



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MARYLAND, INC.

## **TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

### **SB 908 – MARYLAND OPEN TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT DECISION ACT OF 2016**

#### **POSITION: SUPPORT**

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

#### **DATE: MARCH 14, 2016**

The League of Women Voters of Maryland supports an integrated transportation system that is efficient, safe, clean, and accessible. We support a method of adequate and equitable funding that will achieve these goals. By definition, goals are an important part of every efficient transportation system. We support transparency to achieve these goals.

Maryland is a state with various needs dependent upon the community and its location. Currently, each community has input in the fall during the “Road Show” as state transportation officials visit localities and listen to their needs. After that point in the process, we ask these questions:

- Are transportation goals for each locality based on the transportation benefit, economic and community development, land use and environmental impacts as well as social equity impacts?
- Is there a transparent system of evaluation so each community sees how various projects compare with specific long term goals?
- Are there criteria upon which each project can be ranked for both its own worth as well as how it compares to projects throughout the state?
- Is there a system of transparency for funding mechanisms?
- Is the strategy for selecting projects on-going with continuity across administrations?

Each of these questions can be more clearly answered in a more transparent manner with improved legislation. We believe SB 908 would help improve our process for developing a better transportation system and create greater equity and ask for a favorable report.