



Hearing, March 18, 2025

**HR-5515 Same Day Voter Registration - FOR**

The Honorable Evan Shanley, Chair, and Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee:

The League was established over 100 years ago to educate newly enfranchised women about voting and elections. Since then the mission has expanded to increasing voter access for all people, esp. those who have often been excluded or who for other reasons are under-represented.

The primary focus of local and State Leagues in all 50 states over this time has been voter registration and elections. The Leagues have studied and evaluated how best to ensure that access to voting is both equitable and safe.

The current 30-day deadline to register to vote may have made sense at one time, but in the 21st century society is much more mobile. Low-income people, people of color and young people are populations most apt to move frequently. According to the League of Women Voters US "They are (most often) among the millions who miss the opportunity to vote because they don't know how to register, or they miss their state's deadline. Allowing voters to register on Election Day ensures that new voters or those who have recently moved can update their registration and immediately vote a regular ballot." \*

As one example of that, here in Rhode Island a glaring lack of secure housing, displaced renters and a surging homeless population create huge barriers to registering in a timely manner.

Same Day Registration also reduces the number of provisional ballots by allowing voters to update their address and vote immediately.

In order to ensure everyone is represented in our democracy it is important that we eliminate barriers to voting. A constitutional amendment which would allow same day registration would provide an opportunity to strike down one barrier.

The League of Women Voters of RI joins with other members of our RI Voting Coalition urging you to pass this bill and send it to the floor for a vote.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Chace

League of Women Voters of Rhode Island, One Richmond Square, Suite 220, Providence, RI 02903

\*League of Women Voters of the United States website. Same-Day Voter Registration.