



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA**

4026-B Hummer Road · Annandale, Virginia 22003-2403
703-658-9150 · www.lwv-fairfax.org

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LWVFA testimony to the Fairfax Delegation to the Virginia General Assembly

Good morning. I am Helen Kelly, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. I speak on behalf of our members and supporters in Fairfax County and Fairfax City. Thank you for the privilege of speaking to you this morning.

Last November, Virginians waited hours at the polls, and those who couldn't wait forfeited their right to vote. That's why we ask you to support these policies:

- **Allow no-excuse absentee voting.**
- **Allow online voter registration** for those who have a signature on file with the state.
- **Increase funding for local election offices.**
- **Keep the current list of acceptable voter IDs.**

Allowing no-excuse absentee voting will increase participation and reduce lines on election day. Allowing online voter registration will modernize Virginia's registration system, making it easier for prospective voters to register and to make address changes. It will help election officials to eliminate errors and it will save money because electronic transactions are cheaper to process – each paper form costs 83 cents, but each online form costs only three cents.¹ Keeping current voter IDs will enable Virginia to use the same lists for all voters, not reopen the voter suppression debates of the last session, and it will save printing and administrative costs which any changes would require at the state and local levels. With its budget surplus, Virginia should increase allocations for election offices, which for years have had less state funding to support a heavier workload.

If we modernize procedures, use technology to save money, provide adequate funding for election offices, and avoid unnecessary ID changes, all of us will benefit. Our vote is our voice. Let's make sure Virginia's voices are heard.

We invite you to join us at the Women's Legislative Roundtable Wednesday mornings between January 16th and February 13th at 8:30 a.m. in 7th Floor West Conference room. Leaguers come from all over the state to attend these meetings. We look forward to seeing you there too.

Thank you.

¹ National Conference of State Legislatures