



**Testimony in Support of S 1235  
Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation  
February 2, 2023**

Good morning, Chairman Beach and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ). My name is Philip Hensley, I am the Democracy Policy Analyst with LWVNJ. I am here to testify in support of S 1235.

This bill would require that counties provide pre-paid postage for ballot return envelopes for voters who vote by mail, and it requires that the state reimburse counties for their costs. Currently, nineteen states and Washington DC provide pre-paid postage for ballot return envelopes, and New Jersey should do likewise.

Voting is a basic civic right, and the League has long advocated that exercising that right should be made as easy and as accessible as possible. Fundamentally, there should be no cost associated with casting a ballot, whether a voter chooses to vote in-person or by mail. Any financial barrier to voting violates that fundamental principle.

This bill would also help voters by introducing consistency and clarity to state law. We often see that voters are confused by the fact that postage requirements currently vary from county to county. And for those counties that require postage, voters are often unsure of the amount required. This bill will bring uniformity to the vote-by mail process and avoid unnecessary voter confusion.

For counties, the bill provides that their postage costs will be reimbursed by the state, avoiding an unfunded mandate.

This bill would remove a financial barrier to voting and bring consistency and clarity to state voting laws. We respectfully ask that you vote yes on S 1235.

Testimony presented by:

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