

The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS asks your support for REDISTRICTING REFORM

NYS Senate bill S.2543 and NYS Assembly bill A.3432 will dramatically improve the way New York draws district lines for elections to the State Legislature and to the New York's House of Representatives delegation. It promotes fairness and openness in redistricting and can result in a State Legislature that is more responsive to and accountable to New York State voters.

The proposed legislation

- **creates an Independent Redistricting Commission to draw state legislative and congressional district boundaries for the 2012 elections and beyond.** An independent redistricting commission removes the inherent conflict of interest from the incumbent legislators. Free from political pressure, an independent commission can assume responsibility for drawing lines in a fair, impartial and sensible manner.
- **Requires that Redistricting Commissioners be appointed from a pool of qualified candidates reflective of the state's voters.** Commissioners should represent both genders and reflect the state's full racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity. They should not hold, or should have not held, an elective office, party position or employment, or other positions that would confer partisan influence, within the previous two years.
- **sets clear redistricting standards consistent with state constitutional priorities and federal requirements of the Voting Rights Act.** The Commissioners will prepare legislative district maps that:
 - ensure fair and effective representation of racial and language minority groups
 - incorporate the "one person, one vote" principle, so that no state legislative district shall exceed by one percent of the average population of all Senate and Assembly districts
 - keep districts compact and contiguous to the greatest extent possible
 - keep communities of interest together and respect municipal boundaries
 - are drawn so as not to favor or disfavor any candidate or political party
- **It requires ample public hearings and opportunities for public comment,** including full access to data, maps, criteria, software used, and proposed plans.

The legislation ensures that the legislature has the opportunity to provide feedback to the plans submitted by the Commission consistent with the Legislature's authority under the State Constitution to ultimately approve a redistricting plan.

If reform is to happen we need you to spread the word. Here is what you can do:

- Attend public meetings and hearings
- Contact your legislators and let them know that you support real redistricting reform
- Tell your friends and other organizations about our efforts
- **Visit our web site for information about hearing schedules, League meetings on redistricting, and to view LWV Power Point on Redistricting.**

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