
  - o Language to exempt poll worker pay from state taxes and public benefit cutoff thresholds (S.613) (PART FF)
  - o Increasing the minimum pay for poll workers (S.136) (PART GG)
  - o Establishing mandatory staffing levels at local boards of elections (S.644) (PART HH)
  - o Requiring local election commissioners to be full-time employees (S.611) (PART II)
  - o Establishing a mandatory training curriculum for poll workers (S.587) (PART JJ)
  - o Establishing a mandatory training curriculum for local board of elections commissioners and employees (S.617) (PART KK)

#### *Elementary and Secondary Education:*

- The addition of \$1 million for the Foundation Aid Study
- The omission of the proposal to remove the regional charter school cap and the proposal to authorize the re-issuance of surrendered, revoked, or terminated charters.

#### *Environmental Conservation:*

- An additional \$1 million for water resources for the protection of class C streams.
- Increasing the Environmental Protection Fund to \$500 million
- The inclusion of the Bigger Better Bottle Bill (S.237) (PART HHH)
- Establishing a climate change cost recovery program to require fossil fuel companies that have contributed significantly to the buildup of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere to compensate the State based on such companies' greenhouse gas contributions, and directs the proceeds to be used for climate

change-related expenditures in a manner similar to S.2129, but with proceeds directed to the Climate and Community Protection Fund. (PART JJJ)

- Aligning the Public Service Law with the emission reduction mandates of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (S.2016) (PART MMM)

*Department of Health:*

- \$3.8 million to support School Based Health Centers
- \$10 million to support Doula services
- Extending various provisions and programs within the Public Health and Mental Hygiene Laws by adding a provision making the carve-out of school-based health centers from Medicaid managed care permanent (S.2339) (PART B)
- Increasing the minimum wage for home care workers by an additional two dollars over two years subject to federal participation (Part of S.3189) (PART RR).
- Expanding Medicaid eligibility to incarcerated people 30 days prior to release and to children and adults in institutes of mental disease by expanding coverage for incarcerated people to include full Medicaid coverage and including a taskforce to study long term solutions for children who may gain and then lose coverage under this proposal. (PART K)
- Expanding the Medicaid Buy-In Program for working people with disabilities. (PART N)
- Covering doula services under the Medicaid program and establish a rate for those services (PART SS)
- The inclusion of a proposal to require commercial insurance coverage of certain behavioral health services, and the requirement of payment parity for telehealth mental health services. (PART II)

*Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government*

- Accepting the Executive proposal to stagger term durations for appointees to the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (S.4005-B) PART Z)

*Article VII:*

- Establishing a grant program to build reproductive healthcare provider capacity within the state, fund uncompensated care, and provide financial support to organizations providing practical support to individuals within and traveling to the State (S.348-B) (PART BBB).
- Ensuring medication abortion access at SUNY and CUNY (PART C)
- Accepting the proposed expansion for the Essential Plan, but rejecting the delay in coverage for undocumented immigrants over 64, and including coverage for undocumented immigrants regardless of age through the Essential Plan (S.4007-B, PART H)
- Proposal to create a uniform financial assistance form to access Indigent Care Pool and Indigent Care Adjustment funding (S.4007-B, PART Y)
- The inclusion of investments for Emergency Medical Service and proposals for EMS system-sustainability plans, authorizing mobile integrated healthcare and advancing language to provide payments to municipalities whose EMS are other municipal departments, volunteer or non-profit entities (Part of S.1852). Also supported is the inclusion of provisions to label EMS as an "essential" and required service. (S.4007-B, PART S).

**The League opposes:**

*Environmental Conservation:*

- Enacting a producer responsibility program for packaging and paper products. The League believes that this policy is too complicated to enact during the budget and we encourage the Senate to pass a bill post-budget (S.4246) (PART PP).