

February 26, 2014

To: House Rules Committee

Representative Val Hoyle, Chair

Re: SB 1515, Establishes work group to examine the feasibility of Internet voting - Oppose

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League supports the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, recountable, accessible and transparent. These are known as the SARAT standards within the League and are further detailed in the addendum below.

I am Norman Turrill, a board member of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and a former Co-Chair of the LWVUS' Election Audits Task Force (see http://www.lwv.org/content/report-election-audits-task-force). I also hold a MS degree in Computer Science from the University of Washington and am a retired computer software engineer.

In my professional opinion, although this situation could change as technology evolves, it is currently impossible to securely conduct voting over the Internet, we would learn nothing from the study proposed by SB 1515, and it would be a waste of taxpayer money. Furthermore, I do not see any current technology for Internet voting that would meet the League's SARAT standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Robin Wisdom

LWVOR President

Norman Turrill

Governance Specialist

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ADDENDUM:

At the LWVUS 2004 Convention, the League determined that in order to ensure integrity and voter confidence in elections, the LWVUS supports the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, recountable and accessible....

At Convention 2006, delegates further clarified this position with a resolution stating that the Citizens' Right to Vote be interpreted to affirm that the LWVUS supports only voting systems that are designed so that:

- they employ a voter-verifiable paper ballot or other paper record, said paper being the official record of the voter's intent; and
- the voter can verify, either by eye or with the aid of suitable devices for those who
 have impaired vision, that the paper ballot/record accurately reflects his or her
 intent; and
- such verification takes place while the voter is still in the process of voting; and
- the paper ballot/record is used for audits and recounts; and
- the vote totals can be verified by an independent hand count of the paper ballot/record; and
- routine audits of the paper ballot/record in randomly selected precincts can be conducted in every election, and the results published by the jurisdiction.

At Convention 2010, delegates added the principle of transparency, so that the League would support voting systems that are secure, accurate, recountable, accessible and transparent.