



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VERMONT

17 March 2008

Governor James Douglas
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101

RE: S.108, Instant Runoff Voting

Dear Governor Douglas:

Please sign S.108 into law.

The League of Women Voters of Vermont has long supported Instant Runoff Voting. In 2002 the League worked to have an advisory resolution on IRV voted on by 56 town meetings. Fifty-three of those towns urged adoption of IRV for statewide elections.

Vermont has a long history of requiring majority winners for congressional elections, and until 1940 mandated a second election if the first one did not provide a majority winner.

IRV provides a majority winner without the time, expense, and drop-off in participation inherent in a traditional runoff.

I particularly want to emphasize the last point. In 2007, East Montpelier had a runoff election for Selectboard. Seven hundred people voted in the first election, and *fewer than 200* in the separate 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: sign S.108.

Very truly yours,

Catherine A. Rader
President, LWVVT