

League of Women Voters of Virginia
40th Biennial Convention, May 22-23, 2021

Virginia's Absentee Voters Need Access, Not Witnesses

WHEREAS, voting is a fundamental right under our state and national Constitutions and is essential to government of the people, by the people, and for the people;

WHEREAS, no evidence of voter fraud justifies regulation of absentee voting that would be remedied by the requirement of witnesses for absentee ballots: indeed, witnesses themselves remain unverified;

WHEREAS, the very reasons of isolation and infirmity that prompt voters to request absentee ballots are the reasons that make it burdensome for those voters to secure witnesses;

WHEREAS, all Virginia voters are entitled to ballot secrecy without the risk introduced by witness verification requirements;

WHEREAS, all Virginia voters swear or affirm their identity under Virginia's election laws when they register to vote;

WHEREAS, all Virginia voters independently verify sensitive information as to personal identity and residence in their applications for absentee ballots; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID19 Pandemic, Virginians voted securely at a record-breaking pace, including absentee voters who were excused from the witness requirement, demonstrating the reliability of Virginia's elections without the imposition of witness requirements: now, therefore,

BE IT HEREBY *RESOLVED*

That the League of Women Voters of Virginia steadfastly insists that the General Assembly protect Voter Access to Absentee Ballots and remove the burden of witness signatures.

Deb Wake, President

Second:

Martha Rollins, Secretary