

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**ACTION ALERT:**  
**OPPOSE AMENDED EARLY VOTING LEGISLATION THAT**  
**DECREASES EARLY VOTING FROM 15 TO 3 DAYS &**  
**ADDS RESTRICTIONS TO ABSENTEE VOTERS**

Many of you experienced long lines and long waits during the election last November. South Carolinians have been looking forward to legislation to allow early voting. The South Carolina House Judiciary Committee just voted favorably on an amended early voting bill - H3608. **A last minute amendment changed the 15 days of early voting in the original bill down to 3 days.** This early voting bill would apply to statewide primaries and general elections. The League of Women Voter of SC recommended a 30 day early voting period that would include at least two Saturdays and apply to all elections.

**Absentee voting** is also further restricted in this bill. **Absentee ballots would need to be paper ballots only**--no in person absentee voting. An absentee ballot would have to be requested in writing or in person only, **no phone requests**, and made at the voter registration office. No extension offices would be allowed. In addition, the absentee ballot would need to be **requested by the voter him/herself**; family members such as a spouse or child would no longer be permitted to make the request.

The League of Women Voters believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. The right of every citizen to access voting has been a basic League principle since the LWV's origin in 1920. **Allowing meaningful early voting in South Carolina will make it easier for all eligible voters to have the opportunity to cast their ballots.**

**Will you call your State Representative and ask her/him to vote against 3 day early voting in South Carolina and support the original 15 days?**

**FIND YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR:**

Go to <http://www.scstatehouse.net/cgi-bin/zipcodesearch.exe>

When you call, tell the person who answers:

***“My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I’m a constituent from \_\_\_\_\_ (city/county, etc). I am calling to urge Representative \_\_\_\_\_ to vote against H 3608 EARLY VOTING in South Carolina which only allows 3 days of early voting. I urge Representative \_\_\_\_\_ to restore the bill to its original early voting period of 15 or more days. I want Representative \_\_\_\_\_ to know that I want him/her to SUPPORT meaningful Early Voting legislation so all eligible voters can cast their ballots more easily.”***

Thank you for taking the time to make these calls. The time you spend now could save much more time at the next election – *if* we have the option for EARLY VOTING!!

If you have a moment after making the call, please e-mail me to let me know you called. This way we can keep track of how many calls are going to each office.

JoAnne Day, LWVSC Legislative Director

[jvday@yahoo.com](mailto:jvday@yahoo.com)

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#### **FOR INFORMATION ABOUT LEGISLATION AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**

To see a copy of a bill, go to [http://www.scstatehouse.net/cgi-bin/web\\_bh10.exe](http://www.scstatehouse.net/cgi-bin/web_bh10.exe) . Type the bill's number in the box provided (e.g., 3418). Or execute a "Quick Search" for a category of legislation by entering the category (e.g., early voting) at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/index.html>

*LWVSC Advocacy 101 Handbook* is an essential tool for navigating the S.C. legislative process. It can be downloaded at <http://www.lwvsc.org/files/lwvadvocacymanual.pdf> .

#### **LWV POSITION THAT SUPPORTS THIS ACTION**

*Citizen's Right to Vote*: "The League of Women Voters believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed" (*LWVUS Impact on Issues*).

*The right of every citizen to access to voting has been a basic League principle since the LWV's origin.*

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If you do not want to receive emails from the League of Women Voters of South Carolina, please reply to this email with that message.