



House Appropriations Committee

Monday, January 22, 2024

**Amendment Delegate Carr to Virginia Budget
Preserving Money for Early Voting**

The League of Women Voters strongly supports Delegate Carr's amendment to the Budget (HB 29) Item 486 #1h. Three million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) resources had been appropriated for early voting for only one year, 2022, and then, when only approximately \$170,000 had been spent, the balance was budgeted for reallocation in 2023.

As you all know, 2024 is going to be a massive election year with voters participating in three major elections, all with the opportunity for forty-five days of early voting. Both major political parties have expressed strong support for early voting. In the past three years, on average over a third of voters have cast their ballots early, the vast majority in person. And, during the pandemic, in the last presidential election almost two thirds of the ballots in Virginia were cast early in person or by mail. If we see the 75% turnout in 2024 that we saw in 2020, and one third vote early, that means around 1,800,000 people will vote early.

Election administrators throughout the Commonwealth will need additional funds to conduct these huge elections for 2024. Reallocating \$2.8 million to help localities conduct the election smoothly, accurately, and securely will benefit all Virginians.