



Testimony

Senate Privileges & Elections Committee

February 27, 2024

[HB742](#)

Elections. State Board of; appointment of Commissioner of Elections.

The League of Women Voters supports HB742. The bill transfers the power to appoint or remove the Commissioner of Elections from the Governor to a supermajority of the State Board of Elections, with confirmation authority residing in the General Assembly. The bill provides for an appropriate balance between the Governor, who will be able to appoint members to the Board and the General Assembly. Historically, the State Board has functioned in a collegial, bipartisan manner. With this bill, the Commissioner would be less vulnerable to partisan political influence.

[HB 904](#)

Voter registration; list maintenance activities; cancellation procedures; required record matches

Oral Statement

The League of Women Voters supports HB 904, a bill that will improve Virginia's voter list maintenance activities and show the public many steps that are taken to ensure accuracy and security. This bill's provisions will go a long way toward preventing voter purges that are made in error. Record matching will be more precise, helping to protect eligible citizens from disenfranchisement and prevent those who are no longer eligible from voting in Virginia. The bill codifies, in detail, security and list maintenance procedures that are already in place throughout the Commonwealth. The bill also strengthens record keeping requirements. The bill achieves better list maintenance and rebuilds confidence in elections.

Written Statement

The League of Women Voters supports HB 904, a bill that will improve Virginia's voter list maintenance activities and show the public many steps that are taken to ensure accuracy and security. This bill's provisions will go a long way toward preventing incorrect voter purges, which approximately 3,400 voters experienced last year. Qualified voters should not be disenfranchised for nonexistent felony convictions nor for technical violations after their rights have been restored. Virginia should not be subject to other states' errors either. Record matching will be more precise, helping to protect eligible citizens from disenfranchisement and prevent those who are no longer eligible from voting in Virginia. The bill also strengthens record keeping requirements so that a mistakenly disenfranchised voter can find out what happened.

The bill codifies in detail security and list maintenance procedures that are already in place throughout the Commonwealth. Every locality has a security plan in place, subject to annual reconsideration. The Department of Elections' IT team can assist any locality that needs help in reaching minimum standards. Change of address procedures are already in place but the bill spells out the standards. This bill accomplishes two things, better list maintenance so that only qualified voters can vote, and rebuilding public confidence in elections.

[HB 939](#)

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.

[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.