



## **TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

### **SB 424 Maryland Transit Administration Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act)**

**POSITION: Support**

**BY: Lois Hybl and Richard Willson – Co-Presidents**

**Date: February 12, 2020**

The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) supports SB 424 believing in the importance of maintaining current infrastructure for the benefit of all Maryland residents. One of the goals of LWVMD for 2020 is to support adequate and equitable public transportation. Our positions clearly state that an integrated transportation system should be efficient, safe, clean, and accessible.

Maintenance of a public transportation system isn't glamorous, glitzy, or attention getting. This bill won't promote ribbon cutting or bragging rights. It's a nuts and bolts bill that aims to get the job done; maintaining what the Maryland public has already paid for.

Maryland, counties, municipalities and very few private entities provide essential links for residents to employment, healthcare, schools, and necessary places. Transit links were recently assessed in the Capital Needs Inventory and there are specifics as to what exactly needs to be fixed or maintained. Maryland Transit Administration provides access to services in many counties of the state and not just central Maryland. Heavy rail, light rail, and buses are essential and not a luxury for our transportation options in all forms of commerce.

In our positions, we support the use of mass transit for environmental reasons, equitable issues, reduction of energy consumption, as well as economic concerns. Maintenance of a healthy transit system enhances all of Maryland.

In representing over 1,500 concerned citizens throughout Maryland, LWVMD strongly urges you to vote favorably on SB 424.