

LWVLA Voter Services Bills/Instruments 2023 Legislative Session (updated 4/22/2023)

| Committee                      | Bill Number            | Author, Party & District     | Summary  | LWVLA Position  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| House and Governmental Affairs | <a href="#">HB 316</a> | Tammy Phelps (D-Shreveport)  | VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides for Louisiana High School Seniors Voter Registration Day   | <p><b>SUPPORT</b></p> <p>This bill is being reintroduced after being filed and withdrawn in 2022. It is well-motivated and tied to the work of a Louisiana congressman who sought to introduce it at the federal level on the early May date in question. There are some concerns that the day is too late in the school year, when seniors are largely off campus and school staff are busy with end-of-year activities. It also does not precede major elections, which a fall date might do. Nevertheless, it is well motivated and does draw attention to young voters.</p> |
| House and Governmental Affairs | <a href="#">HB 396</a> | Sam Jenkins (D-Shreveport)   | VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides for the reinstatement of the voter registration of a person who is no longer under an order of imprisonment  | <p><b>SUPPORT</b></p> <p>This bill has been supported by LWVLA in coalitions on both voting rights and criminal justice. Since its 2018 Convention, LWVUS has supported ending felony disenfranchisement.</p>   |
| House & Governmental Affairs   | <a href="#">HB 490</a> | Rodney Lyons (D-Marrero)     | VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides for procedures and guidance regarding voter registration activities  | <p><b>SUPPORT</b></p> <p>This bill is a direct response to the denial of permission to local League chapters to do high school voter registration in Lafayette parish. It is also a response to a problematic “guidance” issued by the SOS prohibiting outside groups from doing voter registration on high school campuses and requiring written parental consent to participate in voter registration programs in schools in contravention of the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.</p>   |
| House & Governmental Affairs   | <a href="#">HB 538</a> | Sam Jenkins (D-Shreveport)   | VOTERS/VOTING: Provides relative to early voting locations. Provides standards and funding to establish a minimum number of early voting sites per parish based on population and land mass. | <p><b>SUPPORT</b></p> <p>Early voting increases opportunities for voter protections. Louisiana saw markedly increased early voting in the 2020 pandemic elections, and early voting may be growing in popularity with voters. Even with the opening of new early voting sites in recent years, locations remain sparse, particularly in larger and rural parishes. The Early Voting Task Force recommended increasing funding for early voting, and LWVLA supports this proposal.</p>   |
| House & Governmental           | <a href="#">HB 553</a> | Cedric Glover (D-Shreveport) | ELECTIONS: Provides for appointment of a voter with disabilities to the State  | <p><b>SUPPORT</b></p>   |

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| Affairs                       |                      |                                       | Board of Election Supervisors   | This is one of two bills this session that promises to increase understanding of the needs of voters with disabilities and to improve their access to voting. Having a representative from the disabled community on the BES will further this important objective. |
| Senate & Governmental Affairs | <a href="#">SB23</a> | <b>Louie Bernard (D-Natchitoches)</b> | VOTERS/VOTING: Requires approval by the secretary of state for the use and expands permissible locations of alternative locations for early voting. | <b>SUPPORT</b><br><br>This bill would authorize an alternate early voting location to be in an accessible and conveniently located public facility within the parish, thereby making early voting accessible to more voters.  |