



League of Women Voters of New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Position

In November New Jersey voters will select both a governor and a lieutenant governor running mate, thanks to a voter-supported amendment approved in 2005. Governor Corzine has already announced his preliminary list of candidates for running mate.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey supported amending the N.J. Constitution to institute this office to ensure a clear separation of powers and a defined succession plan should the governor not be able to serve. However, the League has always been very concerned about the lieutenant governor's responsibilities, which were undefined in the amendment, as well as the fiscal impact of having another executive officer.

The League does not want the office of lieutenant governor to become another costly layer of bureaucracy. It can be a meaningful job, not mere window dressing, if the governor makes it so.

The initial discussion from our candidates needs to first concentrate on the responsibilities and powers the lieutenant governor will possess before the candidates can find the best person for the now undefined position. New Jersey deserves a clear understanding of what they will financially support. With New Jersey's budget crisis, we need to hear these answers first.

Anne Maiese
President
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