



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS
COMMITTEE**

**HB 818 Redistricting and Reapportionment – Population Count – Citizenship
Status**

POSITION: Support

BY: Lois Hybl and Richard Willson, Co-Presidents

DATE: March 2, 2020

The League of Women Voters supports a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation of the entire population of the state in the General Assembly and United States Congress. To this end, the League has worked for decades to encourage full participation in the Census across the country. In 1996 and 1998, LWVUS worked against congressional attempts to adopt “English-only” legislation that would have effectively repealed the minority language provisions of the Voting Rights Act as it related to the Census and reapportionment. In 2009, the League spoke out against attempts to cut certain members of the population out of the reapportionment process by only counting registered voters, or only those citizens who were voting age. And in 2020, the League engaged in efforts to remove the citizenship question from the 2020 Census through the courts and by lobbying Congress, emphasizing the damaging effects such a question would have for the ability to diverse communities around the country to be fairly and effectively represented.

We believe that our government should represent all the population living within this state, and to do so, every person must be included in the redistricting process, regardless of their citizen status.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report on HB 818.