

Letter to the Editor: Democracy & Voter Participation

Grounded in the struggle for women's suffrage, the League of Women Voters has long stood by its nonpartisan mission of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. Our democracy depends on the participation of the people and confidence in our election process. The 2020 election demonstrated that expanding voter access increased voter turnout. In NC, participation was over 75%, the highest in any year listed by the State Board of Elections. We should continue to expand opportunities for registration including automatic and/or online voter registration. When voter registration deadlines are extended they allow access to potential voters including those needing to change their registration because they moved or changed their name. We should continue adequate, early voting and no-excuse absentee voting without notarization. While there is no evidence of widespread fraud, if the legislature wants to further secure elections, it should invest in upgraded voting/registration technology and equipment including cybersecurity protections and expanded staffing and training for election administrators and poll workers. Confidence in secure elections and expanded voter access benefit everyone. As the NC Legislature proposes new election regulations, let your legislators know that neither security nor access need be sacrificed, and election security should not restrict voter access.

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