

VOTING BILLS

SENATE PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

4:00PM February 21, 2012

LWV-VA

OPPOSES the following bills

These bills are scheduled to be heard in the full Senate Privileges & Elections at 4pm February 21, 2012. Please contact the following Senators (even if you are not a constituent) and ask that they oppose HB9 and HB63.

Committee

members: [Obenshain](#) (Chair), [Howell](#), [Martin](#), [Deeds](#), [Puckett](#), [Edwards](#), [McEachin](#), [Petersen](#), [Smith](#), [Northam](#), [Vogel](#), [McWaters](#), [Carrico](#), [Reeves](#), [Garrett](#)

HB 9 (Patron: Cole) [Provisional Ballot Only if no ID](#)

Under current Virginia law, a voter without ID at the polls may sign an "Affirmation of Identity" affidavit and vote by regular ballot. The voter without identification will be offered a provisional ballot, never a regular ballot, after signing a statement that he is the named registered voter who he claims to be. Other provisions include how the provisional ballot will be handled by the local Board of Elections the day after the election.

Voter ID bills are purported to prevent voter impersonation fraud, of which Virginia has no history. LWV-VA opposes voter ID laws because they are onerous and unnecessary legislation that disproportionately impact low-income, elderly, and minority individuals who are less likely to possess the documents required by these bills.

(HB 63- Cole) [Closed Electoral Board Meetings](#)

Restricts access to electoral board meetings that are conducted to determine the validity of provisional ballots. Only political party and candidate representatives and the person who cast the provisional ballots are allowed. The bill proposes an exemption to the provisions of the Virginia FOIA at this meeting of the Electoral Board, a public body that is subject to FOIA provisions. Having a closed meeting, or limiting attendance, is not a suitable solution when transparency and voter protection is so important. Of all the meetings of the Electoral Board, this particular meeting should have high priority for being open and should remain so.