

LWVWI POSITION STATEMENT ON SB26

SB26 intends to “remove” any voter who does not vote for any reason from the official registration list maintained by the Elections Commission instead of changing a voter’s status from “eligible” to “ineligible.”

But “removal” from the registration list implies that a voter’s status is officially “permanent” and makes it appear that he or she cannot vote again, even though reregistration is available. Learning that one is “removed” from the registration list can easily cause confusion for young voters and minority voters who may not be familiar with voting procedures, as well as for older voters who find their “removal” from the official voter registration list puzzling and upsetting. Furthermore, the Elections Commission will now have more work in keeping a separate permanent record of removals, including the date of and reason for the removal.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin opposes this regressive bill as yet another impediment on voting rights in Wisconsin.