

ALBANY,NY--(4/17/97) Statistics released today show that the number of registered voters in New York has increased by 111,952, or 1.1%, since November of 1996, according to the State Board of Elections. County boards of elections reported a total of 10,274,108 registered voters as of April,1.

All seven of New York's Parties increased their enrollment except the Liberal Party which lost 231 voters, or 0.2%. The newest parties gained the most new voters with the Independence Party gaining 22,511 or 32.1% and the Freedom Party adding 1,994 or 26.7%.

Enrollment changes in the other four political parties since November, 1996 are as follows: Democrat, +56,796 or 1.2%; Republican, +35,065 or 1.2%; Conservative, +1,669 or 1%; and Right To Life, +1,148 or 2.5%. The number of voters choosing not to enroll in any party decreased by 7,000 or only 0.3%.

"It is wonderful to see a continuation for the most part in increased registration after such a huge increase prior to the 1996 presidential election," said Thomas Wilkey, Executive Director of the New York State Board of Elections. " Usually there are mixed results after the end of an election cycle. The implementation of the National Voter Registration Act has probably had some effect on smoothing out fluctuations in registration from year to year."

Voters interested in registering to vote may call the New York State Board of Elections hotline at 1-800-FOR-VOTE(1-800-367-8683) or they may call their local county board. Residents may also register at Motor Vehicle offices, state public assistance agencies and other state agencies providing services to people with disabilities and other needs.

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