

**Deadline:** Monday, 26 January!

***League Members: Good news!***

***LWV-VA is working closely with OneVirginia2021 on these bills-- testifying in committee, lobbying, and strategizing. We were among the first members of OneVirginia. Here's the latest report from its new executive director! Please help out with the tasks he is outlining, if you possibly can!***

***Anne Sterling***

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From: Brian Cannon <[brian.cannon@onevirginia2021.org](mailto:brian.cannon@onevirginia2021.org)>

Sent: Fri, Jan 23, 2015 12:35 am

Subject: Redistricting Update: Friday, key vote in full Senate

Good evening everyone. Friday is an important day in the Senate on redistricting reform.

We have several bills on their second reading before the Senate. So far, so good, but we're hearing a few grumblings in the Senate Democratic Caucus and **need an extra push immediately to help folks stiffen up their good government backbones. Please contact your senator or anyone you can in the Senate to ask them to support what's below.**

Here are the bills up on Friday:

SJ 284 - Vogel-Lucas constitutional amendment - This is our best bet because it is an independent commission + fair and specific criteria. On top of that, it's bipartisan with Chairwoman Vogel behind it now with Sen. Lucas. This is going to be harder for the House to vote down.

SB 824 (easily confused with the above #) - Miller's referendum on an independent commission - While this isn't binding, it did pass the Senate last year 40-0 and makes a strong statement for redistricting reform. It'd be great to have this issue on the ballot in November.

SB 1000 - Lewis's statutory advisory commission - While this isn't the best bill of them all, it's surely better than what we have and Sen. Lewis is a redistricting supporter. There are a few issues with this, but we can still be sure to support the overall cause and get as many things over to the House as possible.

**If you see these Senators, please thank them for supporting redistricting by chief patrolling a bill: Sen. Lucas, Sen. Vogel, Sen. Miller, Sen. Lewis, Sen. Howell (SJ 233), and Sen. Watkins (SB 840).**

FYI - Howell's and Watkins' bills have been held up by McEachin at this point.

**We could use some help on Sen. Barker and Sen. McEachin** (and any member of the Black Caucus). This is where the grumblings are coming from as best as we can determine. We think they'll be on board at the end of the day, but we don't know for sure at the moment. Their push back has been the (false) theory that Democrats would go down to only 14 seats in this plan. While we're agnostic about the outcome (this is about a fair process, not protecting political interests), their math is simply wrong. If fair redistricting is enacted, we will have a General Assembly that looks and thinks more like Virginia's citizens.

Also, as a side note, Sen. Deeds voted against several redistricting bills today on the floor. We are inquiring as to why. He was the only one keeping several from being unanimous on first reading. Maybe that's strategic (please tell me if it is) or maybe I need to do something to bring him to a comfortable level with these bills.

Attached are the talking points on these bills.

Thank you all for your advice and support. It's been outstanding this week and I'm so lucky to have so many of you be so responsive to my questions and situations.

Thank you!

Brian