



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Richmond, Virginia – August 5, 2020 - **LWV-VA thanks Governor Northam and legislators for passage of bills expanding voter access.**

Laws passed to improve voter access are critical during a pandemic

A [2018 study](#) on ease of voting found Virginia ranked 49th. However, historic bills enacted this year moved Virginia to one of the states where voting is the most accessible. "Virginia has shown great leadership in how a state can move from the shame of being under pre-clearance to providing a model for other states looking to engage all eligible voters," said Deb Wake, president of League of Women Voters of Virginia. "Increasing access to voting is especially necessary during a pandemic when personal safety is also a concern."

Bills signed:

- [HB1](#) (Herring), [SB111](#) (Howell): No Excuse Absentee Voting (NEAV)
- [HB207](#) (Van Valkenburg): Allows voter to be placed on permanent list to receive an absentee ballot
- [HB19](#) (Lindsay), [SB65](#) (Locke) no photo ID required in order to vote
- [HB108](#) (Lindsay), [SB601](#) (Lucas) established Election Day as a holiday

- [HB201](#) (Ayala) Same Day Voter Registration (delayed enactment October 1, 2022)

Additionally, the League supports improved access to voting by mail by passing laws to enable voters to supply missing information before the voting deadline, to not have to find a witness, to use dropboxes to safely deposit their completed ballots, and to have postage provided. The League is also committed to enhancing voting rights by adding language to our Constitution to protect the right to vote, passing the Virginia Voting Rights Act, and implementing criteria bills for the bipartisan redistricting commission.

The League of Women of Arlington is committed to producing positive change in our communities. Current areas of focus for the Arlington LWV are voter registration, voter protection, affordable housing, and fair redistricting.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League of Women Voters of Arlington

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