

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Kai Rosenthal president@lwvnyc.org

NYC League of Women Voters Responds to Concerns about NYC Board of Elections Corruption

New York City – March 28, 2025 – Kai Rosenthal and Deborah Brodheim, Co-Presidents of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York, issued the following statement in response to an alleged kickback scheme associated with the Bronx Republican Party via the New York City Board of Elections, currently under federal investigation:

"Our democracy depends on fair, free, and uncorrupted elections. Election workers are a vital pillar of the electoral process. They work for low pay and long hours during early voting, and on Election Day to ensure that voters have secure ballot access. If the allegations about kickback schemes redirecting to the Bronx Republican Party are true, then the Board of Elections is not just acting illegally. They are also playing with fire at a time when attempts to disrupt the electoral process have been growing around the country.

These alleged actions reflect a larger culture of patronage that is, in New York State, statutorily sanctioned. (NY State Election Law turns the administration of elections over to the Democratic and Republican parties)."

The League urges New York City constituents to contact their State Assembly Members and Senators to pass bills that would enhance training for leadership and staff by requiring uniform training for Commissioners. (S1035/A1228). The League also supports a far reaching bill that would restructure and professionalize the NYC Board of Elections by clarifying the powers of the Commissioners, reducing unnecessary duplication of staff roles, and mandating public hearings before the City Council. (S699/A1852).

About the League: Founded in 1919, The League of Women Voters of the City of New York is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, and volunteer-led organization working to promote civic responsibility through informed and active participation in government. As a member of the national and state organization, the League fights for voting rights, expanded ballot access, and good government across the country. In New York City, the League registers thousands of new voters and provides election information to thousands more through speaking engagements, workshops and volunteer training. Responsive to local issues, the NYC chapter has action committees advocating on issues such as good municipal governance, criminal justice reform, education, transportation, and voting rights.

Membership is open to all people who support the LWVNYC's mission. The League is funded by membership dues and contributions from civic minded individuals, businesses and organizations. Please join or donate <u>here</u>.