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### More women should be considered as leaders

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Without question, the status quo in Albany for too long has been “three men in a room.” New York lags behind most other states in female representation and, far too often, local party insiders don’t look to nominate the talented women among them. I’ve witnessed women passed over who had more experience and bigger campaign coffers than the chosen male candidate. Too often, women are simply sidelined.

The long-held attitudes of party bosses need to change, but one sure-fire way to inject fairness into the electoral process for women candidates is the creation of an independent commission to draw district lines. ReShapeNY, a statewide coalition formed to end partisan gerrymandering and reform the redistricting process, aims to do just that.

With Governor Cuomo’s pledge to veto lines not drawn by an independent commission, the legislature must come back in a special session to address redistricting reform before the 2012 elections. Just as 1992 after the last redistricting cycle was the “year of the woman,” 2012 could be another historic moment for women in New York State if redistricting reform is achieved.

Sonia Ossorio  
*Executive Director National Organization for Women New York City*

### Entertainment Calendar

**BEST BETS:**

Tue 11/15: Anthrax and Testament

Tue 11/15: Johannes Quartet

Fri 11/18: Feed the City

Fri 11/18: Bettye LaVette

Fri 11/18: Rhvthm of Raiasthan

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