



## **2019 Testimony to the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly**

January 5, 2019

Good morning, members of our Delegation to the General Assembly. I am Wendy Fox-Grage, Action Co-chair of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. Our League is a nonprofit volunteer organization that has proudly been active in Fairfax County for 70 years. We want to thank Delegates Keam and Watts and many of you in our Fairfax delegation for recognizing our 70th anniversary through a House of Delegates proclamation. We are very appreciative of this recognition, and we are proud to live and volunteer in Fairfax County.

Our League supports the 2019 Fairfax County Legislative Program. We are especially supportive of the positions on elections, domestic violence, weapons, and behavioral health. We strongly advocate for adequate resources to provide much needed human services and to promote voting in fair and transparent elections.

The following five issues are high priorities for our League:

**Redistricting Reform** in terms of an independent commission: Action by the General Assembly is needed during this upcoming 2019 legislative session for this reform to be in time for the new Congressional and General Assembly maps to be drawn based on the 2020 Census numbers.

**Equal Rights Amendment:** It is time to ratify the ERA to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of gender.

**Voting Rights:** Let's guarantee voting rights for all citizens ages 18 and older, and provide funding to support the personnel, services, and equipment needed for well-managed, accessible, fair and secure elections throughout the Commonwealth.

**Gun Violence Prevention:** The enactment of "red flag" laws would allow law enforcement or family members to petition a judge to temporarily restrict a person's access to firearms to avert shootings.

**Behavioral Health:** We need to ensure that much-needed mental health and substance abuse services are available for those who need it.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area urges you to act on these important election, human rights, and human services issues. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.