



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF MARYLAND, INC.

## 2013-2014 Update of Election Administration, Part II

### **ELECTION PROCESS: SUMMARY STATEMENT**

Action to assure fair campaigns and elections. Action to institute elections to fill vacancies in the General Assembly. Action to support a closed primary election, a mix of single and multi-member legislative districts and coterminous boundaries. Action to oppose term limits for members of the General Assembly. Action to assure an election system that is equitable, accessible, fiscally responsible, accountable and enforceable.

Opposition to a requirement for uniform voting systems unless funded by the state.

### **VOTING RIGHTS AND ELECTION ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Support for:**

1. An election system that is equitable, accessible, fiscally responsible, accountable and enforceable.
2. Mandatory training for all election judges with the state providing basic training instructions.
3. A minimum compensation level for election judges set by the state.
4. A restructured Maryland State Board of Elections (MSBE) – formerly the State Administrative Board of Election Laws (SABEL).
  - a. giving MSBE legal authority and adequate funding to enforce election laws and regulations;
  - b. giving MSBE legal authority and funding to develop and maintain a centralized, computerized voter registration list and a centralized, computerized campaign finance reporting system;
  - c. staggered terms for members of MSBE;
  - d. a professional administrator hired by MSBE.
5. Statewide uniformity of voting registration and registration records.
  - a. a change in Maryland law that would allow any eligible individual to register to vote online and complete the registration process at the polling place. (2013)
6. A uniform, simple system for accurate identification of voters at the polls.
7. A registration deadline set as close as possible to primary and general elections, consistent with technology that provides ballot security and makes the administration of the deadline cost-effective. (“Ballot security” assures ballot secrecy and prevents fraudulently cast ballots.)
8. Provisional ballots, with a strong preference that voters be notified if they are later found not eligible to vote. Provisional ballots allow a voter whose name is not listed on the polling place election register to vote a ballot which is sealed and segregated from regularly cast ballots until the election authority can confirm the voter’s eligibility. They provide ballot security, are convenient for the voter and avoid disenfranchisement of voters due to administrative error.
9. Early voting (2013)
  - a. State law should specify a minimum number of early voting days;
  - b. State law should specify that a Saturday and a Sunday be included in early voting days;
  - c. State law should give the State Board of Elections the authority to authorize additional early voting sites when such sites are requested and funded by a local election board.
10. A permanent application list for absentee voters who affirm that they have a permanent physical condition which necessitates absentee voting. Election authorities would then automatically send to those voters applications for absentee ballots. A permanent application list, restricted to those with disabling physical conditions, fosters access of the disabled to voting, and provides ballot security.
11. Study, research and pilot projects to determine the feasibility of Internet voting.
12. Setting a deadline for write-in candidates to file a certificate of candidacy. (2013)

#### **Opposition to:**

13. A requirement for uniform voting systems unless funded by the state.