



POST BUDGET LOBBYING 2018

TO: Local League Presidents/Action Chairs
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Each year we ask League members to lobby their state legislators after the state budget is done, giving local League members and legislators an opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss the League's Legislative Agenda for the session.

Legislative lobbying in the district office should be scheduled for the first two weeks of April. These meetings will give legislators an opportunity to learn about League positions and share their ideas and agenda. Information on how to set up an appointment and how to lobby is on the next page.

This exchange of information benefits the state League in its efforts to develop strategies that promote our legislative agenda. Our influence in Albany depends on your contact with your state Senator and Assemblyperson(s). They know you elect them! If you haven't done so already, set up an appointment to see your state Assemblyperson(s) and Senator. Seeing a staff person is fine.

This year we are asking you to lobby:

For our core League issue of **election reform**, we will be covering seven reforms that would make voting easier and more accessible. These include:

- Early Voting
- Voter Registration
- Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)
- No-Excuse Absentee Voting
- Ballot Design
- Single June Primary
- Electronic Poll Books

In light of the numerous upcoming corruption trials and conviction of former top-aide to Governor Cuomo, Joseph Percoco, we will also be covering four major **campaign finance and ethics reforms** including:

Campaign Finance

- Closing the LLC Loophole
- Banning Pay to Play

Ethics

- Creating a Database of Deals for state contracts
- Imposing Limits on Outside Income

You do not have to cover all these reforms in your meeting; cover whichever ones you are comfortable with. Talking points for each of these topics are attached in separate documents, formatted with League letterhead so that you can leave one or more with your Legislator. You can also use the 2018 Legislative Agenda brochures in your advocacy efforts and leave a copy (or several) with your legislator.



2018 TIPS FOR LOBBY VISITS

PREPARATION

1. **Making the appointment:** Contact the legislator's district office. Ask for a ½ hour of time, but accept less if necessary, and do not overstay your welcome. Notify the legislator of the number in your group as well as their names, if possible. Send a letter or e-mail confirming the appointment, mentioning the issues you will discuss. **If you cannot meet with the legislator, ask to meet with senior staff.**

Try to arrange for three to five League members to attend. If your League meets with several assembly members or senators, be sure to have a League member who is a constituent present. At least one person should be experienced in League. League members well versed on the issues to be lobbied should be included when possible. A new member can be included in this exciting action if accompanied by experienced League members. When more than one local League is involved, try to have representatives from as many of the constituent Leagues as possible.

2. **Assigning roles:** Each member of the lobby team should be assigned a specific role. The following are possible assignments:
 - Researching the legislator. Someone should be prepared to brief the other members of the lobby team on the legislator's relationship with the League and his/her voting record (if the legislator is a re-elected incumbent). What are his/her committee assignments and/or leadership positions in the legislature? Is this legislator a member of the League? If this legislator sponsored bills that League supported, you may want to take a moment to express League's appreciation.
 - Moderator/leader. This person should be certain that each League member introduces himself/herself. The leader must also watch the clock. Knowing ahead how much time the legislator has agreed to spend with you, the leader must allot an appropriate amount of time for each issue. It is the leader's responsibility to "pace" the visit and tactfully keep everyone (including the legislator) on the subject. **Remember, opinions expressed should be those of the League, not of individuals.**
 - Researching the issue or issues to be discussed. Look to the materials on this subject on the league website.
 - Recording and reporting the legislator's response. The leader should not be the recorder.

NOTE: If you anticipate printing any part of the interview in a League bulletin or newspaper, the recorder is obligated to get the legislator's permission and specific conditions under which you may print.

Write a follow-up thank you after the visit. This is not only a gesture of politeness, but it also allows you to underscore some points made during the visit, answer any questions you were not sure about, or send a League publication to which you may have referred during the course of the visit.



Lobby Check List

Before Your Visit:

- Do you know **what your “ask” is?**
- Did you pack extra copies of the **Lobby Packet materials?**
- Did you bring your **contact information** for the member/staffer?
- Are you ready to **refute opposition** arguments?
- Do you have a couple of **questions** you want to ask?
- Is there an **upcoming event** where you can invite the lawmaker? Or are you sending a student from their area to **Students Inside Albany**?

After Your Visit:

- Did you send them a **Thank You** note?
- Did you send **follow up on any questions** they had?
- Did you send your **Lobby Response Form** to the State League office?
- Celebrate your success!**

Use this space for any additional notes:



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEW YORK STATE

2018 LWVNYS LOBBY REPORT FORM POST-BUDGET LOBBY VISITS

THANK YOU!

Local League: _____

League Member Name: _____

Senator: _____

Assembly Member: _____

What did the legislator say about each issue?

1. Election Law Reform

2. Ethics and Campaign Finance

**Please return completed form to LWVNY, 62 Grand Street, Albany NY 12207
or fax 518-465-0812 or save as a pdf and attach to an email to jennifer@lwny.org**

by June 5, 2018

League of Women Voters of New York State
62 Grand Street, Albany NY 122013
(518) 465-4162 lwny@lwny.org



