



Welcome to your daily legislative update and action alert brought to you by Virginia Institute Action, co-host of the Tuesday Morning Group.

Thursday, 7 March 2024

Dear Patriot,

Below you will see sections of legislation that we support or oppose, with pertinent information related to each. Each weekday of the session our legislative update from Virginia Institute Action will follow a similar format. Thank you for actively participating in government as "We the People!"

ELECTIONS

THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

Status: The following bills have passed both the House and the Senate and are set to be sent to the Governor for his approval or veto. Please call or email his office as soon as possible and ask that Governor Youngkin veto these bills.

OPPOSE SB 606 & HB 1177 - These bills would require Virginia to re-join the **Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)**. Although ERIC claims to be a service to help states keep accurate voter rolls, Virginia left ERIC last year after serious concerns over data privacy breaches and partisanship influence within the organization.

- SB 606 text and info: [Click HERE](#)
- HB 1177 text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSE** SB 196 & HB 1534 - These bills would **alter the procedure for challenging a voter registration**. It would abolish the mechanism for a voter to challenge another voter's registration eligibility while at a polling place, shifting the responsibility of challenge oversight solely to the court system. In advocating for this, SB 196 and HB 1534 erect barriers that could impede the timely resolution of eligibility disputes. Registrars, who maintain up-to-date, accurate voter registration lists for their areas, should retain control over this process.

- SB 196 bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)
- HB 1534 bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSE** SB 246 & HB 1454 - This bill **eliminates features used to distinguish between citizen and non-citizen state-issued driver's permits** and ID cards, which could facilitate non-citizens voting.

- SB 246 text and info: [Click HERE](#)
- HB 1454 text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSE** HB 1408 - This bill takes a top-down approach to determining the appropriate number of early voting locations in each Virginia city and county, by directing the **Department of Elections to create guidelines for localities to utilize regarding how many early voting locations** should be open for early voting. These decisions are best made at the local level, where they are currently made, by the local election administrators who know their locality best.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSE** HB 26 - **This bill expands the list of accepted forms of identification to be presented when voting. Currently, although there is a list of accepted IDs, no ID is required to vote.** Any registered voter who arrives at a polling location without an accepted form of identification, or with no ID at all, can sign a statement confirming that they are the registered voter that they say that they are, and then they are permitted to vote. This statement makes the list of acceptable IDs seem like a formality; additionally, some people are concerned that the types of IDs that this bill approves are available to noncitizens.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSE** HB 939 - If passed, this bill would **prohibit a person from carrying a firearm within 100 feet of a voting location**, including a ballot drop box. The original text of this bill would have also prohibited a firearm in a vehicle that was within 100 feet of a voting location, but the bill was amended to eliminate that problem.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSE** SB 364 - This bill proposes to **create higher criminal penalties for intimidation, harassment, and other offenses against election officials** and election office staff, continuing a debunked narrative that election officials frequently experience harassment and threats. Although there was an amendment to clarify that communication like politely asked questions couldn't be considered intimidation, there have been differing opinions about whether the language of the bill is clear that it would only apply to imminent harm and threats of bodily injury to election officials and couldn't be applied to benign communications. To protect citizens from inaccurate or subjective allegations, we oppose this bill.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

- [Radio interview](#) discussing this bill

We **OPPOSE** SB 428 - This bill, initially, would have expanded Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) to more local offices. Currently, if a Board of Supervisors or City Council votes to approve RCV it can be used to conduct a Board of Supervisors race or a City Council race. This bill was written to expand that to permit other local office races to be conducted using Ranked Choice Voting. It also would require some minor changes to be made to processes for RCV local races that are currently permitted. This bill was amended so it no longer expands RCV to new local offices. Now, if passed, it only would establish the minor process changes for already permitted RCV races. To benign communications. To protect citizens from inaccurate or subjective allegations, we oppose this bill.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

THE GOVERNOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: (804) 786-2211

Note: after dialing the number it will give you the option to leave a message or speak to someone live if they are in the office.

Email (click the hyperlink below or copy the email address to draft an email):

Glenn.youngkin@governor.virginia.gov

OR

Constituent.services@governor.virginia.gov

Please **CALL and EMAIL** the Governor and ask him to **VETO HB 26, HB 939, HB 1177, HB 1408, HB 1454, SB 246, SB 606, SB 196, SB 364, SB 428 and HB 1534**. Thank you!

HEALTHCARE

THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

Status: The following bill has passed both the House and the Senate and is set to be sent to the Governor for his approval or veto. Please call or email his office as soon as possible and express your support for the following bill.

We **SUPPORT** SB 277 - This bill would expand an expedited application and review process for Certificate of Public Need.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

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Please **CALL and EMAIL** Governor Youngkin and ask him to **SIGN SB 277**. Thank you!

UPDATE

ELECTIONS

We **SUPPORTED** HB 1171 - This bill would have **required more timely processing of returned mail absentee ballots** than the law currently requires. This protects voters, ensuring they have enough time to correct any written errors on their ballot before it is time for ballots to be counted. - **KILLED**

- **Status: Yesterday, Wednesday, 3/6, this bill died in a Senate floor vote.**
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSED** SB 364 - This bill proposes to **create higher criminal penalties for intimidation, harassment, and other offenses against election officials** and election office staff, continuing a debunked narrative that election officials frequently experience harassment and threats. Although there was an amendment to clarify that communication like politely asked questions couldn't be considered intimidation, there have been differing opinions about whether the language of the bill is clear that it would only apply to imminent harm and threats of bodily injury to election officials and couldn't be applied to benign communications. To protect citizens from inaccurate or subjective allegations, we oppose this bill. - **PASSED**

- **Status: Yesterday, Wednesday, 3/6, this bill passed the House floor** and will now be sent to the Governor for his approval or veto.
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)
- [Radio interview](#) discussing this bill

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Contact Your Legislators!

