

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN SC

Network Update

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SOUTH CAROLINA



23 Feb 2026

After five weeks of the 2026 session of the General Assembly, action on issues related to voting and elections has been somewhat sporadic. We will begin with the newest addition to the roster.

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING: H.4717

H.4717 would create a mid-term redistricting of South Carolina's congressional districts and will be heard in the House Judiciary's Constitutional Laws Subcommittee on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 9 AM in Blatt Rm. 516.

The districts defined by this bill can be examined at <https://tinyurl.com/3hb8d4z6>.

This map is even more distorted than the unfortunate version now in use. SC CD 6, now served by Representative Clyburn, would become highly competitive rather than retaining its present strong Democratic lean. The current design of CD 6 has been unnecessarily distorted by gerrymandering to accommodate adjoining districts, but at present serves to fulfill the requirements of the Voting Rights Act, Section 2. It would no longer do so if this map was adopted. The map may also be vulnerable to legal challenge under the Purcell Principle, which leads courts to reject major changes when elections are near.

We will not review the impact on all districts here, other than to say that the map violates every principle of sound traditional redistricting criteria in pursuit of partisan advantage.

We believe that passing a very controversial bill with these broad implications at this time would be an uphill battle for the sponsors. However, public comments are surely appropriate. Testimony can be sent to HJudConstitutionalLaws@schouse.gov or it is expected that oral testimony will be accepted based on signup immediately before the meeting in the hearing room.

CLOSING PRIMARIES: H.3643 AND H.3310

The House Constitutional Laws Subcommittee hearing on this very important issue was held on Wednesday afternoon, January 21. The bills are H.3643 and H.3310. Debate was adjourned as it became clear that there was no consensus among members of the Republican Party on how to proceed. The issue may not reemerge this session but we will remain alert.

PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP: S.128

S.128 would require that all South Carolina voters provide proof of citizenship while registering to vote. It was scheduled to be heard in Senate subcommittee Tuesday, January 20, after adjournment of the Senate. However, upon introduction the primary sponsor, Senator Johnson, asked for additional time to work on an amendment to the bill. It had come to his attention that a major component of the bill, requiring that all existing voter roll registrants reregister while proving citizenship, has already been rejected by a federal court. His attention was also drawn to the list of documents that were specified in the bill, which do not conform to customary proof of citizenship standards. We will remain alert for further action on this.

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