



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 376 Election Law - Campaign Finance - Protection of Contributor Information

POSITION: Support

BY: Lois Hybl and Richard Willson – Co-Presidents

Date: February 6, 2020

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government. We encourage participation in elections through voting and making (modest) contributions to candidates or ballot question committees.

Campaign finance reports must be filed by the treasurer of a campaign for a candidate or a ballot measure with the State Board of Elections (SBE) on a regular basis. These reports are available to the public on the SBE website. This bill states that contributor information may not be used for commercial or solicitation purposes and that contributor information may not be published in newspapers, magazines or other media for the purpose of facilitating commercial solicitation. We support this legislation, because the fact that there is no prohibition on using donor information for commercial purposes could cause citizens to hesitate to participate in the political process.

We urge a favorable report on HB 376.