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STATEMENT: LEAGUE CELEBRATES FIRST IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD A REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Fairfax County, VA: February 24, 2019 –Good news! The Virginia General Assembly voted for a Redistricting Commission.

We want to thank the General Assembly, our partner OneVirginia 2021, and our local and state League members. The League has been working on redistricting reform for decades, and this new legislation will end partisan gerrymandering in our state. This year alone, our League has sent e-alerts, attended Lobby Days and rallies in Richmond, met with our legislators, held redistricting forums and gerrymandering movie viewings, and dropped off leaflets. Redistricting is our #1 priority, and we celebrate this critical reform.

ABOUT THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL

As described by our partner, OneVirginia 2021, here are key elements in the reform passed by the House of Delegates and the Senate on Saturday:

- Establishes a Redistricting Commission of 8 legislators and 8 citizens, with a citizen serving as chair
- Requires full transparency of all meetings, minutes and data
- Includes specific protections for minority communities
- Includes impartial review in the selection of citizen members of the commission
- Excludes unelected congressional or General Assembly employees from the commission
- Guards against partisan gerrymandering by requiring a supermajority of commissioners for approval of district maps
- Provides the General Assembly only up-or-down votes on the commission's maps, without amendments
- Excludes the Governor from the approval process, which would throw off the balance created by the above framework

NEXT STEPS

We still are not across the finish line. This same legislation (word-for-word) must pass the General Assembly next year. If it passes again in 2020, it then must be on the ballot during the

November 2020 election in order for citizens to vote on it to become a Constitutional Amendment.

We are grateful to our members, our partner OneVirginia 2021, and our state League colleagues for this important step forward!

ABOUT THE LEAGUE

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties. Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to anyone -- men and women -- age 16 and older. Learn more at <http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>