



**Assembly State and Local Government
May 11, 2023
Testimony in Support of A5362**

Good afternoon, Chairman Verelli and Vice Chair Swain. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ). My name is Philip Hensley and I am the Democracy Policy Analyst with LWVNJ. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. My name is Philip Hensley, Democracy Policy Analyst with the League. We are here to advocate in support of A5362.

This legislation makes a supplemental appropriation of \$1.5 million to the Election Law Enforcement Commission for enforcement and staffing activities. These funds are clearly needed to support ELEC's work. Per ELEC's 2022 report, the Commissions' Review and Investigation Department has just eight employees, including the Director. Also per that annual report, ELEC closed six investigations in 2022. We believe it is essential that ELEC should have additional enforcement and staffing resources, so that the public can be assured that the law is being followed and political campaigns are playing by the rules.

While we support this legislation, we urge the legislature to carefully evaluate whether ELEC's enforcement needs are fully met by this \$1.5 million appropriation. Recently passed legislation has reduced the statute of limitations for campaign finance infractions to two years from ten years. This considerably shortens the window for violations to be enforced, and it is essential that ELEC is provided with the resources it needs to complete all appropriate investigations under these new time constraints.

We urge the committee to vote yes on this bill. Thank you for your time and attention.

Testimony presented by:

Philip Hensley
Democracy Policy Analyst

League of Women Voters of NJ