



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VIRGINIA

Action Alert!

Alert No: 17-06

February 5, 2017

This "Action Alert!" is a call to action for League members and friends throughout the state to communicate with their local legislators and various committee members. We ask the legislators to take actions on proposed legislation as described in the alert below. Members may discuss the pros or cons as an individual but not as a League member. Our requests to legislators are based on our positions or those of LWVUS. It is most effective to contact your own legislator. While the legislature is in session is the best opportunity to educate legislators and to allow them to make informed decisions.

Always keep our League policy in mind:

*"Only the President or her designee is authorized to speak for the League. However, we encourage all members to contact their public officials as **individuals**, whether or not they agree with a League position."*

Critical Votes Coming Up Tomorrow: Act Now!

Encourage Legislators to Vote Yes on the following bills:

	Day, time for next action	Last action
VOTE YES! Send Emails NOW!		
Ask your Delegate to VOTE YES!		

<p>HB 1534 - Bell, Richard P. - Student Discipline; long-term suspension. Decreases length of suspensions and keeps children in school.</p>	<p>Feb. 6: House Floor</p>	<p>House floor, 2nd reading</p>
<p>HB 1536 - Bell, Richard P. - Student Discipline; Prevents students in Pre-K through 3rd grade from suspension for more than 5 days.</p>	<p>Feb. 6: House Floor</p>	<p>House floor, 2nd reading</p>
<p>SB 816 - Surovell - Grand Larceny & Certain Property Crimes; increases threshold amount of money taken from \$200 to \$500. Will reduce convictions leading to excess incarceration for minor offenses.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Passed Senate. Goes to House Justice Committee</p>
<p>Ask your SENATOR to VOTE YES!</p>		
<p>SJ 290 - Howell - Constitutional Amendment; Redistricting reform: The criteria for electoral districts should say, “No electoral district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring any political party, incumbent legislator or member of Congress, or other individual or entity.”</p>	<p>Feb. 6 Monday On Senate floor.</p>	<p>Read second time in Senate</p>
<p>HB 1924 - Bagby - Public schools; suspensions. . Directs the Department of Education to establish guidelines for alternatives to long and short-term suspensions for consideration by local school board. Reductions in high rates for suspension is needed so that our students stay in school and avoid the increased possibility of suspended progress.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Passed House. Goes to Senate Committee on Education and Health</p>
<p>SB 829 - Wexton - Alternatives to suspension; Directs the Department of Education to establish guidelines for alternatives to long and short-term suspensions for consideration by local school board. Reductions in high rates for suspension is needed so that our students stay in school and avoid the increased possibility of suspended progress.</p>	<p>Feb. 6 Monday</p>	<p>First Reading on Senate floor</p>
<p>SB 995 - Stanley - Student discipline: No long-term suspension shall extend beyond 60 school days unless there are aggravating circumstances that are defined and</p>	<p>Feb. 6 Monday</p>	<p>First Reading on</p>

explained. A substitute has changed some of the original parameters.	; Senate floor	Senate Floor
SB 997 - Stanley – Student discipline in public schools: no student in preschool through grade three shall receive a long-term suspension or be expelled from attendance at school unless the underlying conduct involves weapons, inappropriate sexual behavior, or serious bodily injury. Previously these young students could be suspended for “sufficient” cause. We want our children IN school.	Feb. 6 Monday ; Senate floor	First Reading on Senate Floor

Encourage Legislators to Vote No on the following bills:

VOTE NO on These Bills. Send Emails NOW!	Day, time for next action	Last action
Ask Delegates to VOTE NO		
HB 1598 - Cole - Voter Registration; proof of citizenship required to register to vote in state and local elections. High Priority to Oppose! Without documents of proof of citizenship voters could not vote in state or local elections – only federal elections. Creates unfair burdens, including expenses, for minorities, low-income, and rural citizens. Would severely reduce third party registration drives, thus actually reducing voter registration. Citizens do not carry documents with proof of citizenship. Proof of a person’s registration in another state would NOT even constitute proof of citizenship. Having a dual system would be confusing, complicated, and expensive. Expenses would include updating instructions, VERIS, the Citizen Portal, pollbook software, web materials, and forms. Expenses would include training of election officers	TBD	Passed House! Referred to Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections

<p>and enormous voter education about the changes. More than one type of ballot would be needed for some elections. Litigation is likely as was done in Arizona and Kansas requiring significant funds.</p>		
<p>HB 1428 - Fowler - Photo Identification would be required with the mailed request for an absentee ballot application. Virginia’s photo ID requirement was designed to match the voter’s photo with the person who is checking in to vote. A mailed photo cannot be compared with a person so there is no purpose for the photo.</p>	<p>Feb. 6 Monday</p>	<p>Passed by for the day on House floor</p>
<p>SB 872 - Chase - Photo Identification would be required with the mailed request for an absentee ballot application. Virginia’s photo ID requirement was designed to match the voter’s photo with the person who is checking in to vote. A mailed photo cannot be compared with a person so there is no purpose for the photo.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p><u>Passed</u> <u>Senate 20-</u> <u>19!</u> Assigned to House P & E Elections sub</p>
<p>HB 1679 - Robinson – For Well Permit Applications Related to Fracking this would prevent disclosure of the chemicals used because of trade secret policies. The list of chemicals in fracking liquids needs to be made available quickly in case of emergencies – not kept secret. Similar Senate bill has been defeated.</p>	<p>Feb. 6 Monday</p>	<p>Passed by for the day on House floor</p>
<p>SB 1299 - Vogel – A Concealed Handgun may be carried without a permit by an eligible person who is protected by a protective order for 45 days after the protective order was issued while waiting for the certification for a permit. There is concern that the person will not have had firearm safety training creating a dangerous situation.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Passed Senate. Goes to House Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety</p>
<p>Ask Senators to VOTE NO:</p>		
<p>SJ 223 - Norment - Constitutional Amendment; qualification of voters and executive clemency; This severely restricts restoration of felons’ rights. It gives the legislature, only the legislature, the power to define</p>		<p>Passed by</p>

<p>violent and nonviolent felonies. Thus, it would eliminate what Governor McAuliffe did to move drug offenses to nonviolent crimes. In all cases, a felon would need to complete probation and parole, and fully pay all fines, fees, costs, and restitution before any restoration of rights. A violent felon would also have to wait five years after all was paid.</p>	<p>Feb. 6 Monday</p>	<p>for the day on Senate Floor</p>
<p>HB 2343 - Bell, Robert B. - Voter registration list maintenance; voters identified as having duplicate registrations. Local General Registrar will receive information on voters registered in other states in order to contact those voters. Local funds will be needed instead of having the updating process done by the Department of Elections.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Passed in the House. Goes to Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections</p>
<p>SB 821 - Cosgrove - Primary elections; adds political party affiliation to information for voter registration. Party affiliation is not declared by Virginia voters now. Changing the process would cause confusion, mean frequent changes to a person's registration before and after elections, and add expenses for election administration.</p>	<p>Feb. 6 Monday</p>	<p>Read second time on Senate floor</p>
<p>SB 902 - Obenshain - Primary elections; voter registration by political party. Party affiliation is not declared by Virginia voters now. Changing the process would cause confusion, mean frequent changes to a person's registration before and after elections, and add expenses for election administration.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Not heard yet in Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections</p>
<p>HB 1678 - Robinson - This would prevent disclosure of the chemicals used in fracking because of trade secret policies. The list of chemicals in fracking liquids needs to be made available quickly in case of emergencies – not kept secret. Similar Senate bill has been defeated.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Passed House; Referred to Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology</p>



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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