



Testimony
Senate Privileges and Elections Committee
Jan 21, 2025

***** SB760 (Favola) - Elections; deadline for receipt of absentee ballots and certain other information, etc. **SUPPORT**

TESTIMONY

The League supports SB760. As we all know, the US Post Office service is not as reliable as it was in the past, particularly for deliveries in the morning hours. This simple adjustment to require delivery of the ballots to the local elections offices, from noon to 5 p.m. on the Friday after the election, will help ensure that voters' ballots will be counted.

***** SB764 (McDougle)- Elections; voter identification; identification containing a photograph required. **OPPOSED**

TESTIMONY (May be combined with SB 1070)

The League opposes SB 764. Elimination of the rule allowing voters to sign a Voter ID Confirmation Statement would needlessly turn legitimate voters away from the ballot box.

***** SB813 (Rouse)- Voter registration; regular periodic review of registration records. **SUPPORT**

TESTIMONY

The League supports SB813. The bill provides for a 90-day quiet period before Virginia elections, when the state cannot conduct systematic voter purges. It parallels the federal law requiring a 90-day quiet period leading up to federal elections.

***** SB814 (Rouse)- Election of certain governing bodies; conversion to single-member districts. **SUPPORT**

TESTIMONY

By allowing a local jurisdiction to adopt an ordinance to convert one or more at-large seats of such body to single-member districts, this bill would provide the much-needed
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clarity to localities that are subject to court ordered establishment of single member districts.

***** SB856 (French)- Absentee voting in person; available beginning 14 days prior to election. **OPPOSED**

TESTIMONY (May be combined with SB 1072)

SB856 would unduly restrict early in-person voting to 14 days for General and Primary Elections. Since ballots must be ready 45 days before an election for mailing to military and overseas voters, there is no reason to make voters at home wait longer. Many of those voters work long hours, work multiple jobs, care for children, or care for elders, including some combination of those demands. Many who are themselves elderly must rely on others to get to the polls. Many voters have long commutes and cannot be sure they could get to their polling place on Election Day. Yet, they prefer to vote in person. They should not be deprived of the opportunity they already have to vote conveniently.

NO TESTIMONY SB940 (Surovell)- Elections; candidates for office, challenges to candidate qualifications.

NO TESTIMONY SB988 (Graves) - Elections; prohibited area, within 40 feet of the curbside voting area.

***** SB991 (Graves)- Voter registration; time period for closing registration records before certain elections. **SUPPORT**

TESTIMONY

The League supports shortening to ten days the period before an election when regular voter registration is closed. This spares voters who might otherwise be compelled to cast provisional ballots, using Same Day Registration opportunities.

NO POSITION. SB994 (Graves)- Elections; prohibited area within 100 feet.

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***** SB1009 (Salim)- Elections; conduct of election, ranked choice voting, locally elected offices, report. **SUPPORT**
TESTIMONY

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports SB1009, which includes the expansion of ranked choice voting to any race for a local office. We believe that ranked choice voting, or RCV, would make our elections more accessible, would promote nominees with broad support, and would ensure that every voter's voice is heard, particularly with the specific rules provided in this bill for conducting such elections.
NO POSITION. SB1044 (Roem) - Elections; general registrar of each locality to report number of provisional ballots cast.

***** SB1070 (Peake)- Voter identification; identification containing a photograph required. **OPPOSED**

TESTIMONY (May be combined with SB 764)

The League opposes SB 1070. Elimination of the rule allowing voters to sign a Voter ID Confirmation Statement would needlessly turn legitimate voters away from the ballot box.

***** SB1072 (Peake) - Absentee voting in person; available beginning 14 days prior to election. **OPPOSED**

TESTIMONY (May be combined with SB 856)

SB 1072 would unduly restrict early in-person voting to 14 days for General and Primary Elections. Since ballots must be ready 45 days before an election for mailing to military and overseas voters, there is no reason to make voters at home wait longer. Many of those voters work long hours, work multiple jobs, care for children, or care for elders, including some combination of those demands. Many who are themselves elderly must rely on others to get to the polls. Many voters have long commutes and cannot be sure
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they could get to their polling place on Election Day. Yet, they prefer to vote in person. They should not be deprived of the opportunity they already have to vote conveniently.

***** SB1073 (Peake)- Voter registration; verification of social security numbers, provisional registration status. **OPPOSED**

TESTIMONY

The League of Women Voters of Virginia opposes SB1073. Registrars already have many valid sources of information to verify a voter's registration form. This bill would unnecessarily intimidate and prevent valid Virginia residents from voting in our elections.

NO POSITION. SB1119 (VanValkenburg)- Elections; primary dates, presidential year primaries.

***** SB1174 (Suetterlein) - Elections; prohibited activities; distribution of referendum materials. **SUPPORT**

TESTIMONY

We support SB 1174, relating to referendum elections, for the same reasons that we support a prohibited zone for all election activities outside a polling location. Voters deserve this protection for all types of elections.

NO POSITION. SB1175 (Suetterlein) - Elections; absentee voting in person; uniform availability.

NO POSITION. SB1404 (Pekarsky) - School boards; method of selection; election required.

NO POSITION. SJ270 (Peake) - Constitutional amendment; term limits for Lieutenant Governor & Attorney General (first reference).

NO TESTIMONY SJ271 (Obenshain) - Constitutional amendment (first reference); right to work.

NO TESTIMONY SJ273 - Governor; confirming appointments.

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NO TESTIMONY SJ274 - Confirming Governor's appointments; October 1.
NO TESTIMONY SJ275 - Confirming Governor's appointments; August 1.
NO TESTIMONY SJ276 - Confirming Governor's appointments; January 10

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