



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 22 Election Law - Campaign Material - Alteration of Definition

POSITION: Support

BY: Lois Hybl and Richard Willson – Co-Presidents

Date: January 16, 2020

The League of Women Voters believes that campaign finance laws should ensure transparency and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections.

This legislation has two important additions to similar legislation that was introduced last year. Currently, all campaign material is required to contain an authority line that identifies the Treasurer of the campaign and the name of the campaign. Current law does not require automated or pre-recorded oral communications to provide such disclosure. We support this addition.

Also, current law only applies to campaign material produced for the benefit of a candidate or a ballot question. This legislation would add the disclosure requirement to material sent out by a political party. We support this addition.

The third provision was in last year's legislation. It says that authority lines should not be required if the material is not primarily related to campaign activity for an election. The question here becomes, how is this defined? If the Board of Elections can come up with a reasonable way to determine this, then we do not oppose this provision.