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League of Women Voters of Virginia Urges Release of ARPA Money for Early Voting

January 12, 2024 – Richmond, Virginia

The League of Women Voters of Virginia called upon the General Assembly to release millions of dollars available to Virginia for early voting. The Commonwealth, like all states, received a great deal of money during the height of COVID under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). While some funds have been released, the bulk including vital money to support early voting has not and will be forfeited in December of 2026. The Commonwealth has used only \$148,000 of a \$3,000,000 allocation for early voting. Unused money will be forfeited in December 2026.

President Joan Porte stressed the need for the immediate release of this money. “With this being a presidential election year, the need to fortify and expand early voting is vital. Early voting assists students, the working poor, and others, such as medical professionals, to vote. Without access to early voting sites and drop boxes, many are disenfranchised simply because they cannot take off from work. This also hinders people with disabilities and caretakers of small children or the sick.”

The League has called upon members of the House Appropriations and the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees to free up this money through the budget amendment process.

Porte continued, “ Since the Governor embraced early voting last year, it is surprising that this money has been sidelined.”

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