



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VIRGINIA

Action Alert!

Alert No: 17 - 08

February 12, 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."*

Another Impediment to Voting and Felon Rights

Critical votes will be coming up this week on bills that the League considers as top priority for this session of the General Assembly-- "Making it Difficult for Registered Citizens to Vote" and "Felon Rights." Understandably, this short session put extra pressure on us to stand up for voting the citizens.

After our big push yesterday, we need you to take a deep breath and find a little more time to continue to rally with more emails on the two bills listed below. There are many bills coming up for votes, but these are the important ones to the League. We count on you as our front line of defense. Please help!

Note: Click on the [bill number](#) to link to the language of the bill, and its patrons. Click on the [Chair's](#) name and you will be able to send an email directly that person.

<p>VOTE NO on these bills. Send emails NOW! February 12</p>	<p>Day, time for next action</p>	<p>Last action</p>
<p>Ask Senators to VOTE NO</p>		
<p>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 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>Feb. 14 afternoon</p>	<p>Passed House! Referred to Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections (P&E)</p>
<p>Ask Delegates 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 violent and nonviolent felonies. Thus, it would eliminate what Governor McAuliffe did to move drug offenses to</p>	<p>Thursday Feb. 16?</p>	<p>Passed Senate. To House P&E sub</p>

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.

Campaigns.



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.

Copyright © 2017 League of Women Voters of Virginia, All rights reserved.*