



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 51 Election Law - Individuals Released from Correctional Facilities - Voter Registration

POSITION: Support

BY: Lois Hybl and Richard Willson – Co-Presidents

Date: January 16, 2020

The League of Women Voters believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. For this reason, we supported legislation, which you passed, that enabled felons who are citizens and are no longer incarcerated, to once again participate in the election process.

We support this bill which would require advising felons, upon their release, that they are eligible to vote and providing them with voter registration forms in order to effectively implement the purposes of that earlier legislation.

We understand that a similar provision will be included in a more comprehensive bill that would require correctional institutions to provide assistance with voter registration, applications for absentee ballots, and the proper return of those ballots for those who are held in custody for misdemeanor crimes or are pending trial.

We urge the Committee to view this measure favorably and also to support the more comprehensive measure when it is introduced.