



LWV Virginia Statement on Governor Spanberger's Vetoes of Several Voting and Elections Bills

May 20, 2026

The League of Women Voters of Virginia is dismayed that Governor Abigail Spanberger vetoed important voting and elections bills including one to protect naturalized citizens at the polls and immigrants at schools, hospitals and our courts.

HB650 and companion bill SB351 would have provided naturalized citizens safety at the polls and members of the immigrant community safety in courthouses, schools and hospitals. By prohibiting ICE activities at courthouses, within 40 feet of any polling place or building used as a meeting place for the local electoral board while ascertaining the results of an election, any state-run hospital or other health care facility, or state-run schools, people already under duress (which includes our elections workers) would have received a modicum of relief. While we understand an executive order is coming, we do not understand why this legislation, which has the power of law, was vetoed.

In addition, HB 111, which set strict limits as to how and by whom voters could be removed from the voting rolls, was another important protection at a time when voter purges are on the rise. It is imperative that voters are protected and the League regrets that the Governor chose to remove this additional safety valve. While we are grateful that the Governor signed a similar bill, HB 972, these two bills could have worked together to provide important protections to voters when most needed.

The final vetoed bill, HB 639, would have removed some of the more onerous parts of legislation passed in 2022 that set outrageously strict limits on

contributions and limits cooperation with election officials on voter education programs. This bill would have set a limit of \$1000 (similar to a Georgia bill that has a limit of \$500). It was a commonsense fix to an insidious problem.

The Governor's actions are a profound disappointment, but the League will do what we have always done: persist.



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