



TESTIMONY TO THE GOVERNMENT, LABOR AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

HB 145 Election Law - Election Misinformation, Election Disinformation, and Deepfakes

Position: Favorable

By: Linda T. Kohn, President

Date: February 4, 2026

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know. The proliferation of ways to spread false or misleading information directly hinders informed and active participation in the election process. This bill addresses the problem by proposing a means to stop false information about elections being disseminated by AI as quickly as possible, followed by an investigation and possible criminal charges.

HB 145 prohibits a person from knowingly or with reckless disregard, spreading false information relating to elections, with violations subject to criminal penalties. It also requires the State Administrator of Elections to take immediate actions to correct and/or remove (from any online platform) election misinformation or election disinformation and to widely disseminate the correct information. In addition, it authorizes the State Board of Elections, in consultation with the State Administrator, to file a civil action to recover any costs of correction of election misinformation or election disinformation.

When false information is spread by bad actors it can create confusion, concern or even fear that could impact a person's ability or desire to vote. No citizen should be prevented from voting due to disinformation about such things as the ways to vote, where to vote, voting deadlines or their eligibility to vote. This bill addresses the very real problem of our times that such information can be produced and spread in a way that seems authentic and credible yet is false or misleading.

We urge a favorable vote on HB 145.