

LWV Lobby Day, January 27, 2010

The roundtable discussion report is on the LWV-VA website. What I have here is some of the specific things I did.

Carol Noggle

Since I did not have any appointment with my Delegate or Senator – they were busy in committees -- I attended a 10 AM meeting of the Subcommittee of the Privileges and Elections on Campaigns and Elections.

Meeting was chaired by Senator Chap Peterson of Fairfax:

The primary issues were extending the deadline for absentee ballots to 45 or 50 days out, how an extension of the deadline would mean extending the deadline for preparing the ballots, problems with a voter mailing a copy of the absentee ballot (SB60), whether or not lists of registered voters can be disclosed to commissioners of the revenue and treasurers because of the concern that this would be a “tool of discovery” for determining who is taxable (SB137), whether or not absentee ballots may be returned to a “drop-box” that would not be secure (SB 314), whether or not to permit localities to procure DREs (Direct Recording Electronic voting machines) already owned in other localities to make voting accessible to the handicapped (SB593, Patron is Senator Puller). Continued use of DREs is being banned because there is no way to verify voting but the DREs accommodate the handicapped voters. There is concern that a “verifiable election technology” is needed because the current wireless technology is not secure.

Olga Hernandez stated the LWV position in opposition of SB137 because this “tool of discovery” would mean an intersection of voting and taxes that could result in a lack of trust because of a reduction in confidentiality or cause some restriction to voting. The subcommittee voted 4 to 2 to report the bill out to the full committee.

A group of LWV members went to the opening of the House floor session where the Lt. Governor recognized those of us in the gallery.

On the way to the Tobacco Company for lunch I was very fortunate to meet up with Sherry Zachry (sp?) so we had the lunch hour to get acquainted along with Lorena Bruner of Quantico and two members from Richmond.

The presentation with a demonstration of the budget information online was very well done. Everyone – legislators, lobbyists, the DLAS (Division of Legislative Automated Systems) and LWV members all are waiting for amendments to the budget from the Governor and Secretaries so that the process can move forward. The DLAS presenters were predicting there may be about 500 amendments!

The LWV folder had many useful documents and detailed schedules for committee meetings.

Because the LWV-VA continues to take a position in favor of a bipartisan redistricting method I am listing here the various bills that have been filed as well as some links to advocates of redistricting.

2010 bills regarding bipartisan or nonpartisan redistricting commissions:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/101/1st/LS029554.HTM>

As of 1/30/10 all of these bills are assigned to the Committees on Privileges and Elections

**HB179.** Nonpartisan Redistricting Commission Act; created...  
7-member commission of retired judges to submit plans as bill  
to General Assembly  
(Morrissey (D) of Richmond)

**HB323** Bipartisan Redistricting Commission; created...  
“...four majority and minority party leaders of the House and Senate and by the state chairmen of the two major political parties. Those six appointees shall appoint the seventh member and chairman for the Commission.”  
(Plum (D) of Reston)

**HB638** Bipartisan Redistricting Commission; created...  
“...four majority and minority party leaders of the House and Senate and by the state chairmen of the two major political parties. Those six appointees shall appoint the seventh member and chairman for the Commission.”  
(Armstrong (D) of Martinsville)

**HB835** Nonpartisan Redistricting Commission; created...  
7-members: made by majority vote of the Supreme Court among retired judges who have indicated their willingness to serve on the Commission.  
(Carr (D) of Richmond)

**HJ113** Constitutional amendment; establishing Redistricting Commission (first reference)..  
“11-member commission of retired judges”  
(Barlow (D) of Martinsville)

**SB173** Bipartisan Redistricting Commission; created...

“...four majority and minority party leaders of the House and Senate and by the state chairmen of the two major political parties. Those six appointees shall appoint the seventh member and chairman for the Commission.”

(Senator Deeds (D) of Bath County)

**SB296** Bipartisan Redistricting Commission; created...

5-members: one each by the four majority and minority party leaders of the House and Senate; those 4 shall appoint a 5<sup>th</sup> member.

(Miller (D) of Newport News)

**SB626** Bipartisan Redistricting Commission; created...

“...four majority and minority party leaders of the House and Senate and by the state chairmen of the two major political parties. Those six appointees shall appoint the seventh member and chairman for the Commission.”

(Senator Vogel (R) of Winchester)

Redistricting advocates:

<http://www.fixthelines.org/Home/tabid/527/Default.aspx>

<http://richmondfirstclub.org/RedistrictingLetter.html>

<http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/Issues/Redistricting/tabid/465/Default.aspx>

<http://www.richmondsunlight.com/search/?q=redistricting&x=9&y=10>

<http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org/reapportionment.html>

<http://electls.blogs.wm.edu/2009/11/16/redistricting-reform-in-virginia/>

And this is what Governor McDonnell stated prior to his election last fall. Notice that he does not advocate for any current legislators to be on the bipartisan commission:

Statement by McDonnell to League of Women Voters

**REDISTRICTING:** *Do you believe that any changes*

*are needed in the way the Commonwealth conducts its decennial REDISTRICTING? If so, please explain your proposals.*

I will ensure bipartisan citizen involvement in the redistricting process. Legislative districts must be drawn to maximize voter participation and reflect commonsense geographic boundaries and a strong community of interests. My bipartisan commission, comprised of citizens who haven't held elected office for at least 10 years, will provide citizens with access through public meetings, proposed maps online, and a website accepting public comment.