



To: House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs

From: Sue Racanelli, President, League of Women Voters of Vermont

RE: Draft Bill 24-0229

February 16, 2024

The League of Women Voters of Vermont strongly supports Draft Bill 24-0229, which will grant the Vermont State Ethics Commission powers to perform supplemental investigations and hearings and strengthen enforcement powers, as well as modifying disclosure requirements for candidates for office and office holders.

In 2017, the League was instrumental in passing legislation establishing the Vermont State Ethics Commission. That was a significant victory for the people of Vermont, but the Commission still lacked a state Code of Ethics and investigative and enforcement powers.

In 2020, we supported the establishment of such a Code, which was finally accomplished in 2022.

This new bill (24-0229) now proposes to fill the large gaps left in 2017: investigative and enforcement powers for the Commission and an increase in staffing.

Please support this legislation, which would bring the Vermont State Ethics Commission up to recognized standards for such bodies.

Thank You.

*Susan Racanelli*