

THE LWVMD LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

2026 Session Underway

The Maryland General Assembly is underway, and LWVMD is advocating on policies that strengthens democracy & supports communities.

This weekly Legislative Brief provides updates on the League's priority bills and other legislation LWVMD is taking action on.

LWVMD PRIORITY BILLS – UPDATES

Where our 2026 priority bills stand in the legislature

BILL	POSITION	CURRENT STATUS
SB5/HB50 – General Assembly - Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in Office	SUPPORT	SB 5: Second reading passed Senate floor HB 50: Hearing scheduled 2/4 (Government, Labor, Elections/GLE)
HB52/SB89 – Incarcerated Individuals - Voter Hotline and Voting Eligibility (Voting Rights for All Act)	SUPPORT	HB 52: Hearing scheduled 2/11 (GLE) SB 89: Hearing scheduled 2/11 (EEE)
SB255/HB350 – Voting Rights Act of 2026 - Counties and Municipal Corporations	SUPPORT	SB 255: Favorable w/ Amendments report by EEE HB 350: Hearing scheduled 2/11 (GLE)
SB59/HB437 – Transportation & Climate Alignment Act of 2026	SUPPORT	HB 437: Hearing scheduled 2/10 (Appropriations) SB 59: Hearing not yet scheduled.

[LEARN ABOUT OUR POLICY PRIORITIES](#)

BILLS WE'RE TAKING ACTION ON

In addition to our priority bills, LWVMD is taking action on the following legislation. This list will be updated as the session continues.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SB 245 / HB 444 – SUPPORT

Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Status: SB 245 passed in the Senate + crossed over to the House; HB 444 passed in the House + crossed over to the Senate

SB 1 / HB 155 – SUPPORT

Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings

Status: SB 1 passed in the Senate + crossed over to the House; HB 155 hearing scheduled 2/24 (Judiciary)

SB 323 / HB 409 – SUPPORT

Juvenile Court – Jurisdiction (Youth Charging Reform Act)

Status: SB 323 hearing scheduled 2/4 (Judicial Proceedings/JPR); HB 409 hearing scheduled 2/12 (Judiciary)

SB 296 / HB 389 – SUPPORT

Detention & Confinement – Limitations on Juvenile Contact w/ Incarcerated Adults

Status: SB 296 hearing scheduled 2/04 (JPR); HB 389 hearing scheduled 2/05 (Judiciary)

SB 346 / HB 332 – SUPPORT

Civil Actions – Violations of Constitutional Rights (No Kings Act)

Status: SB 346 hearing scheduled 2/10 (JPR); HB 332 hearing scheduled 2/25 (Judiciary)

ELECTIONS

SB 29 / HB 44 – SUPPORT

Election Law: Petitions & Ballot Questions

Status: SB 29 second reading passed Senate floor (EEE); HB 44 hearing scheduled 2/04 (Gov, Labor, Elections)

SB 65 / HB 157 – SUPPORT

Campaign Finance: Exploratory Committees

Status: SB 65 hearing held 1/21 (EEE); HB 157 hearing sched. 2/4 (GLE)

SB 141 / HB 145 – SUPPORT

Election Law: Election Misinformation, Disinformation, and Deepfakes

Status: SB 141 second reading passed Senate floor w/ amendments (EEE); HB 145 hearing scheduled 2/04 (GLE)

SB 241 / HB 115 – SUPPORT

Automatic Voter Registration Restoration After Incarceration

Status: SB 241 hearing scheduled 2/11 (EEE); HB 182 hearing scheduled 2/04 (GLE)

SB 237 / HB 182 – SUPPORT

Presidential Electors – Selection and Voting

Status: SB 237 hearing scheduled 2/11 (EEE); HB 115 hearing scheduled 2/04 (GLE)

HB 221 – SUPPORT

Primary Elections – Change of Political Party Affiliation

Status: Hearing scheduled 2/04 (Gov, Labor, Elections)

SB 132 / HB 156 – SUPPORT

Affiliating w/ a Party and Voting – Unaffiliated Voters

Status: SB 132 hearing scheduled 2/11 (EEE); HB 156 hearing scheduled 2/04 (GLE)

