

## **LWVIN Voter Services 2024 Election Bills Watch**

**Senate Elections Committee:** *Sen. Mike Gaskill, Chair; Sen. Greg Walker; Sen. John Crane; Sen. Stacey Donato; Sen. Tyler Johnson; Sen. Linda Rogers; Sen. Michael Young; Sen. J.D. Ford; and Sen. Andrea Hunley.*

**House Elections Committee:** *Rep. Timothy Wesco, Chair; Rep. Zach Payne; Rep. Robert Cherry; Rep. Kendell Culp; Rep. Alan Morrison; Rep. Kyle Pierce; Rep. Jim Pressel; Rep. Ben Smaltz; Rep. Edmond Soliday; Rep. Tonya Pfaff; Rep. Pat Boy; Rep. Sue Errington; and Rep. Cherrish Pryor*

### **Bills LWVIN Voter Services Oppose**

**HB 1286. Elections.** By: Rep. Sweet. All elections must use hand-marked paper ballots that are: (1) designed and made in Indiana; (2) embellished with a distinctive watermark; and (3) serialized numerically. Provides that no other method of voting may be used in Indiana. Prohibits the use of a pollbook in any form other than paper.

Ballots must be counted by hand. Precincts must have video cameras that record and live stream the counting of ballots and the ballot box container. Election results must be announced the evening of the election.

Prohibits the state from conducting the voting system technical oversight program (VSTOP) after June 30, 2024.

Provides that all Indiana citizens have the right to inspect and copy all election materials at the office of the county clerk. (1) Voter lists. (2) Pollbook signatures. (3) Voter history. (4) Absentee applications. (5) Absentee ballot signatures. (6) Chain of custody documentation. (7) All ballots, excluding the names and addresses of those participating in the confidential address program.

Requires the secretary establish a statewide voter registration data base. Requires the secretary to administer voter registration rolls and may not delegate this function.

Specifies that an election in Indiana may be held only on election day. Prohibits: (1) early in person voting; (2) vote centers; (3) Internet voting; (4) mass mail-in voting; (5) ballot harvesting; and (6) a ballot drop box.

Provides that a precinct may contain not more than 1,500 registered active voters.

Requires all voter registration applications to include proof of citizenship and a signature.

Provides that a digital identification is not acceptable for the purposes of registration or voting.

Requirements for absentee ballots: (a) An absentee ballot application may not be sent by mail unless the application is requested. (b) Absentee ballots must be received by noon on election day. (c) An absentee ballot may be mailed only to an individual who requests an absentee ballot. (d) The following individuals qualify to receive an absentee ballot: (1) A member of the military. (2) An individual with a disability. (3) A voter who is required to work for the entire time the polls are open. (4) An absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter. (5) An elderly voter who is at least sixty-five (65) years of age. (e) Mailing an absentee ballot to an individual who is not described in subsection (d) is prohibited. (f) An absentee ballot must include a copy of: (1) the voter's proof of identification; or (2) the last four (4) digits of the voter's Social Security number. Information submitted under this subsection must be verified by the county clerk from the voter's original registration record and signature.

Provides that a person who violates these provisions: (1) commits a Class A misdemeanor; and (2) is deprived of the right of suffrage for 10 years.

**House Bill 1264 Election security.** Authored by: Rep. Timothy Wesco. Places unnecessary restrictions on voter registration under the guise of security. This bill sets up new proof of residency requirements that will probably shut down high school voter registration efforts and perhaps other forms of voter registration by outside organizations.

**Senate Bill 187 Prohibition of free or reduced fares on election day.** Authored by: Sen. Gary Byrne. Prohibits certain free or reduced public transportation fares on election day. **Assigned to Local Government.**

### **Bills of Merit Supported by LWVIN Voter Services**

**Senate Bill 26 Prohibition of firearms at polling places.** Authored by: Sen. Lonnie Randolph. Prohibits a person from carrying a firearm in or near: (1) a chute; (2) polls; (3) certain areas where voters congregate or are likely to congregate; or (4) any room where ballots are being counted. Provides that the offense is a Class C misdemeanor. Enhances the offense to a: (1) Class A misdemeanor if the person has a prior unrelated conviction for the offense; or (2) Level 6 felony if the firearm is pointed at another person. **Assigned to Corrections and Criminal Law.**

**SB 170 Various elections matters.** Sen. Walker. Makes it a Level 6 felony to (1) influencing an election worker; (2) to obstruct or interfere with an election worker; or (3) causing injury to an election worker. Provides an exception to the requirement that certain electronic voting systems include a voter verifiable paper audit trail if the voting system is being used to cast an absentee ballot with the absentee voter board.

**Senate Bill 283 Voting.** Authored by: Sen. Andrea Hunley.

An application to obtain or renew a motor vehicle driver's license or permit or an identification card serves as a voter registration application unless the applicant expressly declines on the application to register to vote.

Voters are registered to vote when the county voter registration office determines the voter appears to be eligible to vote at the address on the voter's voter registration application.

Permits any voter who is qualified to vote in person can vote by absentee ballot. Elderly voters or voters with disabilities may apply for permanent absentee voter status. Absentee ballots would be sent automatically to voters who have permanent absentee voter status

**Senate Joint Resolution 6 Election of state and federal legislators.** Sen. Qaddoura. Repeals the constitutional provision for drawing legislative districts by the general assembly. Requires the general assembly to establish an independent redistricting commission to draw congressional and legislative districts. Establishes standards for drawing Indiana congressional districts and Indiana legislative districts. Establishes term limits for members of the general assembly. This proposed amendment has not been previously agreed to by a general assembly.

**HB 1095. Various elections matters.** Rep. Fleming. Removes straight-ticket voting.

Updated Sunday, January 14, 2024