



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

HB 641 Election Law – Curbside Voting - Pilot Program

Position: Support

From: Linda Kohn, President

Date: February 18, 2026

The League of Women Voters believes that election systems should increase voter participation and be equitable and accessible. HB 641 would set up a pilot program that makes curbside voting available in three jurisdictions of different sizes. Voters would request curbside voting at the voting location and could request a paper ballot or use of a ballot marking device (BMD).

We support HB 641 because it:

- would cast a wider net for those who may feel left out of the process or to give an easier method of voting for those who are simply unable to vote another way;
- has voters complete their ballots using the same methods and equipment used by all voters and does not rely on an alternative method; and
- is a pilot program that can be evaluated before continuing past 2032.

Because this would be a new initiative, we believe that privacy and security need to be closely watched. Voters who choose to take advantage of curbside voting should not be put in a situation where they are either forced, intentionally or not, to let a secondary person in their vehicle see their BMD screen or their paper ballot. Nor should other people be able to view the voter's ballot while passing by the vehicle.

Although HB 641 encourages the pilot to be held at a local Board office, a voting center or polling place, it also permits voting to happen at another building if necessary. If voting takes place outside of a voting location, physical security and protection of voting equipment, ballots and election personnel should also be guarded.

We are pleased that HB 641 also directs a report from the State Board to the General Assembly by September 1, 2031 on the program's implementation. It would be helpful for such a report to include the experience of voters but also the burden, if any, placed on the State Board to hire personnel, maintain equipment, and steps required to ensure voter privacy and security.

LWVMD urges a favorable review of HB 641.