

## Action Alert

**Action Alert: We are asking that you call or email your Senator if they are on the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee and ask them to SUPPORT Senate Joint Resolution 266 and OPPOSE HB 719.**

### **Support**

Tomorrow, the General Assembly's Senate Privileges and Elections committee will meet and hear Senator Louise Lucas' Senate Joint Resolution 266. This resolution 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. The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that the voting rights, of the over 400,000 felons in Virginia who are ineligible to vote, should be restored automatically upon the completion of the requirements of their sentence. Further, the process should be easy to understand, accessible, transparent and fair with information about the process made available to all.

### **Oppose**

The committee will also hear Senator Black's Senate Bill 719. This bill removes several items from the list of acceptable identification documents that a voter must present when voting at the polls on Election Day, such as a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or paycheck that shows the name and address of the voter. His reasoning is that it will reduce voter fraud. However, last year the General Assembly heard and passed numerous bills regarding voter identification requirements, including these forms of documents, to reduce voter fraud. The Commonwealth spent 2 million dollars educating voters on the new requirements. This bill would turn back the progress that was made last year and erects barriers for many voters in future elections.

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