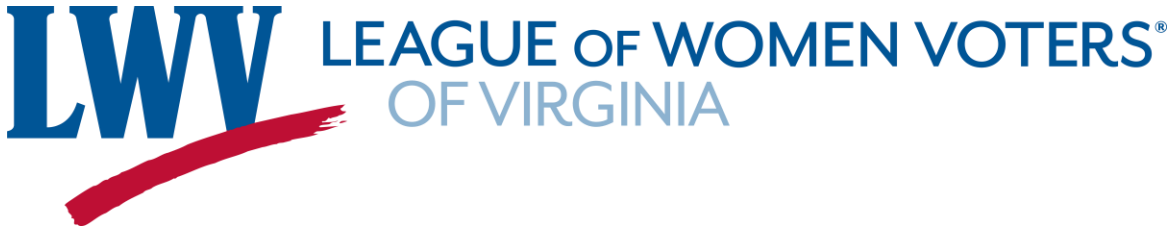

Help SB56 Get Out of Committee

SB 56, sponsored by Senator Danica Roem seeks to decrease costs and the process for Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests.

The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 40 - 0. However, the House Subcommittee on Procurement and Open Government has suggested that this bill not pass. The full House General Laws Committee will review this bill perhaps as early as tomorrow.

If you have a member sitting on the House General Laws Committee: Krizek (Chair), Seibold (Vice Chair), Carr, Torian, Price, Simon, Delaney, Cole, J.G., McClure, Hernandez, Reaser, Callsen, Guzman, Carroll, Franklin, L.V., Morefield, Fowler, Austin, Bloxom, Wiley, McLaughlin, write or call them today to ask them to approve the passage of the bill.

Use this sheet to find their phone and email addresses.

Here is wording you can use - as always you are writing as a constituent not from LWV, if you are a member.

Report SB56 so that ordinary people can afford to exercise their rights under FOIA. Virginia law says, "The affairs of government are not intended to be conducted in an atmosphere of secrecy since at all times the public is to be the beneficiary of any action taken at any level of
government." But excessive fees to fill FOIA requests deny the spirit of Virginia's FOIA law.

SB56 creates a reasonable balance between the government's cost of fulfilling a FOIA request and affordability for civic engagement by the people. It makes the fees more predictable. FOIA is a critical part of a functioning democracy.

This bill passed the Senate by a vote of 40 -0.

Thank you

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