



**CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee**  
February 15, 2019 Public Hearing  
Testimony Submitted by Yvonne Senturia, Election Law Specialist

**Support for:**

SB22 AAC Payment of Certain Fines Prior to the Restoration of Electoral Privileges  
SB266 AA Requiring Polling Places at Institutions of Higher Education  
HB5818 AA Extending the Hours of Election Day Registration  
HB6047 AAC Polling Places That Serve Multiple Voting Districts  
SB25 AA Restoring Electoral Privileges to Felony Convicts Who Are on Parole  
HB5611 AAC The Counting of Incarcerated Persons for Purposes of Determining  
Legislative Districts

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 bills before you today.

**SB22 AAC Payment of Certain Fines Prior to the Restoration of Electoral Privileges**

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to maximizing voter participation, and removing financial and other impediments to participation in the democratic process. *The League supports SB22, which removes a financial barrier to citizens exercising their right to vote.*

**SB266 AA Requiring Polling Places at Institutions of Higher Education**

The League of Women Voters supports contingency plans for elections and maximizing voter participation. In New Haven in 2016 and 2018, there were long lines of students at polling places. We support expanding the number of polling places at institutions of higher education to reduce wait times and therefore increase access and voter participation. We would suggest more detail concerning the definition of institutions of higher education for which these additional polling places would be mandatory, so that this requirement could be voluntary for smaller institutions. *The League supports SB266, with amendment to clarify the definition of institutions of higher education and the size of student body for which additional polling places would be mandatory rather than voluntary.*

**HB5818 AA Extending the Hours of Election Day Registration**

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to improving the electoral process and maximizing voter participation. The number of voters wishing to use election day registration can be highly unpredictable, opening the opportunity for long lines and many citizens denied the opportunity to register and vote. *The League supports HB5818, which allows individuals in line before 8:00 P.M. to register and vote.*

### HB6047 AAC Polling Places That Serve Multiple Voting Districts

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to improving the electoral process. *The League supports the use of different colored ballots as outlined in HB6047 or, alternatively, separate tabulators to avoid voter confusion and possible error.*

### SB25 AA Restoring Electoral Privileges to Felony Convicts Who Are on Parole

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to maximizing voter participation. Withholding or delaying voting rights diminishes our democracy. *The League supports SB25 which reduces disenfranchisement and increases civic engagement of those who have been released from prison by restoring their electoral privileges.*

### HB5611 AAC The Counting of Incarcerated Persons for Purposes of Determining Legislative Districts

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to maximizing voter participation and civic engagement. Incarcerated individuals are not members of the community that hosts the prison. Their family, friends and coworkers are all in their home community. Other groups, such as boarding school students who keep ties to the family address are counted at that address despite not being physically present there on census day. This practice introduces unequal treatment of CT residents and inconsistency in census procedures. *The League supports HB5611, which counts incarcerated persons in the census as part of their home community, rather than the location where they are incarcerated.*