



JUNE 19, 2021

## MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN SC: HEARING ON VOTER REGISTRATION ROLLS

An earlier MDW Update briefly discussed the upcoming House of Representatives Ad Hoc Committee “Review of the State Election Commission’s process for maintaining the accuracy of voter rolls with regards to qualified electors, including but not limited to, removing deceased people from the state’s active voter registration list.”

The registration rolls are of central importance to South Carolina’s voters. Efficiently maintained rolls are an asset to everyone involved in the election process and especially to voters. However, excessive purges of legitimate voters have led to voter suppression in other states. Fortunately, South Carolina has an excellent record of maintenance of the rolls. No one has found true instances of fraudulent voting by persons who are using the names and voter registration of deceased individuals or of other fraud related to the rolls. Equally important, legitimate voters have not encountered unnecessary obstacles in voting because they were erroneously “purged” from the rolls.

The House committee will take public testimony on June 30 at 9:00 AM in Room 110 of the Blatt Building. Those who wish to testify must sign up on-line. Full information, including the method of submitting written testimony, is available at <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/meetings.php?agenda=11426>. Written testimony can be submitted instead of, or in addition to, oral testimony.

To assist those working on testimony, the League has prepared a background document with information on the history of inquiries into SC’s voter registration rolls and the details of current practices. It is available at [https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/voter\\_registration\\_rolls.pdf](https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/voter_registration_rolls.pdf)

We hope many organizations and citizens will speak out on the importance of maintaining voter access to the ballot. "Inactive" voters and even "archived" voters at present can vote easily. This should not change. Purging voters from the list in a way that prevents easy reinstatement is a recipe for voter suppression.

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