



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF VIRGINIA

## Action Alert!

**Alert No: 17-05**

**January 28, 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."*

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## Critical Votes Coming Up Early Monday and Tuesday

**Encourage Legislators to Vote Yes on the following bills:**

Bills	Day, Time for Vote
<b>ASK DELEGATES TO VOTE YES:</b>	

<p><a href="#">HB 1534</a> - <a href="#">Bell, Richard P.</a> - Student discipline; long-term suspension. Decreases length of suspensions and keeps children in school.</p>	<p>Monday 8:00 AM</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1536</a> - <a href="#">Bell, Richard P.</a> - Public schools; student discipline. Prevents students in Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade from suspension for more than 5 days.</p>	<p>Monday 8:00 AM</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1704</a> - <a href="#">Filler-Corn</a> - Grand larceny and 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>Monday After-noon</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1924</a> - <a href="#">Bagby</a> - 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>Monday 8:00 AM</p>
<p><a href="#">HJ 538</a> - <a href="#">Sickles</a> - Constitutional amendment marriage; repeals the 2006 amendment that defined marriage as “only a union between one man and one woman.”</p>	<p>Monday 7:00 AM</p>
<p><a href="#">HJ 540</a> - <a href="#">Simon</a> - Constitutional amendment; qualifications to vote: removes requirements for felons to have civil rights restored; Felons are added to those qualified to vote.</p>	<p>Monday 7:00 AM</p>
<p><b>ASK SENATORS TO VOTE YES</b></p>	
<p><a href="#">SB 844</a> - <a href="#">Howell</a> - Absentee voting; no-excuse in-person available 21 days prior to election. No person should need to provide personal information to vote absentee – provide no-excuse absentee voting.</p>	<p>Tuesday after-noon</p>
<p><a href="#">SJ 216</a> - <a href="#">Ebbin</a> - Constitutional amendment marriage; repeals the 2006 amendment that defined marriage as “only a union between one man and one woman.”</p>	<p>Tuesday after-noon</p>
<p><a href="#">SJ 253</a> - <a href="#">Dance</a> - Constitutional amendment: provides automatic restoration of civil rights for persons convicted of nonviolent felons and retains Governor’s authority to restore civil rights of persons convicted of violent felons – after completing sentence.</p>	<p>Tuesday After-noon</p>
<p><a href="#">SJ 290</a> - <a href="#">Howell/Vogel</a> - Constitutional amendment; Redistricting criteria for electoral districts including “No electoral district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring any political party,</p>	<p>Tuesday after-</p>

incumbent legislator or member of Congress, or other individual or entity.”	noon
<a href="#">SJ 319</a> - <a href="#">Locke</a> - Constitutional amendment: The <b>sole</b> qualifications of voters shall be U.S. citizenship, eighteen years of age, and residence requirements! Deletes felons and those adjudicated mentally incompetent as persons disqualified to vote.	Tuesday afternoon
<a href="#">SB 829</a> - <a href="#">Wexton</a> - 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.	Thursday 8:30 AM
<a href="#">SB 995</a> - <a href="#">Stanley</a> - Student discipline; long-term suspension.	Thursday 8:30 AM
<a href="#">SB 996</a> - <a href="#">Stanley</a> - Public schools; student discipline.	Thursday 8:30 AM
<a href="#">SB 997</a> - <a href="#">Stanley</a> - Public schools; student discipline.	Thursday 8:30 AM

**Encourage Legislators to Vote No on the following bills:**

<b>ASK DELEGATES TO VOTE NO</b>	Scheduled for Vote:
<a href="#">HB 1407</a> - <a href="#">Habeeb</a> - Voters, qualified; definition of violent felony. This is designed to define a violent felon in case a Constitutional Amendment would pass to establish the authorization to restore a felon’s voting rights. It would be better to automatically restore the rights without certain qualifications	Monday
<a href="#">HB 1428</a> - <a href="#">Fowler</a> - Absentee voting; photo identification required for applications and ballots. This would not provide any advantage since the general registrars have not photo to match what would be mailed with the application for an absentee ballot	Monday
	In full

<p><a href="#">HB 1598</a> - <a href="#">Cole</a> - Voter registration; proof of citizenship required to register to vote in certain elections. Many Virginians do not have ready access to proof of citizenship.</p>	<p>House, by Wednesday</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1678</a> - <a href="#">Robinson</a> - FOIA; trade secrets submitted to the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy. The list of chemicals in fracking liquids needs to be made available quickly in case of emergencies – not kept secret.</p>	<p>Monday on House floor</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1679</a> - <a href="#">Robinson</a> - Well permit applications; disclosure of trade secrets. The list of chemicals in fracking liquids needs to be made available quickly in case of emergencies – not kept secret.</p>	<p>Wednesday</p>
<p><a href="#">HJ 542</a> - <a href="#">Habeeb</a> - Constitutional amendment; qualification of voters. This is a complicated process for restoration of felons' rights. Rights should be restored automatically.</p>	<p>Monday AM</p>
<p><a href="#">HJ 547</a> - <a href="#">Lingamfelter</a> - U.S. Constitution; application for a convention of the states. The very broad topic – to add an amendment to “restrain the abuse of power by the federal government” is far beyond what could be safely constrained at a ConCon. There are not adequate provisions for public input or even observation.</p>	<p>Tuesday afternoon</p>
<p><a href="#">HJ 551</a> - <a href="#">LeMunyon</a> - United States Constitution; application for a convention of the states; balancing the federal budget. A Constitutional Convention may have parameters that keep the proceedings unavailable to the public and without public input. The state would get only one vote so it would not reflect the diversity of Virginians.</p>	<p>Tuesday afternoon</p>
<p><b>ASK SENATORS TO VOTE NO!</b></p>	
<p><a href="#">SB 821</a> - <a href="#">Cosgrove</a> - Primary elections; adds political party affiliation to information for voter registration. This could be a cumbersome and expensive system with voters changing their party affiliation frequently.</p>	<p>Tuesday afternoon</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 872</a> - <a href="#">Chase</a> - Absentee voting; applications and ballots; photo identification required. Submitting a photo ID with an absentee ballot request would not serve any purpose since the General Registrars do not have a photo for comparison,</p>	<p>Tuesday afternoon</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 902</a> - <a href="#">Obenshain</a> - Primary elections; voter registration by political party. This could be a cumbersome and expensive</p>	<p>Tuesday</p>

system with voters changing their party affiliation frequently.	afternoon
<a href="#">SB 1105</a> - <a href="#">Obenshain</a> - Registered voters and persons voting; reports of persons voting at elections. This alleges that there are more people voting than people of voting age in a jurisdiction! Virginia's maintenance of its voter rolls is already one of the best in the U.S.	Tuesday afternoon
<a href="#">SB 1291</a> - <a href="#">Chafin</a> - Well permit applications; disclosure of trade secrets. The chemicals used for fracking need to be available quickly in emergencies.	Monday
<a href="#">SB 1292</a> - <a href="#">Chafin</a> - FOIA; trade secrets submitted to the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy. Chemical ingredients of fracking liquids need to be immediately available in emergencies.	Monday
<a href="#">SJ 223</a> - <a href="#">Norment</a> - Constitutional amendment; qualification of voters and executive clemency. The intention of this amendment is to reduce the power of the Governor to restore rights.	Tuesday afternoon
<a href="#">SJ 312</a> - <a href="#">Carrico</a> - U.S. Constitution; application for a convention of the states. The very broad topic – to add an amendment to “restrain the abuse of power by the federal government” is far beyond what could be safely constrained at a ConCon. There are not adequate provisions for public input or even observation.	TBD




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*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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