

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN SC

Network Update

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF SOUTH CAROLINA



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

Convention of States Resolutions

On Tuesday the Senate Judiciary Committee took up and forwarded with a favorable report a package of bills related to calling a convention under Article V of the U. S. Constitution. This includes House bill H.3205 as well as the Senate version, S.133. The full Senate now provides the only opportunity to stop South Carolina being among the states putting our existing form of government at risk.

H.4919

The House Judiciary Committee met and passed an amended version of H. 4919, which provides two weeks of no-excuse early voting along with other election law changes. Rep. Brandon Newton offered amendments to the Subcommittee report that reflected input from SCARE (organization of SC county election officials) and from LWVSC, among others. We appreciate his and Chairman Jay Jordan's willingness to work with a bipartisan group of legislators as well as public interest groups to greatly improve this bill. Major improvements reflected in the subcommittee report and in Rep. Newton's amendment in full Judiciary include:

- Revisions of the formula to determine polling place numbers to accommodate varying county population and geography issues and to allow county election offices to continue to locate polling places as needed to achieve equal access through the counties;
- Revision of the identification number requirement for absentee ballot applications to only the last four digits of the voter's Social Security Number rather than unverifiable photo ID numbers;

- Addition of requirement for public hearings to inform selection of new voting systems;
- Addition of qualifying language (“to my knowledge”) to oath by voters stating that they are not registered in other states;
- Restoring business absence to excused absentee voting, providing continued access to voting by mail option; and
- Revisions related to paper ballots, requested by SCARE.

We continue to hope that this voter-friendly bill will move successfully through the legislative process. It is still very early in the process.

H.3444

H. 3444 as amended (most recently) by the House remains in Senate Judiciary without action. It is likely that it will be considered in a Senate subcommittee in coming weeks.

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