HB 488 – INFORMATIONAL TESTIMONY

Election Districts – General Assembly & Representatives in Congress

Status: Passed in the House - Crossed over to Senate

HB 482 – INFORMATIONAL TESTIMONY

Fair Districts for Maryland Act

Status: Hearing held on 1/27 (Rules & Exec. Nominations)

EDUCATION

SB 204 / HB 57 – SUPPORT

Public Schools – Maryland Civic Excellence Program

Status: SB 204 hearing scheduled 2/4 (EEE); HB 57 hearing held 1/29 (Ways + Means)

HB 14 – SUPPORT

Education: Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Reporting

Status: Hearing held on 1/29 (Ways + Means)

SB 99 / HB 154 – SUPPORT

Local Boards of Education Transparency Act

Status: SB 99 hearing scheduled 2/4 (EEE); HB 154 hearing scheduled 2/05 (Ways + Means)

ENVIRONMENT

SB 342 / HB 331 – SUPPORT

MD Beverage Container Recycling Refund & Litter Reduction Program (The Bottle Bill)

Status: SB 342 hearing scheduled 2/10 (EEE); HB 331 hearing scheduled 2/11 (Enviro. + Transportation)

HB 509 – SUPPORT

Campaign Finance – Contributions by Gas & Electric Utility Companies – Prohibition

Status: Hearing scheduled 2/11 (GLE)

SB 341 / HB 345 – SUPPORT

Affordable Solar Act

Status: HB 345 hearing scheduled 2/10 (Enviro + Transportation); SB 341 hearing not yet scheduled

HEALTHCARE

SB 240 – SUPPORT

Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council - Est.

Status: Hearing scheduled 2/03 (Finance)

SB 169 / HB 372 – SUPPORT

Hospitals – Emergency Pregnancy-Related Conditions – Procedures

Status: SB 169 hearing 2/03 (Finance); HB 372 hearing scheduled 2/11 (Health)

SB 276 / HB 445 – SUPPORT

So Every Body Can Move Act

Status: SB 276 hearing scheduled 2/04 (Finance); HB 445 hearing not yet scheduled

SB 385 / HB 637 – SUPPORT

Public Health: Immunizations & Preventative Services Coverage (The Vax Act)

Status: SB 385 hearing scheduled 2/10 (Finance); HB 637 hearing not yet scheduled

HB 341 – SUPPORT

Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health – Est.

Status: Hearing scheduled 2/10 (Health)

To view all testimony LWVMD has submitted during the 2026 Legislative Session, visit LWVMD.org/testimony or click the button below.

VIEW ALL 2026 TESTIMONY

Support Our Work

LWVMD's advocacy work is powered by supporters like you. Your donation helps sustain this work throughout the legislative session and beyond.

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Get Involved: Events & More



LWV OF MARYLAND

Legislative Day 2026

MARCH 2ND, 2026

VIRTUAL – 9:00 AM

Hear from Maryland Legislators and learn more about LWVMD's advocacy impact!

REGISTER NOW: LWVMD.org/LegislativeDay2026

The graphic features a blue background with a white outline of the Maryland State Capitol building in the center. Above the building is a banner with the word "MARYLAND". In the top right corner, there is a circular logo with the letters "LWV" and a Maryland state flag design. The text is arranged in a clean, modern font.

Legislative Day 2026

Join us **Monday, March 2** at 9:00am for our virtual **Legislative Day!**

Hear from Maryland Legislators and learn more about LWVMD's advocacy work.

[Register Here >>](#)

MISINFORMATION & DEMOCRACY

HOW FALSE NARRATIVES SPREAD
+ HOW TO RESPOND



February 5th
7:00-8:00 PM
Virtual

Democracy Dialogues

Join LWVMD on Thursday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m. for our next *Democracy Dialogues* event, a conversation about misinformation, disinformation, and their impacts on democracy in Maryland.

[Register Here >>](#)



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NEW ARRIVALS

All Upcoming Events