

Session Wrap-Up: Elections

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Bills That Passed

HB 1241 Addressing harassment. This bill makes threats to election workers a class C felony regardless of how the threat is delivered. It also allows for those election workers who are harassed to apply to the Address Confidentiality Program to protect their home addresses. **This bill is now on the Governor's Desk, after passing the Senate 45-4, and the House 88-9.**

HB 1541 Establishing the nothing about us without us act (lived experience). Provides the means for including underrepresented populations in policy making discussions where their lived experience can impact decisions made that would affect their group. **This bill was delivered to the Governor, after a vote of 83-14 in the House, and 40-9 in the Senate.**

HB 1962 Improving voter address change processes. Offers options for updating addresses when voters move within the state using the statewide voter registration database. **After passing with unanimous votes in the House and the Senate, this bill has been delivered to the governor.**

SB 5890 Reducing ballot rejection rates through updates to ballot curing, canvassing, reporting, and outreach processes. We believe that every vote should count, and this bill would reduce rejected ballots, and also makes fixing the issues more transparent and easier for voters. **This bill was passed in the House with a vote of 91-2, and in the Senate with a vote of 49-0. It was also signed by the Senate President and the House Speaker.**

SCR 8414 Creating a joint select committee on civic health. This bill would create a project to bring together people who are concerned about civic health, to improve governance, to develop practical and transformative ideas, and to create public accountability. **This bill was signed on 3/7/24 by the Senate President and the House Speaker, and with votes of 47-0, and 58-37 in the respective chambers.**

Bills That Did Not Advance

HB 1932/SB 5723 Shifting general elections for local governments to even-numbered years to increase voter participation. The League has not studied the pros and cons nor reached consensus so will remain neutral.

HB 2023 Improving meaningful access to elections by increasing language assistance.

Increases requirements for translating voter registration forms, ballots, and other forms of voting instructions from what is required by the federal Voting Rights Act. Requires voting materials to be translated in counties with more than 2.5 percent of citizens who don't speak or understand English. **After passing the House with an 84-13 vote, this bill stalled in a Senate committee.**

HB 2030 Revoking a person's voting rights only when convicted of a state crime punishable by death.

Voting is a fundamental right. This bill recognizes the unjust silencing of Black, Indigenous, and lower-income citizens through practices like prison disenfranchisement, which mirrors past racist tactics such as poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses. By reinstating the voting rights that were taken away for racist purposes, this legislation takes a significant step toward rectifying systemic inequalities. **This bill received a public hearing, then did not advance.**

HB 2250/SB 6156 Increasing representation and voter participation in local elections.

Washington VOICES Act (Voting Options, Implementation, Compliance, Education, and Standards Bill) (WAVOICES). This bill would provide consistent and clear rules and requirements to ensure uniform standards across the state for implementation and voter education on ranked choice voting. **This bill received a public hearing and was passed out of Executive Session with a do pass recommendation. It stalled in the House Rules Committee and is currently in the X-Files. A key component of the bill, a work group to study ways to implement RCV uniformly across the state was included as a proviso in the state budget.**

HB 2455 Providing local governments options regarding elections for competing ballot measures.

Permits local governments to simplify the voting process for competing ballot measures. **This bill received a public hearing and was voted out of the Executive Committee but is currently stalled in House Rules X-File.**

SB 5837 Codifying the state election database to publish, evaluate, and analyze certain election data.

Establishing this election database will assist the state and local governments with evaluating laws and implementing best practices in voting and elections and investigating potential infringements upon the right to vote. **After passage by the Senate (29-20), the bill received a public hearing and was voted out of the Executive Committee in the House. It was then referred to Rules 2, but the bill did not advance.**

SB 5856 Concerning voter registration challenges.

This bill streamlines the voter registration challenge process. It allows auditors to delegate authority on the hearing process, so the process does not get bottlenecked. The bill promotes a fair and transparent approach and creates greater efficiencies in the electoral process while simultaneously upholding the rights of voters. **This bill was voted out of the Senate (48-0), and after a public hearing in the House State Government and Tribal Affairs, committed and a 'do pass' from Executive Committee, but did not advance from House Rules 2nd Review.**

How You Can Be Involved

- If you are interested in a particular bill, use the links above to go to the webpage for that bill. These pages include staff summaries and reports including who testified PRO versus CON on the bill. There is also information about how to access videos of hearings that have been held.
- Read and take action through the [LWVWA Legislative Action Newsletter](#), distributed each Sunday during the legislative session.
- You may also express your opinion on legislation with the LWVWA issue chairs. We will take your perspectives under consideration as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony. Please direct any questions or suggestions to [Cindy Madigan](#), Elections Issue Chair.