

<u>Testimony</u> Senate Courts of Justice Committee

February 5, 2024

SB364

Elections; protection of election officials, penalty

The League of Women urges you to report SB 364. The bill offers muchneeded 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 is 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.