



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE**

**HB 454 Election Law - Voter Registration Eligibility - U.S. Citizenship
Verification (SAVE Our Elections Act of 2026)**

POSITION – Opposed

BY: Linda T. Kohn, President

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland believes that democracy fundamentally relies on voter participation and on equitable, accessible elections. This means that voters should be able to participate in elections without fear of information being used against them or Marylanders being subjected to databases with questionable reliability. Federal law already requires states to update and maintain their voter lists, and Maryland operates consistent with those requirements.

The Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements database in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was developed to verify the citizenship and immigration status of individuals applying for government benefits. Efforts to expand its use to verify citizenship for voting purposes goes beyond what it was designed for, without required transparency or public input on government use of the data. The data are unreliable and raise the risk of wrongfully targeting citizens, especially naturalized citizens, because of outdated information in the database. DHS has itself acknowledged due to misspelling of names, transposed numbers or incomplete information, results may be inaccurate. The League of Women Voters of the United States has also noted to the Department that the use of this database is founded on the false premise of non-citizens voting in elections. Extensive analyses by groups on the right, left and neither side have concluded that non-citizen voting in elections is vanishingly rare and statistically non-significant.

Voters in Maryland should not be at risk of losing their vote because of a computer error.

LWVMD strongly urges an unfavorable review of HB 454.