



## **SENATE PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE TESTIMONY**

February 11, 2025

**HB1657** Henson

**STATEMENT: SUPPORT**

The League supports HB1657. 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. The bill also recognizes that the mail delivery service is not reliable, so voters need twice the time to receive and respond to notices of impending cancellation.

**HB1735** Coles

**STATEMENT: SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports HB1735. This bill would allow eligible citizens the opportunity to register to vote for an additional 11 days before an election and still cast a regular ballot, whether voting in-person during early voting, by absentee ballot, or on election day. More voters would avoid having to cast provisional ballots. As we all know, the same day registration process plays a vital role to enfranchise eligible citizens, but the rule adds burdens to everyone involved--voters and election officials alike.

**HB1744** Watts

**STATEMENT: SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters supports HB 1744 for its means of enforcing the law requiring that campaign finances must be reported. Virginia continues to rank near the

bottom of all states and the District of Columbia in enactment and enforcement of effective campaign integrity and regulation.

**HB1761** Simon

**STATEMENT: SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters supports HB1761. The League believes that a public financing option for funding electoral campaigns reduces candidates' reliance on large private donations and donations from vested special interests. A public funding option for campaign finance gives qualified individuals who don't have deep pockets, or friends with deep pockets, more incentive to run for elected office, and increases the electorate's opportunities to evaluate candidates on their merits and not just from paid advertisements. HB1761 is a "may, not must" bill that will give localities that wish to provide a public funding option for certain local elections the opportunity to do so via local ordinance.

**HB1794** Helmer

**NO STATEMENT**

**HB1938** Reid

**NO STATEMENT**

**HB2002** Laufer

**STATEMENT: SUPPORT**

The League supports HB2002, which protects voters from having their registration cancelled improperly. Registrars could use only certain official sources or the voter's own request to remove the voter from the voter rolls.

**HB2056** Reaser

**NO STATEMENT**

## **HB 2216** O'Quinn

### **STATEMENT: SUPPORT**

The League Women Voters supports HB2216. The Commissioner of Elections should not be vulnerable to partisan political influence. The bill includes safeguards to ensure the Commissioner's duties are always fulfilled.

## **HB 2276** Price

### **STATEMENT: SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters supports HB 2276, a bill that will improve Virginia's voter list maintenance activities and go a long way toward preventing incorrect voter purges. Record matching will be more precise, protecting eligible citizens from disenfranchisement while at the same time preventing those who are not eligible from voting in Virginia. The bill codifies, in detail, security and list maintenance procedures that are already in place throughout the Commonwealth. It will help rebuild confidence in elections and we urge the committee to report.

## **HB2277** Price

### **SUPPORT: STATEMENT**

The League supports HB2277. Past experience shows that the law needs to be clarified that the job of a local electoral board to certify an election in Virginia is ministerial, meaning that the electoral board and its members have no discretion when it comes to certifying results. The bill codifies the clarification.

## **HB2479** Sickles

### **STATEMENT: SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters is pleased that Delegate Sickles is bringing HB 2479. Political campaigns and communications have many ways of disguising their sponsorship, adversely affecting voters' ability to make informed decisions. Requiring that electioneering communications containing synthetic media be clearly identified as such, with violators subject to penalties, is essential to a well-informed electorate. We

have asked for clarification whether someone could evade the bill's consequences if the synthetic media were created by freely available tools. We support disclosures of

**HB2513** Scott

NO STATEMENT

**HB2668** Simon

NO STATEMENT