



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMPOWERING VOTERS.

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

Today the Governor signed bills expanding voter access

Laws passed to improve voter access are critical during a pandemic.

A [2018 study](#) on ease of voting found Virginia ranked 49th. However, historic bills enacted this year moved Virginia to one of the states where voting is the most accessible. "Virginia has shown great leadership in how a state can move from the shame of being under pre-clearance to providing a model for other states looking to engage all eligible voters," said Deb Wake, president of League of Women Voters of Virginia. "Increasing access to voting is especially necessary during a pandemic when personal safety is also a concern."

Bills signed:

- [HB1](#) (Herring), [SB111](#) (Howell): No Excuse Absentee Voting (NEAV)
- [HB207](#) (Van Valkenburg): Allows voter to be placed on permanent list to receive an absentee ballot
- [HB19](#) (Lindsay), [SB65](#) (Locke) no photo ID required in order to vote
- [HB108](#) (Lindsay), [SB601](#) (Lucas) established Election Day as a holiday
- [HB201](#) (Ayala) Same Day Voter Registration (delayed enactment October 1, 2022)

Additionally, the League supports improved access to voting by mail by passing laws to enable voters to supply missing information before the voting deadline, to not have to find a witness, to use dropboxes to safely deposit their completed ballots, and to have postage provided. The League is also committed to enhancing voting rights by adding language to our Constitution to protect the right to vote, passing the Virginia Voting Rights Act, and implementing criteria bills for the bipartisan redistricting commission

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The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 when U.S. women won the right to vote. We work to encourage informed and active participation in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League is dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy. We are proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

For more information, visit the League of Women Voters of Virginia at lwv-va.org and on social media [@lwvva](#) and [@leagueofwomenvoters](#).