LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE
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Testimony for the OMB hearing for Department of Elections. November 9, 2017

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE URGES THE ACQUISITION OF SUPERIOR NEW VOTING EQUIPMENT TO ENSURE A RELIABLE, SECURE VOTING SYSTEM.

Protecting the right of all citizens to vote is indivisibly part of the League of Women Voters' basic purpose. Since 2001 the LWVUS has worked with state and local Leagues nationwide to explore election administration issues to enhance voting system security, protect eligible voters and ensure that valid votes are counted. Early findings in that work concluded that "good enough is not good enough."

Our most recent work here in Delaware has included attending meetings of the Voting Machine Task Force, which is charged with recommending what voting machines should be purchased to replace our outdated machines. We are here today to urge allocating sufficient funding for the best new voting equipment that will ensure our new machines are not just "good enough," but are the best that money can buy in order to protect the security and integrity of our voting system.

Here are some facts why this is one of the most important issues to address in this budget cycle:

- o Our voting machines are 22 years old and technology has changed dramatically in those years.

- o While commissioner Manlove is confident in the accuracy of our machines, the ballots are created using Windows XP, which is no longer supported by Microsoft. The Election Department is using Windows XP computers, but cannot expect that they will last forever.

- o There is a bill in the House mandating early voting in 2020. However, early voting cannot be done without electronic poll books.

- o The Election Management System is on the state's mainframe. DTI is working to get agencies off the mainframe, so this is a good time to make the change, while making so many other changes.

- o The absentee system is about 13 years old and while Manlove indicates that they have no issues or problems with it, it will need upgrading soon. That is the reason it is included in the RFP.

- o The RFP will have 4 sections: voting machine, electronic poll books, election management system and absentee system. This is the order of importance to the Department of Elections. Vendors can bid on all sections or any one or more of them.

The LWV of DE believes the entire system should be replaced at one time rather than on a piece by piece basis.

So, what kind of system should we invest in to replace our 22-year-old voting machines? We believe that the most important change is to incorporate the use of paper to provide a tangible record of each person's

vote. The RFP should insure that new machines will produce ballots that are secure, accurate, re-countable, accessible and transparent by including requirements to:

1. employ a voter-verifiable paper ballot or other paper record, said paper being the official record of the voter's intent;

2. enable the voter to verify that the paper ballot/record accurately reflects his or her intent, either by eye or with the aid of suitable devices for those who have impaired vision;

3. allow verification to take place while the voter is still in the process of voting;

4. use the paper ballot/record for audits and recounts;

5. facilitate verification of vote totals by an independent hand count of the paper ballot/record; and

6. support routine audits of the paper ballot/record in randomly selected precincts in every election, with the results published by the jurisdiction.

In an age of increasingly close elections, recounts, and fears of tampering with our election process, Delaware should adopt a system that leaves the kind of paper trail we have described to ensure that voters can have confidence in the integrity of the state's elections. Due to the age of our machines and problems that have been seen in other states, we consider it urgent that this change be made as soon as possible and that funding for new machines be a top legislative priority in 2019.

In addition, we recommend acquisition of equipment that will support the production of electronic poll books. The National Conference of State Legislators reports that 32 states already use e-poll books.[1] Such poll books typically provide one or more of the following functions:

- Allows poll workers to look up voters from the entire state. This can reduce time spent checking in voters, one of the bottlenecks in the voting process.

- Allows poll workers to easily redirect voters in the wrong location to the correct polling place.

- Scans a driver's license to pull up a voter's information, avoiding data entry errors.

- Notifies poll workers if a voter already voted absentee or during an early voting period.

- Allows voters to sign in electronically.

- Produces turnout numbers and lists of who voted.

- E-poll books in some states (Maryland and Indiana, for example) are networked and receive immediate updates on who has voted in other voting centers. Other states (Minnesota and Michigan, for example) specify that e-poll books may not be connected to the network.

We urge you to adequately fund acquisition of new voting machines, electronic poll books, election management system and absentee system.

Thank you.

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[1] http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/electronic-pollbooks. 3/22/17.