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ACTION ALERT

ACTION REQUESTED

Protect Budget Money for Early Voting

Action Needed by 4 p.m., Mon., Jan. 22, 2024

Virginia received a good deal of money during the height of the COVID crises under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). \$3 million of that money was designated to make early voting easier and more accessible. It came to the League's attention that only about \$147,000 has been expended and the rest was going to be "clawed-back" or returned to the general budget fund and the purpose redesignated.

After some last-minute advocacy by us to the members of the appropriate committees, we learned that Delegate Besty Carr would add an amendment to the Budget to release that money back to its original purpose – that is, for early voting.

The House Appropriations Committee meets Mon., Jan. 22 at 4 p.m. to take up this amendment. It is vital that we let them know that the "Carr Amendment" must remain in the budget.

If you are a constituent of any member of the House Appropriations Committee, please email them today.

[Luke E. Torian](#) (Chair) 24th District

[Mark D. Sickles](#) (Vice Chair) 17th District

[David L. Bulova](#) 11th District

[Betsy B. Carr](#), 78th District

[Delores L. McQuinn](#), 81st District

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[C. E. \(Cliff\) Hayes Jr.](#), 91st District

[David A. Reid](#), 28th District

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[Terry L. Austin](#), 37th District
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[Daniel W. Marshall III](#), 49th District
[M. Keith Hodges](#), 68th District
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[Scott A. Wyatt](#), 60th District
[William D. \(Bill\) Wiley](#), 32nd District
[Ellen H. Campbell](#), 36th District

Remember, you are writing as a constituent not a member of the League. The League has submitted testimony supporting this bill.

If you are a constituent of Delegate Carr, please thank her for this amendment.

SAMPLE EMAIL and TALKING POINTS

I support Delegate Carr's request to amend Item 486 #1h of the Virginia Budget (HB 29) to release the remaining ARPA money for early voting.

2024 is a pivotal presidential election year.

In the last presidential election, held during the pandemic, almost two thirds of the ballots in Virginia were cast early in person or by mail. If we see the 75% turnout in 2024 that we saw in 2020, and one third vote early, that means around 1,800,000 people will vote early.

Election administrators will need money to conduct this huge election. We need to assure that the remaining \$2.5 million dollars earmarked for this money is used for its intended purpose

Please vote yes to keep the Carr amendment in the Budget Bill.