



**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE**

**SB 16 Campaign Finance – Election Law - Campaign Finance - Draft Committees
and Exploratory Committees**

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda T. Kohn, President

Date: January 30, 2024

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.

Transparent elections are paramount to safeguarding our elections. This bill would bring more transparency to voters and the money that goes into them. By allowing voters to know how campaigns are being financed, they can also hold candidates accountable. Candidates should be held responsible for any monies they acquire in their bid for office whether that is through their official campaigns or by forming exploratory committees.

We urge a favorable report on SB 16.