



Testimony

House Committee Counties, Cities and Towns

January 26, 2024

[HB1304](#)

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Elections; required voting districts in certain cities.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports HB1304. Local officials in cities with more than a quarter of a million residents are more likely to proportionally reflect the population when they are elected from individual districts or wards. Campaigning in wards is less costly than campaigning for an at-large seat, which enables a greater variety of candidates to run.

The ideal population of a House of Delegates District is 86,314. That means that an at-large council member in a city of over 250,000 must represent three times as many people as a Delegate. Sheer size makes it difficult for the official to know the needs and concerns of the many neighborhoods within the city. HB1304 will assure better representation for residents of large cities.