



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

PO Box 8453, Columbia, SC, 29202, (803) 251-2726, www.lwvsc.org

May 18, 2011

Co-Presidents

Peggy Brown

LWV Florence Area

Barbara Zia

LWV Charleston Area

Issues and Action VP

JoAnne Day

LWV Columbia Area

Voters Service/Citizen Education VP

Laurel Suggs

LWV Columbia Area

Community Relations VP

Susan Richards

LWV Charleston Area

Member Services VP

Janie Shipley

LWV Clemson Area

Secretary

Della Baker

LWV Clemson Area

Treasurer

Dianne Haselton

LWV Clemson Area

Directors

Jon Butzon

LWV Charleston Area

Carole Cato

LWV Columbia Area

Paula Egelson

LWV Charleston Area

Jan Hammett

LWV Spartanburg County

Eleanor Hare

LWV Clemson Area

Robin Kimbrough-Melton

LWV Clemson Area

Sarah Leverette

LWV Columbia Area

Rita Paul

LWV Columbia Area

Off-Board Specialists

Duncan Buell

LWV Columbia Area

Sheila M. Haney

LWV Darlington County

Suzanne Rhodes

LWV Columbia Area

Holley Ulbrich

LWV Clemson Area

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

We are deeply disappointed by your action in signing the voter suppression law today. This new law is a giant step backwards for voters' rights. By requiring eligible citizens to present government-issued, current and valid photo identification at the polling place in order to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

This new government program is a prime example of wasteful use of taxpayers' money on a new program that will cost citizens of South Carolina millions of dollars to implement a new bureaucracy – all in an effort to “fix” a problem that doesn't exist.

In addition to the costs of supplying free IDs to voters there are other significant costs that need to be addressed such as additional poll worker training, public education campaigns, defending against lawsuits, printing and mailing additional absentee ballots. County and local governments will need more funds in order to stay open longer and accommodate voters who need to secure a photo ID. When you take all of these factors into consideration the fiscal impact quickly increases.

Besides the extraordinary cost, this new government program could disenfranchise tens of thousands of registered voters without a valid photo ID due to disability, age, illness, transportation, or financial issues. Our state government should be in the business of making it easier for citizens to vote, not adding costly restrictions and hassles that will negatively impact voters. The League of Women Voters of South Carolina and their voter rights partners will continue to explore all options at their disposal to ensure that all eligible voters can vote and have their votes counted.

Respectfully,

Barbara Zia, LWVSC Co-President

Peggy Brown, LWVSC Co-President

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.