

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN SC

# Network Update

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA



April 3, 2022

## MDW SC Update: As the Days Dwindle Down . . .

The coming week is the last opportunity to pass bills before the crossover date of April 10. Bills that have not left their house of origin by that date face formidable obstacles for passage. The House will therefore employ their time on the floor attempting to pass a variety of culture war bills:

- H. 4697, blanket prohibitions on trans athletes in schools (an issue currently handled sensibly and responsibly by the schools and athletic associations);
- a bill to restrict accurate discussion of our history in schools, H. 5183 (also something currently handled responsibly in our school curriculum).
- H. 4568, a bill that would require doctors to provide misinformation to their patients receiving medication abortions (S. 907 is the Senate equivalent).

Meanwhile, in the Senate

## Early Voting

The Senate received an amended version of H. 4919, which would provide two weeks of no-excuse early voting as well as some additional changes in election law. It was assigned to Judiciary and a subcommittee meeting is now scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, at 11:00 AM in Gressette 207. Subcommittee members are Campsen, Hutto, Massey, and Sabb. Staff are Heather Anderson and Paula Benson.

A floor amendment to H. 4919 resulted in an issue that should be addressed as this bill moves forward. The League strongly supports election audits; responsible audits build voter confidence in our representative democracy. However, the H.4919 amendment requiring audits should be revisited by the Senate.

Several important changes should be made now:

- The percentage of ballots to be audited should not be specified in this bill. While we appreciate the desire to establish a minimum requirement, such percentages can be obstacles to election managers and lack a foundation in statistical reasoning needed to establish a trustworthy process.
- The election certification period should be extended from the current very brief three days following the election to allow time for responsible audits. Eight to twenty-one days is most common in other states.
- The penalty for premature release of election data, which is now a misdemeanor, should not be elevated to a felony with a potential prison term of up to five years, as the bill now states.

We continue to hope that this basically voter-friendly bill will move successfully through the legislative process to become a positive contribution to South Carolina's elections.

H. 3444, which would alter the election process for SEC commissioners and add provisions related to county oversight, is not listed for consideration on Wednesday.

## Convention of States Resolution

A Convention of States Resolution, H. 3025, passed the Senate and the House concurred in Senate amendments. It has not yet been signed by the Governor. At this point we can simply hope that other states will exercise better judgment and that, failing that, litigation addressing the many unresolved constitutional issues surrounding an Article V convention will be endless.

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