



# **THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.**

## **TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

### **SB 259 - Election Laws - Loans to a Campaign Finance Entity**

**POSITION: Support**

**BY: Barbara Schnackenberg & Nancy Soreng Co-Presidents**

**DATE: February 9, 2017**

The League of Women Voters supports efforts to limit the influence of money in elections as well as measures that strive to create an equal playing field for all candidates.

This legislation would strengthen the law that defines loans (versus contributions) to a candidate's campaign fund by adding language that any loan to a candidate for their campaign must be repaid no later than the end of the second year of the election cycle immediately following the election cycle for which the loan was made. This law also states that if the loan is not repaid within the time-frame specified by this legislation, a penalty may be assessed against the lender, the candidate's campaign fund or both.

Loans that are not repaid in a timely manner become contributions that sneak under current campaign finance limitations and disclosure requirements.

We urge a favorable report on SB 259.