



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA**

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**2015 Testimony to the Fairfax Delegation of the General Assembly  
January 10, 2015**

Good morning, Senator Saslaw and members of our Delegation to the General Assembly. I am Helen Kelly, Co-President of the League of Women Voters, speaking on behalf of our members in Fairfax County and City. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

The League of Women Voters appreciates the efforts the Board of Supervisors has made to provide basic services in this challenging economy. But you also play a key role in giving localities the tools they need to prosper. That's why we urge you to fund (without further cuts) these core services:

- **K-12 Education**
- **Transportation**
- **Courts and Public Safety**
- **Elections**

Those of you with investments know that you won't earn dividends unless you invest money. We are asking you to invest in us and in the tools we need to succeed and prosper. We applaud last year's Transportation Bill and urge you to maintain or increase funding for our transportation network. We need a varied infrastructure that will streamline travel to major employment centers and to leisure attractions where people spend money and stimulate the economy.

But our long-term success depends on other things too. Residents and businesses alike need a high-quality educational system to prepare job seekers for our increasingly technical workplace. We need enough policemen and court personnel to keep the peace and to quickly and fairly resolve legal cases. We need adequate funding for the State Department of Elections, which supports local election offices in guaranteeing our right to vote. We also support two of the Governor's initiatives: 1) to pursue non-partisan redistricting that gives ordinary Virginians a voice in the process, and 2) to purchase up-to-date voting machines for the whole state. We urge you support and to fully fund both these initiatives. And we ask that all State employees living and working in Fairfax County be paid a salary that will support them in this high cost-of-living area. Give us the tools to succeed and our success will pay dividends to everyone.

We invite you to join us for the Women's Legislative Roundtable every Wednesday morning between January 21<sup>st</sup> and February 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 9:30 in the Senate Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor West. Virginians come from all over the State to attend these meetings. We hope to see you there too.

Thank you.