



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MARYLAND, INC.**

**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS**

**HB 984 – OPEN MEETINGS ACT- RETENTION OF MINUTES AND RECORDINGS-  
REVISION**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

**BY: BARBARA SCHNACKENBERG AND NANCY SORENG, CO-PRESIDENTS**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2014**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible. This is a core principle for which we have advocated for the 97 years of our existence.

This legislation alters the requirement for written minutes in the Open Meetings Act to allow for recordings of meetings, requires these recordings to be maintained for 5 years instead of the 1 year requirement in current law and provides for posting minutes online when practicable. Given that this legislation further opens the availability of information about the meeting of public bodies than is provided under current law, we support a favorable report from the committee.