



Virginia NOW (the Virginia Chapter of the National Organization for Women) is a statewide feminist advocacy organization advancing women's rights and social justice for all. Chapter locations: Alexandria, Arlington, Vienna Area, Charlottesville, Rockbridge County, Fredericksburg, Montgomery County, Richmond, & Williamsburg, with individual members all across Virginia.

House Bill Sheet: Voting Rights

Election Ethics and Voting Rights—SUPPORT

HB 1282 Judges; limitation on election and appointment.

Introduced By: Del. Lionell Spruill (D-Chesapeake)

Restricts the General Assembly from electing a person to a judgeship if the person is an immediate family member (spouse, parent, child, brother, or sister) of a (i) member of the General Assembly or (ii) former member of the General Assembly for at least 24 months after such member has ceased to be a member of the General Assembly.

HB 1375 Voter identification; expiration date not considered.

Introduced By: Del. Joe Lindsey (R-Norfolk)

Provides that the expiration date on a form of identification offered for voting identification purposes shall not be considered when determining the validity of that form of identification.

HB 1394 Elections; absentee voting; no-excuse, in-person.

Introduced By: Del. Charniele Herring (D-Alexandria)

Allows qualified voters to vote absentee in person without providing an excuse for not being able to vote in person on election day. The bill retains the statutory list of specific reasons allowing a voter to cast an absentee ballot by mail. Amends § 24.2-700, § 24.2-701, of the Code of Virginia.

HB 1429 Voter identification; accepted forms of identification.

Introduced By: Del. Charniele Herring (D-Alexandria)

Adds to the list of accepted forms of identification for purposes of voting valid student photo identification cards issued by any private school located in the Commonwealth or by any public or private school or institution of higher education located in any other state or territory of the United States. Students of public high schools in Virginia are currently permitted to use their student photo identification cards for purposes of voting because current law allows the use of photo identification issued by the Commonwealth or one of its political subdivisions. Current law also allows students from public or private institutions of higher education located in the Commonwealth to use their student photo identification cards for purposes of voting. Amends § 24.2-643, of the Code of Virginia.

HB 1538 Voter identification; reasonable match of identification and pollbook name.

Introduced By: Del. Vivian Watts (D-Annandale)

Provides that a voter meets one qualification for voting if the voter's name as found on the pollbook matches or is reasonably similar to the name listed on the form of identification presented and the name stated by the voter. The bill does not eliminate the other qualifications for being permitted to vote. Amends § 24.2-643, of the Code of Virginia.

HJ 522 Constitutional amendment; qualifications to vote, restoration of civil rights.

Introduced By: Del. Charniele Herring (D-Alexandria)

Authorizes the General Assembly to provide by law for the restoration of civil rights for persons convicted of nonviolent felonies who have completed service of their sentences subject to the conditions, requirements, and definitions set forth in that law. The present Constitution provides for restoration of rights by the Governor. The amendment retains the right of the Governor to restore civil rights and adds an alternative for restoration of rights pursuant to law for nonviolent felons

Election Ethics and Voting Rights—OPPOSE

HB 1318 Applications for absentee ballots; photo identification required.

Introduced By: Del. Jeff Campbell (R-Marion)

Requires that any voter submitting his application for an absentee ballot by mail or by electronic or telephonic transmission to a facsimile device shall submit with his application a copy of one of the forms of identification acceptable under current law. Currently, only a voter who completes his application for an absentee ballot in person is required to show a form of identification.

HB 1518 Primary elections; voter registration by political party.

Introduced By: Del. Steve Landes (R-Weyers Cave)

Adds party affiliation to the information that an applicant is asked to provide when registering to vote. The applicant may indicate that he is an independent. Voters registered prior to January 1, 2016, will be designated as independent unless they provide a political party designation in writing to the general registrar. Voters may change their party affiliation or independent status by written notice at any time before the registration records are closed prior to an election. The state party chairman of each political party must notify the State Board of Elections by January 31 of each year of the rules adopted by the duly constituted authorities of the state political party governing who may participate in the party's primaries held from April 1 of that year through March 31 of the following year. Amends § 24.2-530, § 24.2-535, of the Code of Virginia.

HB 1574 Voter registration; proof of citizenship.

Introduced By: Del. Brenda Pogge (R-Williamsburg)

Requires that a person registering to vote provide proof of United States citizenship in a form specified by the State Board of Elections. Amends § 24.2-418, of the Code of Virginia.