



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Update for April 27, 2009

HB 1260: Voter Preregistration & Education. An act that would allow 16 and 17-year-olds in North Carolina to preregister to vote, encourages additional instruction in the social studies curriculum about the importance of registration and voting, and encourages boards of elections to assist registration and preregistration in schools. Most students are 16 when they take civics in high school and when they go to the DMV for a driver's license, so it's the ideal time to sign them up as future voters.

Democracy NC provides Elements and Mechanics of the Procedure:

- The basic registration form would be used, with a new box explaining the preregistration option for 16 and 17-year-olds who will not be 18 by the day of the next general election.
- The forms would be transmitted electronically by DMV and county boards of elections to the State Board of Elections for data maintenance.
- When the preregistered teenager becomes old enough to register, they will be automatically registered to vote by the State Board of Elections and the normal verification process for all new registered voters will take place at that time, including verification of the ID number and residential address.
- The State Board of Elections will develop software for the preregistration of 16 and 17-year-olds. Based on the State Board of Election's assessment, this can be done by existing staff with the existing budget.

For more information please contact Adam Sotak, Democracy North Carolina at 919-286-6000 ext. 11 or email him at adamsotak@democracy-nc.org.

HB 120-Public Municipal Campaigns. An act to establish a pilot program for public financing of municipal election campaigns, was approved by the House on Tuesday, April 21 with a close vote of 60-56. According to North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections, "if passed at the local level, candidates for mayor could run for office with only small donor and public support, refusing all money from special interest groups and wealthy donors. But to receive the public grant candidates would first have to prove widespread community support by collecting hundreds of small donations and agree to strict spending and fundraising limits." Supporters of the bill and the system say it will even the playing field by increasing diversity in local government, reducing the harmful influence of special interest groups, and allowing all qualified candidates to run for office.

NCVCE reports "the enabling legislation approved Tuesday contained no mandates for individual cities to use the program and no appropriations. Only cities with more than 50,000 residents and who have nonpartisan elections can use the program."

The bill must pass the Senate and once approved, a final vote is expected by the end of the legislative session.

For additional information on The League of Women Voters of North Carolina and our policies and partners, please visit www.lwvnc.org.

The Legislative Update is compiled by Erin Connelly, Project Coordinator for the North Carolina League of Women Voters. If you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe, please email Patty Dale at daleph55@gmail.com.

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