



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

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LWVFA FY 2014 Carryover Budget Testimony to the Board of Supervisors
September 10, 2013

Good morning, Chairman Bulova and members of the Board of Supervisors. I am Helen Kelly, Co-President of the League of Women Voters, speaking to you on behalf of our members and supporters in Fairfax County and Fairfax City. I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

I am happy to tell you that we in the League of Women Voters are pleased with the Carryover Budget amounts that will accomplish these goals:

- **Purchase New Voting Equipment.** The advance of \$6 Million proposed in the 2015 Budget to FY 2014 will allow the purchase of new voting equipment in time for election staff to train on the new machines before the 2016 Presidential election. We are also pleased that this equipment will include electronic poll books because they greatly speed up voter check-in on election day.
- **Implement Proposals of the Bipartisan Election Process Improvement Commission.** Retention of the full FY 2014 amount budgeted for the Office of Elections to implement the recommendations of the BEPIC demonstrates the shared belief that well-funded and well-managed election offices and systems are critical in a democratic society. We approve of these expenditures and thank you for making these commitments to Fairfax County voters.
- **Adequately Staff the Sheriff's Office.** We support adding back Sheriff's Office staff to provide security in court hearings. We thank you taking this important step to protect public safety.

We are concerned, however, at the continuously shrinking budgets for public libraries. The new strategic plan aims to make our public libraries customer centered and community focused. But even in the digital age, these goals require financial support. We urge you to fund our libraries at a level that allows them to deliver the information we need and expect in Fairfax County.

Again, we thank you for advancing money to purchase new voting equipment before the next Presidential election and for implementing the recommendations of the Bi-Partisan Election Process Improvement Commission. We also appreciate your adding back Sheriff's Office staff to provide court security. But we also encourage you to fund our libraries at a level that such valuable community resources deserve.

Thank you.