LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF VIRGINIA

April 21, 2026

Protect Immigrant Communities at Courts and Polling Locations

Virginia lawmakers passed legislation to protect access to Virginia courthouses by prohibiting warrantless Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests and to keep ICE away from polling places, courthouses and hospitals **but Gov. Spanberger has proposed amendments to gut those protections and keep our courthouses and polling locations as ICE's hunting ground.**

Spanberger's amendments removed a provision that allowed the state Attorney General to sue on behalf of individuals if ICE violated the restriction. Instead of the Attorney General acting the amended bill would require individuals to bring civil action themselves within a two-year window - even if they have been deported or detained. This dilutes the intent of HB 650 and SB 351. Naturalized citizens must be allowed to vote in peace. Immigrants, if afraid to go to hospitals and courthouses, creates terrible consequences for domestic abuse victims.

Please contact your State Senator and Delegate by noon tomorrow, April 22 (when they reconvene to vote on amendments.)

Use this LINK to send your email.

As always, you are writing as an individual, not a member of LWV.

Thank you

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