



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEW JERSEY

Testimony in Support of S.1
Senate Judiciary Committee
January 24, 2012

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey supports equal rights for all under state law. We support S.1 the "Marriage Equality and Religious Exemption Act and ask you to release it from committee for a full vote of the Senate.

Our support is based on the League of Women Voters of the United States position on Equality of Opportunity. Convention June 2010 added specific language in support of marriage of same gender couples.

"The League of Women Voters of the United States supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. The League of Women Voters of the United States supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."

Presented by:
Kerry Margaret Butch, Executive Director
League of Women Voters of New Jersey

Testimony in Support of A.1
Assembly Judiciary Committee
February 2, 2012

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey supports equal rights for all under state law. We support A.1 the "Marriage Equality and Religious Exemption Act and ask you to release it from committee for a full vote of the Assembly.

Our support is based on the League of Women Voters of the United States position on Equality of Opportunity. Convention June 2010 added specific language in support of marriage of same gender couples, as follows:

"The League of Women Voters of the United States supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. The League of Women Voters of the United States supports legislation

to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.”

Presented by:
Toni Zimmer, President
League of Women Voters of New Jersey