Democracy Issues Update

LWVUS Webinar
April 28th, 2020
Housekeeping Items

• Everyone enters the webinar muted
• Use the questions box to ask questions throughout the presentation
• If you want to ask your question at the end of the presentation, raise your hand and a panelist will call on you
• Make sure to identify yourself (name, League & state) when asking questions
• A short follow-up email will be sent with materials highlighted on the webinar
Welcome to the Webinar!

Today we will be briefing you on the current Status of Democracy Issues
• Legislation we are watching
• Progress so far
• Lobbying for Stimulus 4
• Planning for the next session of Congress
Presenters

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Overview of Democracy Reform

• Democracy reform looks like...
  • Making voter registration accessible
  • Making voting easier
  • Getting money out of politics
  • Fairly drawn electoral districts
  • Greater Transparency
  • Protections and Remedies for violations
What do we support?
What legislation are we watching?

- H.R. 1 For The People
- H.R. 4 Voting Rights Advancement act
- Native American Voting Rights Act
- Disclose Act/Money in Politics legislation

And...

- $4 Billion in funding for Elections 2020
H.R.1: For the People Act

- Protecting and Expanding Voting Rights
- Increasing Election Security
- Reducing the influence of money in politics
- Small donor public financing
- End Partisan Gerrymandering
- Ethical and Accountable government
H.R. 1: What we've done

For The People Act Grantee Work
2019

Nationwide Ad campaign

Action Alerts

Lobbying and Meetings on the hill with legislators

Coalition work and advocacy
H.R 4 Voting Rights Advancement Act

Modernizing Voter Registration in 21st Century

Changes to VRA's Preclearance formula

Increased federal protection and oversight on voter discrimination

Requires States to provide reasonable notice to any changes in voting
What we've done so far

Virginia Kase testified in front of Congress on the VRAA

Leadership Conference Letter

Passed the House in December 2019

VRAA Grantee
Native American Voting Rights Act

- Allowing use of Tribal IDs
- Tribal Governments establish polling locations and voter registration sites
- Expanded language options
LWVUS on NAVRA

NAVRA Lobby Corps

Pushing for hearing and greater Action on NAVRA

Rachel Appel interview with Navajo Nation Leader on Voting Rights
Money In Politics

- DISCLOSE Act
- Supporting Public Financing pieces in HR 1
- Small Donor Financing
- Greater transparency
LWVUS work on Money in Politics

- Public Finance Working Group
- Support for H.R. 1
- Submitting federal comments on campaign finance regulation
- Writing to the FEC
Stimulus 4 Democracy funding Asks

- $4 Billion to help fund upcoming primaries AND general election in November
  - Transition to no-excuse absentee/vote by mail
  - Sanitization of polling locations
  - Expanded early absentee Voting and in person voting options
  - Increased hiring of poll workers

The amount was calculated to include the cost of state primaries, and need for emergency funding to allow state board of elections to make the necessary changes and transitions.
What can you do to help?

- Contact YOUR member of Congress
- Get involved in local voter protection efforts
- Continue participating in townhalls and virtual events on democracy reform
Contacting your Legislators

Call the district office to leave comments

Comments and feedback from constituents is the priority right now

Specific ask for $4 billion in elections assistance for upcoming primaries and general election.
Census Update 2020:

- Changes to Census Operations and Timeline
- We are now looking at Census Data to be released to States by July 31st 2021.
- Census deadlines are statutory; They will need clearance from congress
- How will this affect redistricting? Can vary by state
- Monitoring the situation, and creating resources
- We appreciate your feedback on this issue
Planning for the 117th congress

What if we get a more reform-minded congress?
Pushing for more hearings on legislation
Use this time to secure and build relationships so that we can get more meetings in the future
Make sure this remains a priority for the next session
Leverage and pressure to push democracy reform through
A Call to Action:

CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES:

PARTICIPATE IN TOWNHALLS AND FORUMS

VOTER PROTECTION EFFORTS
Resources

• Blogs

• Upcoming Virtual Town Halls:
  • Arizona: Friday, May 1
  • Colorado: Wednesday, May 6
  • Georgia: Week of May 11th | Date & Time TBD

• LTE, Op-ed and Action alert templates on League Management (coming soon)
Questions?

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