



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VERMONT

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To the Editor:

As Rep. Michael Fisher wrote in his “My Turn” piece on January 22, the Vermont Senate is currently considering using Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for Vermont's U.S. House and Senate race in 2008. The League of Women Voters has been a long-time supporter of IRV as a means to assure that our officials are indeed elected by a majority of the voters.

IRV accomplishes this without the time, expense, and drop-off in participation inherent in a traditional runoff. I particularly want to emphasize the last point. Last spring, East Montpelier had a runoff election for Selectboard. Seven hundred people voted in the first election, and *fewer than 200* in the separate runoff. Figures like that alone make IRV an attractive alternative to the traditional runoff. Let us reinforce democracy not only by assuring that the candidate with the majority of the votes wins, but also by maximizing voter participation. IRV does both. Bring majority voting to Vermont: support S.108.

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