



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

HB 133 State Finance and Procurement - Appropriation Reductions (Board of Public Works Budget Reduction Clarification Act)

POSITION: Support

BY: Lois Hybl and Richard Willson – Co-Presidents

Date: January 20, 2021

The League of Women Voters has long believed that a democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government. The League further believes that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The Board of Public Works has significant authority to reduce spending appropriated by the Legislature. There may be compelling reasons why cuts being considered by the Board of Public Works should not occur. The public and or the impacted agencies and departments need sufficient time to prepare data, context, and background information that could impact the decisions of the three members of the Board of Public Works. Current law requires public notice 3 business days in advance of the meeting where the proposed reductions can be approved. This bill would extend that notice period to 10 days which is a more reasonable time frame for those impacted by the proposed cuts to provide feedback to the BPW in advance of their decision.

We urge a favorable report on HB133.