



TESTIMONY
HOUSE PRIVILEGES & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 16, 2024

[SB 131](#) Primary elections; candidates for nomination; withdrawal of candidacy

The League considers canceling a primary election where there is only one viable candidate and no other contests to be reasonable. It would save money and prevent confusion for voters. With the caveat only the primary for that particular race is canceled and none other are affected, we support SB 131.

[SB 196](#) Voter registration; list maintenance data standards; challenges to a voter's registration.

The League of Women Voters supports methods to improve the accuracy of Virginia's voter list and to avoid improper disenfranchisement of valid voters. SB 196 would achieve this purpose. Putting one court in charge of hearing challenges to voter registration denials means challenges are more likely to be treated consistently. We urge the Committee to report this bill.

[SB 605](#) Assistance for certain voters outside of the polling place; definition of "disability"; training.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports SB 605. Every eligible Virginian should have the opportunity to vote in every election. If entering a polling place presents a problem, the nature of a person's disability, whether physical or mental, should not determine whether they can use curbside voting. Like HB 441, which passed the House, SB 605 will include any permanent or temporary disability and will train election officials how best to assist curbside voters.

[SB 606](#) Voter registration; list maintenance; data sharing; requiring membership in ERIC

ORAL STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters strongly supports SB 606 and appreciates Senator VanValkenburg's extensive efforts. ERIC provided Virginia residents the assurance that our voter rolls did not include voters who moved away, died, or voted in other states. After withdrawing from ERIC, the Commonwealth's current workarounds risk jeopardizing the security of our voters' personal information and do not provide any information from dozens of states. This bill would require ELECT to regain efficient access to that important data.

WRITTEN STATEMENT:

The League strongly supports SB 606 , as we supported Del. Sickles' companion bill . Virginia was a founding member of ERIC, the Electronic Registration Information Center. ERIC is hands' down the best tool for securely maintaining accurate voter lists. It is managed and directed by its member states, each of which has a seat on the board. ERIC developed sophisticated safeguards that secure and protect all member states' voter registration information. It informed our Department of Elections of voters who moved to any of 31 other states and the District of Columbia, those who might have voted in more than one state,

and those who died. Virginia's current agreements with other states leave unanswered questions about the security of our voters' personal information and the quality of the data provided to us. The Commonwealth should rejoin ERIC as soon as possible and encourage all other states that are not current members of ERIC to join or renew their membership.

[SB 692](#) Campaign finance; independent expenditure reports; electronic filing required.

The League of Women Voters supports SB 692, including the delayed effective date. The League believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens. Timely access to campaign expenditure information is important to such participation, increasing voters' ability to make informed decisions. Requiring electronic filing of all campaign expenditure reports, and removing the provision that has different requirements as to where campaign reports must be filed, depending on the office the candidate is seeking, as this bill does, is a significant step toward promoting transparency through timely access, with all reports in a central location and no need to wait for some to be digitized.