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### The League of Women Voters Applauds Budget Money for Local Elections Offices

Date, Richmond, VA - The League of Women Voters of Virginia is pleased that the recently passed Virginia Budget reallocates money from the federal American Rescue Plan Act back to elections work. Thanks to the efforts of the League and coalition partners, this money, which would have been lost or allocated to other programs, is being returned to the purpose for which it was intended.

The Virginia Department of Elections can distribute \$2.8 million in ARPA funds to localities. Of that, \$324,000 is earmarked for localities that are paper-based and need to implement electronic poll books, while \$2,476,000 is to provide grants to those localities that choose to upgrade and maintain their systems to implement ballot-on-demand systems, which are used mainly in early voting.

Virginia League President, Joan Porte, stated, "It was unconscionable to us, that this money which Virginia already received would be turned back when there is such a need to keep our elections systems up current. Our election system is remarkable safe and secure, but it is imperative that all localities, the large and small, have access to state-of-the-art technology."

The League urges the Department of Elections to begin expending this money soon so that localities are ready for the November election.

The League of Women Voters is a 104-year-old non-partisan organization promoting voter registration and information.

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