



**Proponent Testimony: Senate Bill 14**  
**General Government Committee**  
**Jen Miller, League of Women Voters of Ohio**  
**April 9, 2025**

Chair Ray and esteemed members of the Ohio House General Government Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 14. As the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO), I'm offering proponent party testimony on behalf of our thousands of dues-paying members, who live in every state Senate District and nearly all Ohio House Districts.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is a nonpartisan organization that was founded over one hundred years ago by leaders of Ohio's women's suffrage movement. In 1920 at the Southern Hotel just a few blocks away, members of the Ohio Woman Suffrage Association came from every corner of the Buckeye state to vote to transform the organization into the League of Women Voters of Ohio.

Our mission from the beginning was to create more meaningful pathways for women to be civically engaged. Early in our history, we not only worked to make sure that Ohio women became lifelong voters but encouraged and trained women to run for office. That is why it is our honor to support Senate Bill 14, to honor the late and formidable Jo Ann Davidson.

Speaker Davison made a lasting mark on Ohio politics and the people of Ohio. She was a true public servant and trailblazer. Her leadership transformed Ohio's political landscape in which she always approached policymaking with a commitment to thorough research and dialogue as well as bipartisanship when possible. She also empowered countless women to find their own voices as voters, advocates, political candidates, and community leaders.

Given that she was the first woman elected to be Speaker of the Ohio House and worked these halls for two decades over a storied sixty-year political career, it is only right and fitting that this committee pass this legislation.

Speaker Davidson is already missed, but may her legacy live on through a commemoration each September, but also in our shared commitment to building new generations of women leaders in Ohio.

You can contact me to discuss this legislation or other democracy matters further at [director@lwvohio.org](mailto:director@lwvohio.org) or 614-469-1505.

Thank you.

*The League of Women Voters of Ohio was formed in May 1920 out of Ohio's woman suffrage movement. The League is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League has 37 local Leagues across the Buckeye State.*