



Testimony
House Privileges and Elections Committee
March 1, 2024

[SB188](#) Rouse

Election of certain governing bodies; conversion to single-member districts.

The League of Women Voters supports SB188. The League believes in representative government at all levels and supports electoral systems that elect policy-making bodies that proportionally reflect the people they represent. State code forbids drawing districts in such a way that members of a minority group are dispersed into districts in which they constitute an ineffective minority of voters. The city of Virginia Beach provides evidence that converting to single-member districts can immediately double the minority representation on a city council. We believe that SB188 will result in local governing bodies that more closely reflect the people they represent.

[SB300](#) Rouse

Voter registration; list maintenance activities, required identification information.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports SB 300 because it is imperative that Virginia diligently maintain accurate voter lists. After withdrawing from ERIC, the consortium of states that securely and accurately matched data, Virginia has embarked on a series of memoranda of understanding with a number of other states. ERIC did not share member states' voters personal identifying information, while the MOUs do. ERIC employed widely accepted national and international security protocols, while the MOUs do not address, and Virginia cannot determine, the strength of other states' security protocols. This bill would require careful data matching, record keeping and notice to ensure that eligible registered voters are not improperly removed from the list of registered voters in Virginia.

[SB301](#) DeSteph

Campaign finance; appeal of penalties.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports SB301 and the need for providing clear rules for appealing penalties relating to candidates' filings, through the State Board of Elections.

[SB364](#)

Elections; protection of electors and election officials, penalty, civil action.

Oral

The League of Women urges you to report SB 364. The bill offers much-needed protections to the people who run Virginia's elections, before, during and after the elections. The bill extends the right to civil action as well as protection against crimes, including doxxing and swatting, to current and former officials alike.

Written

The League of Women urges you to report SB 364. The bill offers much-needed protections to the people who run Virginia's elections, before, during and after the elections. The bill extends the right to civil action as well as protection against crimes, including doxxing and swatting, to current and former officials alike.

In other states, election officials have been subjected to lasting traumas for simply doing their jobs. Nationwide, nearly one in three has been harassed, abused, or threatened. One in five are worried about being physically assaulted on the job.

Many experienced professionals have abandoned the field, putting effective election administration in jeopardy. Protecting our election officials is the least we can do for those who serve the Commonwealth and its citizens.