



*My name is Sara Busey, and I am here to represent the League of Women Voters of Montana.*

*We rise in strong support of SB 302. The League is a non-partisan organization whose membership is open to men and women. We have been working for voting rights and fair elections since our founding.*

*The League carefully studies issues and policy and only allows advocacy on issues or bills that have garnered consensus support. In order to ensure integrity and voter confidence in elections, the LWV supports the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, re-countable, and accessible.*

*The League supports SB 302 because, in many ways, it makes voting more accessible for those who rely on an absentee ballot, or who cast a provisional ballot to gain access. It helps those who happen to be in a remote place overseas during a federal election by giving them more time to receive and return their ballot. It helps those who might otherwise forget to request an absentee ballot or who need help in order to apply for an absentee ballot, but who don't have family nearby to do the errand.*

*We support SB 302 because it will increase the confidence of voters in the outcome of our elections. The importance of this cannot be overstated. It's clear from the research of computer experts and from reports from other states, that new vote tallying equipment only serve citizens to the extent that we can count on the design of its software and the procedures associated with its use. Security and accuracy is bolstered by this bill's prescribed testing and random audits of each kind of voting system.*

*The League supports the requirement in this bill that all voting systems record votes on paper. We think*

*this provides flexibility in the purchase of new voting equipment to accommodate voters with special needs as required by HAVA. It also ensures that, in the case of an official recount or an audit, Montana would actually be counting something and not just re-running an electronic tally. This is of utmost importance to the electorate.*

*Finally, we want to extend our appreciation for the perseverance and leadership of Montana legislators and staff who have involved election officials and citizens with many perspectives in crafting these election reform solutions that serve the common good.*

*Please support the integrity of election by ensuring that our voting systems in Montana are secure, accurate, re-countable and accessible. Please vote for SB 302*

*Sara Busey*

*Chair, Election Reform Subcommittee*

*League of Women Voters of Montana*

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