



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 627 Courts - Prosecution for Election Law Violations – Limitation

POSITION: Support

BY: Lois Hybl and Richard Willson – Co-Presidents

Date: February 11, 2020

The League of Women Voters supports all measures that ensure transparency and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections. We also believe that campaign finance laws must be written in such a way that they are enforceable in order to be effective.

Enacting this bill would extend the deadline for prosecuting violation of State election laws from three years after an offense was committed, to five years after an offense was committed. It would also extend the deadline for imposing a civil fine for for an unknowing violation of campaign finance laws and certain other election laws.

Current campaign finance provisions of the State election laws prohibit an individual from becoming a candidate for any public or party office in the State or a treasurer of any campaign finance entity for five years after they have been found to have failed to file campaign finance reports or pay penalties or fees that have been levied against them.

Increasing the statute of limitations period for prosecutions of violations of State election laws to five years would make it consistent with the current five-year prohibition of becoming a candidate or a treasurer of a campaign finance entity if one had failed to follow the rules.

We urge a favorable report on HB 627.