



## The League of Women Voters of Connecticut®

**Call to Action - We are in the final days of the 2018 Legislative session - LWVCT needs your help to advocate for moving important legislation onto the floor for discussion and a vote!**

As the short 2018 legislative session winds down, it is critical that we make a final advocacy push to urge legislative leadership to bring the bills to the floor for consideration and a vote. Since the time to debate these bills is so short, the leadership will be hesitant to raise bills that will take precious floor time and have little chance of passing. We need to persist in our efforts to urge that these important issues are heard and that our legislators are on record for their votes of support or opposition.

**The Call to Action has two parts:**

**If your legislator is part of legislative leadership**, urge them to bring the bills we support to the floor for discussion and a vote.

Senator Martin Looney, Senate President Pro Tempore  
Senator Bob Duff, Senate Majority Leader  
Senator Leonard Fasano, Senate Republican President Pro Tempore  
Representative Joseph Aresimowicz, Speaker of the House  
Representative Matthew Ritter, Majority Leader  
Representative Themis Klarides, Minority Leader

**Contact your legislators** to ask them to politic for bringing these bills to the floor and/or remind them that the League believes passage of these bills is critical to protect and enhance the right to vote, ensure that every vote counts, support Connecticut's model campaign finance program and will keep Dark Money out of political campaigns with strong regulations for disclosure and independent spending and deserve their support.

**Advocate for raising and supporting the following bills:**

**[HJ 28](#) - RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PERMIT EARLY VOTING.**

The League believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote, and therefore encourage efforts to maximize voter participation and early voting.

In order to be a referendum questions on the ballot in 2020, this legislation must pass in two legislative sessions. If it doesn't pass now, CT will not permit early voting before 2021. This bill allows the legislature to establish two to five days, for in person early voting within 14 days of the election. **We have heard that some legislators are saying they would vote for no excuse absentee, but not early voting**, they worry that some political catastrophe might occur between the time someone votes early and election day, leaving the voter to regret their vote. However, people already cast their absentee votes early. Opponents of no excuse absentee worry about having a greater number of absentee ballots that may be susceptible to "outside influence" on the absentee voter.

Let's be clear, some legislators will not agree to allowing early voting in Connecticut, they are not interested in expanding voting opportunities. We need to challenge their thinking.

**[SB 411](#) - AA EXTENDING THE HOURS OF ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION.**

This bill clarifies the right of individuals in line at 8 PM for same day registration to be registered and vote after 8 PM.

**[HB 5173](#) - AA PROTECTING THE PRIVACY OF VOTERS.**

The League worked with the Secretary of State's office on several issues related to privacy issues and the CT voter lists. This bill removes the voter's day and month of birth from the list that is available to the public. Removing a key ingredient for identity theft.

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to the use of voting procedures that are secure and ensure the integrity of, and voter confidence in all aspects of registration and the voting process. While voter privacy is of particular importance to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking, current concerns about cyber-security have led to general apprehensions about privacy of information.

**[HB 5421](#) - AA ADOPTING THE INTERSTATE COMPACT TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE.**

The League believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is best for representative government. The National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact provides a way to achieve the goal of choosing the President of the United states by popular vote without amending the Constitution, which is a protracted process with delayed outcome. A shift to NPV Compact would give voters a greater sense that their votes count in a meaningful way and would give them an incentive to pay attention, vote and participate in the electoral process. It would also ensure that the candidate who "wins" would be the candidate who received the most votes.

**[HB 5518](#) - AA PROTECTING THE CITIZENS ELECTION PROGRAM.**

**[HB 5526](#) - AA CONCERNING DARK MONEY AND DISCLOSURE.**

**[HB 5522](#) - AA RESTORING THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM,  
CONCERNING THE STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION  
AND REGARDING DISCLOSURE OF COORDINATED AND INDEPENDENT  
SPENDING.**

The League strongly supports legislation that protects CEP, the work of the SEEC and increased disclosure requirements for coordinated and independent spending. The League believes that full disclosure and "shining the light" on dark money, independent expenditures (foreign or domestic), sources and funding of advertising, and money paid to and distributed by consultants will strengthen our elections and ultimately our democracy. The citizens of Connecticut deserve to know who is behind the political spending that influences their vote.

The alarming admission by United States Intelligence Agencies that Russia attacked and meddled in our elections by manipulating social media (Facebook, Twitter), on-line platforms and digitized communications, as well as states election systems serves up a warning to all of us to do everything in our power to combat these attacks, hold violators accountable, and protect our democratic elections and institutions. This bill will demand the disclosure necessary to begin to address this urgent issue.

**Thank you for every contact you make with your legislators to promote legislation that ensures the right to vote, provides for equal access to voting, protects Connecticut's model campaign finance program, and ensures clean elections.**

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