

Statement to the Montgomery County Board of Elections, April 15, 2019

Re: Minutes Process Proposal

Barbara Sanders, Liaison, League of Women Voters of Montgomery County

I appreciate this opportunity to speak again about transparency of the Board of Election's conduct of business. The current proposal on handling the Board minutes will allow the public to have easier access to your meetings, in a very timely manner, with an annotated meeting agenda listing the time of the topic's discussion on the web-posted recording. Similarly, having the time annotations added to the approved minutes of meeting actions will make it quicker to focus on the lengthier discussions of a particular topic that brought the members to the final action.

The Montgomery County League endorses both additions as good examples of our national LWV principle that public bodies should give adequate information to voters about their decisions and to make public records accessible. We also applaud the advance posting of this type of proposal with the agenda, to allow public comments prior to the Board discussion.

I also want to thank Board President Shalleck for his panel participation at yesterday's LWV Sunday at the Movies screening of "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy." It was the most recent example of the frequent assistance Board members and staff have provided for League efforts to educate our members and the public about the wide-ranging aspects of electoral procedures and operations. Again, thank you to all the Board members, especially retiring Board Secretary Keefe, and the staff for the knowledge and experience you have brought to these LWV programs and discussions.