



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

March 3, 2014

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Senator Jack Latvala
408 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Latvala:

The League of Women Voters of Florida encourages the Florida Senate to support the passage and adoption of online voter registration (OVR) during the 2014 session. We support incorporation of Senator Clemens' bill, SB 784, as heard in committee, which sets forth an implementation date of January, 2015.

The League of Women Voters of the United States has enthusiastically supported this recommendation at the national level.

Twenty states have already passed bills that implement OVR, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia. This trend has been gaining momentum since 2002. In the majority of states with OVR, it has been implemented by connecting their voter registration process to DMV databases in order to authorize digital signatures for application forms.

The summary report published by the bipartisan President's Commission on Election Administration (attached) highlights online voter registration as the report's number one unanimous recommendation to improve future election outcomes. Florida was represented on the ten-person national Commission by Brian Britton, Walt Disney World, Orlando.

Furthermore, the Commission's first recommendation and ranking of OVR represents a long-term solution to the root causes of voting inconveniences experienced by so many Floridians in 2012. As the report states, "improved management at one stage in the process will yield benefits at the later stages. Improving accuracy of registration rolls, for example, can expand access, reduce administrative costs, prevent fraud and irregularity and reduce polling place congestion leading to long lines."
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The League's support for secure online voter registration in Florida is steadfast. Here is why:

- OVR makes registration easy. The PEW Charitable Trusts found that 65% of registered voters support allowing online voter registration.
- Arizona determined that processing paper registrations costs \$.83 per registration while the cost for online registration was merely \$.03 per registration.
- These savings are considerable when approximately one third of SOE budgets are spent on registration.
- Arizona, which implemented paperless registration in 2002, now registers 70% of all voters online.
- OVR reduces the likelihood of human errors.
- OVR encourages voters to keep their voter information up to date and as accurate as possible: to submit address changes, as well as changes in their name due to marital status. It allows voters to receive accurate polling precinct information to match their current address. All of these are critical to ensure smooth elections.
- Implementing OVR is the next logical step in harnessing technological advances in our electoral system.

The League of Women Voters of Florida has always fought to ensure that our elections are fair, free and accessible. We strongly believe that online voter registration is a critical step in bringing the Sunshine State into the 21st Century.

We urge the Committee's favorable consideration and adoption.

Sincerely,



Deirdre Macnab
LWVF President



Charley Williams
LWVF Voter Service Chair

Cc: Brian Britton, Florida Member, President's Commission on Election Administration