Election Law Reform

Issue	Description	Bill Numbers
 Early Voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The League supports enacting early voting in New York State. Currently 37 states allow for some form of early voting.Early voting should be implemented in a manner that will allow equivalent access to the polls for all voters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">S.7400A (Kavanagh) Relates to establishing early voting and the New York state early voting fund
 Voter Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The League supports Election Day registration, on the same day, as a proven method of increasing voter participation.The League supports reducing the voter registration deadline to 10 days before an election.The League supports pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A.9609 (Lavine) / S.1661 (Carlucci) Allows for pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds.S.2478A (Gianaris) Amends Constitution to remove requirement of registering to vote 10 days before an election.
 Automatic Voter Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Currently 10 states and DC have automatic voter registration (AVR)The League supports an opt-in AVR system that would not require voters to duplicate information.The League supports all state agencies participating in an AVR program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">S.3304A (Gianaris) Enacts the "voter empowerment act of New York" to streamline the process for registering to vote. Allows state agencies to automatically register voters.
 No-Excuse Absentee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The League supports a constitutional amendment to allow for no-excuse absentee voting.Currently 27 states and the District of Columbia allow for no-excuse absentee voting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A.7623 (Vanel) / S.0840 (Comrie) Amends the State Constitution to authorize ballot by mail by removing cause for absentee ballot voting.
 Ballot Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The League supports improvements to ballot design that would make have a clear delineation between offices with a bold vertical bar between offices and a fine line between the candidates, a larger font with an absolute minimum size, and fill-in circles in black instead of gray.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">S.1512 (Avella) Creates the Voter Friendly Ballot Act which would create a ballot layout that is easy for voters to read and use.
 Single June Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The League supports legislation that would create a single combined congressional and state June primary date and would bring New York State into compliance with the Military Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A.9925 (Lavine)/ S.3562 (Stewart-Cousins) Allows for the consolidation of state and congressional primaries to create a single June primary.
 Electronic Poll Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The League strongly supports replacing printed poll books with electronic poll books to eliminate time and resources spent producing paper poll books and updating voter information, and to speed up processing voters at the polls on Election Day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A.5547 (Cusick)/S.2788 (Akshar) Authorizes counties to employ computer generated registration lists; updates the list of supplies to be delivered to poll sites.

Campaign Finance and Ethics Reforms

Ban “Pay to Play” 	Ban “Pay to Play.” Strict “pay to play” restrictions on state vendors. The U.S. Attorney’s charges that \$800 million in state contracts were rigged to benefit campaign contributors to the governor underscores the need to strictly limit contributions from those seeking state contracts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.6808 (Galef)/ S.6306 (Avella) An act to amend the public officers law, in relation to prohibiting members of the legislature from obtaining funding and providing such funds to any business entity or not-for-profit entities in which such officials, members, domestic partners or certain relatives hold official or legal positions.
Close “LLC Loophole.” 	Close “LLC Loophole.” Ban unlimited campaign contributions via Limited Liability Companies. LLCs have been at the heart of some of Albany’s largest scandals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.9758A (Simon) / S.27149 (Kavanagh) An act to amend the election law, in relation to political contributions
Strict Limits on Outside Income 	Strict Limits on Outside Income. Real limits on the outside income for legislators and the executive branch. Moonlighting by top legislative leaders and top members of the executive branch has triggered indictments by the federal prosecutors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (A.5831) Santabarbara Relates to prohibiting outside income for members of the legislature in excess of fifteen percent of gross annual salary.
Create a Database of Deals 	Create a Database of Deals. A “Database of Deals” will list all state economic development benefits, including grants, loans or tax abatements awarded to a particular business or organization. The “Database of Deals” will also include the cost to taxpayers of each job created, and create a uniform definition of what a “job” is across subsidy programs including full-time, part-time, permanent, and contract jobs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.8175(Schimminger) Relates to the creation of a searchable database; requires the Urban Development Corporation to create or modify an existing searchable database including information on qualified participants receiving state economic development benefits.



Campaign Finance

<p>Ban Pay to Play A.6808 (Galef)/ S.6306 (Avella)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2016, the District Attorney of Southern New York discovered that \$800 million in state contracts were rigged to benefit campaign contributors to the governor.• The general purpose of this legislation is to bar state legislators and state-wide officials from allocating state-funding through grants or member items to organization or businesses entities where their relatives serve in an official or legal position. This includes relatives serving as an unpaid volunteer.• This common sense conflict of interest reform would prevent elected officials from unfairly favoring business entities, non-profits, and corporations that employ their relatives.• The law would prevent these officials from allocating tax payer money that would directly benefit their relatives. This law would include relatives by blood, marriage, and adoption.
<p>Close “LLC Loophole.” A.975A (Simon)/ S.27149 (Kavanagh)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Limited Liability Loophole is a legal loophole that allows large donors to give millions of dollars of campaign contributions through limited liability companies (LLCs).• These LLCs do not have to disclose the individual entities or individuals that are part of the LLC.• This bill would add Limited Liability Companies to section 14-116 of the election law to make them subject to the \$5,000 limit on contributions from corporations.• The bill would also amend Election Law to require all contributions made to a campaign or political committee by a LLC be attributed to each member of the LLC.



Ethics

<p>Strict Limits on Outside Income A.5831 (Santabarbara)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Our part time state legislature allows many members supplement their legislative salary with outside income, which can include working for private employers or clients that have business before the state or are impacted by legislative actions.Recent scandals in Albany have revealed that members of the legislature, working part time in other capacities, have received kickbacks from clients in exchange for pushing desired reforms.Restricting the amount of outside income state legislators can earn is an important step in restoring the public trust in their state government.This legislation would cap outside income at 15%. This is the same cap applied to members of Congress.
<p>Create a Database of Deals A.8175 (Schimminger)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This legislation would require the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) to create and maintain a searchable State subsidy and economic development benefits database on its website.The database would include the name and location of the benefit recipient, the type of benefit received, the amount of economic development benefits received for the current reporting year, the time span of received economic, development benefits, the total number of employees at all sites of a project, the number of jobs a participant is obligated to retain and create during the project, a statement of compliance indicating if any other State agency has reduced, cancelled or recaptured economic development benefits from a participant.The Database of Deals would make fundamental information about business subsidies known to the public and establish a foundation for greater accountability.