

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN SC

# Network Update

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



February 13, 2022

## MDW SC Update: Elections and Constitutional Conventions in the General Assembly this Week

### Convention of States Resolutions

A Senate subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 11:30 AM in Gressette 105 to take up Convention of States bill H.3205, which has passed the House and would add South Carolina to the states call for a convention under Article V of the U. S. Constitution, and S. 887, which would attempt to constrain South Carolina's delegates to such a convention. At this time, 17 of the 34 states needed have passed these resolutions. (A "balanced budget" Article V resolution has received a greater number of state approvals.)

These resolutions are extremely important because they are extremely dangerous. Wilfred Codrington III of the Brennan Center has written on this issue at <https://truthout.org/articles/concon-2-0-six-amendments-that-conservatives-could-push-at-a-constitutional-convention/>. The League has posted a summary of our position at [https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/constitutional\\_convention\\_resolutions.pdf](https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/constitutional_convention_resolutions.pdf).

League written testimony on the Senate bills introduced last year is posted at [https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/s.33\\_testimony.pdf](https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/s.33_testimony.pdf). Our House testimony on H. 3205 is posted at [https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/h.3205\\_testimony\\_house.pdf](https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/h.3205_testimony_house.pdf).

The League does not claim that the U. S. Constitution is perfect. It is not. However, we cannot support the Convention of States approach, which is a very broadly defined attempt to shrink our federal government's ability to protect us from powerful special interests. Please urge senators not to forward these bills with a favorable report.

### H.3919

H. 3919 would provide two weeks of no-excuse early voting, while making other changes in excused absentee voting. In a hearing last week, Elections Law Subcommittee members seemed sympathetic to amendment of polling place requirements that would have disadvantaged voters in major urban areas. Other problematic features, such as a requirement that absentee ballot applications require unverifiable Photo ID numbers, remain to be adequately discussed. The League has sent proposals for appropriate amendments to Subcommittee Chair Jay Jordan and to members John King and Brandon Newton. The subcommittee will meet again 1.5 hours after House adjournment on Tuesday, Feb. 15, in Blatt 516.

## **H.3444**

The House passed an amended version of H.3444, which would significantly alter control of South Carolina's elections. They did so with limited debate and no public input. Fortunately, the Senate has chosen a wiser path and has committed the bill to Senate Judiciary, where the important election issues in this bill can receive responsible consideration. At present no meeting is scheduled. When it is, such important aspects of election administration as how state oversight is implemented and what audit provisions are appropriate can be addressed. We recommend the Post and Courier's editorial on this bill at [https://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-sc-deserves-better-than-house-ploy-on-election-law-changes/article\\_d6c2347e-8ad6-11ec-9e44-5b1baf6e480e.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-sc-deserves-better-than-house-ploy-on-election-law-changes/article_d6c2347e-8ad6-11ec-9e44-5b1baf6e480e.html).

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