

**From:** LWV of South Carolina lwwsc.cml@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Voting System, Redistricting, ERA  
**Date:** February 5, 2019 at 4:29 AM



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This is a big one -- three concerns! -- but please ACT asap to

- demand a transparent process for deciding our new voting system and urge support for hand-marked paper ballots, optically scanned at the precinct;
- insist on creation of an independent commission to draw district lines and define criteria;
- affirm support for the ERA.

See phone and email info, talking points, and fuller background information below.

**Your SC Senator is:** [redacted]

**Your senator's Columbia office phone is:** Legislator office phone: [redacted]

[redacted] friendly staff person will take your call.

**Your senator's email is:** [redacted]

Put CONSTITUENT (ALL CAPS) in the subject line. The power is from the people in their district.

**Your SC House Representative is:** [redacted]

**Your Representative's Columbia office phone is:** Legislator office phone:

A friendly staff person will take your call.

**Your SC House Representative's email is:**

Put CONSTITUENT (ALL CAPS) in the subject line. "Their people" count most with them.

## VOTING SYSTEM

Message points for both your senator and your representative:

- > We must have legislative hearings on the selection of a new voting system; the SEC's secretive approach attempts to bypass public hearings and legislative consideration;
  
- > The final decision must consider the significant advantages of hand-marked paper ballots, optically scanned at the precinct. Recommended by independent election security experts nationwide. Can't be hacked, can be audited, more efficient, will end long lines at the polls, and half the cost!
  
- > (ask your senator) Please co-sponsor and schedule hearings on S.374 .
- > (ask your representative) Please co-sponsor and schedule hearings on H.3616.

## REDISTRICTING

Message points for both your senator and your representative:

- > We need an independent commission
  - > to draw district lines and
  - > to reform criteria so that incumbents and parties are not protected.
- > Voters must be able choose their representatives; not the other way around!!
  
- > (ask your senator) -- please co-sponsor and support S.230.
- > (ask your representative) -- please co-sponsor and support H.3054.

## ERA (EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT)

Message point for your representative:

- > the LWV supports ratification of the ERA, which protects both men and women from discrimination on the basis of sex.

H.3391.

## BACKGROUND EXPLANATION

Action cannot be delayed on voting systems and redistricting if we are to see timely progress to protect the integrity of our elections. We are also asking for your help on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which has been supported by the League since the amendment was introduced nationally decades ago.

### Voting Systems

The State Election Commission (SEC) put out an RFP for a new voting system on December 20 with NO public hearings and NO legislative decision. This decision cannot be left to a procurement committee; it requires public input and a legislative decision informed by expert opinion.

The League thanks Senator Thomas McElveen for his bill, S.182, which would shape procurement of a system. This bill was heard on January 22 by a Judiciary subcommittee chaired by Senator Chip Campsen, but no decision was made, and no further meeting has been scheduled at present.

The League strongly supports H.3616 (sponsored by Rep. Finlay, Bernstein, Norrell, Clary, Rutherford, and Funderbunk) and S.374 (sponsored by Sen. Alexander), both of which would require purchase of a modern system based on hand marked paper ballots (see <http://lwvsc.org/votingtechnology.html#statement> for a summary of our position).

Call or write your senator and representative to say that we MUST have legislative hearings on this important issue. Tell them that the decision must consider the greater security, efficiency, and lower cost of a hand marked paper system, recommended by independent election security experts across the United States. **Ask them to co-sponsor H.3616 and S.374!**

### Redistricting

The League supports two companion bills that would reform our redistricting process through an independent commission to draw district lines and reform criteria to eliminate protection of incumbents and parties. These bills are H.3054 (sponsored by Rep. Clary, Elliott, Cogswell, Norrell, Wooten, Thigpen, Rose, Bernstein, and Henderson-Myers) and S.230 (sponsored by senators Fanning and McLeod).

Please call or write your representative and senator to tell them that these bills must be heard in subcommittee and asking **for their support and co-sponsorship of H.3054 and S.230!**

### Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

The text: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on the basis of sex."

Efforts to adopt the ERA have been revitalized, having been dormant

for many years since the 1970's. The League supported the ERA when it was first introduced and continues to do so. LWV's *Impact on Issues*, the national statement of League positions, tells us that *"In 1974, shortly after congressional passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), the national Convention overwhelmingly approved support of "equal rights for all regardless of sex" as a necessary extension of the League's long-term support for equal opportunity for all. Delegates at the 2018 National Convention also voted to support the ERA. With this decisive action, the League came full circle in giving priority support once again to equal rights for women and men."* More information is available at [http://lwwcharleston.org/social\\_justice.html](http://lwwcharleston.org/social_justice.html).

Representatives Cobb-Hunter, Norrell, Simmons, and Garvin have filed H.3391 to ratify the ERA. Representatives Stavrinakis, McCoy, Norrell, Rose, Bernstein, and Cogswell have filed H.3340. We very much appreciate all their efforts. At this time, we have been told that the preferred vehicle for moving the ERA forward in South Carolina is H.3391, but that additional co-sponsors are needed for this bill. **Please ask your representative to help by co-sponsoring H.3391!**



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