Support Proposition 1

After extensive study, the League of Women Voters of New York State recommends a "yes" vote for Proposal 1 on the Nov. 4 ballot, known as the Redistricting Amendment to the New York State Constitution. This proposal is a step in the direction of ending partisan gerrymandering.

While we in the local League concede that the legislation is not perfect, we urge voters to consider these attributes:

» The amendment curbs some of the power of state legislators to draw their own lines by establishing a balanced, bipartisan 10-member commission, appointed by legislators — but with significant bans on who can serve (legislators and lobbyists are banned).

» It establishes new rules that remove partisan scheming to ensure impartiality, banning the drawing of district lines to benefit specific parties (gerrymandering) and protecting rights by adopting existing language from the national Voting Rights Act, regardless of what happens at the federal level.

» It creates a fairer and more public process, requiring that the commission release data, maps and information to the public in order to develop alternative proposals. In addition, 12 public hearings are mandated to be held throughout the state.

The League agrees that a constitutional convention might more perfectly address the problem of incumbent

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GUEST ESSAYISTS

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majorities drawing district lines to ensure their re-election, but we are not assured that such a convention is in our future, nor what the outcome of a convention might be. This measure is available to us now and corrects many of the current inequities. Proposals are found on the back of the ballot — please be sure to vote on Proposals 1, 2 and 3!

Hussong-Kallen and Read are co-presidents of the League of Women Voters of Rochester Metro Area.