



The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Urges passage of HB 89 moving the State's Primary Election to April

House Bill 89 will move Delaware's state primary elections to coincide with its presidential primary elections beginning in 2020. Currently, Delaware holds its presidential primaries for both major parties on the fourth Tuesday in April. The state primaries currently are held the second Tuesday after the first Monday in September for statewide and local political offices.

The LWV supports holding these elections all on the same date because we believe:

This will help eliminate confusion many voters have about why there are two primaries.

- Holding both primaries on the same date can focus attention and improve the dismal turnout that characterize most state primary elections.
- An April primary will provide a longer period of time for voters to inform themselves about the candidates positions on important issues.
- By law, the Department of Elections must send out the ballots to military/overseas individuals 45 days prior to the November general election. By the time primary results are certified following our September primary, the department is under considerable pressure to send the General Election ballots out in that 45-day window. Moving the September primary to April will alleviate the serious time crunch that the Department faces each year.
- Last, but not least --- eliminating one primary election cycle will save the State of Delaware over one million dollars in Presidential years.

We do not object to SA 1: This Amendment strikes HA 1 and requires minor political parties to select candidates by the fourth Tuesday in April, the same date as the primary election. We believe this will give the minor party candidates a better opportunity to make their positions known to voters.

We urge the Committee to release HB 89.