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OF NEW JERSEY EDUCATION FUND

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LWVNJ VOTeline Gets Record Number of Calls

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey has been inundated with phone calls from people wanting to vote in the presidential primary on February 5th. Interest sparked by the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary, as well as the new date for New Jersey's primary, have raised the number of calls to the 1-800-VOTE line in the last few weeks to about 80 per day.

Many people calling have questions and concerns about their party affiliation status. The deadline to change party affiliation has passed for this upcoming primary and if voters are already declared as Republican or Democrat they may only vote in that party's primary. However, many callers do not realize that they may declare themselves Democrat or Republican at the polls on the day of the primary IF they are presently unaffiliated. Party affiliation can be found out by calling the County Clerk.

Callers also have questions concerning voter registration. The deadline to register to vote in this upcoming primary was January 15th. However, the League would like to encourage those that have missed the deadline to take a minute to register to vote now so they can be vote future elections. Voter Registration forms can be found on the LWVNJ website, www.lwvnj.org.

Voters are also requesting absentee ballots. Applications for absentee ballots can also be found on the LWVNJ website, or can be requested from your County Clerk. The deadline for mailed applications for absentee ballots to the County Clerk is January 29.

LWVNJ president, Anne Maiese, said, "If this increase in calls is any indication, there is a genuine increased voter interest in this race and we should see an increase at the polls. We expect to call in more volunteers to answer phones in the next few weeks, especially on election day." The public is welcome to call the hotline at 1-800-VOTE with any questions or go to the LWVNJ website, www.lwvnj.org to obtain basic information.