



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA
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The League of Women Voters defends democracy and empowers voters throughout the United States and has done the same for more than 100 years. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, a non-partisan and fact-based, civil society organization with nearly 500 members, actively supports voter registration events, voter education outreach, and candidate forums.

The Fairfax Area League supports the 2022 Fairfax County Legislative Program and most notably its positions on elections, funding for K-12 public schools including opposition to diverting funds to support non-public options, affordable housing, and gun violence.

The following issues are high priorities for the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area.

Support for Automatic Restoration of Returning Citizens Voting Access

Automatic restoration of civil rights, including the right to vote, for those Virginians who were convicted of a felony and subsequently paid their debt to society, allows such people to resume their role as participating citizens, including the right to vote, promptly and inevitably.

Support for Permanent removal of the Witness Requirement on Mail-In Ballots

The removal of the witness requirement facilitates successful mail-in voting and promotes the health and safety of voters. In November 2021, many voters were confused with the return to the witness requirement. In Fairfax County, the missing witness signature accounted for 57 percent of the mail-in ballots needing curing. In addition, this requirement disproportionately affected elderly, home-bound, and disabled voters.

Oppose Vouchers and Tuition Tax Credits to Private Schools and any diversion of funding from Public Schools to Private Schools.

The Virginia Constitution prohibits public funding of private schools (Article VIII, Section 10). Support for free public schooling provides an avenue to success for all students and is especially important for students from low-income families and those who are learning English as a second language. We rely on public education to prepare students to become responsible adults who are prepared to become active citizens of our democracy.

Support for Campaign Finance Reform including Dark Money/Honest Ads Full Disclosure

Campaign finance reform legislation strengthens public faith in our democracy. Limiting campaign contributions from individuals, corporations, and Political Action Committees reduces undue influence on our political process and leaders. Campaign finance reform legislation includes support for a strong independent ethics agency to ensure accountability and allows candidates to compete more equitably for public office and citizens to have maximum participation in the political process.

Support for Women's Reproductive Rights

Protecting women's health is vital to the well-being of all Virginians. The Reproductive Health Protection Act signed in 2020, based on Senate Bill 733 and House Bill 980, supports women's reproductive rights, and must not be repealed or weakened.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area urges you to act on these important issues. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Anu Sahai and Pat Fege

Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area