



## **TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

### **HB 1110 Election Law - Individuals Released from State Correctional Facilities - Automatic Restoration of Voter Registration**

#### **POSITION – Support**

**BY: Linda T. Kohn, President**

**Date: February 24, 2025**

The League of Women Voters of Maryland believes that our election systems should produce candidates and elected officials who represent the community, are feasible to implement, increase voter participation, and help ensure minority views have some influence.

While it would be a small change, the passage of HB 1110 would ensure that those who are making the transition from being incarcerated to being back at home are able to have their voting rights fully restored. Oftentimes, those who are transitioning become some of the most vulnerable members of our community. They are released, usually with minimal resources from the state, to figure out life on their own. This can include updating driver's licenses and healthcare, re-establishing themselves in their homes and families, and finding work. LWVMD believes that having voting rights restored should not be considered or seen as an obstacle

In order to have a robust and meaningful democracy, Maryland needs to allow all eligible voters to vote. HB 1110 is a common sense approach to re-enfranchising people who deserve to have their voices heard. Some opposition would have you believe that this would be a laborious process and weigh too heavily on those involved. LWVMD disagrees wholeheartedly with this sentiment. Due to it being done weekly, there would be fewer people going through the process at any given time. More than that, SBE is more than capable of implementing this process with the technology they already utilize.

For the above reasons, LWVMD urges a favorable report on HB 1110.