



Testimony

Senate Privileges and Elections Committee

February 20, 2024

### [HB26](#)

Voter identification; accepted forms of identification, private entities licensed or certified.

The League of Women Voters supports HB 26. This bill adopts an additional form of photo ID that voters can use to verify their identity when they vote in-person. Specifically, this bill recognizes that many voters have photo IDs issued by a private entity that is licensed or certified by one of four Virginia agencies listed in the bill. Like our Department of Motor Vehicles' IDs, photo IDs from these private entities, by being licensed or certified by Virginia agencies, can provide the same assurance that the voter is registered.

### [HB69](#)

Vacancies in elected local offices; interim appointments, notice requirement.

The LWV-VA supports HB 69. While we agree that seats on an elected local governing body or an elected school board should not remain unfilled, citizens should have an opportunity to participate in a hearing where they receive information on each candidate under consideration for such an interim appointment. Thank you for considering this important bill.

## [HB441](#)

Polling place; assistance for certain voters, clarifies definition of "person with a disability."

Because the League of Women Voters of Virginia supports the fundamental right to vote and supports measures that seek to enhance voter access and voter participation, we strongly support HB441. HB441 is inclusive of all disabilities that can be barriers to voting inside a polling place. Additionally, HB441 provides for training of Officers of Elections on how to provide curbside voting. The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes HB441 provides the most help to the largest number of voters with disabilities.

### WRITTEN STATEMENT TO BE UPLOADED TO HODSPEAK:

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The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports HB 441. Curbside voting is one of the ways that Virginia localities ensure that having a disability is not a barrier to voter participation. The current law focuses on physical disabilities, but those are not the only disabilities that can be barriers to voting inside a polling place. HB441 would cover mental and emotional health which can fluctuate unpredictably and provides for training of Officers of Elections on how to help voters outside the polling place. HB441 provides the best help to the largest number of voters with disabilities.

### [HB939 S](#)

Elections administration; prohibits possession of firearm within 100 feet of certain locations.

The League of Women Voters supports HB 939. We strongly supported the General Assembly's recent decision to restrict firearms in polling locations. This bill would logically extend existing law to all locations where ballots are processed and counted, while clarifying that it only prohibits carrying firearms on the person.

### [HB940](#)

Elections administration; change to location of polling place, additional notice requirement.

The League of Women Voters supports HB 940. Many League Members have extensive experience serving as election officers, including experience where the location of a polling place is changed. We know how important it is to voters to be given details on a new polling location, if they unknowingly go to the location that they last used for their polling place. Voting should not seem like a puzzle for Virginia voters.

### [HB942](#)

Polling places and voter satellite offices; prohibited locations

The League of Women Voters supports the prohibition on locating polling places and satellite voting sites in police stations or sheriffs offices because of the possibility of intimidating some voters. We support HB 942.

### [HB943](#)

Voter registration; protected voter status, elections officials.

The League of Women Voters staunchly supports HB943. Although elections in the Commonwealth are secure, transparent, and accurate, trust in elections has waned. To spare Virginia's election officials the extreme trauma experienced in other states, including doxxing and swatting, it is prudent to offer them the option to withhold their residential addresses from the public voter list. These protections could be extended to cover statewide election officials, but this bill is a necessary start.

### [HB1003](#)

Precincts and polling places; notice of changes mailed at least 30 days prior to election.

The League of Women Voters supports HB 1003, extending to 30 days the notice requirement when a voting location changes. Many League Members have extensive experience serving as election officers, including experience where the location of a polling place is changed. We know many voters need time to obtain transportation to their polling location. Current law's 15 days' notice does not give these voters enough time to adjust their plans, particularly if their mail is delayed.

### [HB1177](#)

Voter registration; list maintenance, data sharing.

The League of Women Voters strongly supports HB 1177. Our voter rolls must be accurate and secure. 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. This bill would require ELECT to regain efficient access to that important data.

## [HB1408](#)

Voter satellite offices; standards for determining number and location.

The League of Women Voters supports HB1408. Standards exist for many aspects of elections and the number and distribution of satellite voting locations should be no exception. Standards can be very detailed descriptions of various scenarios and how the number and location of satellites should be determined in each.