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The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) is a long established, nonpartisan volunteer organization with more than 500 grassroots members and an outreach to thousands more. We provide reliable fact-based information about public policy issues, educate voters and empower them to vote their voice. This year, the mission of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is to support legislation that is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion and the principle to LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND. Generally, the LWVFA supports the 2021 Fairfax County Legislative Program. Specifically, in the continuing shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, our League's priorities focus on issues concerning election reform, campaign finance reform, expanded broadband coverage and behavioral health.

Elections: In this heartbreaking time of Covid-19, and for future election cycles, the LWVFA endorses legislation enabling convenient, safe and secure drop-off locations for absentee ballots, most specifically, locations that may be easily accessed by all members of our community. We seek consideration for more satellite voting sites for early in-person voting. Specific consideration is requested for improved logistics at the satellite sites, better signage and dedicated staff to facilitate curbside voting. Additionally, we support the removal of the witness signature requirement on absentee ballots. The Fairfax Area League also supports legislation which allows voters to correct minor procedural errors on their ballots in a way that ensures the rights of the voters to make sure their votes count.

Campaign Finance Reform: Public faith in our democracy can only be strengthened by the passage of campaign finance reform legislation. This legislation seeks to limit campaign contributions from individuals, corporations,

parties and PACs, thereby eradicating undue influence on our political process and leaders. We urge you to respect your public charge as a representative of all the people and vote in favor of campaign finance reform, including support for a strong independent ethics agency to ensure government accountability.

Expanded Broadband Coverage: The LWFVA backs legislation that provides additional broadband coverage to people in disadvantaged communities. This is a matter of geographic equity in access to government, telehealth, education and economic opportunity and speaks to the groundbreaking Fairfax County policy on racial and social equity.

Behavioral Health: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on those individuals with behavioral health issues is great and varied. We urge support for legislation that improves access to behavioral health care, provides diversion for individuals from the criminal justice system and enhances funding for affordable and permanent supportive community-based housing and residential services.

In closing, we draw your attention to our support for the placement of a statue of Barbara Rose Johns in the U.S. Capitol's National Statuary Hall.

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 today.

Respectfully submitted:

Anu Sahai and Nancy Roodberg
Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area