



Testimony

House Privileges & Elections Subcommittee on Campaign Finance

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

[HB40](#) and [HB629](#) - Campaign finance; prohibited personal use of campaign funds, complaints, hearings, civil penalty.

THESE WERE COMBINED INTO HB 40

The League of Women Voters supports HB 40 and HB 629. Currently, Virginia has no legal restrictions on how candidates can use their campaign funds, except for surplus funds at the end of a campaign or term of office. As such, Virginia has rightfully earned its rank of 46 out of 51 on the non-partisan Coalition for Integrity's S.W.A.M.P. Index.

We hope you will expand the provision allowing for campaign funds to be used for childcare expenses to be expanded to all dependent care, as in Delegate Cherry's version of the bill.

This bill is a welcome step toward strengthening Virginia's campaign finance laws.

Note: The bill was passed out of Privileges and Elections and referred to Appropriations. Thanks to the League's testimony, the broader definition of childcare to dependent care was accepted in the updated version.

[HB126](#) Candidates for office; persons entitled to have name printed on ballot; required campaign finance reports.

The League of Women Voters supports HB 126. This bill will encourage candidates to provide voters with up-to-date campaign finance information; voters need to know who is contributing and how much is contributed to all candidates for an office sufficiently in advance of casting their ballot.

Note: The bill was passed out of Committee.