

# Bills to be heard

## Tuesday 4:00pm

### PLEASE CALL LEGISLATORS

Four of the bills scheduled on Tuesday's agenda of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee are SB 62, SB 244, SJR 35, and SJR 70. This committee meets at 4:00pm in Senate Room A of the General Assembly Building.

[S.B. 62](#): Patron: Stanley

**Primary elections; voter registration by political party.** Adds party affiliation to the information that an applicant is asked to provide when registering to vote. The applicant may indicate that he is an independent. Voters registered prior to January 1, 2013, will be designated as independent unless they provide a political party designation in writing to the general registrar. Voters may change their party affiliation or independent status by written notice at any time before the registration records are closed prior to an election. The state party chairman of each political party must notify the State Board of Elections by January 31 of each year of the party rules governing who may participate in the party primary. **LWV-VA opposes this bill.**

[S.B. 244](#): Patron: Obenshain

**Primary elections; voter registration by political party.** Adds party affiliation to the information that an applicant is asked to provide when registering to vote. The applicant may indicate that he is an independent. The bill requires the State Board of Elections, in September 2012, to notify all registered voters of the new party registration law and send them a return card to indicate their party affiliation or independent status. Voters may change their party affiliation or independent status by written notice at any time before the registration records are closed in advance of an election. The state party chairman must notify the State Board by January 31 of each year whether the party will close or open its primaries. Further, the bill (i) adds a requirement that primary candidate petitions must be signed by voters registered as members of the party conducting the primary, (ii) sets the required number of petition signatures at one percent of the number of voters registered as members of the party in the election district where the primary is being held, and (iii) allows an official political party to retain that status so long as at least 15 percent of the Commonwealth's registered voters are registered as members of that party. **LWV-VA opposes this bill.**

[S.J.R. 35](#): Patron: Miller, Y.B.

**Constitutional amendment (first resolution); restoration of civil rights.** Authorizes the General Assembly to provide by law for the restoration of civil rights for persons convicted of nonviolent felonies who have completed service of their sentences subject to the conditions, requirements, and definitions set forth in that law. The present Constitution provides for restoration of rights by the Governor. The amendment retains the right of the Governor to restore civil rights and adds the alternative for restoration of rights pursuant to law. **LWV-VA supports this resolution.**

S.J.R. 70: Patron: Deeds

**Constitutional amendment (first resolution); Virginia Redistricting**

**Commission.** Establishes the Virginia Redistricting Commission to redraw congressional and General Assembly district boundaries after each decennial census. Appointments to the 13-member Commission are to be made in the census year as follows: two each by the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the minority leader in each house, and the state chairman of each of the two political parties receiving the most votes in the prior gubernatorial election. The 12 partisan members then select the thirteenth member by a majority vote, or, if they cannot agree on a selection, they certify the two names receiving the most votes to the Supreme Court of Virginia, which will name the thirteenth member. The Commission is directed to certify district plans for the General Assembly within one month of receipt of the new census data or by March 1 of the year following the census, whichever is later, and for the House of Representatives within three months of receipt of the census data or by June 1 of the year following the census, whichever is later. The standards to govern redistricting plans include the current constitutional standards on population equality, compactness, and contiguity and additional standards to minimize splits of localities and to prohibit consideration of incumbency and political data. **LWV-VA supports this resolution.**

Members of this committee include [Obenshain](#) (Chair), [Howell](#), [Martin](#), [Deeds](#), [Puckett](#), [Edwards](#), [McEachin](#), [Petersen](#), [Smith](#), [Northam](#), [Vogel](#), [McWaters](#), [Carrico](#), [Reeves](#), [Garrett](#). Please call these legislators, especially if you are a constituent.

In the case of S.B. 62 and S.B. 244, ask them to vote **AGAINST** these bills.

In the case of S.J.R. 35 and S.J.R. 70, ask them to vote in **FAVOR** of these resolutions.

To find out your legislator click [here](#)  
Messages can be left after hours on their voice mail.