League of Women Voters Sends Letter to Legislature Reminding of Imminent Independent Redistricting Commission Formation Deadline

The League of Women Voters has sent a letter to all members of the State Assembly and Senate reminding them of the impending February 1st deadline to appoint New York State’s first ever Independent Redistricting Commission.

In 2014, voters approved a constitutional amendment to allow for the creation of an independent redistricting body to draft legislative lines for state and congressional districts. The New York State Constitution sets a firm timeline of actions that must be taken leading up the redistricting process, including a February 1st deadline for the establishment of the commission.

Article III, Section 5-b of the New York State Constitution states that “on or before February first of each year ending with a zero...an independent redistricting commission shall be established to determine the district lines for congressional and state legislative offices.”

“2022 will be the first year New York State’s Independent Redistricting Commission will have the power to propose new district lines in New York State. The legislature must begin to determine how and when they will make their commission appointments. We hope all legislators will give careful consideration to the constitutionally mandated requirements commissioners must meet for New York’s Independent Redistricting Commission.” Said Suzanne Stassevitch, President of the League of Women Voters of New York State.

The League included in their letter a fact sheet explaining the constitutional mandates surrounding the commission including appointment process, qualifications for commissioners, mandatory public hearing locations, and a timeline of events. The League is calling on the legislature to make their selections in a timely manner to avoid setbacks similar to those faced by the recent New York State Complete Count Commission. The League is also calling for funding for this commission to be included in the state’s 2020-2021 budget.