



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.®

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CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee

February 26, 2018 Public Hearing

Testimony Submitted by Jane Eyes, Vice President for Public Issues

Support for:

HB51733 AN ACT PROTECTING THE PRIVACY OF VOTERS

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The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a nonpartisan, statewide organization committed to effective public policy, the active involvement of citizens in their government and improving the electoral process. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on a bill before you today.

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to the use of voting procedures that are secure and ensure the integrity of, and voter confidence in all aspects of registration and the voting process. While voter privacy is of particular importance to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking, current concerns about cybersecurity have led to general apprehensions about privacy of information.

We do have suggestions regarding some of the wording.

Line 24 would require full date of birth: Most social service agencies or other local government agencies are interested in focusing on clients of specific age groups, and would require only year of birth, "**may** be disclosed" rather than "**shall** be disclosed".

Lines 38-39 would not allow copies of a signature to be made. There are situations where registrars of voters must communicate with other CT towns, and a scanned signature helps clarify a voter's identity, their relocation or a former name. Line 39 would read "be copied, **except for official voter registration purposes**" rather than "be copied".

The League supports HB51733, which decreases concerns about privacy of personal information that could lead people to be hesitant to register or vote.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment upon this bill.