



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

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2016 Testimony to the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly
January 9, 2016

Good morning, Senator Saslaw and members of the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly. I am Helen Kelly, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, speaking on behalf of our members in Fairfax County and City. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

The League of Women Voters applauds the Board of Supervisors' efforts to provide basic services in our challenging economy. But you also play a key role in giving Virginians the tools they need to succeed and to prosper. That's why we urge you to support through funding or legislation:

- K-12 Education
- Transportation
- Local Authority

The League of Women Voters supports the Board of Supervisors in asking for full funding for the Standards of Quality, reinstatement of the Cost of Competing Allowance, and more recognition of the extra expense of educating economically and culturally diverse students in our high cost-of-living area. Helping all high school students graduate is critical to future success. They can't even get an interview to flip burgers without that diploma.

Northern Virginia's economic success is important to the Commonwealth. Help us keep our heavily traveled roads safe by giving us our fair share of the State of Good Repair funds and by providing financial support for transit needs at our major employment centers. This includes making these areas safe for and accessible to pedestrians and bikers.

And finally, the League supports the Board of Supervisors in their request that you grant Counties the authority to diversify their revenue sources, and to make land use and planning decisions that have no impact on the state. We also support their request that local governments have a representative on any State Commission or Study Committee that examines local issues.

Again we urge you to fully fund the Standards of Quality and to restore the Cost of Competing Allowance. We ask that you provide adequate funds to maintain roads and to provide transit options for our major employment centers. And we hope you will grant Counties the authority to diversify their revenue sources and to decide local issues that do not affect the State.

We invite you to join us for the Women's Legislative Roundtable every Wednesday morning at 8:30 between January 20th and March 16th in the General Assembly Building Room 4 East. Virginians come from all over the state to attend these meetings. We hope to see you there too.