



Contact:
Anne Ruach Nicolas
League of Women Voter of New Jersey
609-394-3303

For Immediate Release:
June 2, 2008

Advocates Offer Election Day Monitoring and Toll-Free VOTeline for Voter Assistance

Trenton, NJ— The League of Women Voters of New Jersey and the American Civil Liberties Union announced today that they will staff a VOTeline, 1-800-792-VOTE, to answer inquiries from voters and offer assistance with problems voters may encounter at the polls as well as provide poll monitoring and voter advocacy services for tomorrow's primary election.

"The VOTeline is an excellent resource to answer questions voters have on Election Day including inquiries about polling place location, party affiliation and information about provisional ballots," said Anne Ruach Nicolas, LWVNJ Executive Director. "This partnership with the ACLU-NJ enables our organizations to provide poll monitoring and legal assistance to voters whose right to vote is challenged."

The VOTeline will be staffed from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. while the polls are open on Election Day. This resource is also available year round to provide assistance to New Jersey voters. Poll monitors will be on site at polling places throughout the state to distribute voting rights information to interested voters and try to advise voters who have encountered obstacles about their rights. The ACLU-NJ will also have attorneys available to assist voters whose right to vote is denied.

During past election monitoring efforts, some of the biggest concerns have been failures to offer provisional ballots to voters who believed that they had registered but whose names were missing from the registration lists, failures to provide emergency paper ballots and confusion or malfunction when operating voting machines. Visit www.lwvnj.org for details on the issues encountered during the February 2008 Presidential Primary.

The ACLU-NJ and LWVNJ are working closely with the Secretary of State's office in its new oversight of elections in hopes of improving poll worker training, voter education and tracking of Election Day problems. The Secretary of State recently assumed responsibility for elections and has pledged to address the problems of the past.

Voters in need of assistance on June 3 should contact the VOTeline at 1-800-792-VOTE or the ACLU-NJ at 973-642-2084.

###

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is a non-partisan political organization, founded in April 1920 as a successor to the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association. Today the League encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.