



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

**HB 441 Campaign Finance – Election Law - Campaign Finance - Draft Committees and Exploratory Committees**

**POSITION: Support**

**BY: Nancy Soreng, President**

**Date: February 14, 2023**

The League of Women Voters supports campaign finance regulations that enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions and combat corruption.

Exploratory and draft committees have been exempted from the accountability and transparency expectations that other campaign finance committees must follow. This bill would establish reporting requirements and prohibitions for draft committees and exploratory committees. It also defines important safeguards such as regulations for the receipt of funds, permissible expenditures and disbursement of funds and assets once a committee disbands.

We also appreciate the explicit prohibition of coordination or cooperation by a Draft Committee with the individual it intends to encourage to seek office. We have seen the proposed amendments to the bill and they do not diminish our support for the concept.

We urge a favorable report on HB 441.

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