

JOINT STATEMENT URGING SUPPORT FOR REFORMING NEW YORK

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

CITIZENS UNION

COMMON CAUSE/ NY

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NYS

NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST
RESEARCH GROUP (NYPIRG)

WOMEN'S CITY CLUB OF NEW YORK
(*in formation*)

Our organizations jointly urge the Governor and the Legislature to begin serious discussions and deliberation on proposals to:

- **Change the way legislative district lines are drawn;**
- **Change the way electoral campaigns are funded;**
- **Strengthen ethical standards;**
- **Broaden the lobbying law;**
- **Strengthen the state's Freedom of Information Act;**
- **Reform the rules of the legislature;**
- **Create a New York State "C-SPAN";**
- **Strengthen oversight of authorities;**
- **Improve the state's system of elections, including allowing an Election Day voter registration option; and**
- **Improve budgeting with the establishment of an Independent Budget Office.**

While we recognize that legislative reforms have been implemented and that the budget was passed on time, more needs to be done.

We strongly urge you to consider the issues posed and solutions recommended by our organizations. The legislation dramatically boosts the public accountability and openness of New York State government. If enacted, such a package of reforms would dramatically overhaul the way governmental business is conducted in Albany and would demonstrate to New Yorkers that real change is underway.

We understand that there are other measures deserving legislative consideration and also that it may be necessary to amend the proposals. However, it is clear that action should be taken in this area. We believe that the plan put forward by our organizations offer a real framework for reform and we collectively urge you to begin this important debate.

While our organizations do not necessarily have positions on each of these issues, we do not object to them and are supportive of legislative debate on these proposals. Therefore, we support debate on these reform and we endorse the May 3rd lobby day. We urge you to do so as well.