



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH
CAROLINA**

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To the Editor:

The 2008 election is going to be a crucial one for our country. Through our state's primary process, South Carolina voters will play a crucial role in selecting presidential candidates for the two major parties. The League of Women Voters of South Carolina urges voters to study the candidates and the issues and to vote their choice in either the Republican presidential primary on January 19 or the Democratic presidential primary on January 26.

Voting specialists from government, science and citizens groups, including the League, have raised concerns about the security and reliability of certain electronic voting machines, including the iVotronics voting system that voters will use in the South Carolina primaries. The League urges citizens to vote, even if they have questions about the security of the election process.

The League suggests simple steps that voters can take to protect their vote: prior to election day, check to make sure they're on the list of registered voters; be sure to go to the right polling place for the presidential primaries, as voters in some precincts will cast votes at polling places different than the ones where they normally vote; bring a current I.D. or a document that includes their name and street address; request a provisional ballot if their name is not on the list or get directions to the correct polling place; get help from poll workers—they're there to help; stay and vote, even if the line is long.

Voters can visit <http://www.scvotes.org> to check their registration and retrieve their poll location. They can also call their county voter registration office. Voters can find helpful election-related information at the League's nonpartisan website--<http://www.vote411.org/>—or by calling the LWVSC Voter Information phone, 803-251-2726, or visiting <http://www.lwvsc.org/>.

The nation's eyes are on South Carolina as we help choose who will lead our nation. This is our right as well as our responsibility. If we choose not to vote now, we give up the right to complain about the process.

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